



# Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

January 2017

## Getting Off To A Good Start



January 1 is just the next day after December 31 and one day before January 2. But somehow it seems to feel like the start of something new, a chance to do better.

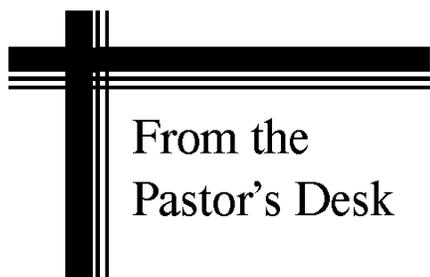
If we're honest we'll admit that 2016 - at least the last half of it - didn't serve to bring out the best in many of us. There was a lot of turmoil, name calling, and ill will. Civility and respectful disagreement were glaringly absent.

Many of us feel that not since the Civil War has our nation been so divided. But an incident from that devastating conflict has a lesson to teach us. Randy Kilgore, in the October 11, 2016 devotional in Our Daily Bread, gives the following account:

"On the last day of the US Civil War, officer Joshua Chamberlain was in command of the Union army. His soldiers lined up on both sides of the road that the Confederate army had to march down in surrender. One wrong word or one belligerent act and the longed-for peace could be turned to slaughter. In an act as brilliant as it was moving, Chamberlain ordered his troops to salute their foe! No taunting here, no vicious words - only guns in salute and swords raised to honor."

What a picture of grace! Wouldn't it make 2017 a better year if we all exhibited grace in our dealings with others, both friend and "foe"? After all, God offers grace through Jesus Christ to all of us - rich, poor, conservative, liberal, and everything in between. Thanks be to God.

M.B.S.



From the  
Pastor's Desk

Pastor Tom has set office hours as follows and will be available at these times. Please note office hours are subject to change as the need may arise.

Monday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thursday	4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



# Embracing the Power of Vulnerability

**The Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Robinson, III**

First of all, Jane and I want to thank everyone for the generous gifts we have received from so many of you for our first Christmas here with you. It has been so exciting getting to know each of you and witnessing your generosity and your tremendous heart for the continuing ministry of Christ Jesus in and through you.

Secondly, this was the second Christmas without my dad. It's ironic how it was more pronounced this year than last year. Last year he had only recently died and I see now that it was still too fresh, still not yet real. This has me thinking about the stages of life and changes that are inevitable. As I remarked to a high school friend whose mother passed, we are now at that age where we are losing our parents and our children are becoming more independent. For a time our children needed us. Then both our children and our parents needed us. Then, neither needed us it seemed and we were suddenly wondering "What do we do now?"

In some ways, this becomes an age of vulnerability. I believe we are probably vulnerable our whole lives in some sense, but most of our younger years we live with the illusion we are invincible and immortal. Middle age begins that wake up call that life is passing by and we only have a finite time in this world.

Is vulnerability a negative position? I don't believe so. I believe that accepting our vulnerability can essentially become a freeing and empowering position from which to live.



President Theodore Roosevelt gave a speech at the Sorbonne in Paris, France on April 23, 1910. This passage from that speech made it famous and, if you think about it, expresses the power of vulnerability:

**"It is not the critic who counts; not the [one] who points out how the strong [one] stumbles, or where the doers of deeds could have done better.**

**The credit belongs to the [one] who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again,**

**Because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends [one's self] in a worthy cause;**

**Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if [one] fails, at least fails while daring greatly..."**



Beginning January 8, I will lead a 6-week series on the power that various areas of vulnerability can impact our lives for the better. We will explore how if we cultivate areas in our lives such

as authenticity, self-compassion, play, calmness and meaningful work, we in tandem can let go of negative emotions such as concern for what others think, perfectionism, exhaustion, anxiety and self-doubt.

A little more detail about the series is listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Maybe you know someone who is in this situation. Please make it your mission to invite that person to join you in worship for this series and bless them with how God has a solution for these challenges.

In the loving embrace of God's grace,

*Pastor Tony*



# Sermon Plans

Date	Gospel	Title and Message
January 8, 2017 Epiphany Sunday  Sermon Series: Embracing the Power of Vulnerability	Luke 6:17-23	<p><b>“Breaking Free from the ‘Never Enough’ Culture”</b></p> <p>We are always being told that we are not good enough and that we don’t have enough. The gifts of the Magi have turned into a consumerism culture and we are trapped in it. Yet Jesus offers us a way out where true happiness and blessedness await.</p>
January 15, 2017  Sermon Series: Embracing the Power of Vulnerability	Luke 6:37-42	<p><b>“Healing Destructive Shame”</b></p> <p>Guilt is like a warning light to let us know something’s off and needs to be tended to. It’s about an action we’ve mishandled. Shame is deeper and goes to the heart of who we are. It is false and destructive. Jesus has the cure for it and offers it to us.</p>
January 22, 2017  Sermon Series: Embracing the Power of Vulnerability	Mark 5:1-20	<p><b>“Our Armor is Destroying Us”</b></p> <p>Imagine wearing armor like a knight that limits your movement as well as your ability to see. It’s extremely hot inside and cooks you in the sun. While it protects you from arrows and swords, it suffocates you and you pass out on the field of battle and die. The armor we put on to protect ourselves from being hurt by rejection and the like also suffocates our spirits and can destroy us. Jesus offers you a new way to dress that will give you life.</p>
January 29, 2017  Sermon Series: Embracing the Power of Vulnerability	Matthew 5:13-16	<p><b>“Crossing the Gap from Where You Are to Where You Want To Be”</b></p> <p>We all have a desire to fulfill our dreams of becoming the person we imagine is strong, respected, loved, and makes a difference. But we also find ourselves feeling we are stuck, or making very little progress in becoming that person. Jesus’ message about being salt and light gives us a clue of how to cross the gap between where we are where we want to be.</p>



## 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.

We also ask that, particularly during the winter months, the front row of parking spaces be left open for the elderly or those with difficulty ambulating. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Your Church Envelopes



If you use the church envelopes, please notice the special one: "Initial Offering." Your gift in this envelope goes to defray the cost of the envelopes.

A reminder: There are two funds - General Fund, which includes support for all the ministries of the church, and Care of God's House, for capital expenditures and major repairs and improvements to our building. You also have an option to give to a particular area. Be sure to specify. One such option could be "Acts Four Fund," which is used for members who may have a specific financial need. See Pastor Tom to apply for this. Requests are kept confidential. (See chapter four of the Book of Acts to understand why this fund bears that name.)



## What a Delight and Inspiration

Festival Sunday, December 18, worship was uplifting, moving, fun, and just plain great!

Music from the organ, the choir, the Praise Band, and the bells was outstanding.

And then there was "Manger Mania!" Thanks to directors Sara Gray and Babs Kerns and all the children and youth. The pageant featured Mary and Joseph, the Innkeeper, shepherds and animals, angels, and "Those Cool Eastern Guys" (the wisemen).



## Much Appreciation



Thank you to the carolers, those who decorated the church, people who provided the poinsettias, and the many generous members who shared God's love and Christmas joy with 176 children of Kensington in Philadelphia by supplying the gifts for the annual "Giving Tree."



## Feast Food Pantry

During the month of January bring in hot or cold cereals, cereal bars, juice, juice boxes. Put items into the grocery cart inside the front doors.

## On A Roll...



Kid's Club has planned an afternoon of roller-skating at Inline 309 on January 29, 1:30 to 3:00. Fun for the whole family and your friends. For more information call Babs Kerns (267.825.5693).

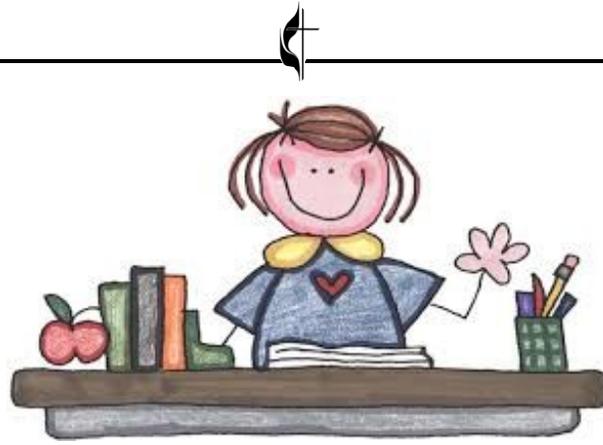


## Confirmation and Adult Membership

Confirmation Classes begin with an introductory meeting on Sunday, January 15, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., and will continue through May on Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. with a few exceptions.

Spring Adult New Member Classes will begin Sunday, April 30, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Contact Pastor Tom (pastor@qumc.com or 215.536.4992) for more information.



## Announcing 2017-2018 Faith Preschool Registration Information

It's registration time for 2017-18 school year for Quakertown United Methodist Church's Faith Preschool program. Celebrating 15 years of excellence in preschool programming, Faith Preschool looks forward to preparing for another school year and continuing to serve the needs of children and families in our church and community.

Since merging with the Parent's Time Out, Faith Preschool has enlarged its program to include classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's. Classes to be offered for the 2017-18 school year 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 tuition discount of 15%
- 3% tuition discount for annual tuition paid-in-full in August
- No activity fee
- Monthly enrichment activities provided at no additional cost

**Priority registration** will be held at the church on Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. (Snow date, Tuesday, January 10). Priority registration is offered to families who are members of QUMC or have children currently enrolled in Faith Preschool. Doors to the church will be opened by Faith Preschool staff at 6:00 p.m.

**General registration** to the public begins Thursday, January 12.

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](mailto:faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com). Registration forms are available in the church lobby or online at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com).

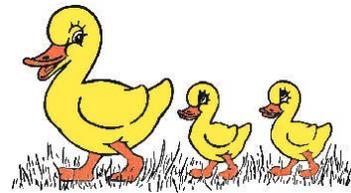


## ***Serving Together...Loving Our Neighbors***

Share your faith by hosting a Japanese exchange student, March 18-26, 2017. A group of excited eighth- and ninth-grade students will arrive on March 18 to learn about our culture. As a host family, you can learn about them too! Students will attend Faith Christian Academy Monday through Friday. Carpooling and busing are available in Quakertown, Southern Lehigh, Pennridge, and Palisades school districts. A stipend is paid to host families.

For more information, contact Rosanne Kelsall ([rosannek@amhomelife.org](mailto:rosannek@amhomelife.org) or 215.206.9815).

## **Family Matters**

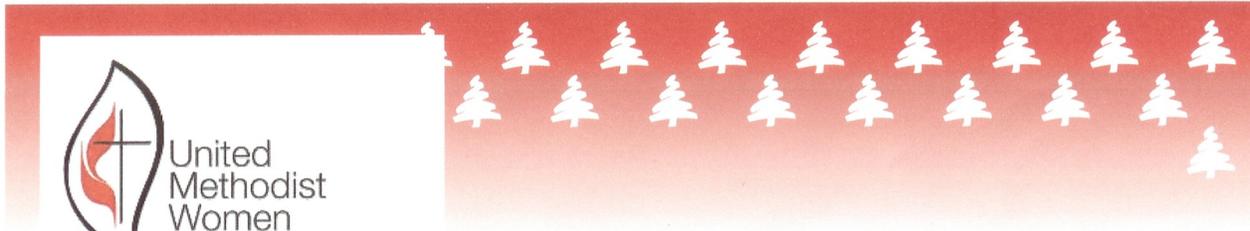


**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to: Richard Hillegass and Irene Hunsberger - January 4,  
and Grace Mohr - January 7.



*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*



## FUN, FACTS AND FIGURES OF UMW

UMW HAS BEEN VERY BUSY FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. Beginning with our soup sale on election day, our candy and earring sale the first of December and ending the year with our annual Christmas covered dish dinner. Many thanks to all who helped make this night a great success. The good food, the good fellowship and the wonderful singing made for an enjoyable Christmas celebration.



HAVE A HAPPY AND SALE JANUARY

Where does our money go?

1. Pledge to mission for our National Organization
2. Local : Discovery project, Crossroads pregnancy center, Jerusalem House, Red Bird and Henderson Settlements, Local families in need, gifts from tree for Kam Kids.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Winter soup sale**  
**Watch bulletin for details**

**Flower Arranging Class—learn how to make your flowers look professional—coming in February**

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needs or position in society. As many as 30 million people internationally have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illegal arms. As advocates for social justice, United Methodist Women will continue to work for the rights of those exploited by this cruel trade and end this all-too-prevalent form of modern-day slavery.

## STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

United Methodist Women joins interfaith and secular allies every January 11 to observe **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**. This day also kicks off **Intercept the Traffickers**,

our annual awareness campaign to teach individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons and what can be done to aid in the

prosecution of these criminals. United Methodist Women stands against the exploitation of those forced to submit to civil injustice as a result of their basic



# January 2017

## Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship Service	<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	<b>3</b> 7:00 p.m. Trustees	<b>4</b> 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Faith Preschool Registration 7:00 p.m. Radical Hospitality, Praise Band	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Miller Hall Reserved
<b>8 **</b> 6:00 p.m. Life Group	<b>9</b> 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	<b>10</b> 6:30 p.m. Faith Preschool Registration (Snowdate)	<b>11</b> 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Finance, Praise Band	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 **</b> 12 noon "Bible-in-a-Year" Party 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group	<b>16</b> 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Leadership, Praise Band	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. UMW Mission U
<b>22 **</b> 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group	<b>23</b> 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band	<b>27</b> Lehigh University Group	<b>28</b>
<b>29 **</b> 1:30 p.m. Kid's Club Roller Skating 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Life Group	<b>30</b> 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes	<b>31</b> 7:00 p.m. COPE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <b>**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</b>                      8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship                      9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship                      10:00 a.m. Sunday School                      11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship                 </div>			