

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**April 28, 2024**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Renee Keiper**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!**

**FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) In the wilderness, water brings life.

**(ALL) Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

(L) In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

**(ALL) Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

(L) In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

**(ALL) Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

(L) Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

**\*OPENING HYMN *This Is The Day***

**CHORUS:** *This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice as we lift His name.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Come and rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Whether the sun will shine, Whether the skies will rain.*

*I know that You are good And this is the day You made.*

*Whether in life or death, Whether in joy or pain.*

*I know this truth remains, That this is the day You made. (CHORUS)*

*Now I can walk in faith, You will protect my way.*

*Your every work is good And this is the day You made.*

*I am a child of Yours, You are the One who saves.*

*I am redeemed by love, And this is the day You made. (CHORUS)*

**(3x)** *This is the day, Come and sing your praise.*

*For the Lord now reigns On the throne of grace.*

*Soon is the day He will bring us home*

*And we have this hope For we are His own.*

**(2x)** *This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice as we lift His name.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made. Come and rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Come and rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Whether the sun will shine, Whether the skies will rain.*

*I know that You are good And this is the day You made.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Staci Gower**

**"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"**

**OFFERING – Basket located on table in the rear of the sanctuary.**

**INVITATION**

Offering what we have for the sake of others is a discipline of pruning-letting go of our possessions, our time and even ourselves to extend the gospel witness into the world. Be generous in your ministry of giving. You need not fear; you abide in the vine.

**OFFERTORY *Whate'er My God Ordains is Right***

*Whate'er my God ordains is right, His holy will abideth;*

*I will be still whate'er He does, And follow where He guideth.*

*He is my God, though dark my road; He holds me that I shall not fall;*

*And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all.*

*Whate'er my God ordains is right, He never will deceive me;*

*He leads me by the proper path, I know He will not leave me.*

*I take, content, what He has sent; His hand can turn my griefs away;*

*And patiently I wait His day, And patiently I wait His day.*

*Whate'er my God ordains is right, Though now this cup in drinking*

*May bitter seem to my faint heart, I take it all, unshrinking.*

*My God is true, each morn anew Sweet comfort yet shall fill my heart;*

*And pain and sorrow shall depart, And pain and sorrow shall depart.*

*Whate'er my God ordains is right, Here shall my stand be taken;  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, Yet I am not forsaken.  
My Father's care is round me there; He holds me that I shall not fall;  
And so to Him I leave it all, And so to Him I leave it all.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**Stephen Christiansen**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 22:25-31**

(L) From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**(ALL) The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!**

(L) All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**(ALL) For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

(L) To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**(ALL) Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**

(L) and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**\*The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

**\*New Testament Reading: Mark 8:34-38** **Pew Bible pg. 820**

**\*Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

**SERMON "If"**

**Pastor John Smith**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL**

**Led by Pastor John**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN *The Summons (#350 in the Hymnal)***

*Will you come and follow Me If I but call your name?*

*Will you go where you don't know And never be the same?*

*Will you let My love be shown, Will you let My name be known,*

*Will you let My life be grown In you and you in Me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind If I but call your name?*

*Will you care for cruel and kind And never be the same?*

*Will you risk the hostile stare Should your life attract or scare?*

*Will you let Me answer prayer In you and you in Me?*

*Will you let the blinded see If I but call your name?*

*Will you set the prisoners free And never be the same?*

*Will you kiss the leper clean, And do such as this unseen,*

*And admit to what I mean In you and you in Me?*

*Lord, Your summons echoes true When You but call my name.*

*Let me turn and follow You And never be the same.*

*In Your company I'll go Where Your love and footsteps show.*

*Thus I'll move and live and grow In You and You in Me.*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go out with joy that you have been fed and healed, securely abiding as branches of the true vine. Go and tell the story of faith that is given to you by the One who never lets you go. Seek out those who abound with sacred questions, and be ready to answer a mystery with love.

As Jesus entered into human life, his life is still alive in you. The blessing of Almighty God be upon you today and always.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL *Go Now In Peace***

***Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen.***

***Amen. Amen.***

*(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)*

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*INDICATES THAT YOU STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

## **Prayer Concerns**

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother), Barry Serfass (Brenda Hawk's brother)

### **St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

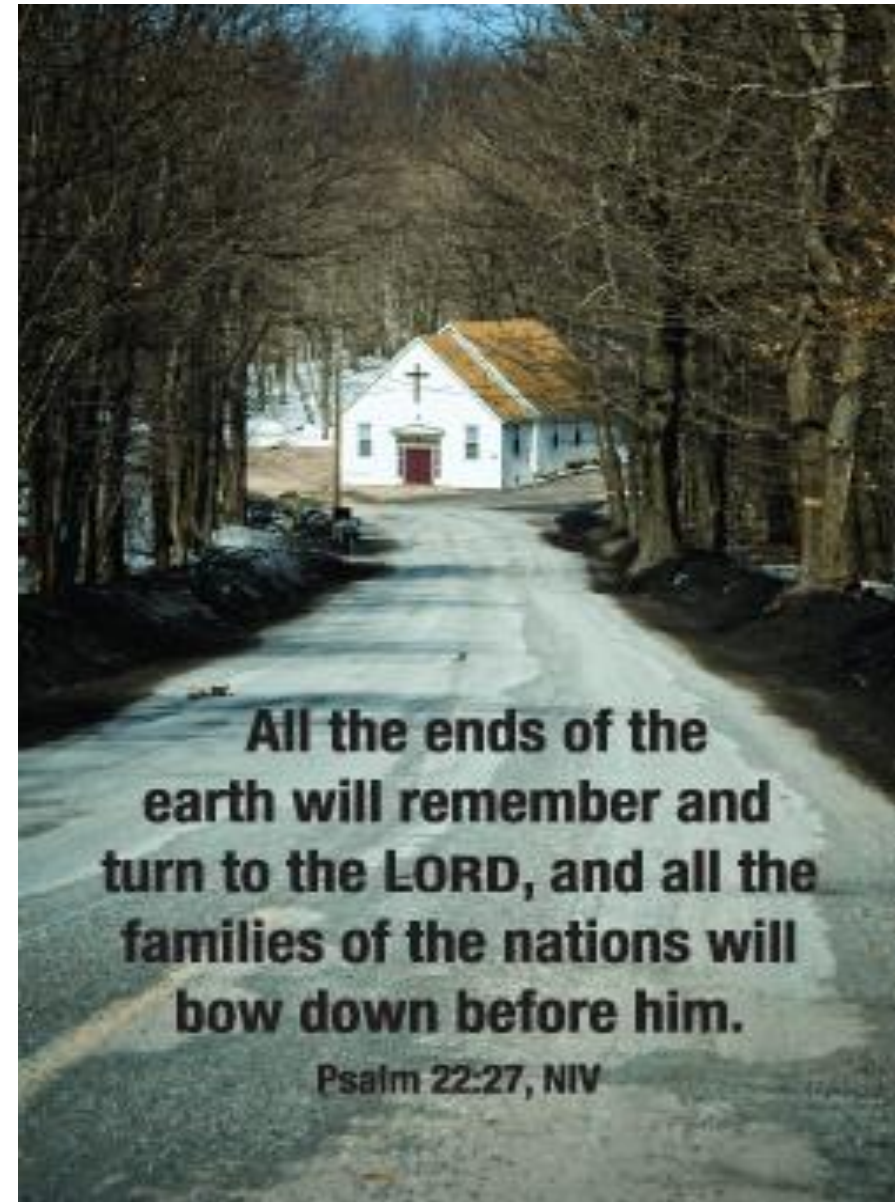
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## **The Week Ahead**

Sunday, April 28	5th Sunday of Easter	-Sanctuary, 9:00am
Monday, April 29	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Pastoral Search	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	Committee meeting	-CIA Classroom, 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 1		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, May 2	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	First Thursday Game Day	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	- Social Hall, 12:30pm
Sunday, May 5	Guest Preacher – Keith Miller	- Sanctuary, 9:00am

**April Lead Usher – Diann Bittenbender**

### **Altar Flowers**

**Vase #1 In celebration of Tom and Starlene’s 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary**  
**Vase #2 Janet’s 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday by Linda, Diane and Family**

**Thank you to Pastor John Smith for leading our service today.**

**Men’s Group – mark your calendars for May 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the date they will meet next month.**

**Trophy sponsors are needed for this year’s Car Show. There are 24 trophies available for sponsorship at \$35 each. See Megan Snyder if you have questions.**

**Volunteers are needed for the Children’s Church and the nursery during the service.**

### **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

Please see Dora to sign up for the food stands. It takes everyone to help out to make a fun and successful event! The sign-up sheet is available today.

### **LAYMEN’S FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

We are looking for donations/items for the “PA Dutch Raffle”  
(formally called Chinese Auction)

For the Strawberry Festival on June 16, 2024.

Items should have a value of at least \$25

Bring them to the church or give them to Brenda Sheckler or Shirley Brotzman.