

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

October 2020

Letting the Leaves Fall



Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree “Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!” But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don’t stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn’t hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it.

God’s Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:31,32) (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- » By reading God’s Word.
- » By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- » By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- » By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we’re not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:18,19) (NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other “decayed leaves” you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

Article by Rachel Wojo, *Dayspring Live Your Faith*



The Pastor's Palette

“Holy to the Bone”

The power of touch can't be denied. We all know it. We all need it.

A gentle and loving touch has the ability to connect us warmly in a uniquely human way. Touch makes love tangible and real. Touch puts “teeth” in a declaration and makes it live. Or perhaps I should say instead, touch gives love “bones.”

It's one thing to say a kind word to someone. But it's another thing entirely to lay a palm on one's shoulder, to give a hug, to take one's hand, to stroke one's hair.

Touch is powerful. Touch is vital. Vital. What's there not to love in that word “vital.” “Vital” means not only fundamentally important, it's root mean “life-giving.” Touch is important. But more than important, touch is life-giving.

Touch gives love to bones that dream and dance.

When we think of bones, what better scripture story than the strange encounter experienced by a local Israelite burial crew with Elisha's bones in 2 Kings 13. And what an eerie scripture for celebrating October! We learn in the scripture that Elisha's bones seem to have life-giving quality. A dead man set to be buried comes into accidental contact with Elisha's bones, and lo and behold, he immediately is given resurrected life, and he stands up on his feet!

The Israelites are carrying the lifeless body of their compatriot to a deserted place in the hills. They are in a funeral procession to conduct a burial. Instead they encounter a group of raiders. Moabites! Fearing for their lives, they lose all sense of decency and decorum and thoughtlessly toss (or roll) the body of their friend inside a nearby cave where the prophet Elisha has been buried and memorialized. Then they quickly run and hide. But when that Israelite's dead body comes in contact with the bones of Elisha, the man is resurrected, and stands on his feet!

When the friends return, they find not a dead body but a living and breathing human being! I don't know about you, but that would terrify me. We don't learn much about their reactions. But we do know that with this short but meaning-packed story, we are taught something important about the life-giving power of God! And God's promise of life and abundance and a story-full future for God's own people. God's mighty presence is there, even in the face of death. Even when we are faced WITH death!

God's presence is life-giving! Love-giving. God's touch has resurrection power!

The power of touch may be human, but the power of divine touch is a power that has super-human strength. I like to call it, “raising power!” because God is in the business of raising! Our culture today needs the raising power of Jesus, the healing and life-giving power of Jesus. Wherever we see death, wherever we see hopelessness, wherever we see fear or panic or unbelief, that's where God's presence will resonate the

most! Because God has raising power! That holy, mysterious, super-natural, promise-filled, healing and raising power that resurrects dead churches, instills life into dead communities, gives hope to the dying, gives water to parched souls.

Are you feeling burned out? Tired? Thirsty? Lifeless in your soul?

God loves you. God will take what is dry in you, what is fearful and unsure in your life, and will infuse into you the breath of life - new breath that can renew you, refresh you, and reassure you. God will raise you up and give you strength. And when life knocks you down, God will set you on your feet again, and help you move on.....Because God IS the promise of life. God IS the Lord of Life. And God IS good.....Right down to the bone.

The Rev. Dr. Lori Wagner
loribethwagner@gmail.com

Anyone needing to meet with Pastor Lori can either email (loribethwagner@gmail.com) or call (360.298.8327) to make an appointment. She can meet with you outside or in Miller Hall at an appointed time.

New Sunday Worship Schedule

Starting Sunday, October 4, 2020 (World Communion Sunday)

- 8:00 a.m. Early-Bird Narthex Worship (by reservation *)
- 9:00 a.m. Parking Lot Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Men's and Women's Adult Sunday School Classes
- 11:00 a.m. Livestream and In-Person Sanctuary Worship
(up to 25 people by reservation *)
- 1:30 p.m. Worship at The Village at Lifequest (2100 Cherry Blossom Lane,
Quakertown, PA)

*Reservations are requested to attend worship and may be made by calling the Church Office (215.536.4992) or by emailing the Church Secretary (barb@qumc.com)



COVID-19 Updates

Check your email or USPS mail to keep abreast of COVID-19 updates as we enter this fall season. If numbers rise, face-to-face meetings may change. For now, we are excited to prepare for a dynamic year not only of change, but also of great things!



From Missions Commission

Most sincerely, a gigantic thank you to everyone who has been so very gracious with Mission donations during these COVID-filled months. Food and school supply donations have gone to local food pantries, while items for premature babies have seen their way to Lily's Hope. Our next donation date will be on **Saturday, October 24**, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **at the front main entrance to the church.** As always, we will be wearing masks and promoting social distancing.

At that time, we will be collecting food items. If possible (although any food is good food), we ask that your donations have a Thanksgiving theme. **Non-perishable items only, please (no turkeys, etc.)** Examples of needed items include boxed stuffing, turkey gravy, and boxed mashed potatoes. If you would like to bring items other than those, local food banks currently need dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, paper towels, snack foods, and kid's cereal (they have a lot of Corn Flakes and Rice Krispies but could use other child-oriented cereals). We appreciate your help.

Thank for your continued time and effort in helping our community. For more information on Missions outreach programs, contact Carol Pertuit (610-346-6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net).



Annual Charge Conference will be held Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Please put the date on your calendar. A ZOOM link will be sent out prior to Charge Conference for those who would like to attend.

Pastor Lori has been in touch with leadership of the church to request they fill out Charge Conference forms electronically and then email them to both the Pastor and the Church Secretary. In addition, the Pastor will also be reaching out to the Nominations team to fill needed positions within the church. Leaders of the church are reminded to complete the Charge Conference forms for their area of interest as soon as possible. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Lori (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327).

We realize Charge Conference will look different and be more challenging this year because of COVID. However, if we all work together we can accomplish this task in a timely and effective way.



Children and Youth Sunday School classes will be online, as will the adult Friday morning group. The Women's and Men's Sunday School classes will meet in Miller Hall or the outdoor pavilion on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Youth Group will ramp up their fall schedule for both middle and high school students.

For more information on any Christian Education opportunities, please contact the respective contact person listed below:

Children's Sunday School:
Christine Rush (rushcm@npenn.org or 215.264.4815)

Youth Sunday School and Youth Group:
Pastor Kathryn Swan (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632)

Women's Sunday School:
Laura Lillie (lalillie@verizon.net or 215.529.1059)

Men's Sunday School:
Ed Wilson (edwinwilson@comcast.net or 215.799.4086)

WAIT! There's More...

QUMC Kids Club

Kids Club is offered for kids in grades one through five. If you have questions or would be willing to help with events, please contact Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com).

Online Bible Study and Devotional

Janet Finch and Gail Schadler offer this weekly small group which started in March with an online Parables study developed by Gail and has blossomed into a three-time-a-week study and prayer devotional for 20 people, some of whom are former members now living out of state. Gail sends the study out on Wednesdays via email with a request for comments, questions, and prayer requests. Those who are able attend a ZOOM meeting on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 AM to discuss the study. Janet then sends out a devotional and prayer on Mondays.

If you would like to join this online study and prayer group, email Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com) or Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com).

QUMC Educational Endowment Fund Grants



Joyfully, we will be able to distribute grants to our eligible post-high school students this fall. Grants will be distributed on Sunday, November 29, 2020.

How it works:

The student will have to meet the eligibility requirements to receive an application.

1. The student must request an application by phone, mail, email, or in person beginning October 1. Requests must be made directly to the Endowment Chair, Steve Finch (finchsc1@verizon.net or 215-538-0835).
2. Complete the application and return it to Steve Finch by email in MS Word or PDF format, preferably from your college email, or printed and postmarked snail-mail to the church by midnight on November 1.
3. After review, the committee will send an email confirmation.
4. Grants will be distributed on United Methodist Student Sunday, November 29, 2020. The process for distribution still needs to be worked out.
5. There are no financial aid requirements.

The grants formula is: $\$ \text{ Available Funds} / \# \text{ Number Eligible Students} = \$ \text{ Grant Per Student}$.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Finch or a committee member.

Committee Members: Steve Finch, Nancy Parry, David Rush, John DeSimone, Julie James, Brad Mushrush





A LOOK at the BUDGET

	Revenues	Expenditures
August 2020	\$22,951.45	\$24,867.99
Year to Date	\$182,244.99	\$176,463.92

Budget Development for 2021: The budget process is underway! All departments and members are encouraged to participate in the development of the QUMC budget for 2021. Information has been sent to the various committee chairpersons seeking information on what is needed financially to operate the church next year. An important and critical aspect will be the determination of revenues that are needed and how likely those revenues will be available for use. Once again, each person who attends our church will and can play an important part in this process. Please pray for our church.

Financial Summary: As you can tell, the church is still in the positive overall thanks to the CARES Grant. However, we are about \$7,000.00 behind in the Care of God's House payments to the Trustees.

Options for Worship: Now that there are more opportunities to worship "in person", please take advantage of one that fits into your personal safety and faith.

Continued Appeal Regarding 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.

You Are Needed! There are many opportunities for members of our congregation to serve not only our God, but the QUMC church as well. Please contact Pastor Lori and find out how you may fit into the plans of our church.



Thursday, October 1	7:00 p.m.	Nominations
Sunday, October 4		World Communion Sunday
Tuesday, October 13		Annual Conference
	7:00 p.m.	Finance
Wednesday, October 14		Annual Conference
Tuesday, October 20	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Saturday, October 24	10:00 a.m.	Missions Food Drop



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Want to become a member?

Contact Pastor Lori at loribethwagner@gmail.com for more information. Please note membership transfers do not require classes. We hope you'll join us!

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 will receive a check 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.

Monthly Newsletter Submissions

If you have items for the monthly newsletter you can email them to Teddi Miller at 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!



Family Matters

Happy Birthday: Liz Cole, October 18 (Happy 80th Liz!); Laura Clymer, October 24;
Anna Wolfinger, October 27

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

Trick-Or-Treat



The Village at Lifequest is hosting a drive-thru Trick-or-Treat event, Friday, October 30, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. QUMC kids (and their families) are welcome to come on out!

QUMC shares a partnership with The Village at Lifequest, an Assisted Living community located at 2100 Cherry Blossom Lane in Quakertown. A part of the LifeQuest family, The Village shares 220 acres of property with LifeQuest Nursing Center, LifeSpan Child Daycare, and the newly constructed St. Luke's Quakertown Hospital.

Hope to see you there!

Speaking of Kids.....

Faith Preschool resumed classes on Monday, September 28. Please note that due to COVID, Faith Preschool is utilizing the back parking lot for both drop-off and pick-up of their students. This measure is being taken to minimize contact and to promote social distancing as the preschoolers enter and exit the church building. We ask that the congregation be mindful of using the back parking lot during the hours of operation of Faith Preschool, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to keep the church building, as well as Faith Preschool staff and students, safe during these uncertain times.