

# The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

June 2021

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

[www.qumc.com](http://www.qumc.com)

## Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

*“Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”*

Gracie Allen

For many years, Mary Schwer shared her gifts of writing and editing as the Editor of our monthly newsletter. On May 12, 2021, Mary peacefully left this world to be with God in His kingdom. While she will be greatly missed, we honor Mary as a disciple of Christ - a disciple who exhibited and shared the love of God in every aspect of her life. That includes the endless hours Mary spent putting together the newsletter each month, a task that became increasingly difficult for her as her health began to fail.

As someone who worked closely with Mary on producing the newsletter, I came to know her as the Queen of Punctuation & Grammar! A former English teacher, and even at one time a Church Secretary, Mary had it in spades when it came to every aspect of writing. She was so good at it that frequently she was called on to write communications on behalf of the church. Mary had a way with words; a meaningful and Christian way. Mary had a gift.

Her contributions to the church, and church life, extended far beyond her work on the written word. For years, Mary was the organist at the 8:00 a.m. worship service. She also taught Sunday School, led Bible Studies, acted as a Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, helped create the Acts 4 Fund, and so the list goes on. Mary loved the Lord and the church, mirroring that love and dedication in all she did.

In the true spirit of writing, Mary Schwer's story doesn't end with a period but rather with a comma. Her story continues through us. The lessons she taught us, and how she carried herself as a follower of God, can be a guiding light as we strive to be the best Christians we can be. In the words of Matthew 25:23a, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

Thank you, Mary. You will be missed.

-Barbara Hafler



# *The Pastor's Palette*

By the time you get this newsletter, I will be finishing my time with you, and although you may not see me anymore, I am continuing to think of you and pray for you as you go forward now into your next future adventure as the Church of Jesus Christ. I pray that you will think earnestly about the mission of the Church, your commitment as disciples, and with all the creativity you can muster, your vision to spread the Word and love of Jesus to your communities and beyond in new and exciting ways.

I am thrilled with your incoming pastor and know he will be a gift to you. And so, as your outgoing pastor, I leave you with some advice for moving forward, the same advice given to all aspiring healthy churches:

1. Trust your pastor. Your pastor is your leader, and he has prepared long and hard for the vocation of leading your church. He is knowledgeable and faithful and will have much wisdom to share. Always default to making the assumption that he is hard at work for the benefit of leading you in Christ's path. You may not always agree with him, and new things may seem frightening sometimes, or not the way you've done them. But you will do well if you trust his wisdom, judgment, and allow him to lead you. He is your shepherd. You are his sheep.
2. Communicate directly with your pastor and with each other. Communication can make or break a church, can create unity or cause deep division when it is missing or going on behind the scenes. Do not fear speaking directly with your pastor respectfully and inquiringly. Keep him abreast of everything. Otherwise, he cannot lead you effectively. Above all, never speak to others regarding anything you cannot or will not directly say to your pastor. If you do this, you will cultivate a healthy church.
3. Respect your pastor. Remember that your pastor is the head of your church. Give him the benefit of the doubt that he will listen to you and hear you. But respect his leadership. Otherwise, he cannot lead you effectively and chaos or division can ensue. Remember that your direct line of communication is with your pastor. Do not ever go behind the pastor's back or over the pastor's head unless he has committed a felony (or near such). Give him the respect of speaking with him directly and not circumventing his authority. If you want a long and healthy relationship together, you will need to respect his leadership.
4. Listen. To your pastor and to each other. Listening is often a lost art. But as you know, when you all have listened to each other and respected each other, you have been a powerful force for the good. Respect each other and your differing opinions. Diverse opinions are not bad. They can in fact spur creativity and growth if communication happens collaboratively.
5. Put faith first. Do not make decisions based in fear or doubt or the "way it's always been before." Faith means stepping out and trusting in the Holy Spirit to lead you forward into a new place, where you have never been before. Faith is not about the past but about the future. Remember that the church is not a corporation or a school or a board of directors or a club. You are a community of faith. You gather to praise God, to pray, to worship, and to create a place of inclusion and healing for all people. Your mission is not to try to get people in, but for you to go out. When you go out in faith for the right reasons, people will eventually come in. Your mission is to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to your neighbors and your communities in ways that resonate with people out there. Never forget who you are. And remember what your mission is, the one that Jesus gave you, not the one that resonates with your own preferences, but a place in which you try to discern the needs of those

outside of the church and find ways to help them resonate with Jesus in their lives in the ways that work for them. That's why it's called a mission.

6. Pray. A praying church is a healthy church. Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit more than you trust in your own and you will be far ahead of most churches. Let go of power struggles and control as much as you possibly can and become a church that relies on prayer to discern the path that Jesus wants you to take as a people. You will not only learn your direction, but you will be a joyful and peaceful people.
7. Finally, love God and love one another. This was Jesus' primal command. If anything you say or do is not done in love, back up, and try again differently. Resolve differences in the open in kindness and genuine love. And as Paul says, even if you believe something to be true yourself, if it causes your brother or sister to stumble, let it go. Your relationships with God and each other must always come first and are much more valuable than any opinion you may be harboring.

I have loved my time with you, and most of all, I have loved you. I know that your new pastor will love you as well. So be good to him. And to each other. Be well and may God's peace go with you always.

Pastor Lori

## Worship Services

Quakertown United Methodist Church offers 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. in-person worship in the sanctuary for up to 100 people, as well as 9:00 a.m. outdoor parking lot worship. 11:00 a.m. worship will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Please join us!

## COVID-19 Update

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

As we return to in-person worship, please consider the following guidelines:

- While indoors, wear a mask at all times
- Maintain social distancing by:
  - Sitting on one side of the pew where a banded book is located
  - Sitting with no one directly in front of you
  - Sitting with only family members in the same pew
- Feel free to hum along with hymns (do not sing)
- Responsive readings can be silent; you may reflect on the words or simply repeat them in silence
- Socialize outside of the church, not in the sanctuary or narthex. This is not only due to social distancing, but also because the 11 AM service is recorded in its entirety (including the postlude).

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 Counting Team will continue to count weekly offerings and the Sexton will continue to clean the building.

All meetings and groups can continue to meet online. If you need a ZOOM link for such purposes, contact the Church Secretary ([barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com) or 215.538.7817).

# June Children's Message: A Bug's Life



Hey Kids!

Have you noticed another strange looking bug living on your shrubs and trees lately? After 17 long years, trillions of a special breed of cicadas, referred to as Brood X, are emerging from the ground in Pennsylvania, and other nearby states, to "do their thing." Their "thing" means that the cicadas will climb trees (hoping to avoid hungry rodents and birds) and shed or "molt" their outer hardened shells; the male cicadas will serenade the females with continuous and very loud, annoying love songs; they will mate, and the female cicadas will lay eggs in branches of trees; the adults will die shortly afterwards; the eggs will hatch and fall to the ground; and newborn cicadas will dig their way into the dirt, feeding off plant roots, where they spend the next 17 years in peaceful adolescence before reappearing. These particular cicadas must make very efficient use of their time with only 3-4 weeks above ground.

Keep in mind a cicada is not the same thing as a locust, the insect we read about in several books of the Bible. Locusts, a form of grasshopper, only live about one year, they often hang together in swarms, and they do eat and cause major damage to crops and vegetation.

We may get creeped out by these large bugs at first, but Brood X cicadas don't bite or sting and do little, if any, damage to trees and vegetation. They are actually quite fascinating. Since you only have a few weeks every 17 years to observe these cicadas, don't waste the time. Grab an empty box, go outdoors, ignore their irritating sounds and collect some empty cicada shells.

You'll get to see the offspring (children) of this generation of cicadas when they emerge from the ground in Year 2038! By that time, you will be grown up and maybe even married! Cicadas' lives are pretty predictable. Our lives are not. Lots of things can and will happen in our world and in our lives over the next 17 years. Some of those things will be truly wonderful; some will be challenging. Remember kids, as you grow, to make good decisions and act in a manner that always follows God's teachings and makes your parents proud.

Mrs. Molly Minarik



### QUMC Spring Breakfast Postponed

The tentative QUMC Spring Breakfast has been postponed until summer. Look for information in the upcoming monthly newsletter and weekly bulletins. The breakfast will afford members an opportunity to reunite with familiar faces, meet new people, and return to an atmosphere of fellowship.

### Prayer Vigil, Saturday July 3 to Sunday, July 4

In preparation for the arrival of Pastor Rick Brown, our new pastor, we will be praying him into ministry here at QUMC. We will pray our hearts into readiness to receive him, as is our tradition. The Youth Group will be helping to plan this Prayer Vigil and we are excited to share this opportunity with the congregation.

From Saturday, July 3 at 8:00 a.m. until Sunday, July 4 at 8:00 a.m., we ask that you sign up for half-hour blocks of time. During your chosen time of prayer, we will commit to praying over this ministry change, for the outgoing and incoming clergy, their families, and the transitioning congregations. Each time slot will have an additional entry to allow for prayer partners, whether parent, spouse, or friend, for those who prefer to pray in company. This means there will be 48 total time slots to fill with each time slot having two possible entries. Hopefully between our night owls, early birds, and insomniacs, we will cover our church with prayer throughout this Prayer Vigil. We will share a prayer guidance sheet based on information gathered about the incoming and outgoing pastors, including specifics to pray about, just like we have done in the past based on the model created by the late Mary Schwer.

A Signup Genius webpage has been created for anyone to enter their name to sign up for the time of their choice. Those uncertain of how to do this can call or email Babs Kerns so she can help or enter the information for you. Babs' contact information can be found at the bottom of this message. Here is the Signup Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4facad28a2ff2-qumc>

The wonderful thing about prayer is that it can be done by anyone from anywhere! Because we don't need to pray at the church building itself, this means anyone traveling at the time can still participate in this vital church ministry wherever they find themselves. As a church, we definitely covet your prayers during this transition!

Thank you so much for continuing to support our church family in old and new ways as we embark on this new journey. We look forward to joining with you in ministry this year as we welcome Pastor Rick Brown to QUMC!

In His Service, Babs Kerns  
[babs.kerns@gmail.com](mailto:babs.kerns@gmail.com) (preferred method of contact)  
267.825.5693 (cell phone)



**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).**

What a great day to be at Arts Alive on Saturday, May 15! Marj Lofland, Pastor Kathryn, and some of our youth families did a great job manning the craft table and assisting kids as they decorated flower pots and planted marigold seeds in them. Pastor Lori was even there, overseeing a chalk competition happening on the sidewalk. There were some really beautiful and creative chalk drawings.

A big thank you to everyone who helped out with this annual Quakertown community event!





The Youth Car Wash was postponed. Watch your email for more information, including the upcoming date and time for this event. Youth will host a car wash at QUMC and at the same time, will be collecting items for Lily's Hope, an organization that provides supplies for families of premature babies. Items we will be collecting include: baby laundry detergent, Chapstick, baby wipes, premie diapers, disinfecting cleaning wipes, and blankets for both babies and adults.

Iron Pigs Game, Sunday, June 13. The youth will be going to this Iron Pigs game at Coca-Cola Park.

QUMC Confirmation Retreat, Tuesday, July 13 through Thursday, July 15.

QUMC Confirmation: Stay tuned; a date will be planned for this upcoming fall.

The Library Project is underway! The youth will be collecting books for our little library project that will begin once school winds down. The plan is for the youth to build a "take a book, leave a book library." The youth got Trustee approval to put this little library somewhere on the church property, and will help to maintain it. We are looking for donations of any kind of books, "appropriate" for all ages. Children's books, biblical books, fiction, all are welcome! Books can be dropped off in Pastor Kathryn's office or you may contact her to drop books off or if you have questions. Follow the link below to see an example of what we will be doing. The youth voted for the little library to be in the shape of a church. Donations of books, supplies, or cash to help build this project would be greatly welcomed.

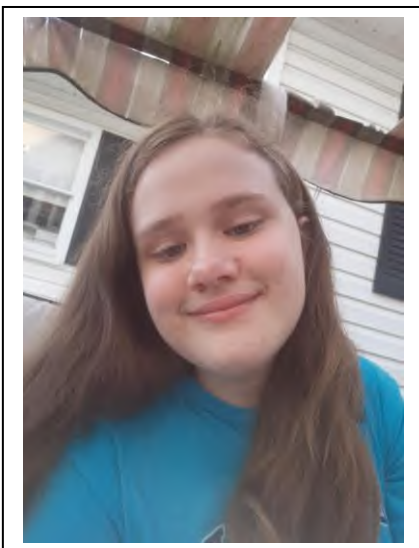
<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>



Attention Youth Group Girls! Are you a middle- or high-schooler? Well, Pastor Kathryn hopes you like Panera because once a month the youth girls meet with her at Panera in Quakertown! Growing up can be hard, but this is a safe zone of fellowship and fun. We chit-chat, laugh, tell stories, and just enjoy each other's company while building friendships. Summer dates are coming soon!

## In the Spotlight

### Confirmand Elizabeth Skorochood



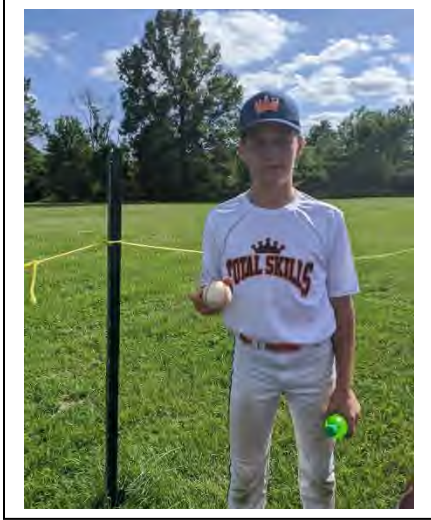
My name is Elizabeth Skorochood. I am 14-years-old and attend First United Methodist in Bangor. Due to a pastoral change and the church being closed due to COVID, I had no idea how I would ever be confirmed...

Luckily, my mom has known Pastor Jim for nearly 25 years, serving as organist at a couple of his appointments. I met Pastor Jim when I was only days old and started attending church with my Mom. Since she played the organ for two services and couldn't leave me alone, I was always with her at church. Pastor Jim baptized me and I am excited to have him confirm me, while getting to meet new friends!

I'm in 8th grade at Faith Christian School in Roseto, where I am involved in chorus and the Women's Bible Study. Outside of school, I have danced with Miss Julie's in Roseto for nine years and I love attending church camps at Pocono Plateau, Spruce Lake, and Bowman Park Camp. I have also served as groundskeeper for Zion Presbyterian Church in Wind Gap.



Confirmand Chris Gray and Mentor Jeff Vietmeier



Hi, my name is Chris Gray and I am in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Strayer Middle School. I grew up coming to church both here and at Mountainhome United Methodist Church in the Poconos. In my free time, I like to play baseball, hunt, fish, and play guitar. One thing I like about Quakertown UMC is how everyone is always nice to me and how they like to hear me sing.

Hi, I'm Jeff Vietmeier and I am married with two children, ages 8 and 17. We have been members of Quakertown United Methodist Church for 21 years. I taught Sunday School for several years and have been involved with the youth and church committees for over 29 years. During that time, I have mentored 15 youth and I enjoy being part of our church family.

## Faith Preschool News



Faith Preschool still has some openings for the upcoming 2021-2022 School Year! There are limited openings for the two-year-old, three-year-old, and Pre-K classes. The four-year-old class is currently full.

Our two-year-old class runs **once a week** on either Tuesday or Friday, our three-year-old class runs Tuesday and Thursday, and our Pre-K class runs Monday through Thursday. All classes run 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please reach out to Megan McGinty (registrarfps@gmail.com). For your convenience, the registration form for Faith Preschool can be found here <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vq2wupgX4r24OWo3gcokTFNWLuHaTIFH/view?usp=sharing>

Thank you!  
The Staff of Faith Preschool

*"You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, and dearly loved and precious in his sight." - Psalm 139*

# From Missions Commission



This month, Missions will try a different type of “drive.” On **Saturday, June 19**, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, we will host a non-food drive in the pavilion at the back of the church. For this “Feed Other Needs Drive,” we are asking people NOT to bring food. At this time, food pantries are filled to the brim with food items, however they DO need toiletries (toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.), paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), cleaning supplies (household cleaners, dish soap, disinfectant wipes, etc.), and laundry supplies (detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, etc.). Please do not bring aspirin, vitamins, or supplements. Once again, we appreciate your kindness and generosity. Thank you!

Now that many of us are feeling confident enough to head back to church, the Missions Team will once again begin collecting monthly for “Quakertown Cares,” a community non-profit. Quakertown Cares supports local families who have suffered a crisis situation and need temporary help to get back on their feet. Perhaps a family member has a serious illness or has lost a job. If funds are available, Quakertown Cares steps in to help. Following worship services on **Sunday, June 27**, Missions will have buckets available for your monetary donations. Thank you in advance of your support of this community effort.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, August 14!** There will be a Backpack and Back to School Supplies Drive, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. More information will be available in the July/August edition of the newsletter.

For more information on Missions outreach programs of the church, contact Carol Pertuit (610-346-6713 or [carolpertuit@verizon.net](mailto:carolpertuit@verizon.net)).



## *Family Matters*

**Happy Birthday to:** Edward Moore - June 13.

### **Notes of Thanks:**

*“Thank you to all who donated clothing to the May 22 clothing drive. We appreciate your generosity. Two carloads of clothing were received and will be shared with those in need.”*

*The Missions Commission*

*“Thank you all for the kind departing gifts. I will miss you all. Best wishes for the future of QUMC!”*

*Blessings & Peace, Pastor Lori*



### **Christian Education Opportunities**

Children and Youth Sunday School is now on summer hiatus. The Adult Friday Morning Bible Study and Devotional is being held online through June 25. We look forward to the kick-off of the new Sunday School year on Rally Day, Sunday, September 12! Details to follow. For more information on Christian Education opportunities, including how you can help or participate, 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:  
Doug Wilson (doug.wilson.ag@gmail.com)

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)





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## A LOOK *at the* BUDGET

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During the month of June, financial statements for the first half of 2021 will be mailed out to those who have contributed to the church so far this year. If you have questions about your statement or about giving in general, please contact Financial Secretaries Bob & Anna Mushrush (215.536.3112 or [robert.mushrush@yahoo.com](mailto:robert.mushrush@yahoo.com)). Thank you in advance for your continued commitment, financial support and faithfulness to QUMC.

The 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](mailto:loribethwagner@gmail.com) or 360.298.8327). A Stewardship Chair is needed as well. Both of these positions are very important to the financial health of the church.

**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.

**Please Note:** Although Pastor Lori is currently on vacation/transition time, please remember that she remains our pastor until July 1. Should you require pastoral assistance at any time prior to July 1, please contact Pastor Lori ([loribethwagner@gmail.com](mailto:loribethwagner@gmail.com) or 360.298.8327).



### **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 May/June edition of The Upper Room are now available in the narthex! If you would like a copy of The Upper Room mailed to you, please contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or [barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com)) and she will send a copy out to you.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Prayer Shawls**

Handmade prayer shawls are available for those who are ill, grieving, or just lonely. To request a shawl, contact the Church Secretary (215.538.7817 or [barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com)) or Janet Finch (215.538.0835).

### **Worship Bulletins**

Anyone wishing to have a copy of the bulletin and hymns each week, please contact [barb@qumc.com](mailto:barb@qumc.com) or 215.538.7817 to get on the email or USPS mail list.

### **Church Membership**

Contact Pastor Lori at [loribethwagner@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the publishing month. Please note the July/August edition of the newsletter is a combined summer issue.



## **Looking for Ways to Help**

**Finance Chair Committee Member Needed:** Quakertown United Methodist Church is in need of a Chair for the Finance Committee. If you have a background in finance and are willing to volunteer for a three-year term as Chair of Finance, please contact Pastor Lori ([loribethwagner@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:loribethwagner@gmail.com) or 360.298.8327) to volunteer for this position.

**Volunteers Wanted at Outreach Care:** Outreach Care provides resources to the homeless in Upper Bucks County to help them get back on their feet. Mentors and drivers are needed, as well as volunteers to help with fundraising, taking phone calls and organizing special events. Give as little or as much time as you can. If you like helping your own community, contact Joanne Cramer (610-442-6465).

**You Are Needed!** There are many opportunities for members of the congregation to serve not only our God, but the QUMC church as well. Please contact Pastor Lori to find out how you may fit into the plans of our church.