



Quakertown United Methodist Church

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Visit our website at www.qumc.com

Share Christ Grow in Christ Serve Christ

January 2020

Rest & Restoration in the New Year



Here are four Scriptures to help guide us in the New Year:

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 NIV

Whatever holiday transition looks like for you—boxes of half-put-away ornaments, counters full of dishes, or maybe just a neglected to-do list—there’s likely something crying for your attention. Try giving yourself a little mannequin challenge every once in a while: stop right in the midst of whatever you’re doing—stand, sit, or lie still—and just breathe in God’s peace. Recall His Word in Psalm 46:10. Remind yourself that whatever’s making life feel hectic today, it will get done—eventually. It’ll work out. It’ll be ok. And best of all, it’s not in your hands (even if you’d like to think so!). Let go, and let God work through the rhythm of your life to accomplish what’s needed in His time.

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18 NIV

The post-holiday season can be a challenging time to keep the “heavenly peace” going in our homes (and hearts!). It’s likely the kids have had way more sugar than they’re used to, we’re all running on little sleep after some late nights, and we’re thrust back into our weekly school and work routines. We may be more likely to snap at one another or say things we don’t mean in moments of frustration. Why not introduce a new post-holiday theme this year called Space & Grace? Hang a sign, tack it up on the fridge, or remind one another during daily prayer. We all need some healthy personal space and extra grace for one another.

Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28 NIV

We often wrap up the season with a New Year’s resolution or two focused on trying harder, doing more, or being better at something. What about a different kind of commitment this year? Once a day (or week, or whatever feels realistic) commit to setting aside a few moments for some holy imagination. Find a little time—maybe after the morning rush or as you’re drifting off to sleep at night—to close your eyes and envision a real connection with Jesus. What does it look like for you to receive the love and peace He longs to give you? Envision this beautiful place, laying your head on His shoulder, just being held without words or expectations.

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24 ESV

For some of us, the after-Christmas blues can be hard to shake. We may be exhausted or disappointed that the holiday “break” is over. We may be dealing with the aftermath of far-from-perfect family gatherings; difficult relationships can often take their toll. Whatever it is, we can rest assured that God always has a Word for our hearts. As Christmas decorations come down, why not consider a few new ways to surround yourself with His words of encouragement? There may not be an “official” season to celebrate for a while, but there’s always a reason to rejoice. Whether it’s a holiday or any day, we can celebrate the beautiful truth of [John 1:14 NIV](#): “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”

*Taken from Dayspring Live your Faith
Post Holiday Fatigue? Four Scriptures to Help Restore & Renew*



From the Pastor's Palette

“Who is my neighbor?”

This is a question asked by one of the teachers of the Jewish law of Jesus. In response, in order to explain, as Jesus frequently does, He told a story. That story is the one we know best as “The Good Samaritan.”

The title is an oxymoron. For no self-respecting Jewish person in Jesus' day would ever call a “Samaritan” good. In fact, the word “Samaritan” would have elicited disdain and distaste at best, anger, bitterness, and hate at worst. They were the people who “didn't do things right,” who they felt “dissed” the “real” Jewish upright community, who took advantage of them, who didn't deserve to be called Jews or use their name. They were the “outsiders” with their own Temple and who lived by their own set of rules, who dared to act like insiders and call themselves Jews. They had done everything to insult the “real” Jewish community for years!

They were the “bad guys.” And the Jews from Judah were the “good guys.” That is the way it had always been, at least as long as everyone could remember. These are the people Jesus chose for His story about love, compassion, brotherhood, and what it means to be in community as citizens of God's kingdom. For as Jesus indicates, it's easy to be in community and in love with people you already like. But God calls us to do something much harder – to be in community and in love with people we hate, who we feel have dissed us, who we have a “past” and a “history” with, who we don't understand and feel have nothing in common with us. Look harder. Look longer. Look deeper, says Jesus. Look not at your differences or differences of opinion but at what binds your hearts together as human beings, beloved of God.

Your community is larger than your past, your opinions, or your biases. Your community is larger than your traditions, your buildings, or your own vision of how things should be or where they should go. If there is anything that Jesus teaches us in the scriptures again and again and again in story after story, it's that our most valued neighbors are the people right in front of us, right in our own backyards, in our neighborhoods, in our communities, even in our midst that we have most ignored, discounted, or have underappreciated...or even those we have misunderstood or have been taught to despise.

Neighbors start at home. This New Year, let's make a resolution to be the best “neighbor” we can be, not with those we already like, but with those people that will cause us to change our minds, melt our hearts, and expand our points of view. To be a neighbor, after all, means that before we can change the world, we must first be willing to change ourselves.

Pastor Lori

Winter Weather Is Upon Us! Please keep in mind that during times of inclement weather, QUMC follows the lead of the Quakertown Community School District. If school is cancelled due to weather, all church activities for that day are cancelled as well. If there is an early dismissal due to weather, all church activities for that afternoon and evening are also cancelled. Church staff may or may not report to work, depending on weather conditions.

Church-related closings and cancellations are also available on Channel 69 via the WFMZ-TV Stormcenter and online at www.wfmz.com.



Missions Commission



FEAST Food Pantry items for the month of January include pasta and sauces. Donations can be placed in the grocery cart located between entrance doors to the church.

The Kensington Area Ministries (KAM) Christmas Giving Tree provided 194 Christmas gifts to our neighbors in Kensington. Thank you all for spreading God's love in this very special way. A big thank you to Steve and Bill for delivering the gifts.

On Super Bowl Sunday warm up with a nice hot bowl of chili prepared by our Mission Team. We will be taking orders this month to be picked up on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. Cost: \$8 per quart. Order forms are in the narthex. Thank you!

The Missions Team would like to express a deep thanks to all who helped and supported the Ham Dinner and the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Jerusalem House and the surrounding Allentown Community.

The Ham Dinner served 217 meals and had a profit of \$1,704, which will go to Mission Outreach. We also made casseroles from leftovers for the Code Blue Shelter.

29 turkeys and an abundance of side dishes were delivered to Jerusalem House. Pastor Dan Adams wanted to pass on his sincere thanks for this outpouring of generosity during the Thanksgiving Season.

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!

- > 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

New Member Class:

Monday, January 13, 7:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Lori (360.298.8327 or loribethwagner@gmail.com) for more information on church membership.

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.





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.

Tent Revival II is Coming Soon! This month, we will begin planning this community evangelism outreach. With the support of the Communication Team, there will be idea and planning sessions where we will form the teams needed to cover this event. Sign up in the narthex to take part what we hope to be a super successful event!

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!

QUMC Welcomes New Youth Pastor Kathryn Swan



“Hello! I am Pastor Kathryn. I am 29 years old and a licensed pastor in the United Methodist Church Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

I was adopted from Romania and grew up outside Philadelphia. Before I entered seminary, I was a social worker for seven years. I love to travel and I love to dance. I am married to my husband Sam and we have two dogs and two cats. I am excited to minister to the youth at QUMC and I look forward to getting to know everyone.”

Pastor Kathryn begins her ministry with us on January 15. Please welcome her!



Looking for ways you can help?



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).



Bring Some Cheer in the New Year

Every year around the holidays, I try to visit some of QUMC's more senior members who are confined to their "homes" and cannot easily make it to church. Truthfully, it is sometimes difficult to get myself in the mood to go on visits and I often procrastinate in doing this... but when I arrive at these folks' homes (often, some type of care facility), and experience how thrilled they are to get company, my misgivings are soon put to rest. We generally talk about our families, loved ones we lost too early in life, changes the church has gone through over the past 50 years, sometimes even local and national news, etc. I was totally amazed when I visited them this year, how they recalled, (and pointed out to me), Christmas cards and ornaments I made them in past years. Mary Schwer (who tells me that my grandmother, Livian, was her very first Sunday School teacher) entertained me with historical tidbits about heirloom furniture pieces she displays in her living room. Not one person I visited told me that I came at a bad time, and everyone asked me to return. I felt privileged and rewarded. Post-Christmas is a particularly difficult time for many shut-ins and, otherwise, mobility-restricted folks. Phone calls, cards, and visitations tend to drop off after the holidays. If you have the opportunity in the upcoming months to reach out in some capacity to someone who is elderly, shut-in for whatever reason, or just in need of companionship, please do so. It is so greatly appreciated by all.

Please note that the residences of church members in care facilities are posted on the board as you enter the church and greeting cards are available in the Narthex. You may want to call first before visiting.

Thank you, Molly Minarik (Hospitality)



Family Matters

Welcome New Members:

Kurt and Nancy Kreider
1007 Spring Meadow Drive
Quakertown, PA 18951

Andrea Scott
183 Badman Road
Green Lane, PA 18054

Happy Birthday:

Richard Hillegass, January 4 and Grace Mohr, January 7

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:

“The Youth Group would like to thank everyone for their support of the cookie sale on December 15th! The kids were very proud of their work and the money they were able to raise! Watch for details for a hot chocolate bar fundraiser coming in the winter!”

“Thanks to all who were able to assist with the Christmas Carnival that was held at QUMC on December 14th. This event is held each year in December and is sponsored by the Quakertown Ministerium, HUBBUB, and the Upper Bucks Unit of the Salvation Army. It has become a wonderful event that benefits families in need from our community. Please keep this event in mind for next year. Your participation and assistance is always welcome and appreciated.”

“QUMC Hospitality offers fellowship and refreshments for both members and guests on Sundays between services. We currently have two very devoted volunteers, the Smakulski Family and Betsy Steen, who split the Sundays in any given month, stop by the church on Saturdays to check on the supplies, arrive early on Sunday mornings to set up the Hospitality Table, and stay to clean up the table area afterwards. There are others who fill in on an as-needed basis. We appreciate the effort from these wonderful volunteers. Please remember to personally thank them and please consider helping the Hospitality Table in any way you can.

Thank you on Behalf of the Hospitality Team



	Revenues	Expenditures	Year-to-Date Balance
November	\$25,177.30	\$27,102.91	- \$3,311.03

Reminder: Our church needs the talents, hard work, prayers and financial support of all of the congregation members. Please make this a priority on your New Year's list!

Budget Time: The Church Council approved the 2020 QUMC budget in December. Through the hard work and the help of many committee people, the proposal reflects the various teachings and mission works for the year ahead. A copy of the approved budget summary can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

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 it 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.



Quakertown United Methodist Church 2020 Approved Budget

Operating Receipts

Pledges and Contributions	269,558.31
Other Receipts	30,200.00
	299,758.31

Budgeted Expenditures

Care of God's House

Trustees	30,762.00
Utilities	25,795.00
	56,557.00

Current Operating Expenses

Administrative Expenses	2,380.00
Finance Committee	2,300.00
Office Expenses	7,810.00
Pastoral Support	95,747.00
Personnel Expenses	84,912.31
	193,149.31

Program Expenses

Intentional Faith Development	6,250.00
Missions	36,382.00
Passionate Worship	4,345.00
Radical Hospitality	2,125.00
Stewardship	950.00
	50,052.00

Total Budgeted Expenditures	299,758.31
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*A detailed Budget Report is available from the church office upon request.



January 2020

Church Activity Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 	2	3	4
<p>**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</p>						
5 ** "Undecorating" the church after 11:00 a.m. worship	6 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. New Member Class	7 11:00 a.m. Life Changes	8 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	9 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group, Praise Band	10 8:30 a.m. Life Group	11
12 ** Congregational Meeting following 11:00 a.m. worship	13 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. New Member Class	14 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed 7:00 p.m. Finance	15 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	16 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group, Praise Band	17 8:30 a.m. Life Group	18 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at John's Plain & Fancy
19 **	20 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Milford-Trumbauersville Democrats	21 11:00 a.m. Life Changes 7:00 p.m. Worship, Trustees	22 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	23 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group, Praise Band	24 8:30 a.m. Life Group	25
26 **	27 6:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir	28 11:00 a.m. Life Changes	29 6:30 a.m. Life Group 6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir	30 2:00 p.m. Life Group 2:15 p.m. Life Group 7:00 p.m. Women's AA Group, Praise Band	31 8:30 a.m. Life Group	