

The Freier Flyer

Quakertown United Methodist Church

November 2021

1875 Freier Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

www.qumc.com

Letting Your Leaves Fall



Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree “Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!” But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don’t stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn’t hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God’s Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. *Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)*

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

- ✓ By reading God’s Word.
- ✓ By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.
- ✓ By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.
- ✓ By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we’re not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. *Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)*

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other “decayed leaves” you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.

Article by Rachel Wojo
Dayspring, Living Your Faith



Going the Distance

The Rev. Richard K. Brown II, Pastor

Greetings, good people, on this day the Lord has made.

Yet another month has come and gone but like those before it, October was a busy month! We saw the restarting of the Wednesday evening Fellowship Dinners thanks to the efforts of Dianne and Bill Scott and their team of volunteers. It has been a pleasure each Wednesday to come together for good food and fellowship as well as time of study. Our focus ahead of the Fall holidays is cultivating an "Attitude of Gratitude." We saw many familiar faces and several new ones at these dinners and I look forward to seeing them to completion.

With the closing of the month of October, Halloween came and went. Our church hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event in the main parking lot. It was a great success with 107+ people coming for a fun night. My particular thanks to Erin Hudson and Megan McMichael for organizing and running this event. We had many creative trunks decorated in everything from cats to witches, sports centers to camp sites, carnivals to superheroes and much more.

Also with the close of the month was our annual celebration of All Saints Sunday. We read the names of our members who passed since our last celebration and tolled the bell for each. Following this, we had a time of general remembrance, befitting the name of the day: All Saints. I am grateful to all of you for engaging in this sacred yet sorrowful day as we both remember our saints and recommit ourselves to being the saints of today.

There is still so much to cover that happened but I will trust your reading about such things in other sections of this newsletter. Thank you for your attention, good people, I look forward to what the Lord has in store for us before our next publication.

God bless you all.

Pastor Rick Brown

Youth Ministry, Office Hours (and More!) from Pastor Rick:

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry has continued to build this past month. With studies of the Book of Jonah, David and Goliath, Hannah, and the Creation story in Genesis, we delved deep into God's Word with creative games and activities to further said teaching. Pastor Kathryn and I invite you to join us **Wednesdays** from **6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** We begin our time together in Miller Hall and host our studies in the Youth Room.

Leading up to the Trunk-or-Treat on October 23, the Youth Group held its monthly outing by going to Windy Springs Farms. After some apple cider slushies and pumpkin picking, we returned to QUMC to take part in the Trunk-or-Treat. It was a great night and I am grateful to our youth and their families for the fun and help with these church events.

Office Hours & Sabbath

Last month we shared my early office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Please know that these are most certainly not the only times you can meet with your pastor. Give me a call, shoot me a text, or pop me an email so we can work out a time to meet that best fits your schedule.

In addition to this, I wish to share when I take my Sabbath: Fridays. As a great bit of symmetry, Pastor Kathryn takes her Sabbath on Mondays so if you have a need you will always be able to reach one of us for pastoral care needs. Pastor Kathryn can be reached at kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632.

And Last...(but certainly not least):



Please continue to help Pastor Rick and his family get to know all of us. There are name tag lanyards displayed alphabetically in the narthex. Upon your arrival at church, please pick up your lanyard and wear it so that Pastor Rick can put names and faces together. As you leave the building, either return your lanyard to the table or take it with you.

If you have any questions on the "Getting to Know You" initiative, or need a name tag lanyard, please feel free to contact the Church Secretary (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com). Thank you!



Pastor Rick is available by phone (484.358.1138) or by email (pastorrick@qumc.com).

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Our worship and Sunday School schedule at QUMC is:

- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. - Worship
- 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School for Children and Adults
- 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon – Worship

11:00 a.m. worship will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

If you have any questions about the new worship schedule, please feel free to contact Pastor Rick (484.358.1138 or pastorrick@qumc.com) or Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com).

November Children's Message

HEY KIDS, IT'S NOVEMBER ALREADY!



During the month of November, we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. We get together with our families and enjoy a big meal, and maybe we even do some holiday shopping the Friday after Thanksgiving Day. There are a lot of things we should be thankful for, and not just at Thanksgiving. Here are just a few.

The food we enjoy -

There are people throughout the world who live on only bread or rice; and sadly sometimes, people in poor countries die of starvation.

We seldom ever hear our bellies growl; we have food in our kitchens; and there are grocery stores near us. Thank you, *God*, for all the good food we have to eat.

The homes we live in -

War, poverty, and terrible weather destroy the homes of people in many parts of the world every year. Some people are forced to live in tents or group shelters.

We each have nice, comfortable homes that are warm in the winter and cool in the summer; homes we share with our families and sleep soundly in at night. Thank you, *God*, for our homes.

The schools we attend -

It is tough to believe that many kids in parts of the world do not go to school. Sometimes, there are no school buildings or teachers for them. And sometimes governments do not allow children to attend school.

We have good schools and teachers and study materials to help kids learn all about the world and prepare them for the time when they will be grown-ups and parents themselves. Thank you, *God*, for our schools.

Our health -

There are not enough good doctors or hospitals or medicines to treat or save every person in the world.

We have nutritious foods and nice gyms and walking trails to help keep us healthy. We also have very good doctors and hospitals and medicines. Thank you, *God*, for all these things.

Our church and our freedom to worship -

In many parts of the world, there are no churches, and people are not even allowed to worship. We have a beautiful church where we can worship together with our church family. Thank you, God.

I am sure you can think of many other things you are thankful for. List them on a piece of paper. Maybe you can use this November Children's Message and your list as a prayer at your Thanksgiving table this year.

Happy November. **THANK YOU** for reading my Children's Message each month.

Mrs. Molly Minarik



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday Morning, 9:45 to 10:45 p.m.

2-Years-Old to Kindergarten	Room 107/108
Grades 1 to 5	Room 106
Middle and High School	Room 105
Women's Class	Room 114
Men's Class	Room 112
Faithbuilders	Room 109

Children's Sunday School classes, age two through grade 12, now meet in Miller Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. for a brief period of fellowship, songs, and prayer. After opening exercises, teachers will escort the children to their individual classrooms. Parents can pick up their children from their respective classroom at 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School is in need of additional Middle School/High School teachers. We are also in need of assistants and substitutes for the program. Anyone interested in giving of their time and talent to this ministry of the church is asked to contact Christine Rush at (215.264.4815 or rushcm@npenn.org).

Small groups are an integral part of the Christian Education program at QUMC!

Bread for the Journey is a small group meeting Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m. in the Library. Together we pray, explore Scripture, and read and discuss books as we journey together to grow in our relationship with God. For more information, contact Gale Hewitt (gwhewitt4@gmail.com or 267.218.2479).

The Friday Online Bible Study meets on ZOOM, Friday mornings, 9:30 a.m. To learn more about this small group, contact Gail Schadler (glschadler@gmail.com) or Janet Finch (jmfumw@aol.com).

From Missions Commission



Chicken Barbecue: The final numbers are in!

On September 11, QUMC served a total of 384 people at the Chicken Barbecue. After expenses, Missions made a profit of \$4,016.67. We sent four donations of \$600 each to: Jerusalem House in Allentown, Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, and Eliberto & Molly Juarez and Emily Miller, all three missionaries. A balance of \$1,616.67 remains and will be disbursed to five additional local organizations. We will also use a portion of the remaining money for food prep for Quakertown's Code Blue Shelter.

Missions could not have done the Chicken Barbecue without the help of the congregation. We had a total of 46 families help out. Thank you one and all!

Blanket Sunday

At difficult times, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That is why the Church World Service Blanket program was created - to provide a tangible response to someone facing trying times, a reminder they are not alone.

Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations, and individuals, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and warm with a fresh blanket. To someone in need, the \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way.

Blanket Sunday at QUMC will be **Sunday, November 14**. Donation envelopes will be provided in the worship bulletin that day.

Food Drive

The Missions Team is asking for Thanksgiving-related food donations for Jerusalem House of Allentown. Turkeys can be placed in the kitchen freezer, while side dishes (clearly labeled "JH") can be left on the kitchen counter. Donations should be dropped off by **Sunday, November 21** and will be delivered to Jerusalem House by members of the Missions Team. Thank you!





Wednesday Fellowship Dinners continue through November 17.

Dinner is ready is 5:00 p.m. Come when you can, leave when you must. Hope to see you there!

It's a "Sprinkle" and You're Invited!

What: We will "sprinkle" Pastor Rick, Kim (and Ella) with the congregation's love and best wishes for their soon-to-be newborn. The baby is expected on Christmas Day. Join us for cake, ice cream, and fellowship.

When: Sunday, November 21 at 12:00 noon (following 11:00 a.m. worship)

Where: Miller Hall

To contribute to the purchase of a gift card from the congregation-at-large, please drop your gift in one of the baby banks in the narthex (you can even guess if it's a boy or girl!). If you would like to leave a card with well wishes, there is a box next to the banks for cards. Thank you!

Contact Molly Minarik (610.282.3708 or craftlover38@aol.com) with questions.

Thank Offering Sunday is November 21.

On this day, we will collect our annual Thank Offering for the women, children and youth of the world, sponsored by the United Methodist Women Organization. Special envelopes marked "Thank Offering" are available in the narthex. Please place only bills or checks in the envelope (no coins, please). Checks can be made payable to QUMC. Thank you for your generosity!

QUMC Educational Endowment Fund Grants will be distributed on Sunday, November 21.

This year, we will joyfully be distributing grants to seven young adults of the church.

Holiday Handbell Concert, Saturday, December 11, 4:00 p.m.

Experience music of the holiday season as the exceptional Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble presents "Sleigh Ride!" Featuring our own Director of Music, Bethan Neely, the program features everything from three versions of *Sleigh Ride*, to a wide array of Christmas carols, the coquettish *Santa Baby*, and the charming *White Christmas*. A holiday musical delight, the concert is sure to send you into the night filled with the warm sounds of the season.

This concert series is the debut of PHE's new Artistic Director, Lynn G. Atkins, Jr. A freewill offering will be received. Suggested donation: \$10.



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

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

YOUTH GROUP MEETS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, 6:30 TO 8:00 PM

Our Youth Group is primarily for fourth- to twelfth-graders; however, if you have a younger child who would like to attend please contact Pastor Kathryn and Pastor Rick so we can have a conversation. Likewise, if you are a high school graduate and would like to take part, please be in touch as we can share specifics of how you can become a Youth Group volunteer. A friendly reminder that all youth are welcome to attend - you need not be a member of QUMC. So please feel free to invite friends and family to attend.



MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS!

In October, the monthly Panera outing with Pastor Kathryn started back up after a busy summer! This is a chance for middle school and high school girls to have fun and fellowship in a casual setting with Pastor Kathryn. Email kathrynswan19@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to join us!

Our November date for Panera is Sunday, November 14,
4:00 p.m.



TRIP TO WINDY SPRINGS FARM

Youth had a great time dressing up and going pumpkin picking!

Windy Springs Farm was a success to find pumpkins at this pumpkin patch to bring back to the church to decorate. It was a fun time of fellowship and apple cider slushees!





Family Matters

Happy Birthday to: Ethel Setman - November 6; Adele Winkler - November 26.

A Note of Thanks:

“The Friendship Circle would like to thank everyone who supported the Fall Rummage Sale held October 29 and 30.

A sincere thank you to everyone who donated items and gave of their time to help before, during, and after the sale. With your help, we were able to have a record sale raising over \$5,000! 10% of the funds will be tithed to a mission need and the balance will be used to fund necessary projects or items in the church.”

Looking For Ways To Help?



- The Hospitality Ministry is in need of volunteers in these areas: Greeters, Hospitality Table, Welcome Center. If you are interested in serving in any (or all) of these areas, contact Molly Minarik (craftlover38@aol.com or 610.282.3708).
- The Bountiful Basket of Morning Snacks at our Hospitality Table is a popular spot on Sunday mornings! Donations of pre-packaged breakfast snacks are welcomed and can be placed in the kitchen, clearly marked “Hospitality Table.” One of our church members purchased the goodies to start this ministry but your help is needed for it to continue. Many thanks!
- Finance Chair Committee Member is needed. Anyone with a background in finance who would volunteer for a three-year term as Chair of Finance (leading meetings and the team), is encouraged to contact Pastor Rick. This position is very important to the financial health of the church.
- Stewardship Chair is needed. Contact Pastor Rick if you can volunteer for this position.
- Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services Agency is looking for caring individuals or families interested in providing a short- or long-term home for a child and/or children in foster care between birth and 17 years of age. You will receive financial assistance for room and board and medical assistance. You will receive 24/7 professional supportive services and preservice training. Contact Shantelle at (215) 348 -6922 or sjgammon@buckscounty.org.
- Outreach Care is in need of volunteers to assist the homeless in Upper Bucks County by helping them to get back on their feet. Contact Joanne Cramer (610.442.6465) to learn more.



We're Updating and Would Like to Hear from You!

The church is in the process of updating telephone contact information for family and friends of QUMC. We ask that you reach out to the Church Secretary (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com) with the best contact phone number for your family. It can be a cell phone number or a landline, whichever is your preferred mode of telephone contact. Thank you!

Interested in a 2022 Confirmation Class?

Do you have basic questions about what confirmation is and our process? If you are interested in confirmation for 2022, contact Pastor Kathryn for more information (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632).

Safe Sanctuary Clearances

Welcome back everyone! Due to COVID, we lost over a year, as well as track of Safe Sanctuary clearances and expiration dates. If your clearances are updated, please make sure we have a copy for our files. Contact Marj Lofland (215.257.7389, 267.227.8990, or yeamarj@gmail.com) for more information.

The following three background checks are required:

- ✓ Department of Human Services Child Abuse History Clearance.
- ✓ Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal Records Check.
- ✓ Federal Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)

If your original form has been misplaced, or if you need a new application, you can access the following links.

Volunteer Clearances (If your clearances need renewal)

All volunteers working with children must meet Safe Sanctuary requirements which include:

Child Abuse Clearance <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Criminal Background Check <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

Both are currently free to obtain.

You also must get a fingerprint check done if you have not lived in the state of Pennsylvania for 10 years, or you can sign a waiver instead if you have lived in Pennsylvania for 10 or more years. Here is the link:

Fingerprinting https://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpw.htm

Lastly, there is a Safe Sanctuary training offered periodically that must be taken. If you would like hands-on First Aid and CPR training, it can be arranged by contacting Marj Lofland.

Youth Group Library Project

This project is underway. The youth are collecting books for our little library project. Contact Pastor Kathryn (kathrynswan19@gmail.com or 610.348.2632) if you have questions or are looking for more details.

Faith Preschool

For more information, reach out to Megan McGinty (registrarfps@gmail.com or 215.536.8172). The registration form for Faith Preschool can be found at :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vq2wupgX4r24OWo3gcokTFNWLuHaTIFH/view?usp=sharing>

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

Acts IV Fund

We would like to remind the church family that members of the congregation experiencing financial difficulty should contact Pastor Rick (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

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

Those who are ill, grieving or just lonely can request a shawl for comfort. Contact the church office (215.536.4992 or barb@qumc.com) or Janet Finch (215.538.0835).

Worship Service Materials

Anyone desiring a copy of the bulletin each week is asked to contact the church office (barb@qumc.com or 215.536.4992) to get on the email and/or USPS list.

Want To Become A Member or Schedule a Baptism?

The doors of QUMC are always open! Contact Pastor Rick for more information (pastorrick@qumc.com or 484.358.1138).

Paper Recycling

We like to do our part to save the planet. Receptacles can be found in the southwest corner of the church parking lot to recycle paper. 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

This is yet another way we save the planet, while helping defray costs of the annual Chicken Barbecue. Bag and bring your cans to the 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.



Thank you for your continued commitment, financial support, and faithfulness to QUMC.

The Finance Team has begun the process of establishing the 2022 budget. Please continue to keep the team in your prayers as they continue this diligent work.

Should you have any questions regarding your individual giving record, feel free to contact Financial Secretaries Bob & Anna Mushrush (215.536.3112 or robert.mushrush@yahoo.com).

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.



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!