

ST. MATTHEW'S UCC WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

Sunday Services

9am Worship

CIA Class

start at 10:30am following
worship services.



February 2024

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsucckunkletown.com

Diann Bittenbender

Council President

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Staci Gower

Christian Education

Renée Keiper

Office Manager

Dan Smale

Music Director

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's UCC

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Staci's Stuff

By Staci Gower, Coordinator of Christian Formation

Our CE team has a lot going on in February, as we learn about God's love and show compassion for others. This month, and throughout the year, we are here to be your spiritual guide and shine the light of Jesus.

The Christian Education committee is looking for new members and ideas for Faith & Family Night activities, teach Sunday School on a rotating basis, and help plan and host Vacation Bible School. Please email me or see me after church.

Join us on February 9 for our annual Hearts & Crafts Faith and Family Fun Night. We will decorate cookies, make cards and crafts as gifts, play Valentine Bingo, and Miss Dora will lead the lesson about "Measuring God's Love." It will be held 6-8 p.m. in the social hall. Please invite friends and neighbors!

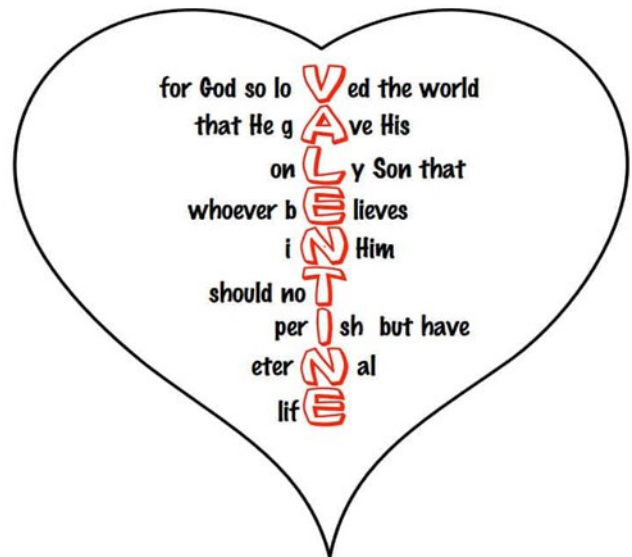
We will hand out Valentine cookies and cards on February 11 in the Narthex after worship.

Sunday School will meet February 11. I will teach the lesson, "Love Your Neighbor" and will look at the story of the Good Samaritan. Join us at 10:30 a.m. for a Bible lesson, activities, crafts, and discussion. Other Sunday School dates are March 10, April 14, and May 19. May 19 is our end of the year party in the grove.

Children's Church will continue to meet each week 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. This month we are learning about love, compassion and kindness through Bible stories and skits. We will make gifts for family members and cards for nursing home residents.

Mark your calendar for Camp Firelight VBS July 15-19, 9 am to noon in the grove. We are seeking students ages 3-11; youth helpers ages 12-17; and adult leaders ages 18 and up (must have PA background clearances).

John 3:16



Laymen's Fellowship News

Krispy Kreme Fundraiser coming in March! Yum, yum! Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be sold March 3-24, 2024. The doughnuts can be picked up April 2. Details will follow in the March White Dove flyer. You are welcome to attend Laymen's Fellowship Meetings. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m., in St. Matthew's Social Hall. Lunch will be available following the meeting!

Come and join the fun & fellowship!



LETTER FROM LINDA—All You Need Is Love



Dear Friends in Christ,

There are many kinds of love.

For instance, I love garlic bread cheesesteaks.

I love reading and painting.

I love floating in my pool on a hot summer's day.

I love sitting on a beach, sitting in the surf and letting the waves lap over my feet.

I love love love my husband, daughter, and my whole crazy family!

I love sitting in a pew in St. Matthew's on a Sunday morning with the sun poring through the beautiful stained-glass windows, singing along with the choir and one of Dan Smale's and RJ Crammer's special hymns, and hearing all about God's and Jesus's love for me.

Love is mentioned in the Bible over 600 different times. It is one of the main themes in the Bible and is an important emotion that God has commanded us to show to one another. Love is seen as an act of obedience, an expression of faith, and a form of selfless, unconditional love. The Bible tells us that we can show love for God and for our neighbors. When we put love into action through our thoughts and actions, we can build a better and more loving world.

Matthew 22:34-37. "Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"

John 13:34-35. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Are you getting the message about how Jesus felt about love? Are you picturing how hard it is to love everyone? Your neighbor who keeps borrowing stuff but forgets to return it? The person who tried to scam you out of hundreds of dollars on the phone? The driver that just stole "your" parking space? The drunk driver that killed a family of four? Countries that are bent on winning a war at all cost to human life?

Matthew 5:44. "But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Luke 6:35. "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."

Love is not just a Valentine, a box of candy or bouquet of flowers one day out of the year. It is a full-time job because there are all kinds of love...including the kind Jesus wants us to practice every day.

I don't know about you, but I've got a lot of work to do yet. I believe as long as God and Jesus sees us trying, they'll gladly help us get there.

Your friend in Christ,

Linda

DOES TRUTH EXIST?

Currently, I am taking a course based on Frank Turek's book "I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist." Over the next few months, I am going to share with you some of the things I learned. The first week of the course addresses the question "Does Truth Exist?"

Suppose someone came up to you and said, "**There is no truth.**" The question you should ask in response to that statement is, "**Is that true?**" This is what we refer to as a **self-defeating statement**. A self-defeating statement doesn't meet its own standards because it violates one of the fundamental laws of logic that we call **the law of noncontradiction**. This law says that opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.

Identifying and being able to defuse any self-defeating statements is an important tool. It simply requires being able to effectively turn the claim back on itself. This is important because these types of claims are all around us, especially on social media.

For example, consider the statement, "**There's no such thing as absolute truth.**" What question could be asked if you turned this claim on itself? How about, **Are you absolutely sure?** Another way this claim is often stated is by saying, "**All truth is relative.**" Turning this around you could respond with, **Is that a relative truth?** Take notice of how quickly these claims defeat themselves.

These claims often manifest today with the statement "**There isn't THE truth, only MY truth!**" But is this true? Is it possible that everyone can simply live out their own truth and still get along? The question we should respond with when we hear this common claim is, **Is that just YOUR truth or THE truth?** Please note, if it is just your personal opinion then there is no sense in me entertaining it. But if you're saying it is THE truth, then you are defeating yourself with the statement.

While unpopular to say in culture today, **it is accurate to say there is no such thing as YOUR truth or MY truth, there's just THE truth.** While it might be a popular thing to say, it is not the way the world works. Saying you have your own truth is equivalent to saying you have your own math.

As believers, we already have an understanding of THE truth because the Lord proclaims that **He is the way, THE TRUTH, and the life. (John 14:6).** May THE TRUTH contained in the pages of Scripture guide us every day.

Soli Deo gloria,
Dan Smale, M.A. Christian Apologetics
Email: dlsmale@gmail.com
References and Resources can be found at <http://bit.ly/ktownsltr0124>



Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Edith George, Gladys & Ray Smith—Scenic View Personal Care, 1305 Church Rd, Palmerton PA 18071

James Borger—Moravian Village Health Ctr, Rm 142, 634 E. Broad St, Bethlehem PA 18018

Larry Hahn—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064

Joyce Smale, Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360

Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

Jesse Ziegenfus—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058



Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith,
Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable,
Diane Bonser, Barbara Souders, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer,
Jeannie Anewalt, 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,
Martin Krechel (Henry's nephew) and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother),
The families of Dennis Smale, Michael Bachman, Shirley Borger, Helen Gower,
Nancy Kresge and Gladys Lindenmoyer.



It's Super Bowl time! And that means that its SOUPER Bowl time at St. Matthew's. During the month of February, please bring in cans of soup to donate to West End Food Pantry and PVEN.

Don't forget cash donations for the pot to vote for your Favorite team!!!!!!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!!!

1. SANDRA FRABLE
2. MATTHEW FRABLE
3. DELBERT KIBLER JR.
4. SUSAN SHOEMAKER, ELIJAH HALL
5. KATHRYN MINGLE
7. BRENDA HAWK, JOHN KILE, MARYLOU KOCHER
8. TIGHE MECKES
9. DARLENE SMITH
10. BETH GANNON
11. PERMA BORGER, KAREN CRAMER
12. RENEE KEIPER, JEAN SMITH
14. MARGARET HAHN
15. ERICA POZZA, COURTNEY ULMER-SMITH
17. MICHELLE BERHEL
21. CONNIE FRANTZ
23. MASON BURKIRK, SUSAN JANSEN

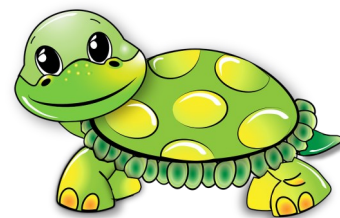
24. DAVID FRANTZ, GEORGE MORETZ
DANIEL HALL
25. CHRISTINE ECKHART, JASON FRANTZ
PATTY HAWK, STACY MECKES
28. FRANTZ ROLL



CIA COOKING CORNER

TURTLE BARS

RENEE KEIPER



Turtle Bars are a sweet, crunch combination of a shortbread crust, homemade caramel and pecans all topped in chocolate. The ultimate easy homemade candy!

Makes 16 bars.

Shortbread base:

2 cups flour 1 cup packed brown sugar 3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened

Turtle layer:

1 cup unsalted butter 1 cup packed brown sugar 1/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 tsp salt 2 cups chopped pecans 12 ounces semi-sweet choc. chips

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and spray a 13 x 9" baking dish with baking spray.
2. Add flour, 1 cup brown sugar and 3/4 cup butter to a stand mixer on medium speed until crumbly.
3. Press into the baking dish evenly.
4. Add 1 cup butter, 1 cup brown sugar, heavy cream and 1/4 tsp salt to a medium saucepan on medium heat.
5. Stir non-stop until mixture comes to a boil, then cook for 1 additional minute.
6. Remove from heat and pour mixture over the cookie base.
7. Sprinkle pecans over the caramel.
8. Bake for 18-20 minutes.
9. Sprinkle chocolate chips over the baked bars as soon as they come out of the oven and let sit for 5 minutes to melt (you can cover the pan with a baking sheet to keep the heat in)
10. Spread chocolate carefully with spatula or fork.
11. Cool completely before slicing and serving.
12. ENJOY!!!!

February 2024

*** MEN'S GROUP

READ WEEK FOUR OF THE DEVOTIONAL BOOK AND BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT ON FEBRUARY 10TH.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 Rotary Club Designer Purse Bingo 1:00pm	5	6	7	8	9 Faith & Family Night	10 *** Beer, Brats & Breakfast 9:00am
11 Sunday School	12 Council 7pm	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Laymen's Fellowship 10am	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Income for 2023

12/3/23—77 Attending	\$2,227.00
12/10/23—64 Attending	\$2,390.00
12/17/23—115 Attending	\$3,655.00
12/24/23—9am-69 Attending	\$3,515.00
12/24/23—7pm—134 Attending	\$4,314.00
12/31/23—55 Attending	\$6,688.00

Total General Fund

\$22,789.00

Income for 2022

12/4/22 - 9am—98 Attending	\$3,292.00
12/11/22—9am—55 Attending	\$2,115.00
12/18/22—9am—133 Attending	\$6,224.25
12/24/22—7pm—132 Attending	\$5,754.00
12/24/22—9pm—65 Attending	\$1,462.00
12/25/22—9am—28 Attending	\$463.00
Mail in Offerings—\$1,225.00	

Total General Fund

\$20,535.25