

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

May 5, 2024

6th 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) Sing to our God a new song.

(ALL) God has done marvelous things!

(L) Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

(ALL) Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

(L) Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

(ALL) Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

OPENING HYMN *Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow-- Blessings all mine with ten thousand
beside!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love that we may show that love to the world. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

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

INVITATION

Let us show our friendship with Christ and our love for our neighbors by giving generously so that we may bear the lasting fruit of Christ's love.

MIDDLE HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.*

***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

Cheryl Hummer

Responsive Reading: Psalm 98

(L) O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

(ALL) The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

(L) He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

(ALL) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

(L) Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

(ALL) With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

(L) Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

(ALL) Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

(L) at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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

***New Testament Reading:** Luke 10:25-28 Pew Bible pg 844

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

SERMON “Bridges, Dishes and Crosses” **Pastor Keith**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **Pastor Keith**

The Lord be with you... **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts... **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God...**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is a right and joyful thing to offer thanks to you, O God, the source of all creation. Your holy energy flows in animals and plants, makes them move, and gives them desire to live. You brought forth the world in love, and in your great love creation finds at last its proper end. And so with the hosts of heaven we join in saying:

(SPOKEN)Holy! Holy! Holy! **LORD! God of Sabaoth, Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the LORD.

Hosanna in the highest!

You fill our world with glory and light, and yet our mortal eyes cannot behold so bright a truth. Therefore in time you sent us Jesus Christ, your truth made flesh. He lived among us, teaching, healing, and revealing the boundless riches of your grace, that everyone might see and know the power of your love for us.

For on the night he was betrayed the Lord took bread, and giving thanks and breaking it, he said, “This is my body, given for you.”

And after supper he took the cup and giving thanks, he said, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS IN THE PEWS - EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Send your Holy Spirit on us here and on the gifts of bread and wine we share. Make us, gathered here in love for you, members of the body of our Lord, that we may share the promise of the gospel, one with Christ, and one in ministry to all the world. Through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen

***THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**

Led by Pastor Keith

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** *Trust and Obey*

*When we walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear, Not a sorrow we share, But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, Not a frown nor a cross, But is blest if we trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*But we never can prove The delights of His love Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows And the joy He bestows Are for them who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*Then in fellowship sweet We will sit at His feet, Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, Where He sends we will go; Never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.
Trust and obey, For there's no other way To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor Keith

Live in the joy of Christ's love and in all the marvelous things that God is doing! May the righteous fairness of God, the loving friendship of Christ, and the gift of the Holy Spirit go with you all.

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG 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, 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)

"O sing to the Lord

a new song, for he has

done marvelous things."



Psalm 98:1

The Week Ahead

Sunday, May 5	6th Sunday of Easter	-Sanctuary, 9:00am
Monday, May 6		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, May 8		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, May 9		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, May 12	7 th Sunday of Easter	- Sanctuary, 9:00am
	Guest Preacher – James Ozinski	

May Lead Usher – Hal Eckhart

Altar Flowers

Vase #1 In memory of Mae Borger by her family

Vase #2 In honor of Abby Huber’s birthday by her Mom and Dad

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

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Council President: Diann Bittenbender

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

Office Manager: Renée Keiper

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Thank you to Pastor Keith Miller for leading our service today.

Men’s Group – mark your calendars for the next meeting on May 18th.

Pastor Mike would like to invite anyone interested to a Bible discussion group on Thursdays at 12:30pm, at Papa Al’s on Delaware Ave in Palmerton. A chapter will be chosen for you to read in advance. Then the discussion will take place at the restaurant while you enjoy a delicious meal.

On Wednesdays, at 1:00pm Pastor Mike leads a Bible Study People’s EC Church is located at 216 Wagner Street, Lehighton.

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.