



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

April 2016

It's Time



*“Get rid of all bitterness...and anger...Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31,32*

In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes the writer refers to the ebb and flow of life. He cites (v.3) “a time to heal...a time to build up,” (and v.7) “a time to mend.”

Our church has been experiencing some difficult times - times that call for healing, building up, and mending. To that end there will be a Festival Service of worship on Sunday, April 24, at 10:00. Consultant the Reverend Dr. Bud Holland will preach and lead us in a time of healing.

Jesus prayed for his followers to “be one.” Does this mean we must all think alike? Of course not. That would be boring, not to mention impossible. But it calls for us, as followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to be one in focus. Our church is not just one of many organizations that provide fellowship and do good deeds. Our purpose is - in all we say and do - to glorify God and to witness to the good news of the gospel to a fractured world full of hate and strife. How can we carry out our calling if we ourselves are fractured?

A few years ago our congregation developed and adopted a covenant. It was aimed at reminding us of how Christ’s followers should interact, even when - or maybe especially when - in disagreement. We must listen respectfully to other’s points of view. We are reminded to display the fruit of the spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22,23).

One of the editor’s college professors often put it this way: “Let us agree to disagree agreeably.” It’s time.

Sunday, April 24

Festival Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Dr. Bud Holland

Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.

Missionary John Elmore

Dinner in Miller Hall following worship



The Pastor's Pen

Thoughts by Pastor John Kunkel

"There are other worlds to sing in"

His name was Paul. He lived in a small town in the Pacific Northwest some years ago. He was just a little boy when his family became the proud owners of one of the first telephones in the neighborhood. It was one of those wooden boxes attached to the wall with the shiny receiver hanging on the side of the box...and the mouthpiece attached to the front. Young Paul listened with fascination as his mom and dad used the phone...and he discovered that somewhere inside the wonderful device called a telephone lived an amazing person.

Her name was "Information Please"...and there was nothing she did not know. "Information Please" could supply anybody's number...and the correct time! Paul's first personal experience with "Information Please" came one day when he was home alone and he whacked his finger with a hammer. The pain was terrible and he didn't know what to do...and then he thought of the telephone. Quickly, he pulled a footstool up to the phone, climbed up, unhooked the receiver, held it to his ear and said, "Information Please..." There was a click or two and then a small clear voice spoke, "Information." "I hurt my finger," Paul wailed into the phone. "Isn't your mother home?" "Nobody's home but me," Paul cried. "Are you bleeding?" "No," Paul said. "I hit my finger with the hammer and it hurts." "Can you open your ice-box?" "Yes." "Then go get some ice and hold it to your finger." Paul did and it helped a lot.

After that Paul called "Information Please" for everything. She helped him with his geography and his math. She taught him how to spell the word "fix." She told him what to feed his pet chipmunk. And then when Paul's pet canary died, she listened to his grief tenderly and then said, "Paul, always remember that there are other worlds to sing in." Somehow that helped and Paul felt better.

When Paul was nine years old, he moved with his family to Boston...and as the years passed he missed "Information Please" very much. Some years later Paul was on his way out west to go to college. When he arrived in Seattle, he dialed his hometown operator and said, "Information Please."

Miraculously, he heard that same small clear voice that he knew so well. "Information." Paul hadn't planned this, but suddenly he blurted out, "Could you please tell me how to spell the word 'fix'?" There was a long pause. Then came the soft answer, "I guess your finger must be all healed by now." Paul laughed. "So it's really still you. Do you have any idea how much you meant to me during that time when I was a little boy?" "I wonder," she said, "if you know how much your calls meant to me! I never had any children and I used to look forward to your calls so much."

Paul told her how much he had missed her over the years and asked her if he could call her again when he was back in the area. "Please do," she said. "Just ask for Sally." Three months later Paul was back in Seattle. This time a different voice answered. He asked for Sally. "Are you a friend?" the operator asked. "Yes, a very old friend." Paul answered. "Well, I'm sorry to have to tell you this," she said. "Sally had been working part time the last few years because she was sick. She died five weeks ago." Before he could hang up the operator said, "Wait a minute. Is your name Paul?"



“Yes.” “Well, Sally left a message for you. She wrote it down in case you called. Let me read it to you. It says, ‘When Paul calls, tell him that I still say, *There are other worlds to sing in.*’ He will know what I mean.” Paul thanked her and hung up...he did know what Sally meant.

“There are other worlds to sing in.” Isn’t that a beautiful and powerful thought? The Easter story tells us that in this life, and through eternity, we belong to God. When Jesus paid the price for our sin with his life he made it possible for us to know our loving heavenly Father.

Are you searching? Struggling? Doubting? You can find meaning...make a new start...become a new person. By God’s grace, there are other worlds to sing in!

Pastor John



Pastoral Appointments

At all services on March 13 Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) chair Dennis Pfeleger announced that Bishop Peggy Johnson has appointed the Reverend Dr. Thomas Robinson to QUMC. He is the longtime pastor of Green Pond UMC. There will be a profile of Pastor Robinson in a future newsletter issue.

Pastor Russell Atkinson has been appointed to Drexel Hill UMC.

Both appointments are as of July 1. Pastor John Kunkel will continue as interim pastor through April and May.

Much Appreciation



The Festival Worship service on Palm Sunday was inspirational and memorable.

Joyful Noise, the children’s choir, gave a rousing rendition of “He’ll be Riding on a Donkey When He Comes.” The praise band stirred us with “Mary, Did You Know?” and the band joined with the choir on the poignant “Above All.”

Mark’s account of the passion of Jesus came to life dramatically by narrator Len Hurley and 14 Biblical characters, enhanced by Marj Lofland’s costumes.

Pastor Kunkel challenged us to carry on with the “doing of discipleship” when the cheering stops.

Well done, all!



From the Trustees:

We hope most of you know that QUMC has an outstanding preschool program, which makes good use of our building. This coming school year, 2016-2017, the previous Parent's Time Out and Faith Preschool will merge and serve 2-, 3- and 4-year olds of our community.

PTO began in 2001 and FPS opened its doors in 2002 with the full support of the administrative board, which realized this would be a wonderful outreach and mission to our congregation and community. That has definitely proven to be the case with full enrollment for FPS of 70 students each year. If you do the math you find that more than 900 children and their families have received a quality Christian preschool experience. Add to that the 500 or so PTO students! Surely, this is cause to celebrate!

Over the years many of these children have participated in special activities at our church, including such things as Vacation Bible School and the annual Easter egg hunt. Several families have joined or regularly attend QUMC as a direct result of this program. Many, including the Quakertown Community School District and the Bucks County IU, have praised the preparedness of these children for the challenges of elementary school. At the same time they have heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

FPS and PTO have always been self-sustaining ministries of QUMC, reimbursing the church for custodial, telephone, and copying machine expenses. Through the years they have also contributed gifts and other contributions to the church totaling more than \$20,000. We all need to support this important mission of our church, extending a helping hand and offering words of appreciation to the dedicated members of the staff of FPS for the valuable work they do.

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.



From Missions Commission



FEAST Pantry food items for the month of April: hot and cold cereal and cereal bars. Please place items in the grocery cart inside the church doors.

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.

Jerusalem House - The donations of Easter hams and side dishes for the people being served by this inner-city ministry were greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Missionary John Elmore will be our guest on Sunday, April 24, at 9:00 in the sanctuary to report on his ministry in Chile. QUMC helps to support him. Adult Sunday School classes will meet in the sanctuary. All interested adults welcome.



The Kids Club April Event

Lock-In on Friday, April 29. Drop off at 7:00 p.m. with pick-up the following morning at 9:00 a.m. Details will be sent out before the date. Please refer any questions to Babs Kerns at babs.kerns@gmail.com. Thank you.

Spring Clean Up



Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. until noon. Join the Trustees for a morning of fellowship and fun while cleaning up our church. There will be jobs for everyone (all ages), including mulching and cleaning windows inside and outside. Coffee and donuts will be provided. If you have any questions please call Dianne Scott at 215.901.0981.



Christian Ed News

- April 24, 9:00 a.m. - Missionary Sunday - Adult Sunday School classes will meet in the sanctuary to hear missionary John Elmore speak of his ministry in Chile. All adults are welcome.
- June 12, 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School day for children - Adult classes will help the children celebrate the end of their Sunday School year and their “graduation” to their new classrooms in the fall. Each children’s class will present a brief activity/recitation/song. The Women’s Class will offer the opening prayer; and the Men’s Class will provide the closing prayer. After this service in the sanctuary, students will return to their classrooms.
- Beginning on Sunday, April 3, 10:00 a.m., adults are encouraged to join the Faithbuilders Class in diving into the Book of James. To frame the study, John Wesley’s own notes on James will be used. Babs Kerns will lead and facilitate the discussion-based class.

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.

Life Groups



What are they and how can I get involved? You may have heard that we have Life Groups here at QUMC but you are not sure what they are or when they meet. Life Groups are small groups that meet on a weekly basis. The groups pray for each other, study the Bible, and share with each other their joys, sorrows, and other concerns.

We currently have five Life Groups:

- Sunday during Sunday school, led by Rachele Sawadski
- Sunday evening during Youth Group, led by Tammy Swearingen
- Wednesday morning, 6:30 a.m. at Panera, led by Dianne Scott
- Thursday morning, 10:30 a.m. at the church, led by Gale Hewitt
- Thursday afternoon, 2:15 p.m. at Mary Schwer’s house, led by Donna Harvey

All of these groups are looking for new members. We invite you to join a Life Group! If you have questions please contact a leader or Dianne Scott at 215.901.0981.



Family Fun On The Go!



Family Bowling on Saturday, April 2, 6:30 p.m, Earl Bowl, Quakertown (on route 309). First game \$4.00, shoes \$2.25 or bowl three games and get free shoes for \$11.00. Bring a snack or dessert to share.

Family Game Night on Saturday, April 23, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., church parlor. Come and go as you wish. You don't need to stay the whole time. Bring your favorite game and a dessert to share. Group and foursome games. Sign up in the narthex.

For questions on either of these events, contact Steve and Janet Finch 215.538.0835 or finchscl@verizon.net.



Make a Splash!

Get ready for an ocean adventure as Vacation Bible School goes on a Deep Sea Discovery! We will be heading under the sea June 20 to 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Did you know it takes more than 60 volunteers to make VBS happen? Needed: classroom teachers as well as crew leaders. If you've helped in the past or have never been involved in VBS before, we would love to hear from you! Contact Megan McMichael (267.718.6157 or megan@mcmichaelfamily.com) or Allison Ghorm (484.225.7004 or agghorm@gmail.com) to let them know.

Please note that all volunteers must follow the rules of Safe Sanctuary. Clearances can be obtained free right now. We will offer a Safe Sanctuary training on May 18 and another on June 12. We hope this will be our biggest year yet and are thankful for all your support. We couldn't do it without you! Registration for

Bits & Pieces



Remember to recycle your aluminum beverage cans. Rinse them out and drop them off at the pavilion shed. Thank you to those who continue to support this worthy project. The proceeds go to support our missions outreach.

If you have lightly-used furniture you want to remove from your house, please contact Steve Finch. It will be donated to the UMCOR depot in Bethlehem/Hellertown. If we can't handle it the depot will send a truck to your house. No electronics or appliances please.



REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2016!

Faith Preschool

It's not too late to register for the 2016-17 school year of Quakertown United Methodist Church's quality preschool program - **Faith Preschool**. Since its merger with the Parent's Time Out program, Faith Preschool will be offering a variety of classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's. Additional enrichment activities include "Stretch-n-Grow," Lunch Bunch, music classes, and summer camp electives.

A number of special discounts are available to make the cost of this quality preschool education more affordable:

- One registration fee per family (\$35)
- Younger sibling tuition discount of 15%
- Tuition discount of 3% for annual tuition paid-in-full in August
- No activity fees
- Referral incentive

For further information or to arrange an observational tour, please contact Registrar, Melodie Schmouder, at 215.536.8172 or faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com. Detailed program information and registration forms are available in the church lobby or may be found at www.qumc.com. Classes are filling, so please register soon.

Info on Conference Camps from the Hydes

Innabah

- Spring 5K Trail Run & 1.5 Mile Run/Walk for kids and families, April 16
- Spring Open House, May 14

Pocono Plateau

- Youth Music Camp Retreat, April 8-10
- Dangerous Retreat for Boys (and Dads), April 22-24
- Mothers & Daughters Retreat, May 13-15
- Young Adults Retreat, June 3-5

Gretna Glen

- Final Free Youth Night, April 17, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Confirmation Camp, April 1-3 and April 8-10
- Gretna Gritty Mud Run, May 7
- Spring Fling Senior Adult Day, May 10
- Open House, May 21

Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp

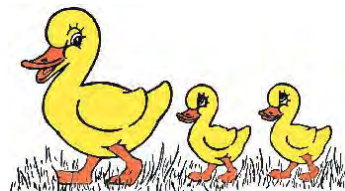
- Open House and Flower Sale, May 7
- Disciple Training, May 13-14
- Little Critters Camp, May 14



Also, want to see some cool videos? Check out the two on Gretna Glen's Gretna Gritty 2016 at <https://vimeo.com/154241545> and <https://vimeo.com/151246371>.



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: William Diller - April 5, Audrey Diller - April 17, Evelyn Lewis - April 22.

NOTE OF THANKS:

Dear Members of Quakertown UMC,

Thank you for your gift of \$819.00 to Imagine No Malaria, supporting the United Methodist Church's commitment to eliminate malaria as a major source of death and suffering in Africa by 2015. Your support serves as an example of how we are living Christ's call to heal the sick and help those in need.

Imagine No Malaria includes continued bed net distributions, community education programs with medical outreach training, radio communications programs reaching remote areas with vital information, and programs that strengthen clinics and hospitals to better diagnose and treat malaria.

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to pray for our work and those we serve.

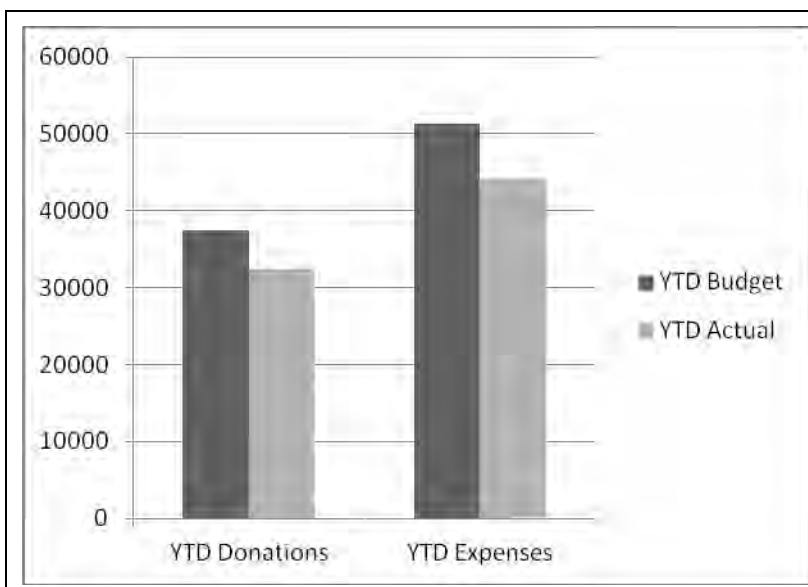
Peace and Joy!

*Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Chair, UMC Global Health Initiative*



THIS JUST IN...

Wednesday night fellowship dinners resume April 6 through May 11, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Come out for good food and fellowship.



QUMC Financial Snapshot

Through February 2016, we are tracking *slightly ahead* of our overall budget.

YTD Donations are below budget by \$5,200, but offset by YTD Expenses \$7,100 less than planned.

Please contact the church office if you would like the most recent detailed monthly financial report. Also, please contact John Cornelius at 267-374-0478 with any questions or concerns.



April 2016

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>** SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> </div>					1 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast	2 6:30 p.m. Family Bowling at Earl Bowl
3** 6:00 p.m. Life Group	4 10:00 a.m. Friendship Circle 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	5 10:00 a.m. Listening Session 2:00 p.m. Listening Session 7:00 p.m. Listening Session, Nominations, Trustees, Missions	6 6:30 a.m. Life Group 2:00 p.m. Listening Session 5:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Listening Session	7 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 5:45 p.m. Loaves & Fishes Community Dinner 7:00 p.m. Radical Hospitality, Praise Band	8 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast	9 Miller Hall Reserved	
10 ** Native American Sunday 6:00 p.m. Life Group	11 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	12 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life	13 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, VBS Meeting 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	14 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Finance, Praise Band	15 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast	16 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 9:00 a.m. District UMW Day Apart (Sanctuary & Miller Hall Reserved)	
17 ** 3:00 p.m. Farewell Musical Celebration for Russell & Barbara Atkinson 6:00 p.m. Life Group	18 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	19	20 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Confirmation Class 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	21 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Leadership Team,	22 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale	23 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale 1:30 p.m. COPE Trip to Yogurt Tree 7:00 p.m. Family Game Night	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>← Rummage Sale Preparations - Miller Hall Reserved All Week →</p> </div>							
24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & John Elmore Mission Program 10:00 a.m. Festival Worship & Healing Service followed by Fellowship Meal Bible-in-a-Year Dinner	25 6:30 p.m. Brownies, Daisies 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	26	27 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:15 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:00 p.m. Bishop Johnson Town Hall Meeting (Sanctuary Reserved) 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	28 10:30 a.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Intentional Faith Development, Praise Band	29 8:30 a.m. Prayer Breakfast 7:00 p.m. Kid's Club Lock-In →	30 8:00 a.m. Church Clean-Up Day	