



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

March 2016

What Does It Mean?



The season of Lent, from a word meaning length (of days), covers 40 days, not including Sundays, from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent was originally intended to be a time of spiritual examination of one's life.

People often decide to give up something during Lent, such as chocolate or movies. The following are suggestions for more meaningful - and it is to be hoped - lasting things to refrain from:

1. Judging others. Look in the mirror first.
2. Holding a grudge; refusing to forgive. Someone has pointed out that not forgiving is like taking rat poison and then waiting for the rat to die.
3. Selfishness. Focusing on me, myself, and I, causes us to miss out on the joy of giving our time, means, and concern for others.

We can all add to this list the things we should give up, thereby preparing ourselves spiritually for Resurrection Day.



Wednesday Evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Growing in Christ: Spiritual Disciplines

Wednesday, March 2: Prayer

Wednesday, March 9: Giving

Wednesday, March 16: Bible Study

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. Supper in Miller Hall

*A Lenten program for children in kindergarten through grade 5 is also offered. Nursery available.



The Pastor's Pen

Thoughts by Pastor John Kunkel

Easter: The Fulfillment of God's Plan

Long ago three trees were talking in the forest. They were telling each other of their dreams for the future. The first tree said it would like to be made into a cradle, so that it might go on living... providing support for the fragile life of a tiny baby. The second tree wanted to be made into a big ship, so that it too might go on living, carrying important cargo and influential people to exotic places all over the world. The third tree longed to stay right where it was, existing only as a tree, but growing ever taller, and pointing ever higher, to remind everyone that there is a God in heaven who loves them. Those were their dreams.

But then one day the woodcutters came and chopped down the three trees...and their dreams were destroyed.

The first tree was not made into a cradle, but into a simple feeding trough, a manger for animals. It was sold to an innkeeper in the town of Bethlehem... and interestingly enough, one night it did become a cradle of sorts as an infant named Jesus was laid to rest in it.

The second tree was built into a boat, but not a mighty ocean-going vessel. It became only a tiny fishing boat and was bought by a man named Simon Peter. And interestingly enough one afternoon a gathering crowd became so large that a man named Jesus had to climb into that small fishing boat so he could tell all who would listen what God was like.

The third tree also was deprived of its dream. It wanted to remain standing tall and pointing toward God. Instead, it was cut down and shaped into a horrible instrument of torture—a cross. But interestingly enough a man named Jesus had nails driven through his hands and feet... and he hung there suffering greatly... until he died.

The dreams of the three trees were dashed as life unfolded around them. *Their* plans did not come to be... but, *God's* plan did!

It is only as we become able to let go of our self that God can come into our hearts and bring a meaning and purpose to our life. Then and only then, do fear, amazement, anger, indifference, and all the rest of life's empty responses vanish. Then and only then, do our hearts sing with true joy and our lives shine with true love, all because, on Easter a man named Jesus rose to life from the grave and because he lives, we shall live too!

Have a Blessed Easter Celebration!

Pastor John



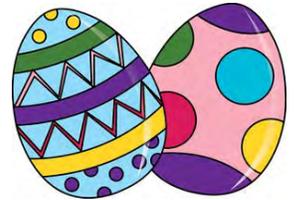
Maundy Thursday, March 24:
7:00 p.m.

Community Good Friday Service, March 25:
First UCC, Quakertown, 12 noon

Easter Sunday, March 27:
Morning Worship Services
6:45, 8:00, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26 - 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.



All children (ages 1 through 10) are invited to come share the joy of Easter at QUMC's Easter Egg Hunt. The morning will include a short program, an Easter craft, and an egg hunt. It will be held rain or shine.

Payment of \$1 per child is due at the time of registration. Forms available in the narthex and in the weekly bulletin. Place completed registration forms (along with payment) in the registration box in the narthex no later than Friday, March 11. Don't forget to bring an Easter basket or bag for the goodies!

Donations of egg fillers, such as small individually wrapped candies and trinkets, are also needed. These items can be placed in the designated box in the narthex.



Nursery SOS!

Like kids? The nursery is in desperate need of volunteers during the 11:00 a.m. service. With enough help each volunteer will be responsible for only one nursery shift a month (or less). Nursery helpers are required to obtain child abuse and criminal clearances. At this time clearances are free of charge. Contact Erin Haslett at 215.804.8618 or erinhaslett@gmail.com for more information or to sign-up.

In addition, Erin is looking for a nursery coordinator to schedule volunteers and to send email reminders to those on the schedule. Erin will assist in the transition.

The nursery ministry is an important one. It can be a husband and wife project. If you are a parent who uses the nursery, please consider taking a turn as a volunteer. Thank you!



Opportunities To Be In Mission



FEAST Pantry food items for March: canned tuna, canned chicken, mayo. Please place items in grocery cart inside church doors.

Spaghetti Dinner: Saturday, March 19, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Miller Hall. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, dessert, all for \$9.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children ages 4 through 10. For a gluten-free dinner, please contact Laura Lillie at lalillie@verizon.net.

Jerusalem House: This is an inner-city Allentown ministry. Bring in hams and side dishes by Sunday, March 20. Hams in the refrigerators, side dishes on the kitchen counter opposite the refrigerators and freezers. Please put the sides in bags marked Jerusalem House.

Loaves & Fishes community dinner: Thursday, April 7, 5:45 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church. This is an outreach ministry by local churches. Help is needed to prepare and serve the meal. To be a part of this caring ministry contact Carol Pertuit at 610.346.6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net.



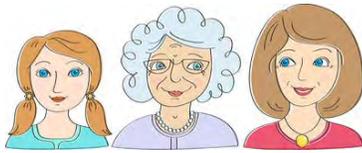
Celebrate United Methodist Night at the 76ers

The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Men is sponsoring United Methodist Night at the 76ers on Saturday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Come out to the Wells Fargo Center to see Philadelphia's pro basketball team battle the Detroit Pistons. See the poster in the narthex for ticket prices and all other pertinent information.

Winter Weather Update



With winter weather upon us, please keep in mind that the church follows the lead of the Quakertown Community School District. If the school district is closed for inclement weather, all church programs and activities are cancelled for that day. In the event of an early dismissal of the school district, afternoon and evening activities at the church follow suit, being cancelled as well.



COPE (Circle of Parental Encouragement)

Below are meeting dates for the rest of the school year. Moms of all ages are invited and encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, March 22 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Miller Hall

Saturday, April 23 - 1:30 p.m.
Join us for frozen yogurt at The Yogurt Tree (our treat!)

Thursday, May 19 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Miller Hall

This will be our final meeting of the school year

Please look for a sign-up sheet on the COPE board located next to the kitchen door. RSVP is strongly suggested so we can make sure we are prepared.

Come On Out



A weekly prayer breakfast is held every Friday at 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Quakertown Family Restaurant. Sponsored by QUMC's United Methodist Women, all women are invited. Come for breakfast or just coffee, devotions, and a time of prayer.



Spring Rummage Sale

Collect your unwanted but still in good condition and usable items and bring them to Miller Hall for Friendship Circle's Spring Rummage Sale, coming up Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, April 22 and 23. A light lunch will be available Friday, as well as a baked goods table.

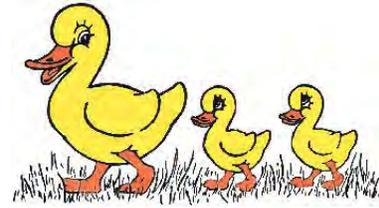
Bring your donations to Miller Hall at the following times: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 19, 20, 21 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. You may also bring them Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00.

Needed for sale: baked goods, jewelry, kitchen utensils, dishes and glassware, tools, games, clean clothing in good condition, toys, other usable items. Absolutely NO televisions, computers, other heavy or large items, please! Also needed: paper and plastic grocery bags.

Contact Becky Petko (215.536.4741) with questions or to find out how you can help.



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Hattie Bowman - March 3, Dorothy Largent - March 11,
Edith Lightkep - March 18, Mary Schwer - March 28.

NOTE OF THANKS:

“Thank you to the members of QUMC for the prayers, concerns, and support during Adhieu’s recent illness and hospital stay. We appreciate all the kindnesses shared with us.”

Michael, Adhieu & Achol Deng



What is Communion?

Pastor Kunkel will explain this important sacrament to children in kindergarten through fifth grade during the Sunday School hour on March 13. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children as we continue to grow in Christ together.

In the United Methodist Church, participation in communion is a family decision. The purpose of this time with Pastor Kunkel will be to teach children about the sacrament of communion and its meaning. Please note that communion will not be served.

The celebration of the Last Supper of Jesus on Maundy Thursday falls on March 24. It is our hope that this “extra” lesson to elementary school-aged children will help not only to explain the importance of Holy Week, but to provide a clear understanding of the meaning of the sacrament of communion.

See Pastor Kunkel or Babs Kerns with questions or concerns.



CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS!

Faith Preschool 2016-2017 Registration

Registration continues for the 2016-2017 school year for Quakertown United Methodist Church's quality preschool program - **FAITH PRESCHOOL**. Since its merger with the Parent's Time Out program for 2's, Faith Preschool has expanded its offerings to include a variety of classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's. In addition to its regular programming, Faith Preschool offers numerous enrichment activities which include "Stretch-n-Grow," Lunch Bunch, music classes, and summer camp electives.

To make the cost of quality preschool more affordable, a number of special discounts are available:

- 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
- Referral incentive

Detailed program information and registration forms are available in the lobby or may be found at www.qumc.com. For additional questions or to arrange an observational visit, please contact Registrar, Melodie Schmouder at 215.536.8172 or faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com.



THE QUMC FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

As of January 31, 2016

Contributions and Pledges

Budgeted Income:	\$ 18,722.41
Actual Income Received:	\$ 10,994.50



March 2016

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>** 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</p>		<p>1 4:00 p.m. Miller Hall Reserved 7:00 p.m. Missions, Trustees</p>	<p>2 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise 6:30 p.m. Lenten Program, Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Leadership Team</p>	<p>4 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast Youth Group Loft Retreat →</p>	<p>5 10:00 a.m. Miller Hall Reserved</p>
<p>6 ** One Great Hour of Sharing 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>7 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>8 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed</p>	<p>9 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise 6:30 p.m. Lenten Program 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Finance, Praise Band</p>	<p>11 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>12 9:30 a.m. Conference Mission U United Methodist Men's Night at the Philadelphia 76ers</p>
<p>13 ** Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Ahead!) 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>14 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise 6:30 p.m. Lenten Program, Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band</p> 	<p>18 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner Set-Up</p>	<p>19 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 4:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner</p>
<p>20 Palm Sunday Festival Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Festival Worship 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>21 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>22 7:00 p.m. COPE</p>	<p>23 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24 Maundy Thursday 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship</p>	<p>25 Good Friday 12 noon Community Good Friday Worship at First United Church of Christ, Quakertown</p>	<p>26 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>27 Easter Sunday 6:45 a.m. Sunrise Worship 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p>	<p>28 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir</p>	<p>31 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band</p>		