



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 2017



A Time To Prepare

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on March 1.

The word Lent means “length,” referring to the lengthening of daylight hours. It was originally intended as a time of spiritual contemplation for new Christians in preparation for their baptism.

To help us to focus on the mind-boggling gift of God’s grace through the agonizing sacrifice Jesus made for us, Wednesday evening services will be held throughout Lent. Suppers will be served in Miller Hall beginning at 5:00, followed by services at 7:00:

March 1	Ashes	
March 8	Forgiveness	Matthew 6:14-15
March 15	Water	Psalms 51:10-12
March 22	Oil	Lamentations 3:19-23
March 29	Clay	Jeremiah 18:1-6
April 5	Salt	Matthew 5:13
April 13	Maundy Thursday Communion	
April 14	Good Friday	





A "Feathery" Thing to Give Up for Lent

The Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Robinson, III

One day a man came to his priest and confessed how he had discovered that a story he had been telling others about another person in his town was false. He felt bad and asked how he might find a way to be absolved of his sin and to fix the damage he had caused.



The priest gave him a pillow case filled with feathers and instructed him, "Tonight, while everyone is asleep, take this pillowcase of feathers and go to every home where someone lives to whom you told this story. Place a feather on the front doorstep. Also, on the front doorstep of every home in which you are aware a person resides was told this story by someone you told it to, place a feather. Then, come and see me in the morning."

The man did as he was told. All night he walked the streets of his town, placing feathers on the front doorsteps of every home where he had shared his false story and where others may have also heard the story he had started. With the pillowcase nearly empty, he arrived in the morning back at the home of the priest. "I have finished the task, Father. Am I now absolved of my guilt and sin?"

The priest said, "Almost, my son. Now, go back and retrieve every feather from the homes where you went last night."

"But that is impossible, Father! There was a breeze last night and by now those feathers are spread all over the town and beyond! I will never be able to retrieve them all!"

"And so it is with the false story you spread, my son," explained the priest.



A game we may all have played at some point in time is called "Whisper Down the Lane." Someone starts the game by whispering something to another. That person in turn whispers it to the next person. And so on until it reaches the last person who recites what they heard. Almost every time we find the original message has been distorted,

sometimes beyond any comprehension to the original message. Why? Because when one person mishears the message, they tend to make up what they think they heard or what they think is missing. This usually elicits a great amount of laughter discovering how much the message is altered. So it is in life. When there is a lack of information, human nature seeks to fill that void with what seems to be missing. Unfortunately, much of what then gets out there is false information, even sensationalized as it gets "whispered down the lane." We are no more immune to this in the church than anywhere else. James wrote in his epistle "With [the tongue] we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing" (James 3:9-10a)

Often I hear folks in the church asking questions about something they have heard happening within the church and discover that, just like in the "Whisper Down the Lane" game, the truth has been distorted a bit to make it more exciting. That's natural. We all love a good story! However, sometimes the story takes on a measure of untruth that can cause problems.

In a large congregation like ours, it is difficult to communicate to everyone in a clear and complete manner all the time. People are bound to hear bits and pieces and then fill in the gaps with their own thoughts based on perceptions. We must be careful, though. Our perceptions are often off-target and we make assumptions that are wrong. Then, we all know what happens then.

So, let's try something together for Lent: give up making assumptions and instead, seek out someone who can give us the answer before we share misinformation. What a powerful achievement that would be for all of us, eh? We can do it!!! I know it will be difficult. I'm not good in this area either at times. But, we can do it!!! With God's help!

In the loving embrace of God's grace,

Pastor Tony ☺



Sermon Plans

Date	Gospel	Message
March 1, 2017 Ash Wednesday	Mark 9:14-29	Ashes
March 5, 2017 Sunday Worship	John 6:15-21	Obstacles to Abundant Living: Time
March 8, 2017 Midweek Lenten Service	Matthew 6:14-15	Forgiveness
March 12, 2017 Sunday Worship	Matthew 12:1-14	Obstacles to Abundant Living: Distractions
March 15, 2017 Midweek Lenten Service	Psalms 51:10-12	Water
March 19, 2017 Sunday Worship	Mark 9:33-41	Obstacles to Abundant Living: Conflict
March 22, 2017 Midweek Lenten Service	Lamentations 3:19-23	Oil
March 26, 2017 Sunday Worship	Luke 8:26-39	Obstacles to Abundant Living: Illness
March 29, 2017 Midweek Lenten Service	Jeremiah 18:1-6	Clay

*“You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord,
‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ ”*

Psalm 91:1





From Missions Commission

- FEAST Food Pantry items for the month: Paper products (napkins, paper towels, bathroom rolls, and tissues.)
- We will be collecting hams and side dishes (non-perishable) for Easter dinners for Jerusalem House ministries in Allentown to share with their neighbors. Please bring everything to the church by April 9. Place hams in the refrigerator and side dishes labeled "Jerusalem House" on the counter. Thank you.
- Special offerings will be received on the fourth Sunday of each month for an outreach program in coordination with the Quakertown Community School District. Families facing difficult situations will be helped.

Spring Rummage Sale



Collect your unwanted but still in good condition and usable items and bring them to Miller Hall for Friendship Circle's Fall Rummage Sale, coming up Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to noon, April 7 and 8. A light lunch will be available Friday, as well as a baked goods table.

Bring your donations to Miller Hall at the following times: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, April 3, 4, 5, 6, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. You may also bring them Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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.

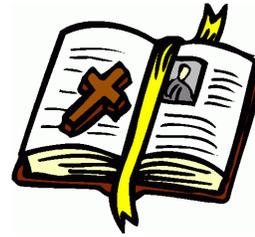


Strikes & Spares!

Family Bowling, Saturday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. at Earl Bowl, Quakertown. First game is \$4.00, shoes \$2.25 or you can bowl three games for \$11 and get shoes free! Bring a snack or dessert to share. Contact Steve or Janet Finch (215.538.0835 or finchscl@verizon.net) with questions.



Christian Ed



Lenten Study

All adults are invited to join the Faithbuilders Sunday School class, led by Gail Schadler, in a Lenten study, "Wind in the Wilderness," written by the Reverend D. J. del Rosario, of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UMC.

The study focuses on the Hebrew prophets and their messages of justice, calling us to turn our attention to the issues of justice in today's world. The study will also challenge us to look deeper into the history of Jesus' life and consider how he fulfilled the promises of the prophets. The Reverend del Rosario says, "See how the wind moved among God's people in the past, to discover how it's moving in your life today."

Be part of this study, during the Sunday School hour, March 5 to April 16, in Room 109/111.

Dinner & Training

Sign up in the narthex for Christian Education & Children's Ministries Dinner and Training scheduled for Thursday, March 16, in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. This event will be held if at least 10 people sign up by March 9. Training will include five new approaches to grow Sunday School and Children's Ministries and how to fit them into our limited time with children and adults. A time for questions from the floor will also be provided concerning any current issues with these ministries.



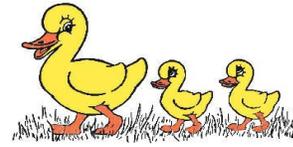
From the Trustees...

All-Church Clean-Up Day is scheduled for Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, starting at 8:00 a.m. Plan to come out to help spruce up our church building and grounds by mulching, washing windows, and other tasks both inside and out. The trustees ask that all groups of the church, including Sunday School classes, label their storage areas if they haven't already done so. Many thanks for your help and cooperation.

Nicholas Stout has chosen as his Eagle Scout project to paint the church pavilion. He will be helped by members of his Scout troop and the church youth group. They will do the work on April 1 and 8, weather permitting. Nicholas will address the congregation on March 19 about the need to borrow paint brushes, good scrapers, sanders, and also cash contributions towards paint, if you can help him out in this way. Congratulations to Nick for reaching this prestigious level of scouting!



Family Matters



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

IN MEMORIAM: Betty Schwenk - February 12 (Barbara Hafler's mother)
Dan Pompei - February 13 (QUMC custodian)

NOTE OF APPRECIATION:

"I would like to say thank you for all the cards, prayers, and calls during my recent recovery from surgery. Your support means a lot."

Steve Finch

"My deepest gratitude to the church family of QUMC for the flowers, cards, telephone calls, and other expressions of sympathy following the passing of my mother, Betty Schwenk. Your love and support continues to be felt as my family and I work through this tremendous loss. Although my Mom was a dyed-in-the-wool Lutheran, she was proud to be a friend of Quakertown United Methodist Church and loved the warmth and friendship of the congregation. She is greatly missed and my heart is heavy.

A special thanks to the group of volunteers who have assisted in covering the church office during this difficult time. Please continue to keep me in your prayers in the days and weeks ahead."

In Christian Love, Barbara Hafler



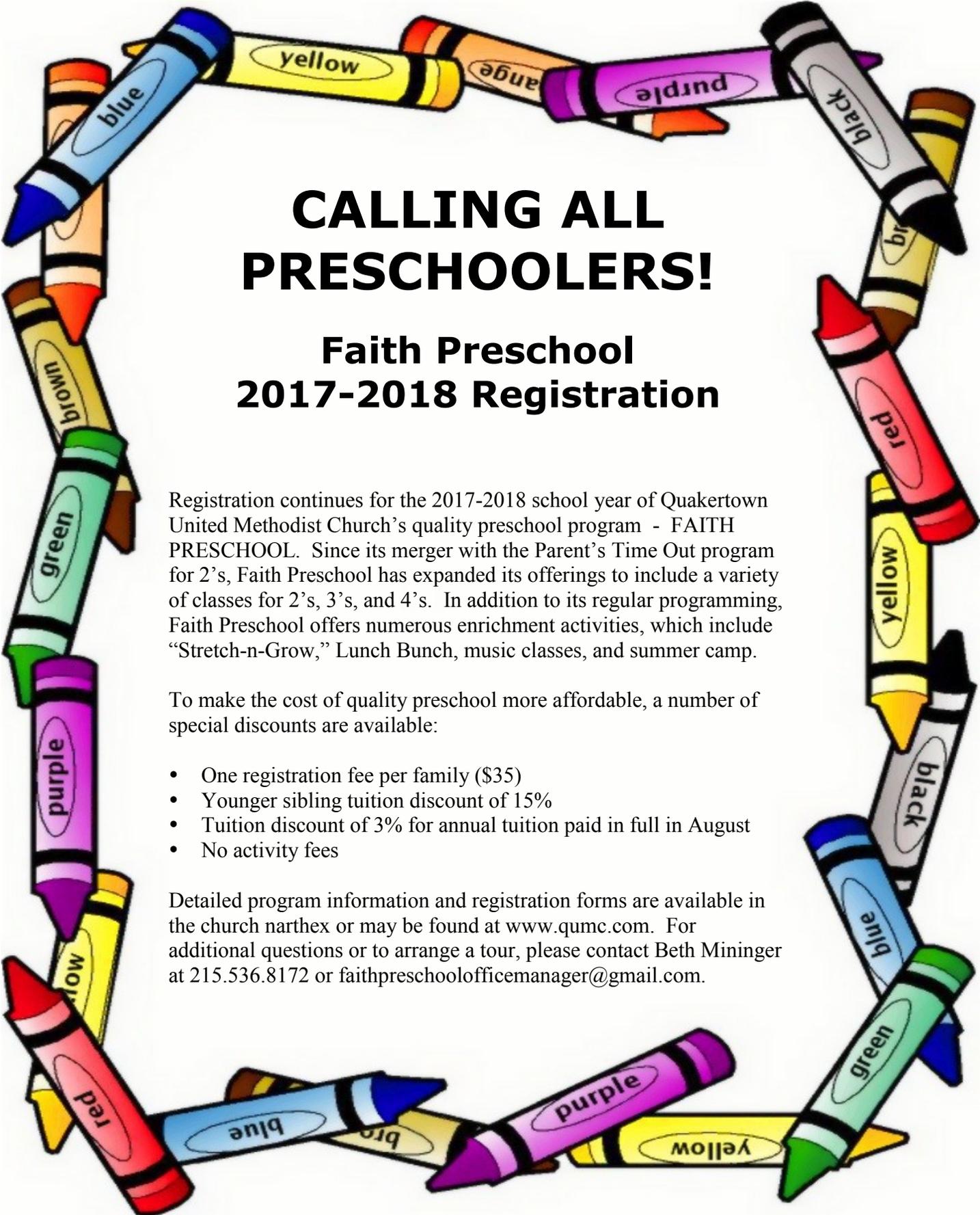
Volunteers Needed

The Hospice Program at Grand View Health is committed to meeting the needs of terminally ill patients and their families, with skill, caring and compassion. Volunteers are an important part of this ministry.

Grand View Health Hospice is looking for caring people willing to share their time as part of this important program. Training includes instruction in hospice philosophy, listening and communication skills, the experience of death, dying and grief, and practical information needed to assist patients and their families.

The Hospice Training Course is generally held twice a year, spring and fall. The seven-week course is held on Monday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room of the Hospice Office, located in the Professional Building on Grand View Health campus. No cost for the training program.

If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer experience, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Carlene Meyers at 215.453.4149 for additional information.



CALLING ALL PRESCHOOLERS!

Faith Preschool 2017-2018 Registration

Registration continues for the 2017-2018 school year of 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.

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

- 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

Detailed program information and registration forms are available in the church narthex or may be found at www.qumc.com. For additional questions or to arrange a tour, please contact Beth Mininger at 215.536.8172 or faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com.



MANY THANKS

Our Soup Sale was a great success! Thanks to all who helped make the soup, bought the soup, and ate the soup.

UMW Reading Program

One of the many things UMW does is READ.

Every year we recommend a diverse range of books to broaden exposure to a variety of concepts. Books are organized into five categories: (Check out the list of books on the UMW website)

■ [Education for Mission](#)

■ [Leadership Development](#)

■ [Nurturing for Community](#)

■ [Social Action](#)

■ [Spiritual Growth](#)

This is one more way UMW helps to educate us on the issues facing our world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 21

Flower Power

Come on out to learn how to arrange your favorite flowers.

Watch the bulletin for details.

Mark your calendars now - Sunday, May 7

Mother/Daughter Tea



March 2017

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 1:00 p.m. Friendship Circle 5:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Choir rehearses following worship</p>	<p>2 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>3 Youth Group: The Loft Retreat →</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>6 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>7 7:00 p.m. Trustees, Missions</p>	<p>8 5:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Choir rehearses following worship</p>	<p>9 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Finance</p>	<p>10 Youth Group: The Loft Retreat →</p>	<p>11 9:30 a.m. UMW Mission U Confirmation Class Trip to Historic St. George's UMC</p>
<p>12 ** Miller Hall Reserved 6:00 p.m. Life Group</p>	<p>13 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>14 7:00 p.m. Christian Ed</p>	<p>15 5:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Choir rehearses following worship</p>	<p>16 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed & Children's Ministries Dinner & Training 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Leadership</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10:00 a.m. Kid's Club 6:30 p.m. All-Church Bowling at Earl Bowl</p>
<p>19 ** 5:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Life Group</p>	<p>20 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>21 7:00 p.m. UMW "Flower Power" Program</p>	<p>22 5:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Choir rehearses following worship</p>	<p>23 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 ** 5:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:00 p.m. Youth Group, Life Group</p>	<p>27 6:30 p.m. Daisies, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes</p>	<p>28 7:00 p.m. COPE</p>	<p>29 5:00 p.m. Lenten Supper 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Choir rehearses following worship</p>	<p>30 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band</p>	<p>31</p>	