

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

February 2021

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com



What God Says About Loving Others

What does God say about love? What is love, according to the Bible? We have been given an abundance of Bible verses about loving others, so we can assume it's important. John 13:34-35 TLB says, "And so I am giving a new commandment to you now - love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

We are commanded to love one another as Jesus does. There is not one person Jesus does not love and did not come to save - this includes everyone you lock eyes with, walk past on the street, hear about in the news, live next door to, stand behind in line at the grocery store, or sit next to in the waiting room. When we actively love those around us, putting their needs before our own, we are taking the same amazing love that Jesus has poured out to us and becoming a living, breathing, beautiful display for humanity.

You see, while many believe love is a just a nice, heart-warming feeling, as Christians, we are called for it to be more than that - we are called to take action. We can share God's love by noticing the unnoticed, loving the unlovely, or even by extending grace to those who are not so easy to be around.

Let's make it our prayer today to ask God to help us actively love others - to actively walk across the street to help our neighbors, to actively cook a warm meal for a friend in need, or to actively visit a nearby nursing home to love on the elderly. Let us ask Him to lead us to places where He wants us to shine His light and ask Him for the courage and strength to share His love with all who surround us in our daily lives. And, maybe when we do this, we will guide people to His beauty and they, too, will begin to actively love others and then, who knows how many lives will be impacted?

By Gini

Dayspring, Living your Faith

Show Kindness. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave us. - Colossians 3:12-13 NIV
The Lord calls us to love one another because love binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Cherish Friendships. "Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Do not forsake your friend or your family." - Proverbs 27:9 NIV
Each friendship brings blessings into our lives. Let's use this Valentine's Day to let our friends know that they were fearfully and wonderfully made and have great things to offer the world.

Bless Others. "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16 NIV

A Word of Thanks from Pastor Lori:

As we hopefully head for better times of curtailing COVID with vaccines and immunity, I want to take this opportunity to thank our members for faithfully continuing their ministries and missions, thinking innovatively and creatively throughout the pandemic and dedicating time and energy to making our church viable and vital in new and exciting ways. These are your people of deep faith and hope, dedicated to Christ and to the Church.

Thank you to those who have continued to give generously and faithfully so that our church can remain in ministry and mission to our members and community. Your faithfulness has not gone unnoticed. Appreciation also to those who have continued to give their time and talents to the church.

Some of you have contributed to doing missions in new ways as part of the Missions team. Others have been especially thoughtful of our older folks, continuing to make sure they are nurtured by the congregation. Many have continued to hold positions of leadership, continuing meetings online to support the church and its ministries, while some have continued to teach in new ways or have adapted to new styles and new ideas to move our church ahead despite the pandemic.

Our Church Council and all of its sub-teams have worked together admirably to make good decisions and create optimal and safe experiences for worship. We are blessed to have Pat King as our Council Chair. Faith Preschool has continued to provide children a safe place to socialize and learn. Christian Education and Youth teams have created innovative formats for our children to stay engaged. Small groups have continued to meet with dedicated leaders. Finance and Trustees teams have made sure we stay in good shape during this time of shut down, and SPRC has been working with our District Superintendent on behalf of the church to make sure you stay healthy, faithful, and optimistic moving forward.

I cannot commend our core group of staff and volunteers enough for their efforts. These are the people you may not see as you used to but who are tirelessly working on behalf of the church to keep things going with never a complaint.

Dan, our Sexton, continues to keep us completely sanitized and safe, even when parts of the building are in use. Barb, our Secretary, is always dedicated and has been flexible, always on call no matter what the day or hour, even during her time off! Kathryn, our Youth Pastor, along with her faithful lay volunteers, has found creative ways to engage with our kids. Bethan, our Music Director, has given us better quality music (even when we could not sing) than anywhere I've seen! She has worked with our musicians, vocalists, tech, and bells to bring us wonderful holiday treats and exceptional weekly music.

I must let you know too that several of our lay volunteers have committed themselves not occasionally, but weekly, to make sure we could do the alternative and creative forms of worship we've been able to offer you during this past year! Laura Lillie is a gift to this church, as is Marj Lofland. Their dedication goes beyond the pale. Thanks to those who have assisted them in set-up and worship; Skip Eichlin, Eileen VanAuken, Pat King and Debbie Reynolds. God bless all of you for your help, kindness, support, and love of this church.

For all of you, those mentioned and those behind the scenes, I give great thanks for all of you! I'm so proud to be your Pastor.

Many blessings, Pastor Lori



The Pastor's Palette

"The Sign of the Bow"

This year, Valentine's Day falls just a few days before Ash Wednesday, signifying the beginning of Lent. While Valentine's Day, signified by the bow and arrow of love, is filled with chocolate, flowers, excess, and affection, Lent is a solemn season of repentance, penance, and mortification of the flesh, signified by sacred music and abstinence. Which do you look forward to the most? Giving away chocolates and tokens of love or giving up those things you love and putting on sackcloth and ashes?

Most of us, especially as we are shut in with COVID-19 this long winter, I would vote for the chocolate! After our long, delicious binge, we are about ready to plunge into Lent, not so much out of contrition but more out of the need to diet and lose all the weight we put on from eating all of that chocolate! And so, we vow for our Lenten pledge to eat better and exercise more. In fact, one of our most widespread Lenten "fasts" in this country is our fast from chocolate!

To help us in our newfound resolve, and our inability to go to the gym, we turn to home workout machines. One of the most popular work-out machines is called the "Bow Flex." The "Bow Flex" is based on resistance offered by long flexible rods. As one continues to pull on the weights, causing the rods to flex, the resistance gradually increases, making the "pull" harder as you progress. The more "reps" you do the more tension is created, and the more of a work-out for your muscles. This is known in Bow Flex circles as the "Power of the Bow."

In Genesis, we read about one of God's most unique covenants, or promises. It is called the covenant of the "bow." God creates a visual "sign" of promise that will serve to remind and comfort all people of God's divine covenant promise of renewal that He made with Noah. In this covenant, or what is called in Hebrew the "berit," God declares that the heavens are making an unbreakable, unilateral covenant pledge to all of creation, to all living things upon the earth. Never again will the divine let loose on the Earth an all-destroying flood. God's pledge to Noah and his descendants is that this is an "unconditional covenant," an all-embracing covenant. This "sign of the bow" will serve to remind God, Noah, and all his descendants of the promise God has made to all of creation. This "sign," God declares, is one that comes in a particular shape and multiple colors:

I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth (13-16).

Even though this "bow," what we now call a "rainbow," is visible to creatures on earth, it is a sign to GOD, not humans. It is a reminder to God of the divine covenant God has made. The rainbow is "flood insurance" for which we never have to pay a premium. Every time it appears, it serves to remind God, our "insurance provider," of the anti-flood provisions that creation has been promised.

Of course, a rainbow has a perfectly rational, scientific explanation: the refraction of light through raindrops will reflect the sequence of light frequencies from the lowest to the highest—that is from violet to blue to green to yellow to orange to red. Note how this rainbow phenomenon only occurs when what Noah feared the most, a rain shower, falls from the sky. Noah and all his descendants could look upon the rainbow and know that even as the rain fell, and pummeled the planet the hardest, God was remembering God's covenant with creation.

The early Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who greatly influenced Plato, often spoke of the power of opposites, of how opposing forces and factors stretch taut our ideas and reveal new truths. Heraclitus called this force “Logos.” What Heraclitus meant by “Logos” was not words but the power behind the word that made a truth, a “word” that continually reverberates with a new, living, changing frequency. Heraclitus lived centuries before the apostle John wrote his gospel. But his was the strumming, living nature of the concept of “Logos” that prompted John to declare that “the Logos became flesh.”

Heraclitus exemplified this concept by showing his students a stick and a string of cat gut. He announced that he could do something to that stick that could either heal or kill. Heraclitus attached the cat gut to both ends of the stick and explained that this was now a bow that could either be an instrument of destruction or a lyre or harp, a source of comfort and healing. The bow was both. The bow’s “logos” was found in the tension between opposing realities.

In Jesus, God reframed and reintroduced the “bow” by declaring it to be the ultimate “peace sign,” a celestial signal of God’s promise to creation for redemption and renewal and harmony. In Jesus, God brought opposites together: the harmony of human and divine, earth and heaven, sinner and saint, Lion and Lamb, immanence and transcendence, sword of justice and shepherd’s staff.

Jesus is the bow, the Logos, that brings both judgment and redemption and healing to the world. Just as rainbows can come amid the ruin and rubble, but only after the rain, so Jesus is God with us in the ruin and rubble of our lives. In the words of the country and western song, sung by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and bronzed for the desk of President George H. W. Bush, “If you want to see a rainbow, you have to stand a little rain.”

So, let it rain. This month, we will continue to endure the ravages of the virus, the sadness of isolation, the challenges of means, and the loss of the world as we knew it. But look for the bow, the sign of God’s pardon and promise. Good things are coming. God will always prevail.

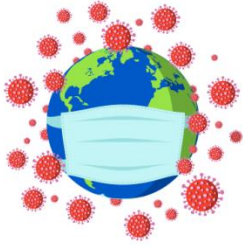
Pastor Lori is always available to you (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327).



Quakertown United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the appointment of Pastor Richard K. Brown II as our Senior Pastor effective July 1, 2021.

A letter was sent out to the congregation from the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) on January 26th announcing this upcoming change.

Please note that Pastor Lori Wagner will continue to serve our church until July 1. If you require pastoral assistance, please contact Pastor Lori (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327) until that date. In respect to Pastor Rick and his congregation at St. Paul, SPRC requests that you refrain from any contact with him until the pastoral transition is complete.



COVID-19 Update

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

No indoor in-sanctuary worship or activities at QUMC when positivity rates rise above 10%. When positivity rates are above 10% (be on alert for weekly updates), 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 church office as needed. 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. Even when positivity rates are below 10%, for the safety of all we ask that entrance to the building by both staff and parishioners be minimized.

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). 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. in-sanctuary worship is held when positivity rates are below 10%.

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).

February Children's Message: Did You Know?



Hey kids, did you know that

The human body contains more than 600 muscles, and probably the most important muscle is the one inside your heart. Your heart is only the size of your fist, but it has this huge responsibility to pump blood throughout your body and keep you alive. Proper exercise and good care of your body helps to keep your heart healthy and strong. Each of us has a spiritual heart, too. A healthy spiritual heart contains things such as kindness to others, respect for parents and teachers, honor to God, and gratitude for our blessings. The size of your spiritual heart depends on how much you decide to store in it. You can help keep your spiritual heart healthy and strong by following an exercise routine of good thoughts and good deeds.

February is the month of love, and Valentine's Day falls right in the middle of the month. We often think about candy, cards, flowers and love on Valentine's Day. This year, while we are all still living in this strange new world because of the pandemic, think of special ways in which you can show your love – make a card thanking the person who delivers your morning newspaper; draw a picture for someone you admire or someone who may not be feeling well; call a grandparent you miss seeing in person; spend a day helping with household chores; mail a short note to an elderly church member. There are so many different ways in which you can show your love, and you can never completely fill your spiritual heart. Soon, we will be back together in church again. Be patient and trust in God.

Love ya, Mrs. Minarik



Souper Bowl of Caring

Saturday, February 6, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. The youth and confirmation class will host a mission project the day before the Super Bowl outside in the pavilion at QUMC! See page 8 of this newsletter for more details!

Snow Tubing

Saturday, February 13. Youth, mentors, and their families will have a fun day of fellowship as they go to Bear Creek for some fun snow tubing! Tickets are \$25 per person.

Ongoing Bible Study: “Scandalous! Fits, foibles, and fatal flaws that trip us up and dislodge our faith”

Join Pastor Lori on ZOOM. Bring a Bible, a pad and pen to write down clues, a snack, and your best investigative skills to review "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.

Electronic copies of the study are available. To receive a copy of the study, or to get the ZOOM link, contact the Church Secretary (barb@qumc.com). Remaining sessions are 7:00 p.m. on Mondays, February 1, 8, 15, 22, and March 1.

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 glshadler@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 on page 7:

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)



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).

As many continue to struggle through these difficult times, please know these local organizations would welcome your financial support: Quakertown Community Outreach (quakertowncommunityoutreach.org), Quakertown Cares (greatnonprofits.org/quakertowncares), Bucks County Opportunity Council (bcoc.org) To support these organizations, go to the respective website and click on the "donate" button. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of local Missions.

Local 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 so they can 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.



Confirmation Class

The 2021 Confirmation Class is underway and it has been an amazing two months so far in our confirmation journey. We have a class of seven students. Pastor Kathryn and Pastor Jim from Palmyra First UMC (and his confirmand) have joined together with the youth from QUMC. Classes are every Thursday, 4:00 p.m., on ZOOM. We hope that in the spring, which of course is up in the air, we can go on some field trips for our confirmation outings!

Pastor Kathryn encourages everyone to keep sending cards of encouragement to our confirmands and mentors! Your continued prayers and encouragement can go a long way!

Confirmands:

Chris Gray (1560 Gateway Drive, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Matthew Hudson (173 Richlandtown Pike, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Jonathan Kerns (1555 Gateway Drive, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Madison Kreischer (58 Winchester Drive, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Matthew McMichael (203 Prairie Court, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Justin Murray (2320 Willow Stream Drive, Quakertown, PA 18951)
Mason Rush (1999 Huber Drive, Quakertown, PA 18951)

Mentors:

Ken Ghorm (412 N. Fenwick Street, Allentown, PA 18109)
Cristin Pizzi (1512 Josephine Circle, Quakertown, PA 18951)
*Jeff & Sharon Vietmier (2556 Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA 18073)
*A huge shout out to Jeff Vietmeier for taking on several confirmands!

Upcoming Youth Events

Souper Bowl of Caring

Saturday, February 6, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. The youth and confirmation class will host a mission project the day before the Super Bowl, outside in the pavilion at QUMC! Please come out and support this mission hosted by the youth! Masks and social distancing are required. Youth will be:

- collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable food items to donate to FEAST Food Pantry
- having a fundraiser for the youth and confirmation class. They will be selling football-themed baked goods and maybe even chili! Anyone who would like to donate baked goods for this event, please contact Pastor Kathryn. This would be a wonderful way to help support our kids!

Snow Tubing at Bear Creek

Saturday, February 13. Youth, their mentors and families will have a fun day of fellowship and at Bear Creek snow tubing! Tickets are \$25 per person.

Fireside Chat and Prayer

This special conference is offered to young adults of the EPA (Eastern PA Conference of UMC) and is a young adult event co-sponsored by Drexel Campus Ministries and Conference Young Adults. It's free and the speakers are phenomenal! Tuesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., January 26 through March 2.

What has the Youth Group been up to?

For Christmas, the youth sent Christmas cards to shut-ins and had a movie night on ZOOM! The youth and Pastor Kathryn also made a video singing a Christmas carol (a big thank you to Bethan for helping with this!). Earlier in the fall, we were meeting weekly on Sunday nights for Sunday School and Youth Group in the pavilion. Jeff Vietmeier opened his golf course so we could meet outside, which was a great invitation and fun time. We went mini-golfing when the weather was nice and had the opportunity to make apple cider with the help of Babs Kerns. Of course for these events, everyone was outside, wearing masks, and social distancing.

The QUMC middle school Youth Group is planning a community project for this spring. We will make a little outside library based on the take a book/leave a book concept. Approval was received from the Trustees for this project and the youth voted that they want to make the library in the shape of a church. Soon, youth will be collecting book donations for the library book collection. This will be something the youth can work on each week with new books. We will be looking for children's books and any other books in good condition that people are willing to part with! Look for this project sometime in the spring or summer.

Come out and join our youth for some fun, fellowship, and exploring our faith!

These kids are the future of our church! Let's keep encouraging them!

If you have any questions about Confirmation or Youth Group, contact pastor Kathryn (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610-348-2632).





A LOOK at the BUDGET

	Revenues	Expenditures
December 2020	\$21,457.20	\$24,793.34
Year to Date	\$274,246.26	\$266,704.82

End of 2020 Budget Notes: At the close of the 2020 fiscal year, there was a projected surplus of \$7,541.44. As there are still some bills that are to be paid for 2020, the Finance Committee decided to allocate \$5,671.44 of that surplus to the Care of God's House Fund. That still leaves us approximately \$2,135.00 short of the original commitment, but a good step in the direction of repayment.

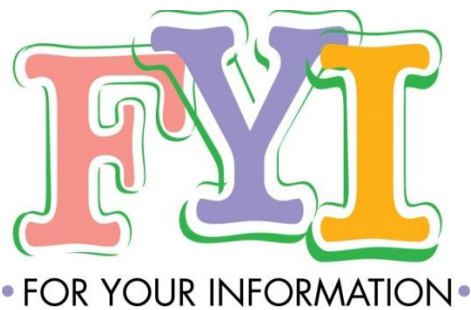
Church Audit: The audit of the 2020 fiscal year has begun. All persons who have materials that are needed for the audit should contact the Church Secretary to make arrangements to get those materials to the Audit Committee. In this time of COVID-19, we ask that financial records be sealed in a Ziploc bag or other type of protective covering, clearly marked with the name of your group and "Audit 2020." Those with a key to the church can leave financial records in the box located between the entrance doors of the church. If you are unable to drop them at the church, contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com) to make arrangements for a contactless drop-off or pick-up.

Thank you for your cooperation in submitting materials for the 2020 Audit. Following completion of audit of your books, you will be contacted with instructions on how to retrieve your records.

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.



2020 Contribution Statements

2020 contribution statements were mailed out. If you did not receive your statement or have questions about the status of your giving, please contact Financial Secretaries Bob & Anna Mushrush (215-536-3112 or robert.mushrush@yahoo.com).

Audit Time

The audit of church financial records for 2020 has begun. Those responsible for maintaining financial records of church groups are asked to submit their books to the church for auditing by members of the Finance Committee. Details on page 10.

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind our church family 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.

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.

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:

Ruth Barto – February 4, Donald Barto – February 6, Marie Frankenfield – February 11,
Lorraine Hillegass – February 11, Kathryn Landis – February 22

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

A Thank You Note:

“Thank you so much to my church family at QUMC for all the prayers, positive thoughts, and caring concern on behalf of my grandson, Jonathan Hunter Setman. Jonathan is making an almost miraculous recovery, thanks in part to the power of your prayers. God is so good!”

In Christian Love, Ethel Setman and family

A Message from Missionaries Dustin & Emily (Jamison) Miller:

Hello friends and family,

We pray you and your family are doing well in this new year. Your support is a huge blessing to our family and to the children and youth that we serve here in the Dominican Republic. Thank you! We are writing to share some exciting news. Since you partner with us, we wanted to share it with you before it's public knowledge. (And no, there's not another baby coming!) We hope to talk with you via Zoom in the next few weeks - feel free to respond to this email to set up a time or wait for us to contact you personally.

On January 25, 2018, Dustin dreamed that he was leading a Christian university on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. He woke up, told Emily, and we both had a good laugh about it! Over the next months and years, however, Dustin continued to feel a push from the Holy Spirit toward the founding of

this new university. He connected with a local private school that had the same vision, and those connections developed into a team of influential people across the Dominican Republic. That team, led by Dustin, is currently working to establish the first English-speaking, Christian, residential, US-accredited university in Latin America, right here on the North Coast of the Dominican Republic.

In August, when his original three-year term with Kids Alive ends, Dustin will transition out of his role with Kids Alive and begin working full time for the new university. He has already begun the process of identifying and training national staff to take over his responsibilities with Kids Alive. It's exciting to see how the programs Dustin worked to build have grown over the past few years, and it's satisfying to see national staff take on the leadership of those programs.

While Dustin will receive a salary through the new university, Emily will continue to work for and raise support through Kids Alive. This transition does not involve a move for us, since the new university will be nearby.

While it still seems a little crazy to see this dream come to fruition, we are confident in God's plans for our family and excited to follow Him down this new path. We look forward to sharing more with you in the next few weeks!

Blessings,

Dustin & Emily

Volunteer Safely From Your Own Home!

The winter months following the Christmas and New Year's holidays, in any typical year, often can be bleak and depressing for a lot of folks. The pandemic has contributed to that atmosphere this winter by restricting mobility and social gatherings, drastically altering our comfortable daily routines and activities, and making physical contact, such as hugging and handshaking, seem almost taboo. Individuals who are residents of assisted-living facilities, military confined to bases, elderly and individuals living alone, and those who are immune compromised, often experience heightened feelings of apprehension, despondency, and isolation in troubling times. Things we all take for granted such as taking walks to get fresh air, running to the grocery store, spending time with our extended families or getting together for holiday get-togethers, may now be impossible for many individuals.

During the latter part of 2020, QUMC individual and committee volunteers contacted more than 45 of our active military and our over-80 age church members with small gift bags; cards, letters of encouragement, and phone calls; Christmas caroling books; etc. Recipients were thrilled to connect with the rest of their QUMC family and know that we hold them in our thoughts during this difficult time. QUMC will continue to provide support to its military and its more senior members, but we are asking for more participation in this effort.

I am looking for 10 volunteers, each volunteer to send out greeting cards to four QUMC members who are over age 80. I will provide blank cards and pre-addressed envelopes for the cards. (Please note: since names and addresses will be compiled at random, I will not be able to provide you your choice of names). Volunteers only need to jot a short note on behalf of QUMC on each card, put a stamp on each envelope, and send the cards out sometime around the middle of February. I will make packets of four (pre-addressed cards) available to anyone interested in helping. Please contact me ASAP @ 610-282-3708 (speak clearly on message) or at my email craftlover38@aol.com.

Thank you,
Molly Minarik