



## Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Quakertown, PA 18951  
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Visit our website at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

June 2018

# VBS at QUMC Happens This Month!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT QUMC PRESENTS

## ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE

JUNE 18-22 6:30-8:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



QUMC Vacation Bible School plans are in full swing for the week of June 18 to June 22!

**Registration is still open!** It's not too late to register. Sign-up sheets can be found on the table in the narthex or on the QUMC website ([www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)). Just click on the Registration Form on the homepage.

**Volunteers are still needed.** This ministry would not be possible without our volunteers. Contact Megan McMichael or Allison Ghorm for more information on where you can help out. If you have never volunteered for this ministry...please consider it this year. The experience is sure to bring you joy!

Don't miss out on being part of QUMC's VBS 2018!



# "A Critical Test for United Methodists"

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

Since the very beginning of The United Methodist Church's establishment in 1968 when The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged, the issue of sexuality, and especially homosexuality, has been debated. In time, the Church (through the General Conference that meets every 4 years and establishes our beliefs and rules) came to the present language in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*:

**Paragraph 161.G** -- "We affirm that sexuality is God's good gift to all persons. We call everyone to responsible stewardship of this sacred gift. Although all persons are sexual beings whether or not they are married, sexual relations are affirmed only with the covenant of monogamous, heterosexual marriage. ... We affirm that all persons are of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationship with God, with others, and with self. The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching. We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

What this means is Lesbian and Gay persons are of sacred worth, created in the image of God, and welcomed into the Church as everyone of us are. However, the present restrictive language does not allow for the United Methodist Church to allow for same-gender weddings in their buildings nor for the United Methodist Clergy to participate or officiate in same-gender weddings. Gay and Lesbian persons may be ordained if they choose a life of celibacy. If they choose to enter into a same-gender relationship and it is brought to the attention of the presiding Bishop, they will be examined and can lose their credentials.

**Paragraph 140** is a call to inclusiveness in the Church. It has been used as a counter to the above statement, but not successfully. It reads:

"We recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society, we are called to be faithful to the example of **Jesus' ministry to all persons** (emphasis mine). Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enables all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world; therefore, **inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination....**" (emphasis mine).

Why am I bringing this up? Because as some of you may not yet be aware, The United Methodist Church has come to a critical moment on this issue. At the 2016 General Conference (GC), the issue was debated and once again found the GC deeply divided. The clergy and laity elected from every local Conference to represent all of us at the 2016 GC strongly called upon the Bishops to bring this issue to a final resolution or expect a schism that would break the UM Church apart. The Bishops accepted the challenge and created a 32-member panel of persons on every side of this issue to begin meeting and find a "Way Forward" for the majority to agree. After 18 months of meetings, the group presented three courses, one of which was more favored than the other two. The Bishops examined them and have accepted this one path to bring before a special GC in February 2019.

Early word from the Bishops before they present their more in-depth explanations reveal that the one they will ask the GC to vote up or down would remove the restrictive language altogether and



allow for churches and/or clergy who disagree with that openness to not be penalized or punished for not accepting gay or lesbian pastors or allowing same-gender weddings in their church buildings.

And early word coming out from such churches is that they may decide to pull out of The United Methodist Church altogether if any change is made.

What does this mean for you and me? It means we need to be in prayer. Please pray for the General Conference that will be meeting in February. Pray for the churches that are heavily on one side or another in this issue. And pray especially, for churches like ours, which are going to feel caught in the middle because we are all not of one mind on this issue within QUMC. This could really put our faith to the test. So, pray, sisters and brothers. Pray.

In God's loving embrace of grace,

Pastor Tom

## Upcoming Messages

### June Messages

#### **3 – Will the Real Prodigal Please Stand Up? Luke 15:11-32**

We traditionally label the son who runs off and wastes everything he has taken as the Prodigal one. But who is really the one who is seen as wasteful? And are we called to be more "wasteful"?

#### **10 – Hearing Again for the First Time Mark 7:31-37**

Jesus opens the ears of a deaf man allowing him to hear again. However, hearing is something we all can learn to do better. Perhaps Jesus can open our ears again... so we can really hear.

#### **17 – Pastor Jordan Cox is preaching this Sunday (Father's Day)**

### Beginning of a series on "Moses and What He Teaches Us About Life"

#### **24 – Know Where Your Boss Is Exodus 3:1-12**

In the next series of messages, I will be looking at the life of Moses at various points in which he learns some very important lessons about himself, about God, and therefore, offers us a chance to grow, too.



### July Messages

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>1 – What to do when your old dreams die</b>   | <b>Exodus 2:11-24</b>          |
| <b>8 – Pastor Jordan preaches</b>                | ---                            |
| <b>15 – Dennis Pflieger preaches</b>             | ---                            |
| <b>22 – The EGO and the word "No"</b>            | <b>Numbers 11:16-17, 24-30</b> |
| <b>29 – Three Components to Spiritual Health</b> | <b>Exodus 18:1-12</b>          |



## QUAKERTOWN UMC

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Missions can be found in our own community! Jesus told his disciples to make disciples of every nation, not just third-world countries or poverty-ridden areas.

This year's summer student ministry trip will be to VBS!

Starting on Sunday, June 17, Student Ministries will be treating the week similar to how a mission's week would look. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. (dinner not included) on the weeknights to go over the night and prepare in prayer. Following each night, we will have some group-bonding time and a snack as we debrief and go over the day.

Sunday, June 17 is set-up night. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided.

Parents: We won't keep your student later than 9:15 p.m. each night, if not earlier. We know many of you will be helpers yourself.

Please send me an email ([jordanc@qumc.com](mailto:jordanc@qumc.com)) letting me know if your student will be able make it that week (or the nights that they can make it.)

We hope to see all of our students helping out this week.

### The Loft Retreat

We had an amazing weekend at the Loft! Our guest speaker, Dave Jones, challenged us on the importance of retreat and how we need to be active in our faith!

Our core scripture for the weekend was Jeremiah 29:11-14. We are very familiar with the first part of the passage, but we skip the second part which holds the truth God is trying to teach his people. This is the part that requires something of us. God calls us to seek him and call him. You will find him and he WILL hear you.

We hope that you will take time this summer to retreat frequently as a family and chase after these promises!

### This Summer!

This summer, Youth Group will be walking through Galatians and what it means to "bear fruit" in our lives!

Jordan Cox, Assistant Pastor



The below schedule reflects the office hours of Pastor Tom Robinson and Pastor Jordan Cox. These hours will be generally held unless circumstances prevent them on occasion. It is always best to call and make an appointment ahead of time to be sure either pastor you wish to see is available.

The Church Secretary is in the office during the summer months, Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During the school year of September through May, she is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Pastoral Office Hours

Day	Pastor Jordan Cox	Pastor Tom Robinson
Monday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.*
Wednesday	2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Off
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	Off	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00 a.m. - 12 noon 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

\*Pastor Tom has other duties that will have him out of the office on larger church business from time to time.

- He serves as a member on the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's Board of Ordained Ministry which generally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- He also chairs the North District Committee on Ordained Ministry which generally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.



## Monthly Newsletter Submissions

If you have items for the monthly newsletter you can email them to Editor Teddi Miller at [teddimiller@gmail.com](mailto:teddimiller@gmail.com) or you can put them in the Newsletter Editor mailbox in the church office. To assure your items are published in the next newsletter, please see that information is submitted to Teddi by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publishing month. Thank you!

Note: The July/August Newsletter is a combined summer issue. Submissions are due to Teddi by June 15.



## From Missions Commission

Feast Food Pantry items for the month of June include hot or cold cereal and granola or nutritional bars.

### Volunteer in Mission Team Leader Training:

Saturday, July 14  
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
West Lawn UMC in Reading

For information on any of these events, contact Carol Pertuit ([carolpertuit@verizon.net](mailto:carolpertuit@verizon.net) or 610-346-6713).

## Greeters Needed



Greeting is an important aspect of Sunday morning services. It provides an opportunity for church members to welcome fellow worshippers and to engage with visitors as they enter the church. It also helps guide visitors to the Welcome Center where we can introduce them to the various church programs available, answer questions, and help them to feel welcome as they visit our church.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the greeting programs for each service (and during the Sunday School hour). There are a few ways you can help. 1) We need volunteers willing to contact members to fill the weekly greeter schedule and 2) We need volunteers to sign-up to greet people for various dates during the year. If you are interested in participating in the church in some way, but have limited time and availability, this is a great opportunity.

Please give some prayerful thought to assisting with this ministry of the church. If you can help, please contact Molly Minarik ([craftlover38@aol.com](mailto:crafterlover38@aol.com) or 610.282.3708).

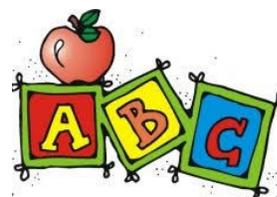


## From the Board of Trustees

Concern: Members using the hose at the back of the church

When using the hose outside of the church building, please be sure to turn off the water completely at the bib using the special key for the water valve. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Umstead or another member of the Trustees.

## Faith Preschool Registration Still Open for the 2018-2019 School Year



Don't miss the opportunity this summer to register your preschooler for Faith Preschool for the 2018-2019 school year. Faith Preschool offers a variety of classes for 2's, 3's, and 4's, including enrichment activities such as "Stretch-n-Grow," Lunch Bunch, music classes, and summer camp.

For additional information and/or to schedule a tour, please contact Registrar, Erin Haslett at 215-536-8172 or by email at [faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com](mailto:faithpreschoolofficemanager@gmail.com). Registration forms and detailed program information may be found in the narthex or at [www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com).

Importantly, Faith Preschool offers a number of discounts to make the cost of its quality preschool programming more affordable:

- 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
- \*NEW\* - Generous recruitment incentive for current Faith Preschool families



### A LOOK at the BUDGET

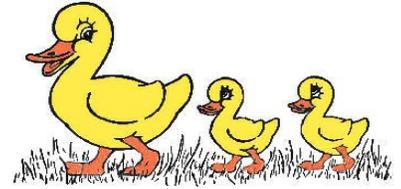
	Revenues	Expenditures
April 2018	\$24,332.14	\$30,018.87
Year to Date 2018	\$100,609.17	\$102,555.89

Notes:

1. The Quakertown United Methodist Church is supported by your prayers, your ministries and your financial support.
2. Please note that at this point in time the expenditures have exceeded the revenues, including the complete use of the carryover funds from 2017.



# Family Matters



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to: Doris Willauer - June 12, Edward Moore - June 13, Nancy Schroy - June 18.

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!

**NEW MEMBER:** On Sunday, May 20, we welcomed Amanda Brink to the QUMC family. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make Amanda feel welcome. Amanda's address is 814 West Broad Street, Quakertown, PA 18951 and her telephone number is 610.504.9138.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

Quakertown Community High School:

Elizabeth Aber  
Grey Mitchell  
Nicholas Stout  
Colin Stover

Christopher Dock:  
Caleb Pfeifer

Colleges and Universities:

Andrea Aber, Bucks County Community College, Associates Degree in Liberal Arts

Jordan Cox, Cairn University, Bachelors of Science Degree in Bible

Aislinn Strohecker, Lehigh University, Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology, with minors in Health, Medicine & Society and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

Anisha Wilson, Gettysburg University, Bachelors of Arts Degree in Sociology, with a minor in Cinema and Media Studies

Graduation Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, June 10

Please note graduating seniors are welcome to attend Student Ministries throughout the summer!

**A NOTE OF THANKS** (in response to First Responder Gift Baskets delivered in May):

*"What wonderful goodies and a heartfelt message you have given us! I would like to express the gratitude of each of our officers, for not only the goodies but for the thoughts and prayers of each of you. It gives me a warm feeling that our community prays for our officers. I ask that you continue to pray for us, especially for the wisdom and patience in dealing with those that need our services and also for our continued safety. Thank you very much and may God Bless you all!"*

*Richard J. Ficco, Sr. Chief of Police, Richland Township Police Department*



# June 2018

## Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  Miller Hall Reserved →	2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>** SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE</b>                      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>					
3 ** 12 noon Iron Pigs Pregame Pizza Party & Trip to Coca Cola Park 6:00 p.m. Student Ministries	4 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (Sanctuary Reserved)  Miller Hall Reserved →	5 7:00 p.m. Trustees	6	7	8	9 9:00 a.m. UMW Mission U
10 ** 12 noon VBS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Student Ministries	11 7:00 p.m. Hospitality	12 7:00 p.m. Finance	13	14	15	16 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  Vacation Bible School Set-Up →
17 ** 5:00 p.m. Student Ministries  →	18 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	19 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	20 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	21 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	22 6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School	23
24 **	25	26 7:00 p.m. Missions	27	28	29	30