



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

November 2018

Update from Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

On Sunday, October 28, Pastor Tom Robinson preached his final sermon at Quakertown United Methodist Church. The grace and honesty that characterized the pastor's sermon left the congregation with the message that setbacks are not failures, but opportunities. Pastor Robinson, who has been at QUMC for the past two years, will be taking a medical leave, and while this may be an unexpected turn in Pastor Tom's ministry, he sees it as an opportunity to speak up for people with depression and anxiety. We thank Pastor Tom and Jane for their service to our church and will continue to lift them up in prayer with love and thanksgiving.

Bishop Peggy Johnson has appointed Pastor Lori Wagner to Quakertown United Methodist Church until at least the end of June 2019. Pastor Lori has been with us since August and has been serving with us in the ministries of the church. Please welcome her as our Senior Pastor and pray for her as she transitions into her new position and moves to Quakertown.



The holiday season is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- Wednesday, November 21 Community Thanksgiving Worship at 7:00 p.m., Christ UCC, 101 N. Main Street, Trumbauersville. Pastor Lori will be preaching.
- Wednesday, November 28 - Fellowship Dinner at 5:00 p.m. followed by Hanging of the Greens
- Sunday, December 9 - Love Feast at all worship services
- Sunday, December 16 - One worship service only at 11:00 a.m., Children's Christmas Pageant
- Friday, December 21 - Community Longest Night Worship at 7:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, 1 Luther Lane, Trumbauersville
- Sunday, December 23 - Regular worship schedule
- Monday, December 24 - Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 6 - Removal of holiday decorations immediately following 11:00 a.m. worship

Pastor Lori will be leading a Meditative Service of Song and Prayer at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during Advent, December 5, 12, and 19. The service will last 30 minutes, however all are invited to remain in prayer following the service.



From the Pastor's Palette

One of my favorite scripture stories is the story of Lot's wife. As the story goes, God first appears to Abraham in the form of three men, who warn Abraham about the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. While Abraham argues with God-incarnations 1 and 2, God-incarnation 3 heads off to the cursed cities to rescue Lot and his family.

So while Abraham gets promoted to "Father of Nations," Lot unfortunately gets "escorted out of the building" and sent into exile. Of course, this is for his own good. But I imagine that Lot's wife didn't see it that way. (The poor woman is never named in the scriptures, although many Rabbis have said, her name is Edith. So let's call her Edith for the sake of throwing her at least a tiny bone.)

Here she is. Her husband has just received a "transfer," and she has no say in the matter but must quickly pack up her things, leave the only home she's ever known, leave her friends and family, leave her life as she knew it, desert all her belongings, never to see her home town again. In our time, it's the equivalent of someone's house burning down. But whereas we tend to have great compassion for that mother or wife who has lost family, belongings, and security, for some reason, we wag our bony finger at poor Edith, condemning her as a "bad person" because she found it hard to deal with losing everything in the blink of an eye, or rather in most likely a huge explosion of sulfurous fire!

Think of it this way. The "angel of the Lord" goes in and literally pulls Edith out of the house by the hand, forcing her up the hill and away from the city, hurrying the family along as fast as possible, so as to escape the fall out from the burning city. "Don't look back," the angel warns. Just keep on moving!

I don't know about you, but I would find that would be hard. I think Edith gets "stuck." She's in shock, she's grieving, she's crying, she's mourning. She doesn't know where she's going or how to go forward, and now she can't go back. In horror, she looks back at the life she left behind dissolving into fire and ash. She realizes all she's lost. And as the scriptures tell us, when she looks back, she "turns into a pillar of salt." Whether the "salt" represents her tears, or if she is literally "incinerated" by sulfurous ash (a la Pompeii), we cannot know. But it's not hard to see that Edith got stuck. Stuck in her grief, paralyzed by her tears.

So often when we read that scripture, we read into it as if it is some kind of moralistic overtone that indicates that poor Edith must have been "punished by God" for looking back. But the scriptures say nothing of the kind. They simply state the fact. In our culture too, we have a hard time understanding grief. We tend to not know what to say, not know what to do when someone is grieving for something or someone lost. And too often, we expect them to bounce right back after the funeral is over and get on with life already! But this seldom happens. Grief can last anywhere from weeks to years, and everyone is different. Often, we can get "stuck" in a place of grief for a long while and find it hard to emerge from it. And then we wonder if something is wrong with us, if we have "lost it," if we are "different" than other people who may have grieved differently, and we criticize ourselves wickedly. But I believe that God comforts us in our grief. "I will turn your mourning into dancing" God says in the 30th psalm. But God doesn't say immediately. Sometimes, we need to wade through the dark night of the soul or the frozen pond of shock for a good long while before we are ready to move on. And then one day, we take a step... and then another... and then we keep on walking again into a new and possible future.

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As we enter into the holiday season now from Thanksgiving through Easter, many will mourn those who have gone before them even more deeply than in other times of the year. Sometimes, we imagine, we have passed through our grief only to find it returns in full kilt when the holidays roll around. This year have extra compassion for those who have lost loved ones. And if you find yourself in a “stuck” place, give your pastor a call. Her door is always open and her cell is always near.

Blessings and comfort for your seasons of joy,
Pastor Lori

***“Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one.”***

Charles Wesley. “Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above.” United Methodist Hymnal

Thursday, November 1, 2018 is All Saints Day. John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day, referring to it in a journal entry dated, November 1, 1767, as: “*a festival I truly love.*” We will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 4. It is a day when we will remember those members who have gone before us, but most importantly, it is a day to honor their legacy and service to our church and to God’s Kingdom.

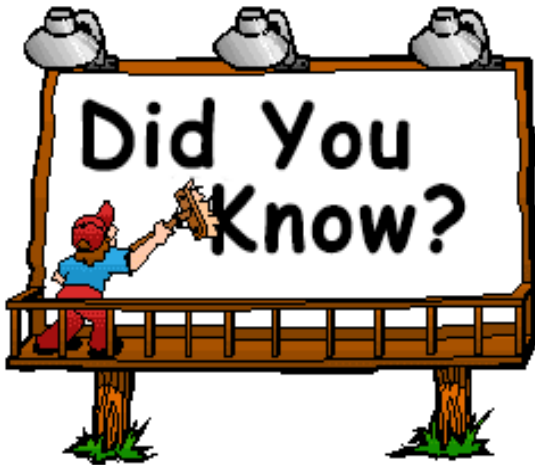
All Saints Sunday is also a day to celebrate our history. 2018 marks the **30th Anniversary** of our “building” on Freier Road; our building – not our church. We are reminded in the scriptures that our church is more than brick and mortar. Quakertown United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are a congregation whose mission it is to: reach out to those inside and outside the church to **SHARE** the love and message of Jesus Christ; help people to **GROW** in their relations with God and each other; equip followers of Jesus Christ to **SERVE** our neighbors, our community, our nation and our world.

Through your generosity and service, QUMC provides opportunities for faith development, education, space to worship God and be in fellowship together, mission support locally and through the United Methodist connectional system - all of which transforms lives by helping people experience and live the saving life of Christ, and to work for a more just, loving, and peaceful world.

While we will spend time on November 4 to honor our past, we will also look to the future with the privilege to renew our covenant of membership in the United Methodist Church. Our programs and ministries rely on the commitment by each and every one of us to uphold our vows of membership:

- *To confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;*
- *To believe in the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments;*
- *To promise to live a Christian life; and*
- *To uphold The United Methodist Church with one's prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.*

While God offers us boundless gifts, our tendency is to call them our own and claim them for ourselves. Christian Stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our own, that we merely have a trusteeship over them, not ownership. To give back a portion of these gifts in service to God and for those in need, is a way of expressing directly our thanksgiving to God for His many gifts to us. Please prayerfully reflect on your Christ-centered stewardship through your time, gifts, and service.



Intentional Faith Development is working with a new idea focusing on a series of "Did you know?" articles featuring stories on topics related to ethical consumerism or current cultural issues. The articles are not designed to be overtly persuasive or biased, but to be informative, defining jargon or providing a brief summary on a topic. We are looking to bring awareness, one idea at a time, to topics that may not be well known but could impact us in society. The hope behind this effort is to spark the congregation to engage in some every day mission work of their own. If you have an interest in participating in this project by writing an article, contact Babs Kerns at babs.kerns@gmail.com. This month's article addresses Fair Trade practices.

By definition, Fair Trade is "trade in which fair prices are paid to producers in developing countries." When we think of Fair Trade, most of us think of coffee - that steaming cup of brew we look forward to each morning. Traditionally, coffee growers are paid mere pennies for their harvest, which is resold by huge corporations at an astronomical mark-up to coffee distributors who package the coffee and sell it at an even higher premium price. As those corporate giants get richer and richer, coffee growers get poorer and poorer. The Fair Trade movement alleviates the "middlemen," providing a fair price, and livable income, to coffee growers.

The injustice of conventional trade discriminates against poor and weak producers, often forcing them to live a life of endless hours of hard work for only a life of poverty and squalor. Purchasing Fair Trade products helps to alleviate that situation, providing the opportunity for sustainable income and improved living conditions for growers and producers of these goods.

Fair Trade goes much deeper than coffee and includes things like cocoa, cotton, flowers, sugar, tea, spices, wine, gold, and even diamonds. Diamond mining is such an unfair practice that a young man I once interviewed for a college paper purchased a Fair Trade white sapphire for his fiancée's engagement ring rather than support the corruption of the diamond market.

Fair Trade products can be found online, as well as at local retailers. A good place to start is at Ten Thousand Villages in Souderton, where a variety of Fair Trade products from around the world are available.

Psalm 12:5 tells us, "Because the poor are despoiled, because the needy groan, I will now rise up," says the Lord; "I will place them in the safety for which they long." Purchasing fair trade products is one way God's church can rise up with him, directly improving the livelihood of producers and growers.

Amanda Hafler
 Elizabethtown College, Class of 2019



From Missions Commission



FEAST Food Pantry - During the month of November, we will be collecting pasta and sauce.

Ham Dinner - Saturday, November 10, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Adults \$10, children (ages 4-10) \$4.

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Friday, November 16, 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sign-up in the narthex, online at www.redcrossblood.org (enter 18951 where it says 'Find a Drive'), or call 800-RED-CROSS.

Flood Relief Buckets - We are putting together UMCOR Flood Buckets for disaster relief. There is a display in the narthex and a list of items needed. Please be aware of the sizes listed so everything will fit into the bucket.

Thanksgiving Collection - Turkeys and non-perishable side dishes will be collected for Thanksgiving Dinner at Jerusalem House in Allentown. Place turkeys in the freezer and sides dishes on the counter in the kitchen, clearly marked "JH." Please have everything to the church by Monday, November 19.

For more information on missions items, contact Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net).



Munch & Mingle

What: QUMC Mingle

The Hospitality Table will be set up in Miller Hall to provide an opportunity for members and guests worshipping with us from all three services to sample some light autumn-like refreshments while mingling with each other.

When: Sunday, November 11, 8:45 to 11:15 a.m.

Stay a few minutes after your regular service time or come a few minutes before your service time to converse with members and guests you haven't seen for awhile (or introduce yourself to someone you don't know).

Please join in if you would like to bake something or help with the set-up/clean-up that morning. There will be a sign-up form in the narthex. We hope to have enough volunteers to give our regular Hospitality Table helpers (who have been doing double-shifts) a Sunday off.

And remember to give special thanks during the Thanksgiving holiday season for our Quakertown United Methodist Church.



For Your Information

- Pastoral Change - Pastor Lori Wagner can be reached at 360.298.8327 or loribethwagner@gmail.com.
- Fellowship Dinners - All are welcome! Dinner is served Wednesdays from 5:00 until 6:15 p.m. Bring a dessert to share. Fall dinners will conclude on November 14.
- New Member Class - New Member Classes will begin in January, Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. or Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. Please contact Pastor Lori if you are interested. Thank you!
- Take A Seat! - Be sure to stop by Miller Hall to see the new chairs purchased by Friendship Circle. The old metal folding chairs are available at no cost to church members who have a use for them. Contact the church office.
- United Methodist Women - Thankoffering Jars will be collected on Sunday, November 18. Reminders will be made in the weeks prior.
- Time for Bowling - Saturday, November 24, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Earl Bowl Lanes in Quakertown. Cost: \$4.25 per game, shoes \$2.50 or bowl three games with shoes for \$12! Bring a dessert or snack to share. Contact Steve or Janet Finch with questions (215.538.0835 or finchscl@verizon.net).
- Lay Leadership Committee - If you have an interest in serving the church through a ministry position, please prayerfully consider a position on Trustees (including the roles of President and Secretary), SPRC, or Lay Leadership. Team members are also needed for the Hospitality Team as well as for other areas of the church. Contact Pastor Lori for additional information on opportunities to serve.
- New Email Address - Submissions for the monthly newsletter can be emailed to Teddi Miller at QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com or can be placed in the newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next monthly newsletter, email Teddi or drop information in the Newsletter Editor mailbox by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!



Looking for ways you can help?



Volunteers Needed - Looking for members who would like to get involved!

Ham Dinner - Saturday, November 10. There are many opportunities to help; preparation, serving, and clean-up. Look for sign-ups in the bulletin in upcoming weeks or contact Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net) for more information.

Ringers Needed for Bell Choir! If you are interested in playing handbells in Grace Notes, contact Becky Witt (215.538.0759 or rjwitt@verizon.net) or any other member of the bell choir.

Hospitality Committee is still looking for some volunteers. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. Contact Mary Ellen (Molly) Minarik (610.282.3708).

- Sunday Hospitality table (one time per month)
- Serving as Membership Secretary
- Assisting with Membership and Attendance Records
- Checking the pews each week to make sure Bibles, hymnals, pencils and other information is in tact



We Help Too!

QUMC Educational Endowment Fund Grants are one way the church helps members pursuing post-high school education.

Joyfully, we will be distributing grants to eligible students on November 25, 2018.

To be eligible, students must be members in good standing of QUMC and must be enrolled and attending this academic year in an institution of higher education (including technical schools).

Applications were made available beginning on October 1 with a required submission date of no later than November 1. Following review, students receive an email confirmation that they have met the eligibility requirements to receive a grant. Grants are distributed during worship services on United Methodist Sunday, November 25, 2018.

There are no financial aid requirements. The grant formula is **available funds/number of eligible students=grant per student**. See Steve Finch or a committee member with questions. Committee members include John DeSimone, Julie James, Brad Mushrush, Nancy Parry, and David Rush.



QUMC Kids Club

Hi Kids!

We hope that you all have had a great start to the school year. QUMC Kids Club has begun too and we want to invite YOU to join us!

Kids Club is a youth group for those in grades one through five. We meet once a month throughout the school year for service projects, fun activities, and other events. We hope you can be with us this year as we play, pray, and help each other as a group.

If you missed our first event to the AGA Farms on October 21, there is still time to catch up on one or all of the upcoming events. Below is the 2018-2019 Kids Club Calendar:

- November: Saturday, November 24, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Bowling at Earl Bowl Lanes in Quakertown.
- December: Sunday, December 9, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling. Get your best singing voices ready! A light supper will be served at church after caroling.
- January: Saturday, January 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Games and ice cream social in Miller Hall.
- February: Saturday, February 16, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Random Acts of Kindness crafts and baking in Miller Hall.
- March: To be determined.
- April: Friday, April ??? (date to be determined), beginning at 7:00 p.m. through Saturday at 9:00 a.m. We're going to have an overnight Lock-In at the church. Light breakfast served Saturday morning.
- May: Sunday, May 19, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. End of the year celebration!

We ask that you please send an email to let us know that your family will be joining Kids Club. Email will be our primary method of communication, so it's important to have a complete listing of interested families as we get started!

Even if you won't be able to attend regularly, please register with us to receive any information we send throughout the year so that you won't miss any opportunities to join us. Friends are welcome too!

For more information, or to register, contact Christine Rush at rushcm@npenn.org.



Family Matters



Happy Birthday:

Ethel Setman - November 6 and Adele Winkler - November 26

If you are 80 years old (or over) and would like your birthday included in the newsletter, please let the church office know. Many thanks!



A LOOK at the BUDGET

*“So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart,
not grudgingly or of necessity;
for God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7*

It is through the generous financial gifts and offerings of God's people that we are able to spread the Gospel throughout QUMC and beyond. Prayerfully consider this convenient way to tithe by giving online. Go to www.qumc.com; click <online> on the homepage under Online Giving.

	Revenues	Expenditures
September 2018	\$20,778.06	\$21,735.91
Year to Date 2018	\$208,337.44	\$210,189.33

Balance: At the end of September the QUMC budget is approximately \$2,000 in the negative. Please pray for our church!


Fall Stewardship Campaign is Underway: The fall Stewardship Campaign is underway and you should have already received your letter and 2019 Commitment Card. This is your opportunity to prayerfully consider what God is asking of you for the next year.

2019 Budget: The process for building the 2019 QUMC Budget is underway. Please reach out to the various chairpersons of the church committees to give your thoughts regarding the priorities to the next year. Your input is valuable in this process.



November 2018

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 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group	2	3 8:00 a.m. Applesauce Making
4 ** Stewardship Sunday All Saints Day 6:00 p.m. Student Ministries 6:30 p.m. Life Group	5 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	6 7:00 p.m. Trustees 	7 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Food for Thought, Joyful Noise, Choir 7:00 p.m. Church Council	8 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Nominations	9 Ham Dinner Set-Up	10 4:00 p.m. Ham Dinner
11 ** Hospitality "Munch & Mingle" 6:30 p.m. Life Group	12 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Hospitality	13 7:00 p.m. Finance	14 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner 6:30 p.m. Food for Thought, Joyful Noise, Choir	15 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group	16 2:00 p.m. Blood Drive	17 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Ladies Breakfast
18 ** Blanket Sunday UMW Thankoffering Collection 6:00 p.m. Student Ministries 6:30 p.m. Life Group	19 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. Milford-Trumbauersville Democrats	20 7:00 p.m. Leadership	21 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service at Christ UCC, 101 N. Main St., Trumbauersville	22 	23	24 6:30 p.m. Kids Club & Family Bowling at Earl Bowl
25** United Methodist Student Sunday 6:30 p.m. Life Group	26 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts	27	28 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner and Hanging of the Greens 6:30 p.m. Choir	29 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group	30	