



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

December 2019

Prepare Your Heart to Celebrate Christmas



As Christmas approaches our minds go to all the fun preparations and traditions we love so much. Let's take a minute before all the craziness of the season begins and consider the preparations that were made before Christ came to earth as that little baby.

His Promise of Peace

In [Isaiah 9](#), we learn about a prophecy concerning a King that is to come who brings with Him a promise of peace. At the time the political climate was unsettled and volatile. A promise of peace would have been highly desirable. Isaiah shares with the people the promise of a Messiah. No one could have fulfilled all of what Isaiah described to its fullness except for the Son of God.

His Humble Heart

Consider all the hype and excitement the prophets created in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. The people expected a Messiah born to a prominent family surrounded by riches and wealth, to them a sign of power. Instead he was born in a filthy barn surrounded by animals and his only visitors were lowly shepherds. Certainly not what the people had expected. Little did they know or understand the **He was the gift that would not disappoint**. He would grow to be the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Savior of the world.

His Gift of Light

In [John 12:46](#), Jesus says "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." The world is dark because it is alienated from God, but Jesus came to bridge that gap. His birth, life, death, and resurrection allowed us, who were in darkness, to become children of the light.

His Calling for Us

[1 John 1:7](#) states: "If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." If we walk in the light and have true fellowship with others who are in the light then we have an opportunity this Advent season to show this light to others. Many people are more open to things of God around Christmastime compared to the rest of the year.

This Advent season don't let the craziness of the season take over! Take some time to soak in the Word... let your light shine ...share the message... Remember, this is a celebration of the birth of the one true King.

Article from Dayspring Living your Faith



From the Pastor's Palette

“The Front Porch”

Remember those days when everyone would hang on the front porch? I'm sure some of you do. That's where socializing would happen. People would pass by on the streets and stop to talk. Neighbors would share stories and recipes sitting on the porch. People would read the newspaper, play the guitar, knit, do their wash in a washtub, or even shell vegetables on the front porch. It was gathering time. Community time.

At Christmastime, the front porch became even more vital to the life of the neighborhood, as people would string beautiful lights, tinsel, and other décor around the family porch. The neighborhood lit up with light and color, and it almost seemed like a beautiful dream walking down the road in the crispy dusk, surrounded by a halo of twinkling hues. You could feel the mystery of Christmas, the comfort of neighbors and family, the knitting of community, all joined together in a festival of light.

Carolers would go house to house and sing for hot chocolate and cookies. People would gather on the porches and streets.

When Saturday evening came, the town would gather in the local church or grange for food and fellowship. And Sunday morning they would gather for church. But it was the “front porch” that cemented them, that bonded them in ways that nothing else could, that provided a connection from personal space to social and public space that nothing else could emulate.

Today, we need new “front porches.” Today's culture is filled with busy workplaces, a hoard of cars, online shopping, and hectic scheduling. People live in high rises, in complexes, in suburbs, and in more isolated environments. Even in the cities, the “front porch” tradition has been replaced with jobs, locks, bars, and fears. The traditional front porch and its activities have been replaced by online connections... FaceTime, Starbucks, and community sports. Individuals and families have become more isolated and insulated. And the conversations have also changed. No longer are we playing music, telling stories, shelling peas together, walking hand-in-hand under twinkling Christmas lights. But we are searching. We are searching for new stories, new relationships, new ways of connecting face to face, and new activities we can do together in new times and places, in new ways and spaces.

The Church too, like its communities, must change in order to meet the needs of a new kind of culture and new generations. The Church of the future can innovate new kinds of spaces for searching and lonely people. And when church and community unite, we can forge new kinds of connectors, new “front porches” and “town centers” for community to gather.

Where in your community can you create space for people to connect and make relationships, tell stories, hold hands, and feel the magic of Christmas? Where in your town, city, or suburb can you create safe, relational spaces for people to discover what's beautiful about human in everyday life? Where in your church can your community gather to explore their faith in new ways and models and to share ideas and make new stories together?

Christmas is about forging a new covenant and making things new. It's about bringing a baby into the world who will change life as we knew it for all of time. Jesus created spaces and connections between people that would change their lives and those around them forever. Jesus created “front porch” environments on hilltops and in boats on the water and at weddings and even by the side of the road.

...continued on page 3



This Christmas, I ask every one of you to pray, to open your hearts to the people you don't know. Invite them to your home, to your church activities, to take part in your small group, to join in your mission. Ask them for their ideas, for their input, and for their presence at your tables.

Look around to find where you can create new kinds of gathering spaces for people in the center of your community, where people can bond and grow, share and find the "magic" of Christmas again in the gift of relationship, the gift of loving kindness, the gift of a "front porch" neighbor. Better yet, be a "front porch" neighbor to someone who is searching. A blessed Christmas to all...

If you know anyone this year without a place or space at Christmas, invite them to share at your table. Or invite them to worship. You never know the gift you may be giving.

Holiday Worship at QUMC

*Please join us for worship this Christmas season.
Together we will experience beautiful music, carols by candlelight,
and a Christmas message reminding us of the night thousands of years
ago that continues to transform our world and our lives today.*

Sunday, December 8

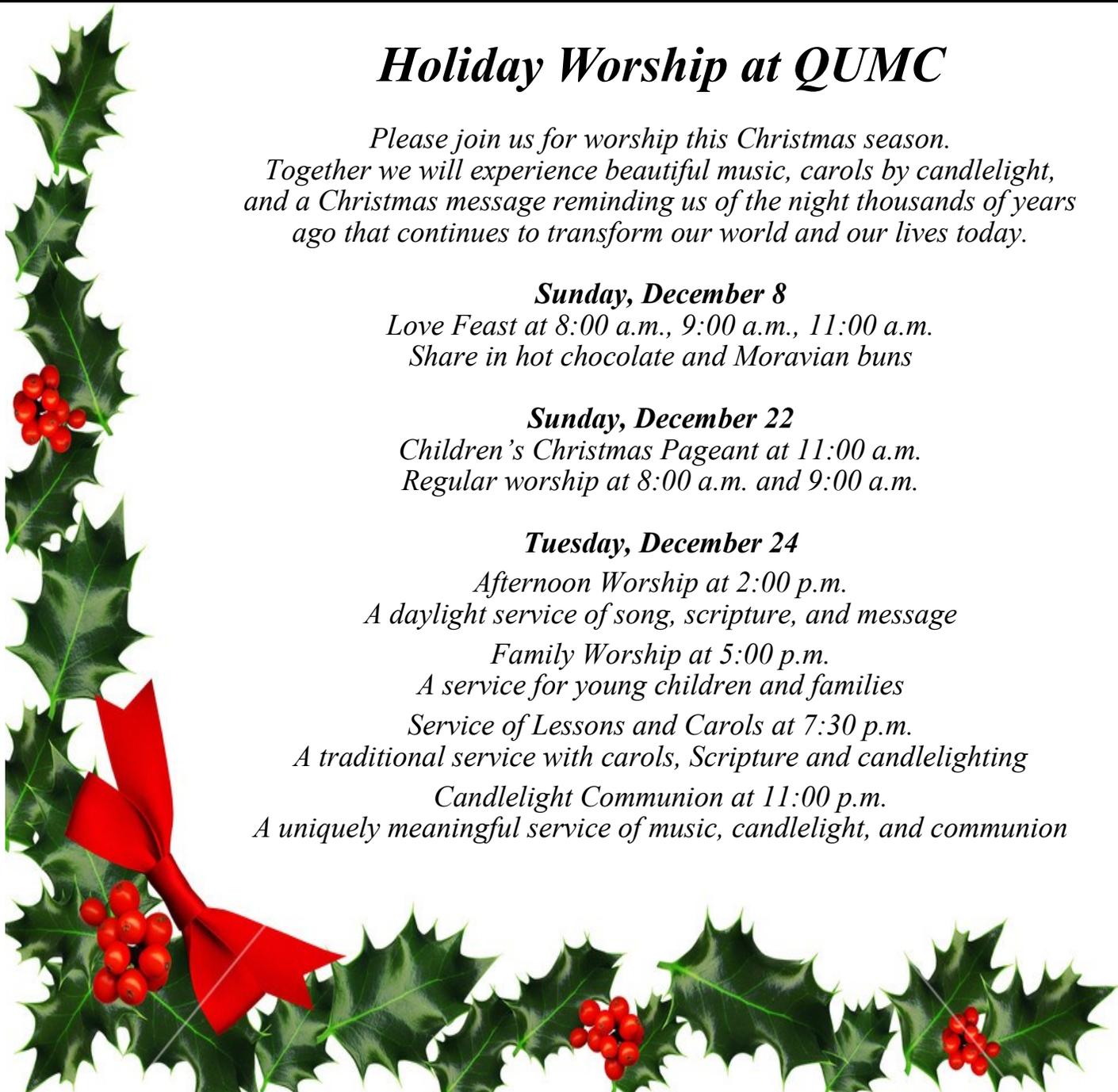
*Love Feast at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Share in hot chocolate and Moravian buns*

Sunday, December 22

*Children's Christmas Pageant at 11:00 a.m.
Regular worship at 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.*

Tuesday, December 24

*Afternoon Worship at 2:00 p.m.
A daylight service of song, scripture, and message
Family Worship at 5:00 p.m.
A service for young children and families
Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:30 p.m.
A traditional service with carols, Scripture and candlelighting
Candlelight Communion at 11:00 p.m.
A uniquely meaningful service of music, candlelight, and communion*





Missions Commission



FEAST Food Pantry items for the month of December include baking items such as sugar, flour, baking soda or powder, spices, chocolate chips, and colored sugar or icing for decorating. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart located between entrance doors to the church.

The Kensington Area Ministries (KAM) Christmas Giving Tree is in the narthex with names and gift suggestions for the children of Kensington. If you are able, just take a name or two and follow the instructions on the list next to the tree. This year our deadline is very early. We are in need of gifts to be dropped off by **Saturday, December 14**. This has been a QUMC tradition at Christmastime for many years and something the children look forward to.

Contact Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net) for more information on Missions items.



Calling Kids & Youth!



Kid's Club (grades one through five) meets once a month, monthly events described below. The Youth Group (grades six and up) also meet at these times plus once more each month for an activity meeting such as bowling, a movie at the Grand, game night, s'mores around a fire, dinner together, etc. Our schedule this year is going to share teaching resources while always keeping groups separate (except when specified in advance, such as for bowling).

If you have questions or would be willing to help with one or more of these events, please contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com). Thank you!! These programs for our children and youth would not be possible without your help.

Here's the monthly summary of what we have planned!

- > December - Christmas Parties!
- > January - stringcraft in worship and service with weaving and knot-tying
- > February - bowling combined event with Kids Club and the Youth Group
- > March - creativity, self-expression, and being made in the image of God through the arts
- > April - Kids Club lock-in and stewardship of the earth with gardening
- > May - responsibility for animals and resourcefulness with sheep shearing and sheepdog training
- > June - communication and serving the community with HAM radios



For Your Information

Christmas Poinsettias can be ordered through Sunday, December 8:

Order forms are available in the church bulletin. Poinsettias can be picked up following Christmas Eve services.

New Member Classes:

Mondays, December 2 & 9, 7:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Lori (360.298.8327 or loribethwagner@gmail.com) for more information on church membership.

Confirmation Classes:

Begin in January 2020 for age 12 and above. For more information contact Pastor Lori (360.298.8327 or loribethwagner@gmail.com).

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Women's Group:

QUMC hosts weekly meetings in Miller Hall, Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This AA group is open to women of the community-at-large. If you would like more information, Pastor Lori is available to speak to you confidentially.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of QUMC:

This ministry is one way we care for others. If you know of someone who would like, or you feel needs a prayer shawl, contact Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com or 215.538.0835).

The Prayer Chain:

This is another way we can care for each other. There is an email chain and a phone chain. Contact Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com or 215.538.0835) to place someone on the prayer chains or to be included on the praying end of the chains.

Paper Recycling:

Receptacles can be found in the southwest corner of the church parking lot. Acceptable materials to recycle include newspapers, magazines, catalogs, books, office paper, school paper, wrapping paper, and junk mail. Missions receives checks from recycling to be used for missions programs of the church.

Aluminum Can Recycling:

Bag and bring your cans to the two white trash cans at the church pavilion. They do not need to be crushed but they are easier to handle if they are. All brands of aluminum cans are welcome. Proceeds from can recycling helps to defray costs of the annual Chicken Barbeque



Upcoming Events



Christmas Caroling - Sunday, December 8, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Gather with us prior to 3:00 p.m. We will travel to several nursing homes and residences around the area to bring Christmas cheer to those who can't get out. We will be passing along "Joy to the World."

Join us afterward for a light warm dinner in Miller Hall. All ages are welcome. Come even if you can't carry a tune. We will have one for you!

Contact Steve or Janet Finch (215.538.0835 or finchsc1@verizon.net) with questions.

Christmas Carnival – Saturday, December 14, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at QUMC

Sponsored by the Quakertown Ministerium, HUBBUB, and the Upper Bucks Unit of the Salvation Army to benefit families in need from our community.

QUMC is invited to participate in the Christmas Carnival by sponsoring a "Fun Station". If you can help in this way, contact Pastor David Heckler (570.470.0716 or prdaveheckler@gmail.com).

If you need additional information on this event, or if you can help out, contact Sharon Bachman-Kresge at the Upper Bucks Salvation Army office (215-529-6547). There is a special request for help to pick up toy donations on Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Fundraiser for Code Blue Homeless Shelter

Date: Sunday, December 22

Time: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Front Yard of 2017 North Ambler Street, Quakertown, PA 18951

Live music. Everything is \$1.00, including hot chocolate (free toppings) and chocolate chip bars.





Did You Know?

QUMC has a new communications department! Do you have a QUMC event you would like advertised on our Facebook page? Send photos, videos, and general information to communications@qumc.com.

The Craig Thatcher Concert raised \$2,451 for COBCARES at the November 17th event! COBCARES is an organization that provides assistance to those facing medical hardships. A check will be presented to COBCARES at an upcoming St. John's UCC event. St. John's of Coopersburg initiated COBCARES 16 years ago and over the years has helped 53 families.

UMW Thank Offering on Sunday November 24th collected \$821.30! This offering is one of five channels of undesignated mission giving and is an opportunity for you to respond to God's abundance and grace with your gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used for mission and advocacy programs in the United States and around the world.

Education Endowment Grants were presented to qualified students on Sunday, December 1. Over the past few years, several of our members have left bequests to the church in their wills. Some people specified that money be used for facility needs and some for the continuing ministry within the church. To ensure that the church has the use of these funds for future needs, we established an Endowment Fund to manage some of the non-specified or unallocated funds.

We keep the fund growing by reinvesting 30% of the income back into the fund. 70% of the income is to provide grants to qualified students who pursue formal education beyond high school.

The following grants were distributed on Thanksgiving Sunday, December 1, 2019: Elizabeth Aber, Amanda Hafler, Zach Korpics, Abbie Miller, Blake Miller, Charlie Miller, Caleb Pfeifer, Alexis Smakulski, Amanda Tascarella, Haley van den Burg.

Once the applicant has met the criteria, the grants do not have to be paid back. Donations can be made to the Endowment Fund at any time to help this ministry grow. "Planned giving" in one's estate is one way, but you may give a gift at any time or make an ongoing gift by including "Education Endowment" in the memo portion of your check or on your envelope.

Since our first year of the program in 2007, we have awarded 118 grants representing \$36,000. We would like to thank all those who have made it possible to provide this assistance to our college students.

The Endowment Committee

Steve Finch, John DeSimone, Julie James, Brad Mushrush, Nancy Parry, David Rush, Pastor Lori Wagner

Monthly Newsletter Submissions can be emailed to Teddi Miller (QUMCNewsletter@gmail.com) or you can put them in the newsletter mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next monthly newsletter, please email Teddi or drop off the information in the church newsletter mailbox by the 15th of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!



Looking for ways you can help?



Bring your family and help with Christmas decorations!

Saturday, December 21, 10:00 a.m., placing the poinsettias in the sanctuary

Sunday, January 5, 12 noon, undecorating the church

Ushers are needed for the 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Contact Ken & Phyllis McKinley (215.536.6389 or pcmckinley@gmail.com).

Seeking musicians for the Praise Band. Contact Jim Strohecker (jhs214@comcast.net) for details.

Needed are: lead electric/acoustic guitarist and male or female vocalist.

Lily's Hope Foundation is an organization that reaches out to families of premie babies with supplies and support. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month. If you are interested in more information on volunteer opportunities and ways you can help, contact Melea Rupert (215.696.9804) or Carol Pertuit (610.346.6713).

Hospitality Committee is still looking for some volunteers. Contact Mary Ellen (Molly) Minarik (610.282.3708) if you would like to help in this ministry.

Volunteers Needed for Code Blue Shelter. The Advocates of the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) are in desperate need of more volunteers. They are asking the churches in the Upper Bucks County to assist in staffing the shelter for the 2019-2020 Code Blue Season. Approximately 120 volunteers are needed to staff the shelter during the winter months. A minimum of 7 people are needed to open the shelter on each night the temperature falls below 26 degrees. Time commitments to the shelter are flexible. Volunteers can set their own schedules, working as little as one night per month or as much as one night per week. Training is provided to new volunteers.

For more information, or to schedule a visit with one of Code Blue Shelter volunteers, contact Les Rice (leslinrice@yahoo.com or 215-536-5166).





Family Matters

Happy Birthday:

Donald Diehl - December 8, Jean Savage - December 29, Elaine Wentz - December 31

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

Notes of Thanks:

“I want to express my deep appreciation for all the cards, thoughts, hugs, and prayers my family and I have received since the death of my son, Michael. Surely we have gained strength and support from each of you.”

Thank you, Gale Hewitt and family

“Thank you to all who helped and came out to support our Ham Dinner. We certainly appreciate you all. We have said this many times before but we can’t do all that we do without your help and support. We served 217 meals and our profit was \$1,703 for Mission outreach. We were able to make three big casseroles for AHUB (Code Blue Shelter) with our leftovers.”

Thank you from Missions Commission

“Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the November 17th Craig Thatcher Concert. QUMC filled the Sanctuary to capacity with both church members and guests. All enjoyed guitarist Craig Thatcher and violinist Nyke Van Wyk perform a captivating medley of tunes that included some of the classic Christmas favorites, as well as some of their own compositions. After the performance, we gathered in Miller Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments. Thanks to everyone who contributed to refreshments, event promotion, and any and every other aspect of the concert to make it successful. (Our shut-ins even got to sample some of the great treats from the concert!) And thanks to Pastor Lori for supporting and encouraging the idea for this "first-time for QUMC" event.”

Thank you, Hospitality Committee

“Josh Korpics is now home safe and sound after completing his time in the U.S. Marines. The Korpics family appreciates all the prayers on behalf of Josh while he was away serving the country.”

Welcome home Josh! Thank you for your service!



A LOOK at the BUDGET

| | Revenues | Expenditures | Year-to-Date Balance |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| October | \$17,643.95 | \$21,144.31 | -\$1,598.41 |

Reminder - As the church enters the Advent and Christmas season, remember that Quakertown United Methodist Church is a great place to send your gifts!

Budget Time - The Finance Committee will be presenting the 2020 budget proposal to the Church Council in December. Through the hard work and help of many committee people, the proposal will reflect the various teachings and mission works for the year ahead.

Thanks - Our church is a Christian place of worship and fellowship due to the prayers and dedicated work of so many members of this congregation. Thank you for your talents, contributions, and financial gifts to advance the ministry of Christ in our community!



Bequest Opportunities

Bequests from individuals are an important part of the funding of our church's missions. If or when you plan a charitable bequest to help support the mission of the Quakertown United Methodist Church you can direct your bequest in the following ways;

1. **Unrestricted bequest:** This is a gift for our general purposes, to be used at the discretion of our Trustees and Finance Committees. A gift like this - without conditions attached - is frequently the most useful, as it allows us to determine the wisest and most pressing need for the funds at the time of receipt.
2. **Restricted bequest:** This type of gift allows you to specify how the funds are to be used. Perhaps you have a special purpose or project in mind. If so, it's best to consult us when you make your will to be certain that your intent can be carried out.
3. **Honorary or Memorial bequest:** This is a gift given "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. We are pleased to honor your request and have many ways to grant appropriate recognition.
4. **Endowed bequest:** This bequest allows you to restrict the principal of your gift, requiring us to hold the funds permanently and use only the investment income they generate. Creating an endowment in this manner means that your gift can continue giving indefinitely.

Feel free to contact Pastor Lori or a member of the Trustees Committee or Finance Committee to learn more about helping our church through a bequest.



December 2019

Church Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 ** 12 noon Hanging of the Greens | 2 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. New Member Class | 3 11:00 a.m. Life Changes | 4 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m. Nominations | 5 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Women's AA Group | 6 8:30 a.m. Life Group | 7 |
| 8 ** Love Feast Sunday 2:00 p.m. Kid's Club/ Youth Group 3:00 p.m. All-Church Christmas Caroling | 9 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. New Member Class | 10 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 7:00 p.m. Finance | 11 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir Miller Hall Reserved | 12 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Women's AA Group, Church Council Miller Hall & Sanctuary Reserved | 13 8:30 a.m. Life Group Miller Hall & Sanctuary Reserved | 14 Quakertown Ministerium Christmas Carnival |
| 15 ** New Member Sunday | 16 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Milford-Trumbauersville Democrats | 17 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 7:00 p.m. Trustees | 18 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir | 19 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Women's AA Group | 20 8:30 a.m. Life Group | 21 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy |
| 22 ** QUMC Cares Sunday 11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant | 23 Barbara Hafler Vacation | 24 Christmas Eve 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Worship 5:00 p.m. Family Worship 7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion | 25 Merry Christmas!  | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 ** | 30 | 31 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> **SUNDAY WORSHIP 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 </div> | | | |