



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

February 2018

LENT



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and ends on the Saturday before Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring,” the time of lengthening of days. Lent lasts forty days, not counting Sundays.

In earlier times, Lent was a solemn season. People ate no meat, fish, cheese, butter, eggs, or milk and used no lard in cooking. Until 1863, England had a law forbidding these foods during Lent. Violators could be fined or imprisoned. Only the sick and infirm were excused. Brightly-colored clothes, games, parties, and festivities were forbidden. But the days just before Lent were another matter!

For many European countries the time before Lent was carnival time with parades, dances, games, sports, antics and wild revels. *Mardi Gras*, literally “fat Tuesday,” was a feast day before Ash Wednesday. Now *Mardi Gras* is a pre-Lenten carnival celebrated in parts of Europe, Latin America, and North America. New Orleans is famous for its *Mardi Gras*. Just after Epiphany, January 6, festivities begin with balls and parades and continue until the early hours of Ash Wednesday morning.

Shrovetide is the English name for the three or four days before Lent. The name comes from the word *shrive*, to confess one’s sins and receive absolution. Christians were expected to prepare for Lent by being shriven. But Shrovetide was also a time to clear the house of foods forbidden during Lent.

On Collop Monday small pieces, or collops, of meat were eaten. On Shrove Tuesday pancake meals and pancake contests used up butter, eggs, and milk. In Russia the Monday before Ash Wednesday was Clean Monday. Pans were scoured to remove any lingering hint of forbidden meat fat. In some rural areas of the United States, people cleaned the church on the Monday of Holy Week.

Lenten services Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. Come at 5:30 and enjoy dinner and fellowship in Miller Hall.



"The Vows That Bless Us"

By the Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Robinson, III

Looking at something from only one direction can be a great disadvantage. For example, the Ten Commandments are often highlighted by those turned off from the Judeo-Christian faith as a list of "Don'ts". They complain that all we want to do is to take away everyone's fun. Everything is "You can't do this" and "You can't do that." But that is because our only view of these commandments is from a negative position. "Thou shalt not kill" or "Thou shall not commit adultery" are rendered in a "negative" structure.



What if we looked at these commandments from a position of positivity? What if we looked at the commandment to not kill from a positive perspective and read it as "Thou shall hold all life precious"? Or instead of the commandment telling us to not commit adultery, we read "Thou shall take your relationship with your spouse as a sacred and blessed gift"? How would that alter our way of living into God's grace?

It is the same with the vows we took at membership in the church. When we took those vows to join, and every time we are in the congregation when another person joins, we renew those vows to faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by the following five actions:

- 1) prayer, 2) presence, 3) gifts, 4) service, and 5) witness.

Sometimes it may feel like these vows are a burden, that they are too much for us to commit to following. However, what if we looked at them from another perspective? This will be the journey we will undertake as we walk through the Sundays of Lent this year. Let's discover together how each of these areas of discipleship can yield a great blessing in our lives that will have us wondering why we waited so long to immerse ourselves in these vows we took that day we accepted our position as a member of the church of Jesus Christ.

In God's loving embrace of grace,

Pastor Tommy

The Lenten Journey through Worship

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---|-----------|
| Wednesday | February 14 | Ash Wednesday worship begins our Lenten journey | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | February 18 | The Rich Blessing of Prayer | |
| Sunday | February 25 | The Rich Blessing of Presence | |
| Sunday | March 4 | The Rich Blessing of Gifts | |
| Sunday | March 11 | The Rich Blessing of Service | |
| Sunday | March 18 | The Rich Blessing of Witness | |
| Sunday | March 25 | Palm Sunday worship | |
| Thursday | March 29 | Maundy Thursday with Communion | 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday | March 30 | Good Friday Worship | 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday | April 1 | Easter Sunday Worship | |



Be My Valentine



Annual Valentine's Day Party at the Umstead home, Friday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. Games, prizes, food. Each couple should bring a small (\$5) gift to exchange. Also please bring a snack to share. Great entertainment available for the first 20 couples to sign up in the narthex. The Umstead home is located at 1523 Pilgrim Court. See directions on narthex display. For questions, contact Steve or Jan Finch (215.538.0835 or finchsc1@verizon.net).



Food Pantry

FEAST Food Pantry items for February: hot and cold cereal and cereal bars. Contributions go into the grocery cart inside the front doors.

Jammies for Jesus



Pajama Party, February 4, 10:00 a.m. for all ages in Miller Hall. Pajama Program believes that all children - regardless of their circumstances - have an inherent right to a loving bedtime, a peaceful good night and a positive good day.

Be part of an Intergenerational Pajama Party during the Sunday School hour in support of children who are waiting for adoption in the Philadelphia area. The party will include music, snacks, stories, and crafts. Join in the fun. Wear your pajamas to church. Bring along a new pair of pajamas and/or new books to help some special children have a good night.



Looking Ahead

United Methodist Women would like to invite all women of the church to a planning meeting for the coming year of UMW, Monday, February 5, 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Please come with your ideas.

Paper Recycling



Effective immediately, QUMC will no longer be utilizing the recycling paper bins located in the parking lot. Once the bins have been emptied by the vendor, they will be removed from the premises. Please do not attempt to place additional paper in the receptacles. You are encouraged to recycle paper through your private trash company.



Just a reminder that in the case of inclement weather, QUMC follows the lead of the Quakertown Community School District. When school is closed due to weather conditions, church activities are also cancelled for that day. In the case of a two-hour delay, church activities go on as scheduled. The church building may or may not be open during inclement weather, based on the ability of church staff to travel safely to work.

Church closings can also be cited on WFMZ TV Channel 69.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Revenues through the end of December 2017 - \$295,018.72

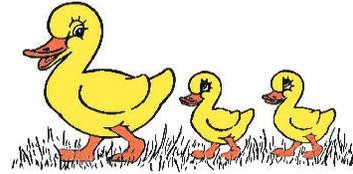
Expenditures through the end of December 2017 - \$281,120.95

Important Notes

1. The annual audit is in process. If you have financial information from your committee please submit that to the church office as soon as possible.
2. If you have still not completed and returned your 2018 commitment card, please consider doing so. Your stewardship is important to the health of Quakertown United Methodist Church.



Family Matters



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Ruth Barto - February 4, Donald Barto - February 6,
Marie Frankenfield and Lorraine Hillegass - February 11,
Thelma Bagg - February 14, Norma Lillie - February 19,
Kathryn Landis and Walter Bagg - February 22.

Note: The practice of recognizing the birthdays of our 70 and older members began with Pastor Don Miller, who felt they merited notice for all their years of faithfulness.

NOTES OF THANKS:

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of Discovery Service Projects, I would like to thank your congregation for its recent contribution.

As our teams travel to Haiti and Costa Rica over the next six weeks we ask for your prayers for their safe travel and safe work.

Our motto is: Building relations and changing lives. Without the help of congregations like yours our mission would not be possible.”

*Thanks again,
Rick Stokes, DSP Board*

“Enclosed is a donation for use of a meeting room. We appreciate your kindness in letting us use this room. Thank you very much! God bless you and Happy New Year!”

*Sincerely,
Patty Walsh, Treasurer
Milford-Trumbauersville Democrats*

“I want to extend a special appreciation and thank you to my QUMC family for their prayers, phone calls, cards and visits during my surgery and convalescence.”

Ruth Baker



We are pleased to welcome Jordan Cox, new Assistant Pastor, to QUMC. Jordan grew up in Quakertown and will be returning here after his graduation from Cairn University, a Christian university in Langhorne. Jordan graduates in May with a degree in Biblical Studies. He has worked in youth ministry during his years at college and looks forward to helping to grow our youth program.

Jordan and his fiancée, Steph Reif, are excited to get to know our congregation and to partner with us in ministry.



February 2018

Church Activity Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band, Hospitality Team | 2 5:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Set-Up | 3 8:00 a.m. Cub Scout Pinewood Derby |
| 4 ** 10:00 a.m. "Jammies for Jesus" Pajama Party 6:00 p.m. Life Group | 5 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes, UMW Planning Meeting | 6 7:00 p.m. Trustees | 7 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 8 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band | 9 | 10 Miller Hall Reserved |
| 11 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group | 12 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 13 12 noon Audit Committee 7:00 p.m. Finance | 14 Ash Wednesday 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 8:00 p.m. | 15 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band | 16 2:00 p.m. Blood Drive 7:00 p.m. Valentine's Day Party | 17 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast |
| 18 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group | 19 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 20 | 21 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | 22 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Praise Band | 23 | 24 |
| 25 ** 6:00 p.m. Life Group | 26 7:00 p.m. Grace Notes | 27 | 28 6:30 a.m. Life Group 5:30 p.m. Lenten Dinner 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>** SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship</p> </div> | | |