

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

January 2021

Post Holiday Fatigue? Four Scriptures to Help Restore and Renew



After weeks of whirlwind holiday planning and activities, the holiday season has come to an end. Is anyone else feeling less-than-energized? If so, you're in good company! When post-holiday exhaustion hits, it can be difficult to find motivation.

Here are four Scriptures on rest and restoration to help guide us in the coming days:

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 as the season winds down. Sure, it doesn't thwart every post-holiday argument, but it does bring us a little more peace as we settle back into daily life.

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 w/out 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.”

Article by Paige, Dayspring – Living Your Faith

January Children’s Message: What’s New?



A couple of days ago, we celebrated New Year’s Day, 2021. You may have watched fireworks or a parade on TV, made a lot of noise and thrown confetti, or shared a special family meal.

When we are faced with new situations, we can have all different kinds of feelings. For example, when you start a new school year in a new classroom, you may be just a little bit nervous. If you go on a special vacation for the first time, you may be very curious what the new place will be like and if you’ll have as much fun as you did on other vacations. And if you get new shoes or a new game for Christmas, you most likely will be very excited. But, new things aren’t always fun things or happy things.

For example, at this very time last year – when it was New Year’s Day, 2020 – we didn’t know how many new, strange things we would be facing over the next twelve months. We didn’t know we would wear funny masks outside of our homes, or that we would do our school-work on computers rather than in school buildings, or that we would no longer be able to eat inside restaurants or get together at parties and holiday meals with large groups of friends and relatives. But new things do eventually become old, and we hope and pray that this new year – 2021 – will be great, and we can start doing many things we used to again.

Now, let’s say a prayer, shout “Happy New Year” and toss some confetti or sound a noise-maker for God’s very special helpers – the doctors and nurses, the school teachers and bus drivers, the police-men and grocery workers, and so many other people – who continue to risk their lives to keep all of us comfortable, healthy & safe. Amen.

Happy New Year,
Mrs. Minarik



The Pastor's Palette

“Follow the Light”

The metaphor of light is so prominent in the scriptures that it practically goes without saying. But we can always miss mining that metaphor for all of its richness. The gospel of John helps us to understand this metaphor in terms of Jesus more than any other gospel. The Light is God's victory over the “dark night of the soul.” In coming into the world, Jesus meets us in our humanness, yet brings God's hope and love into our darkest times. Written during times of persecution, the gospel of John knew just how dark life could be for early Christians, how death could loom, how doubt could plague, how despair could easily creep in. John's gospel is a gospel of victory, hope, and light in a very dark time in history. We today however experience times of darkness too. Sometimes darkness can merely be a time of reflection, quiet, contemplation, or prayer. Other times, our “dark side” can create ghouls within the quiet that challenge our vision of Jesus.

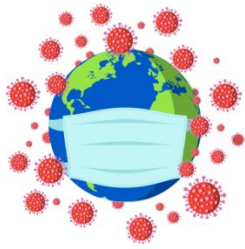
God created Light to illuminate the earth, we learned in Genesis. Perhaps one could say, the Light also illuminates all of those dark places within ourselves that we like to hide or like to hide within. But after creating the Light, God then creates the stars...as a tapestry in the heavens, as signs to guide us, and to assure us of the existence of the Light. That part of the creation story is I believe one of the most beautiful, as we know today that stars are other “suns,” glowing and burning brightly within millions and billions of galaxies that make up the heavens –an intimate number no doubt.

God's light is eternal. Whenever we feel darkness, we can know by the signs in the stars that there is light somewhere still out there, and that if we follow that light, we will find Jesus at the source of it. For Jesus is the alpha and the omega –the “be all” and “end all” of all creation, the Lord of Creation Himself. And when we allow that Light within us to burn brightly, nothing can bring us down. Light...that warm, glowing, illuminating, visualizing hope...that's God's eternal love for us. For we are dearly beloved.

This January, as you are cloistered in your homes, the darkness of COVID surrounding our towns and villages, may you always be reminded of the Light of Christ in you and around you, burning brightly, signaling that HE is here, and a new tomorrow is coming.

Pastor Lori is always available to you (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327).





COVID-19 Update

Check your email or USPS mail to keep updated about COVID-19 updates in regard to the church.

No indoor in-person worship or activities at QUMC continues until positivity rates drop to below 10%. No one is to enter the church without permission. The Church Secretary will continue her daily check-in for mail and will continue to utilize the copier in the church office. Otherwise, she will be working remotely from home. The Financial Secretaries will continue to count weekly offerings, the Pastor will occasionally stop in, and the Sexton will continue to clean the building. Other than that, no staff or parishioners are to be in the church building.

Worship will continue throughout the year: 9:00 a.m. Parking Lot Worship (just drive-in and tune to 87.9) and 11:00 a.m. Livestream Worship (you can find us on Facebook or on our QUMC YouTube Channel). If you opt to meet outdoors, masks must still be worn.

All meetings and groups must meet online. If you need a ZOOM link for such purposes, contact the Church Secretary (barb@qumc.com or 215.538.7817).



Diversity Training, Thursday, January 7

Quakertown UMC will host a seminar focusing on diversity training, Thursday, January 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM. Hosted by Tahara Akmal, Head Chaplain and CPE Supervisor in the Medstar Maryland Health System, the link to attend is available by contacting the Church Secretary (barb@qumc.com).

This training will last 1.5 hours. All members of the congregation, as well as friends and neighbors of QUMC, are encouraged to attend this free event.

Honorarium donations are not required but will be accepted from those desirous to contribute a gift to the guest speaker. Please send honorarium donations to QUMC, clearly labeled "Diversity Training Speaker." Thank you!

Virtual Youth Rally – Persevere: The Joseph and Esther Way, January 8 & 9

Contact Pastor Kathryn Swan if you have any questions (kathrynswan19@gmail.com)

Pastor Kathryn will be joining in on this amazing Virtual Youth Rally! All families are encouraged to take this opportunity to meet youth from different churches and to listen to what our Bishop has to say. This event will be held on Friday, January 8 and Saturday, January 9, however you don't have to attend both days.

Register now at <https://na.eventscloud.com/youth2021>. The Conference Council on Youth Ministries has worked hard during this pandemic and has Egypt Speaks, a spoken word author and poet joining forces with Tasha Layton, an American Idol contestant and backup vocalist with Katy Perry, along with GRAMMY® winning Keith Everette Smith of Toby Mac's Band to share their testimony, story and insights into how to persevere through life's challenges with faith and God!

You can read about this incredible event at <https://www.epaumc.org/news-information/2020/12/eastern-pa-to-sponsor-youth-rally-in-january/>. You don't want to miss this virtual event filled with trivia games, music, moving stories, questions and answers, scripture and prayer! Our own Bishop Peggy Johnson will also be sharing her thoughts on what it means to persevere with faith on your side.

Sign up today to get your ZOOM link so we can make sure we can accommodate everyone. Questions? Call, text or email Dave Piltz (814-883-0118 or dpiltz@epaumc.org).

Holy Communion: Sunday, January 10

We will celebrate Holy Communion to welcome the New Year and to celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord. Communion will be celebrated at both the 9 AM Parking Lot Service (in-person worship from your car) and the 11 AM Livestream Service (online worship). At the Parking Lot service, someone will come around to your car to distribute a communion kit (containing your elements).

To make this a church fellowship celebratory experience, we will offer those who attend livestream worship the opportunity to pick up a communion kit for that service, livestreaming Sunday, January 10 at 11 AM, but available on Facebook at any time.

If you are a livestream viewer and are interested in obtaining communion kits for your household to use for January 10 worship, you can pick up your kits in the church parking lot on the dates and times listed below. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to share in this celebratory experience too!

- Friday, January 8, 3 to 6 PM: Melea Rupert and Marj Lofland will be present with gloves and masks to distribute communion kits
- Saturday, January 9, 10 AM to 2 PM: Laura Lillie and Gail Schadler will be present with gloves and masks to distribute communion kits

“Scandalous” Bible Study on ZOOM, beginning January 11

Join Pastor Lori for seven weeks of "case studies" on some of the most ghoulish, ghastly, troubling, and sad stories of the Hebrew scriptures. Put on your detective hat and help profile the psychological portraits of those figures whose all-too-human trip-ups created ghosts that would haunt them for a lifetime.

Envy. Anger. Distraction. Entitlement. Disloyalty. Stubbornness. Peer Pressure. And Murder (gasp)! These are the scandalous stories of the Bible that give us clues about how to avoid the psychological pitfalls that might just lay in our own futures.

Investigation begins Monday, January 11, 2021, 7 PM on ZOOM. The study will take place on Mondays January 11, 18, February 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1. There will be no Bible study on Monday, January 25 due to Dreamtank.

Join Pastor Lori on ZOOM, bring a Bible, a pad and pen to write down clues, a snack, and your best investigative skills. Electronic copies of the study will be available. To receive a copy of the study, or to get the ZOOM link, contact the Church Secretary (barb@qumc.com).

Ongoing Online Bible Study and Devotional, Friday mornings

Janet Finch and Gail Schadler offer this Bible study and devotional weekly. Gail sends the study out on Wednesdays via email with a request for comments, questions, and prayer requests. Those who are able and want to, attend a ZOOM meeting on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am to discuss the study and then Janet sends out a devotional and a prayer on Mondays. If you would like to join this online study and prayer group, just email Gail at glschadler@gmail.com or Janet at jmfumw@aol.com.

Ongoing Christian Education Opportunities

Children and Youth Sunday School, as well as the Adult Friday Morning Bible Study and Devotional, are being held online. Sunday School resources are distributed by email weekly. The Women's and Men's Sunday School classes are presently not meeting in-person due to COVID-19 restrictions. Youth Group continues virtually for middle and high school students, while Kid's Club is offered for grades one through five. 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)

Friday Morning Online Bible Study and Devotional:
Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com or 215.538.0835) or
Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com or 267.733.3328)

Kid's Club (grades one through five)
Babs Kerns (babs.kerns@gmail.com or 267.825.5693)



Season Greetings!

November and December have been busy months for the youth!

A new Confirmation class started right after Thanksgiving. We have nine students joining us this year, one of the kids from another United Methodist church. Confirmation meets weekly for about an hour-and-a-half on Thursdays at 4 PM.

Everything has been moved to a virtual platform. Prior to November, the Youth Group met outside.

The Youth Group has chosen a community project to start after the new year. They will be building a "community book library" (or take a book/leave a book) in the shape of a church. Youth will collect books after the new year. This will be an ongoing project for the kids and they will update the little library each week.

Hopefully as time goes on, COVID will start to be under control and if things are safe, we will be doing some Confirmation field trips. If things remain virtual, we will explore other options. One plan is to attend a few online worship services of different faiths. Each participant has been assigned a mentor and they will meet safely online. I want to say a big thank you to all the mentors stepping up to support the youth in their faith journey.

I hosted a virtual Youth Group Christmas-themed movie night and everyone made Christmas cards for the shut-ins and older folks. I ask that the congregation of QUMC send encouragement to our youth as they start their confirmation journey. The kids are the future of the church.

Thank you for supporting us through these times,
Pastor Kathryn



A Reminder from Missions

Due to the cold weather and the increase of Coronavirus, Missions is going into hibernation for the winter months. We will see you all in the spring. For more information on Missions outreach programs of the church, contact Carol Pertuit (610-346-6713 or carolpertuit@verizon.net).

2020 Endowment Fund Recipients

Back by popular demand, below are bios for 2020 Endowment Grant Recipients so the congregation can follow the educational careers of these young adults.

Matthew Aber is in his first year at Bucks County Community College. He is in the Computer Sciences program, his classes all in the digital world. Even in non-contact classes he has learned things to be a better person, even participating in a mission trip last summer. Matt would like to work in the computer field.

Emily Ghorm is in her first year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in Music Education. She is impressed to be surrounded by so many students and professors. Emily is doing well academically and with fewer distractions in today's reduced campus life, she can stay on top of her schoolwork. She plans to teach an instrumental program in a high school following graduation.

Zach Korpics is in his senior year at Shippensburg University. He is taking all marketing classes toward his Marketing degree. Zach participated in 10 rounds of a Student Pro Digital Marketing simulation and takes electives in Sports and Digital Media Marketing. He is the Project Leader for the Food Recovery Project for the Business Club, redirecting excess food from the dining hall to local churches. Zach is President of the Soccer Club where he has been a team member for four years.

Blake Miller graduated this spring from Lock Haven University and is now pursuing his Master's in Engineering Sciences and Mechanics at Penn State's Main Campus. He finds his professors' knowledge extensive and well-expressed. New this year for Blake is the research aspect within his mixture of virtual and in-person classes. Blake is a TA (teaching assistant) for an undergrad dynamics class with 200+ students. Eventually he would like to secure a job in the tri-state area.

Morgan Smakulski is a first year student at Northampton Community College. She is working toward a degree in Criminal Justice. Morgan is taking virtual classes except for English, which she takes on-campus. She plans on getting her Associates Degree in 2022 and then, a job in her field.

Alexis Smakulski is a second year student at Northampton Community College. She is working toward a degree as a Healthcare Office Coordinator and Specialist. Alexis is taking a full-time class load and looks forward to an internship at a healthcare facility or doctor's office. She may continue her education with additional courses and certifications.

Anisha Wilson completed her undergrad degree from Gettysburg College in Sociology and Film and then gained some workforce experience. She decided to go back to school at DePaul University where she is currently in her first of a two-year Master's program in Digital Communication and Media Arts. Anisha would like to work for a company, non-profit or publication in the area of communications. By expanding her skills in visual design, writing, public relations, and advertising, Anisha feels she will be well-rounded in her skills and expertise.

Graham Wilson is a senior at Lafayette College, majoring in Biology and Economics. He is taking four virtual classes and notes students are missing out on many opportunities this year due to the pandemic. He serves as President of the Ultimate Frisbee Club and participates in activities to connect with freshmen, even though not at school. After graduation, Graham plans to work in the pharmaceutical or a similar industry in project management, finance, business, or science. He looks forward to entering a new chapter of life after college.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

	Revenues	Expenditures
November 2020	\$24,308.30	\$23,559.35
Year to Date	\$252,759.06	\$242,112.48

2021 QUMC Budget: The QUMC Church Council approved the 2021 QUMC Budget of \$305,989.45 at the December 14, 2020 meeting. We thank all of the congregation members for their anticipated support to fund this budget.

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.

JANUARY





• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind our church family that if anyone is experiencing financial difficulty during these unprecedented times, please contact the Pastor (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327). The church has an Acts IV Fund specifically designed to help members during a time of financial struggle. Inquiries are completely confidential. Now more than ever, we realize many are struggling to make ends meet. QUMC is here to help.

Those with sufficient resources who have it in their heart to contribute to the Acts IV Fund can send donations, indicating that preference, to QUMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Volunteers Wanted

Outreach Care 215-804-5869 Joanne Cramer 610-442-6465

- Are you good at encouraging someone a little down on their luck?
- Would you mind taking someone to an appointment or job interview?
- How about delivering food to a person in need?
- Would you enjoy helping someone find a place they call home?

Outreach Care helps provide resources to people who are homeless in Upper Bucks County get back on their feet. They are looking for mentors and drivers to help with fund raising, taking phone calls and special events. Give as little or as much time as you want. If you like helping your own community, please give us a call.

Worship Bulletins

Anyone wishing to have a copy of the bulletin and hymns each week, please contact barb@qumc.com to get on the email or USPS mail list to receive these materials each week.

Church Membership

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 to:

Richard Hillegass and Irene Hunsberger - January 4 , Grace Mohr – January 7 ,
Samuel Crowther – January 16.

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:

“Thank you to Gail Schadler and the members of QUMC United Methodist Women for the nice words and UMW pin. It was extremely nice to be honored and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. United Methodist Women is a great mission and hopefully in the future an active unit will be possible.”

Janet Finch

“Thank you to the youth families, Pastor Kathryn, and Bethan for the special Christmas video wish. This was a nice added touch during Christmas when we are unable to be together with our church family.”

Teddi Miller

Keeping In Touch:

To view a holiday message from missionaries Eliberto & Molly (Jamison) Juarez (and baby Elliott!), click here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NOaUbwNJCI&authuser=0>