

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

March 2021

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com

Truths to Remember in Seasons of Change



Life is looking a lot different than usual for most people. As we go into a new season this March remind yourself of these truths:

We Are Loved

Hold tight to this truth - Jesus loves you! Even if we have known this all our lives, for some reason, in seasons like this, we can begin to doubt it. The more trouble hits home, it can feel even harder to believe. We aren't always going to have an answer for why things like this happen the way they do, but we know who has the answers AND He loves us. We can always trust Him and remember His love for us - a love so powerful that it drives out fear. (1 John 4:8 NIV)

Only Jesus Can Give Us the Peace We're Looking For

Distractions might help for a while - binge watching tv shows, cooking new recipes, scrolling through social media, chatting with friends. But when night falls and bedtime calls, I find myself struggling to sleep unless I take my anxiety to Jesus. In John 14:27 NLT, Jesus says, "I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." Nothing the world gives can help our hearts rest. We find serenity for our souls when we lay worries at His feet.

We Don't Have to Put on a Brave Face

There might be a lot of different feelings we are processing in this season. That's okay. It's important to embrace vulnerability in order to stand in strength. Sometimes the biggest act of bravery is admitting our sadness. Bravely sharing the parts of our hearts that aren't so joyful with God can deepen our relationship with Him, and help us face each morning with hope.

We Don't Have to Have it All Figured Out

When things are out of our control, we can feel a great need to reign it all back in. Let's simply approach each day seeking Him first and doing the next right thing. In case you need this reminder today, here's how God's Word puts it (Micah 6:8 The Message):

He's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love. And don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously.

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He Will Give Us All We Need

In seasons like this, it can become especially easy to start asking, "What if?" This often leads to feelings of anxiousness and fear, powered by our imagined understandings of the scarcity in our world. But our Father offers the opposite - a hopeful sense of incredible abundance. Time and time again in Scripture and in our own lives, we have seen Him do more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). If our God is unchanging, then why would this season be any different? Let's trust that He will provide our daily bread and choose not to worry about tomorrow, like He encourages us to do in Matthew 6:34.

Dayspring, Living Your Faith
Article by Taylor B.

Lent Services



During the season of Lent, we will offer weekly Wednesday evening prayer and music services at 7:00 p.m. To celebrate Holy Week, there will be a Maundy Thursday service with communion, April 1, 7:00 p.m. A Good Friday service will be held April 2, 7:00 p.m. Regular services will be held on Easter morning, Sunday, April 4. We will not have a sunrise service this year on Easter morning due to COVID-19.



Inclement Weather

On Sunday mornings, Pastor Lori will make a decision on cancellation of worship services due to inclement weather between 7:00 and 7:15 a.m. If the decision is made to cancel worship, that information will be made available on:

- QUMC's office answering machine
- Television (WFMZ, Channel 69)
- QUMC's Facebook page
- Via an All-Church Email

Thank you as we all work together to be safe during this last month (hopefully!) of winter weather.



The Pastor's Palette

My friend and colleague, Len Wilson, is coming out with a groundbreaking book this spring about Christian innovation called “Greater Things.” In the book, Wilson reminds us that Jesus promises us stability through change, and that through the breath of His Holy Spirit, we as His disciples can and will do even “greater things” than he.

To us, Jesus’ statement seems unfathomable, even ridiculous. How could we do greater things than Jesus?

Jesus tells us, we do greater things through faith, that faith even as small as a mustard seed can move entire mountains!

Although this is a primary metaphor for the Holy Spirit’s power through God’s vehicle the church, we the church spend most of our time cowering behind our walls, especially when things look tough out there in our culture and world.

But Jesus’ statement should haunt us and challenge us to look again at what it means to be a disciple and apostle of Jesus, and what it means to be the church in a 21st century, pandemic world. I am proud of our church and what we have done this past year, and I am looking forward to seeing what you can do in the next. Many of you have risen to the challenge and have been reimagining church, mission, ministry, and evangelism.

The reason is this: Jesus’ disciples are no milk toasts. Disciples are strong, resilient, daring people, unafraid to take healthy risks, unafraid to fail, unafraid to encounter roadblocks and creatively find ways around them, unafraid to grow into something different than what they already know and are. This is called courage. Courage is a disciple-defining attribute and one that allows Jesus’ disciples to do “great things.”

Fear is real. Fear is ever present. But fear can either hold you back or spur you onward. Jesus invites you to push onward. For He will be with you all the way.

When John Wesley urged his pastors to go out and preach in the prisons, and hovels, and mines, and factories, his pastors whined. They were used to their comfortable, church environments and feared the dangers that lay outside their walls. But Wesley insisted, telling them, that no matter where they went, Jesus was already there, and they would be safe.

Wherever we are in life, Jesus is already ahead of us, beckoning us to move forward. Urging us into mission. Blessing our efforts, our courage, and our enthusiasm, as we carry out His ministry. In his book, *Greater Things*, Len Wilson introduces to us the bedtime story, *We’re Going on a Bear Hunt*.

The book’s cover shows a babysitter and three kids crossing the frame, leaning into an uncertain future, seeking new adventures. At each turn in the story, the group faces challenges, which grow

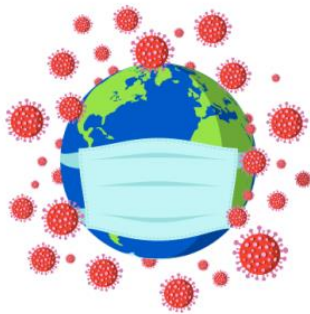
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increasingly difficult: tall grass, raging river, deep mud, dark forest, and blinding snowstorm. At each obstacle, their onward journey thwarted, they face the question: How do we proceed? With each challenge the group responds: “We can’t go under it! We can’t go over it! We’ve got to go through it!” Childlike enthusiasm for what comes next is key to how to respond to periods of significant cultural change such as the one we are experiencing. It is a joyful shout for adventure: “Let’s go through it!”

As we head into March with the first tastes of spring, be an enthusiastic church! Warm up and get ready for the adventure of your life! Whatever you encounter out there in the wide, blue yonder of our 21st century world, “Let’s go through it!” We’ll go through it together. For you were designed to do great things, and Jesus is calling you out!

Please note that Pastor Lori Wagner will continue to serve our church until July 1. Pastor Lori’s last Sunday with us is Pentecost Sunday, May 23. The pastor will be on vacation time May 30, June 6, June 13, and June 20. June 27 is Transition Sunday (all transitioning pastors do not preach that week.)

If you require pastoral assistance at any time prior to July 1, please contact Pastor Lori (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.

Our sanctuary has been able to be open for in-person worship the last couple of weeks of February (up to 60 people) at both the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services due to decrease in COVID positivity rates in Bucks County. We will continue to provide updates in keeping with the changing positivity rates in Bucks County and whether we will be able to continue to meet in person. Worship will continue throughout the year: 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. In-Sanctuary Worship, 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.

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.

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).

March Children's Message: A Special Month



Wow, it has been a long, and often tough, past twelve months. Here we are in March once again. But, March is the month that can turn Winter boredom into Spring wonder and energy.

Kids, can you list your five senses? They may have gotten a little bit sluggish since Christmas, so let's wake them up and use them to talk about the month of March.

Touch - Although we will have more cloudy and snowy days coming, we should have fewer of those days starting in March, and cold weather and snow will not hang around as long. Instead, temperatures will begin to get warmer, and we will soon be able to put our heavy coats away. We will see more hours of light each day, and that is a very good reason to spend more time outdoors. And when it rains, the raindrops will feel refreshing, not cold and harsh.

Sight - The world outside of our houses will suddenly come alive with color. Trees will begin to bud; pretty birds will reappear to scope out places to nest; and yards will change from dull brown to bright green with Spring grass. Depending on where you live, you may start to see chipmunks scurrying about looking for buried food and deer wondering through open fields.

Sound - If you listen carefully, you might hear familiar outdoor sounds once again - your neighbors working on outdoor projects, a hot air balloon in the sky, motorcycles on the road.

Smell - As outdoor plants and trees start to bloom, the air will smell fresher, cleaner.

Taste - You might notice that, all of a sudden, some fruits and vegetables taste so much better and fresher in the Spring. At this time of year, I look forward to fresh peas (not often a favorite with kids!) and plump, red strawberries (I can't eat enough of them!). And after so many months of eating meals that were cooked inside your kitchen, your mom or dad might take the cover off the patio grill and cook up some yummy burgers and hotdogs outdoors.

There are many things to notice and appreciate in March. March doesn't always get the respect it deserves. It is the reason we get bicycles out of storage and clean up the picnic table. It is the reason we spend more time outdoors enjoying God's creations, and less time in front of a computer screen or a television. It is the time to plan a week of summer camp and a family vacation. It is a month of hope and wonder and new life and excitement.

Enjoy March. It only comes around once a year!

Mrs. Minarik



"Holy Week Gospel Account" Lenten Study

Gail Schadler will be offering this Bible study and devotional weekly. The study will look at the last week of the life of Jesus from the perspective of the four Gospels. We will compare and contrast how they are the same, how they are different, and how it all leads up to Easter. This study began on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and will run until just before Palm Sunday. Those who are able and desirous can attend a ZOOM meeting on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss the study. If you would like the materials for this study, contact Gail (glschadler@gmail.com or 267.733.3328).

Please note participation in this study does not require attendance at the Friday morning ZOOM discussion. The study is an opportunity to read and reflect on Lent and Holy Week so you are able to participate on an individual basis.

UMCOR Sunday – March 14 (One Great Hour of Sharing)

For decades we used to have a special Sunday called the One Great Hour of Sharing. For the last few years, it has been called UMCOR Sunday. There are many ways to “connect” with the Missions arm of the United Methodist Church. We are called a connectional church. It serves the nation and the world wherever they are needed.

When disaster strikes around the globe - Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 - so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

The response of UMCOR isn’t something “they” do, it’s something “we” do.

When you give you equip Christ’s body to serve in His name because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity - without regard to race, religion or gender - together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

This UMCOR Sunday offering funds the administrative costs so that all the other money given for projects goes 100% to those in need. Giving is a way of “Acting Locally” and “Thinking Globally”.

Please consider giving to help continue to meet the needs of the children, families and communities who’ve experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we minister to Jesus.

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Ongoing Bible Study Series from EPAUMC - Character Matters, Seven Things the Lord Hates

Elders from the North District EPAUMC have come together and produced a new Bible Study series for the season of Lent for use by any and all United Methodist churches. This eight-week series is designed to begin the week of Ash Wednesday and conclude in the week following Easter Day with a bonus finale presentation by Bishop Peggy Johnson.

The study materials include eight video presentations, with leader's guide and worksheets, developed to take class participants deeper into the word. Each session can be conducted in an hour, either virtually online or in-person in a classroom environment.

For more information, contact Deb Boyd (dboyd@epaumc.org or 610.666.9090 Ext. 1019). Be sure to include the mailing address to which the study materials are to be sent.

Download the videos and materials from the EPAUMC's website:
<https://www.epaumc.org/districts/north/>

Pastor Lori's Dream Tank, Tuesday, March 23

Mark your calendar for Pastor Lori's Dream Tank, Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM. The theme is "Navigating Change" and all are welcome to attend. Contact the Church Secretary for the ZOOM link to attend this event

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)



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.

Looking for Ways to Help?

Finance Chair Committee Member Needed

Quakertown United Methodist Church is in need of a FINANCE CHAIR for the Finance Committee. If anyone has a background in finance and would volunteer for a three-year term as Chair of Finance (leading meetings and the team), please contact Pastor Lori (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360.298.8327). This position is very important to the financial health of the church.

Stewardship Chair Committee Member Needed

Contact Pastor Lori (loribethwagner@gmail.com or 360 298 8327) if you can volunteer for this position.

Think Safe Sanctuary!

Let's be ready to welcome our children back!

In reviewing the list of clearances last secured (36 months ago), few are up to date. Those of you who have recently renewed your clearances, we ask for a current copy to be kept on file per Safe Sanctuary guidelines. Please mail copies of clearances to QUMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951. If you do not have a copy available, you may send the original as the church will make a copy and return the original to you. Clearances may also be dropped at the church by placing them in a sealed envelope in the outdoor mailbox. Mail is picked up and processed daily.

Per Safe Sanctuary guidelines, a Child Abuse Clearance and Criminal Record Check are required for church volunteers. If you have lived in Pennsylvania less than 10 years, you will need to get the Out of State Clearance.

To renew clearances, go to [Keep Kids Safe - Get a Clearance \(pa.gov\)](http://Keep Kids Safe - Get a Clearance (pa.gov)) The links on this portal explain most questions you may have. If you need a paper form to apply for clearances, contact Marj Lofland (yeamarj@gmail.com or 215.257.7389).

In the meantime, please consider renewing your familiarity with the basics: Medical Emergencies in First Aid <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IH3Th8KpA0w>>



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

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

Greetings!

The Youth Group and myself want to give a BIG thank you to everyone who came out and supported our Souper Bowl of Caring Mission and our Youth Bake Sale! We were told that we had over 500 pounds of food that we collected and donated to the FEAST Food Pantry. In addition, the youth group raised \$498 from their bake sale and donations. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the support of our kids and ministries. Since we had so much fun doing this in February, the Youth Group is trying to come up with a way to get involved during Lent. We are on the lookout for a dinner drive-thru to-go in March! We thought it would be a nice way to stay involved and certainly a reminder of how much we enjoy and miss the Lent dinners made by the Scott's. I encourage everyone to keep praying and sending cards of encouragement to our confirmands, youth, families, and mentors. Thanks for all that you do!

With Grace,
Pastor Kathryn

What Has Our Youth Group Been Up To?

Confirmation still continues to be on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. For some of the boys that have sports, Pastor Kathryn will meet with them on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Christine Rush and Pastor Kathryn are hoping to plan a night at the Iron Pigs game for a time of fellowship and fun. The Youth Group still plans to make a little church library outside (take a book, leave a book) once the weather starts to warm up. Pastor Kathryn and the youth will be looking for some book donations (all genres) soon! Start spring cleaning early and donate some books for the church mini library outside.

The youth are the future of our church so continue to keep them, and the Confirmation Class, in prayer!



A LOOK *at the* **BUDGET**

Winter Chills Make for Winter Bills!

Thank you all for your continued and generous giving. We hope you will continue to support the church as we soon leave the winter months and look toward spring. We have had a difficult winter this year. Due to a cold few months with heavy snowfall, our plowing and salting bills have skyrocketed. Additionally, even though our heat is on low, our bills have increased dramatically due to the extremely cold temperatures of January and February. We ask that you keep the church in your prayers and give a bit extra through this year in order for us to stabilize our budget during this time.

Additionally, due to COVID, we could not schedule lay speakers for the month of June during the pastor's vacation and our pastoral transition. Her last Sunday with us is Pentecost Sunday, May 23. The pastor will be on vacation time May 30, June 6, June 13, and June 20. June 27 is Transition Sunday (all transitioning pastors do not preach that week). Therefore, we have paid pulpit fill pastors for those five weeks at \$150 per pastor/week. However, because QUMC typically in the past has used our own laity during vacation time, our budget only currently covers one of those weeks (\$150). We are asking therefore that those inclined please give to the pulpit fill fund from now through May in order for us to cover those expenses without significantly exceeding our budget. We are in need of \$600 to cover that cost in full. Just indicate "pulpit fill" on the line item of your check.

Thank you all for continuing to pray for and support QUMC during this strange and challenging time of COVID.

The Finance Team

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.



Safe Sanctuary

Safe Sanctuary clearances are due for volunteers. Those of you who have recently renewed your clearances, we ask for a current copy to be kept on file per Safe Sanctuary guidelines. Please mail copies of clearances to QUMC, 1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951. If you do not have a copy available, you may send the original as the church will make a copy and return the original to you. Clearances may also be dropped at the church by placing them in a sealed envelope in the outdoor mailbox. Mail is picked up and processed daily.

Upper Room

Copies of the March/April edition of The Upper Room are now available! If you would like a copy of The Upper Room, please contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or barb@qumc.com) and she will send a copy out to you via the USPS.

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: Mary Schwer – March 28.

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:

To my Family at Quakertown United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your support with cards, flowers, etc. while I am at Meadow Glen Phoebe living. 2020 was a rough year with the pandemic and then I was in the hospital for pneumonia before Christmas and didn't get back to my apartment until after New Year's. I really don't know where 2020 went, now we're in 2021. It's unbelievable to me at my age of 93. I also want to thank Pastor Lori for giving me communion over the years and for sending the newsletter and all the bulletins, messages and songs for Sunday worship each week.

All in all, I just appreciate hearing from my people. I sure do miss talking to my very dear friend Doris Willauer who is in heaven with our loving Father.

Everyone stay healthy now.

Your friend in Christ, Anna Wolfinger

To the members of QUMC –

Thank you SO much for the nonperishable food collection that you held Super Bowl Weekend. We truly appreciate your continued support. You collected almost 500 pounds of food! We have continued serving those in need during this unusual time.

FEAST Pantry, Trumbauersville - Gary Nace, Pantry Coordinator