



Quakertown United Methodist Church

1875 Freier Road
Quakertown, PA 18951
215.536.4992

Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

January 2016

Now What?



The services and celebrations of Christmas are over. Decorations and gifts have been put away. Christmas is done and gone.

Or is it?

Was it just something we do each year, feeling a certain amount of relief that it's over? Or does it call us to a deeper level of gratitude for God's amazing gift to us?

As we transition into a new year, may we take seriously God's call to live out His love every day. Let this be our new year's prayer:

*Lord of loving heart, may mine be loving too.
Lord of the gentle hands, may mine be gentle too.
Lord of the willing feet, may mine be willing too.
So may I grow more like Thee in all I say and do.*

-Author Unknown



Quakertown United Methodist Church welcomes interim pastor, The Reverend John Kunkel. Pastor Kunkel most recently served Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Nazareth, retiring after nearly 29 years of service to that congregation. Additional information on this pastoral change can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. A warm welcome to Pastor Kunkel and his wife, Sally.



From Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC):

To: Quakertown United Methodist Church Family
From: Dennis Pfleiger, Chair SPRC
Re: Transitions at the Church
Date: January 3, 2016

I hope that you and your families have found time to spend celebrating the mystery of the Word made flesh. As the New Year is upon us, many of you have heard that an announcement was made on December 20, 2015 regarding the reappointment of Pastor Russell. For those that were not at the Sunday Service the following is the statement that was read:

“Pastor Russell is being appointed to another church on July 1st, 2016. In preparation for his new appointment, Bishop Johnson has asked Pastor Russell to take a three month renewal for study and spiritual growth (according to the 2012 Book of Discipline, Par. 351).”

There have been many questions asked of me during this time and I wanted to provide a short Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to provide you with information during this transition:

Who will be the Interim Pastor starting January 1, 2016?

The District Superintendent has found an interim pastor for QUMC . Pastor John Kunkel will be the Interim Pastor. We had a nice opportunity as a congregation to get to know Pastor Kunkel and his wife, Sally, at the services today. Pastor Kunkel served the congregation of Holy Cross in Nazareth for many years and retired last year. Pastor John will be here for the three months to assure the spiritual development of the Congregation in conjunction with the work of the consultant. Please keep Pastor Kunkel in your prayers during this time with us at QUMC.

Who is the consultant and what is his role?

The consultant is Father Bud Holland. “Bud” works for the Dialogue Center. He specializes in Church strategic planning, conflict resolution, and preparing congregations to receive new Pastors. Bud has been in the ministry within the Episcopal Church for many years and brings this experience to us at QUMC. He will be meeting with the QUMC Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Church Councils in January. He will be meeting with others and different groups within QUMC to assist us with this process.

What is happening to confirmation classes?

The confirmation classes that were to start in January will continue as planned. Ken Ghorm has agreed to lead the confirmation classes. We need to get a complete list of those 7th and 8th grade youth that are seeking Confirmation. Please let us know by January 13, 2016 if your 7th or 8th grader would like to participate in this class. If you could send your child’s name, grade and contact information to Allison Ghorm at agghorm@gmail.com, she will keep the list of participants up to date. We will be having a meeting with the parents on Sunday January 17 at 6:00 p.m. Depending on the number of youth that sign up, we will be in need of mentors. Mentors meet with the confirmand during the several months of classes to develop a relationship with them. If you feel a calling to work with the youth confirmation class as a mentor, please speak to Ken Ghorm. You will need to complete a background check and Safe Sanctuary training prior to working with the youth.

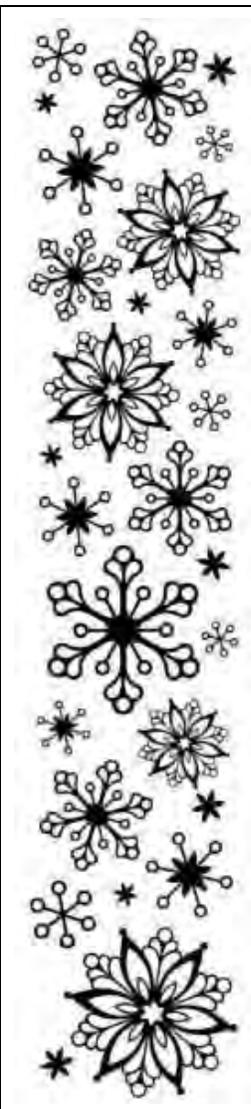


Will Pastor Atkinson be back in April and May?

The plan is that Pastor Atkinson will be back in April and May. He will then be taking vacation in June prior to his reappointment in July. This allows for Pastor Atkinson to work with the congregation during those two months and to transition his ministry. These two months also allow the congregation to thank Pastor Atkinson for his time and ministry at QUMC.

I hope that this has helped to answer a few of the questions that I have been receiving. The goal of this communication is to provide the congregation with as much information as possible. This allows each of us to pray about what the future of QUMC can look like and to discern if God is calling you to assist in the transition in any way possible. Each member of this congregation is important to us and we want to create the environment where your talents and gifts can be put to use for the greater glory of God.

I appreciate your prayers on behalf of Pastor Atkinson during this transition as well as for our congregation and the lay leadership. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email at d.pfleiger@comcast.net or cell 267-614-4479.



In the Bleak Midwinter

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1830-1894
Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*



Thank You to . . .

- ... The teams of carolers who took a bit of Christmas to some of our older members on a balmy December 13.
- ... Those who gave a total of \$1,513 in support of UMW's Thankoffering - The United Methodist Women focus on ministries to women and children.
- ... Everyone who gave Christmas gifts to children of the Kensington area of inner-city Philadelphia. For some children, this is the only gift they get.
- ... Joyful Noise for sharing their joy with the congregation on December 20th.

From Missions Commission



Feast Food Pantry items are spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. There is a grocery cart inside the front doors to receive your donations.

Red Cross Blood Drive in Miller Hall on Friday, January 22, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Church Council

The January meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. You do not need to be a member of the council to attend. All members of the church are welcome to come.

Save the Date!



Mark your calendar for a Valentine's Day Party, Friday, February 12, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jerry & Debi Umstead. Details to follow in upcoming bulletins and the February newsletter.



New Adult Elective Sunday School Class



Beginning on Sunday, January 24 at 10:00 a.m., adults are encouraged to dive into the Book of James. To frame the study, John Wesley's own notes on James will be used.

James, the half brother of Christ and a leader of the early church in Jerusalem, wrote a powerful letter to the Christians of his time with a message that is clear and simple for us today. Learn from trials, seek wisdom, do not show favoritism, control your tongue, do not judge, teach carefully, show mercy, and more. His teaching keeps up an amazing pace of correction and guidance steeped in love, and he has much to teach us today about faith leading to action.

Join us on January 24 to begin studying James together!



Teacher Training Event

On Monday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. all QUMC volunteers who work with children, youth, and adults have the opportunity to hear from Carol Detweiler, Associate in Ministry/Director of Christian Education at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville. She is a graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Religion, Christian Education major. With the general trend of decreasing church and Sunday School attendance, what can be done to engage and encourage young and old to participate in Christian Education? What do teachers and leaders need to know to carry out their work in a church setting? Carol will attempt to answer any and all questions you may have and she will also tell you what other churches are facing and doing. Don't miss this opportunity to improve your ability to help in the spiritual growth of others.

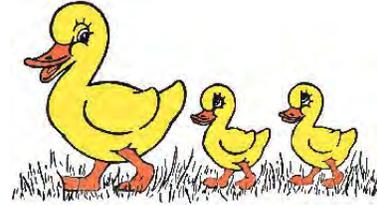
COPE (Circle of Parental Encouragement)



This new group will meet for the very first time on Monday, January 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in Miller Hall. Enjoy snacks, a DIY project, and fellowship with other moms. Moms with kids of all ages are invited to join us! The theme this month is "New Year, New You." Sign-up at the COPE bulletin board near the kitchen by Wednesday, January 20. Join us for this new ministry of the church. Got questions? Contact Megan McMichael (megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) or Erin Haslett (erinhaslett@gmail.com).



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Dick Hillegass and Irene Hunsberger - January 4; Grace Mohr - January 7.

IN MEMORIAM: Lila Thomson - December 5.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

“To everyone that helped us celebrate Lila Thomson’s life, thank you. We appreciate your being there with us during this time. QUMC and its members were a big part of Lila’s life. She loved her church and was dedicated to it. Thank you for the kindness you’ve shown.

Thanks also to everyone in the kitchen area that helped with the food preparation for the funeral luncheon. The table decorations and everything were so nice. It was very appreciated by us and we know everyone put their heart into it.”

Thank you, Jim Thomson & Robin



Offering Envelopes

You should have noticed the envelope “Initial Offering” included in your new envelopes packet. This is a once-a-year gift to offset the cost of the envelopes.

Reminder: QUMC has two funds: General and Care of God’s House. Care of God’s House is for major repairs and capital expenditures. General Fund takes care of all budgetary items.

Additionally, a line is included for designating an offering. Please be sure to specify how it is to be directed.

QUMC has a fund to help church members confronted with a financial emergency. Help from this fund - Acts 4 - should be requested in the following way: contact the Pastor. He then consults with a small group - two or three members - to assess the request. All of this is done in the strictest confidence. Only the Pastor knows the name of the one making the request.

Contributions to the Acts 4 fund (refers to chapter four of the book of Acts) may be included in your church envelope with the designation “Acts 4.”



ANNOUNCING

2016-2017

Faith Preschool

Registration

Information

It's registration time for the 2016-2017 school year for Quakertown United Methodist Church's Faith Preschool program. This is an exciting school year for Faith Preschool since it marks the 15th year of continuous operation of the program. What a blessing this program has been to the church and community, providing quality preschool education to hundreds of children throughout its existence.

The 2016-2017 school year also marks the merger of Parent's Time Out with Faith Preschool, which combines these two weekday preschool programs into a larger Faith Preschool program which includes classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's. These classes have been expanded to include:

- Classes for 4's - AM & PM classes that meet 3 days a week on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
- Classes for 3's - AM & PM classes that meet 2 days a week on Tuesday & Thursday
- Classes for 2's - AM class that meets 2 days a week on Tuesday & Thursday
AM class that meets 1 day a week on Wednesday

Special discounts include:

- One registration fee per family (\$35)
- Younger sibling(s) tuition discount of 15%
- Tuition discount for annual tuition paid-in-full in August (3%)
- No activity fee
- Monthly enrichment activities provided at no additional cost
 - "Stretch-n-Grow" physical/nutritional education program for 4's
 - Music enrichment classes for 3's

Priority Registration will be held at the church on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. (Snow date is Tuesday, January 12). Priority Registration is offered to families who are members of QUMC or have children currently enrolled in Faith Preschool or Parent's Time Out.

General Registration to the public begins Thursday, January 14.

For further information or to arrange an observational visit, please contact Melodie Schmouder, Registrar, at 215.536.8172 or by email at faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com. Registration forms are available in the church lobby or online at www.qumc.com.



January 2016

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	** SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2
3 **	4 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	5 7:00 p.m. Trustees, Missions	6 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	7 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Faith Preschool Registration 7:00 p.m. Praise Band	8	9
10 ** 11:00 a.m. Safe Sanctuary Training 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group	11 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes, Sunday School	12 7:00 p.m. Church Council, Relay for Life	13 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	14 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Finance, Intentional Faith Development	15	16 9:30 a.m. Conference Mission U
17 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group, Parent Confirmation Meeting	18 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	19	20 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	21 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band	22 2:00 p.m. Blood Drive	23
24 ** 1:00 p.m. Youth Group Laser Tag Trip 6:00 p.m. Life Group	25 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes, COPE	26	27 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	28 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:30 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band	29	30
31 ** Kid's Club Roller Skating Party 6:00 p.m. Life Group, Youth Group						