

# ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

## WHITE DOVE FLYER

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

Sunday Services

9am Worship

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CIA Class  
start at 10:30am following  
worship services.



### AUGUST 2024

Secretary Office Hours are:

**Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm**

**Phone: 610-381-2442**

**Email: [stmatts@ptd.net](mailto:stmatts@ptd.net)**

**Website: [stmattsucckunkletown.com](http://stmattsucckunkletown.com)**

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## Letter from Linda



Dear Friends in Christ,

Ahhh, Summer. There is so much to love about the season of summer. Hot hazy days, great for swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, biking and just plain relaxing underneath a shady tree.

Picnics with the aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers grilling.

The smell of freshly mowed grass.

Sipping a cold glass of iced tea or freshly squeezed lemonade.

A backyard game of bean bags or a baseball game with friends.

And then there are the flowers of summer. They are too numerous to mention but my favorites are the Daisies. Simple white petals with yellow centers. My next favorites are the Black-Eye Susans, followed by the amazing Sunflowers!

I love driving along rural roads and seeing a huge display of bright orange day lilies, cornflowers, chicory, and so many others. Do you remember as a kid picking Queen Anne's Lace and dipping them in food colored water to turn them red, blue, green or yellow?

We used to sing a song in Sunday School with a lyric of "He paints the lily of the field, Perfumes each lily bell; If He so loves the little flowers, I know He loves me well. (Chorus) He loves me too, He loves me too, I know He loves me too; Because He loves the little things, I know He loves me too."

In Genesis 1:9-25, on the third day of creation, God made seas and dry land, vegetation and trees; on the fourth day, He created the sun, moon and stars; on the fifth day, fish and birds; and on the sixth day, animals and humans. After each day pronounced, "And God saw that it was good."

Now Summer also has things I hate...bugs. I hesitate to say the word "hate". That's because one day last week, I used the word "hate" in reference to snakes. My great-nephew, Wade, told me I said a bad word. I asked what was the bad word and he said it was "hate." Growing up, my mom also told me that "hate" was a bad word. "You should never say you 'hate' anyone," was what she used to say.

I found a website "Bible Reasons" that gives a definition of hate in the Bible. It says, "Hate is a strong word that should never be used. The only time that we should hate on our Christian walk of faith is when it comes to sin. We should always hate sin and evil and continually be at war with them. We should be at war with the sin of hating others. We must walk by the Spirit and ask the Holy Spirit to help us with any anger or resentment we might have towards others. We must not dwell on the negative, which only makes matters worse. We must seek reconciliation and be able to forgive."

I try very hard not to use that word about a person. But, okay. So, maybe I'm not a very good Christian, because I definitely want to use the word "hate" when I talk about bugs, most specifically, flies. If I make it to heaven (and now that might be iffy because of hating bugs/flyies), I always said if I got to meet God, one of the first things I'd ask is why did He make bugs and flies?

Well, according to Google again, flies do have redeeming qualities. One is they are actually better pollinators than honey bees. They, and bugs, are a food source for frogs, birds and lizards. Other "redeeming qualities" are too yukky to mention. Guess what? I'm still not impressed. I know God created them and therefore He saw they were good.

Gnats, flies, ticks, bees, wasps, hornets and anything else that lands on me when I'm sitting or walking outside are on my "hate" list.

Continued on next page.

Linda's letter continued:

What a paradox! God says they are good and I think they're evil.

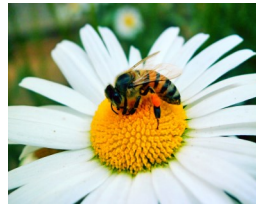
The last line of my old Sunday School line is, "God made the little birds and flowers, And all things large and small; He'll not forget His little ones, I know He loves them all."

I suppose it's easy to love something we see as pretty and beautiful and harder to love something that is ugly, annoying or hurtful to us. Can changing my attitude about a housefly make me work harder at being a better Christian? I think God thinks so. After all, everything is made by Him and He says we're all good.

Me and the bugs/fly issue could take a while to resolve. At least until summer is over. I wonder if God and I could negotiate on that love/hate thing where they're concerned? Hmmm...

Faithfully yours,

Linda



This is a follow up letter in response to Linda's Letter from July:

After reading Linda's letter in the White Dove, I couldn't help but write this little footnote to it. Our oldest son, Michael, served in the military and retired to the small town of Fawn Grove, Pa. He and Melissa chose the town because it was small like Kunkletown. Now their three children are all married and moved away. Michael too thinks of moving to a smaller home. But, he looks out of his back window and sees a chestnut tree (this year it has nuts). His dad, Henry, gave him the tree that he started from a small nut. He also looks out the side window and sees a butternut tree. (it also has nuts for the first time). His dad gave him that one, too. Henry raised this tree from a nut, this came from a tree on Mike's grandfather's farm. So, those trees are so precious to him that it keeps him from moving to another home.

Doris Krechel



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Last month I discussed how if God exists, then it's not difficult to recognize that the Creator of the universe, the One who wrote the laws of nature can choose to suspend those laws as He chooses. This month I want to define and discuss some arguments against the possibility of miracles.

What is a miracle? A miracle is defined as "a special act of God that interrupts the normal course of events." (IDHEFTBAA, 201) Natural laws define what regularly happens. Miracles, if they occur, occur rarely by supernatural causes. Dr. Frank Turek explains, "a miracle is an act of God to confirm the word of God through a messenger of God." (IDHEFTBAA, 202) But does God work this way? The secular world, the world that does not believe in God, would tell us no, but I want to explain why they are mistaken.

The first argument against miracles is that natural laws are immutable. In other words, natural laws cannot be changed. The problem with this argument is it commits a logical fallacy called *begging the question*. This fallacy of logic occurs when someone assumes the conclusion and that is indeed what is happening in this case. If natural laws are immutable of course they would be impossible. BUT that is the question that is being addressed. The question should instead be 'Who said natural laws were immutable?'

Natural laws are NOT immutable. As we have seen over the last few months, something came from nothing at the Big Bang, and we have proof of this because we are here. "Natural laws are not immutable because they are descriptions of what happens, not prescriptions of what must happen. Natural laws don't really cause anything, they only describe what regularly happens in nature." (IDHEFTBAA, 204)

One last point about this first argument. The four known natural forces are gravitation, magnetism, and the strong and weak nuclear forces. We, as intelligent beings, overpower these forces every day. Is it not arrogant for us as finite beings to think the infinite Being who created the universe is unable to do so? Certainly a point worthy of reflection.

The second argument is rooted in the argument against miracles presented by Scottish Enlightenment philosopher David Hume. One premise of his argument is that "The evidence for the regular is always greater than that for the rare." (IDHEFTBAA, 205) But this premise is not true. The evidence for the regular is not always greater than that for the rare. Not only did the origin of the universe, life, and new life forms happen only once, but the entire history of the world contains examples of rare, unrepeatable events (your birth and my birth for instance!). And even if this premise were true, it would not disprove the *possibility* of miracles. It would only call their believability into question.

What about rare events? Probability should not be confused with evidence. The evidence for each occurrence must be weighed for each event. To conclude in advance that ALL rare events (such as a hole-in-one or a lottery winner) are unworthy of belief is flawed reasoning. Here's the key, "the issue is not whether an event is regular or rare—the issue is whether we have good evidence for the event. We must weigh evidence for the event in question, not add evidence for all previous events." (IDHEFTBAA, 207)

Hume, without justification, concludes only regular events are believable, and therefore miracles must be excluded. But we know from experience this conclusion is unreasonable because history is full of rare, unrepeatable events. People cling to Hume's argument of rejecting miracles more often because they recognize in advance that it requires God to exist. And this is not permissible to the skeptic. In the end, believing in miracles is more a matter of volition (the heart) than it is a matter of the intellect (the mind).

Staci's Stuff

By Staci Gower, Coordinator of Christian Formation

Thank you to everyone involved with Camp Firelight VBS! This includes the 45 “campers” and their families, nine youth helpers, and eight adult leaders. We had an amazing week in the grove learning five Bible stories, singing and dancing along with the songs, making crafts, conducting science experiments, playing games, attending a field trip to Lehigh Gap Nature Center, and learning about bees from Beekeeper Erik Diemer. VBS week is my favorite week of the year!

During VBS Sunday on July 21, we celebrated a fantastic week and shared a recap of the activities, one last skit with Counselor Cheryl and Lu the Firefly, a Minute for Mission about Lehigh Gap Nature Center, and the kids and Miss Gabby acted out the Bible story about Jesus calming the storm.



The CE Team will meet Tuesday, August 13 at 5:15 p.m. in the social hall to discuss Sunday School curriculum and plan Fall events.

Our annual mini golf Family Fun Night at Snydersville Golf Range is tentatively planned for Saturday, August 17. We will meet there at 7 pm. I will buy popsicles for the children and youth who attend.

We will continue to learn about Old Testament stories during Children’s Church this month. After the children’s sermon, we will go down to our classroom for the lesson and activities.

I am seeking volunteers to assist with Children’s Church and teaching Sunday School. There are only four of us right now on this roster and more help is needed so this remains a thriving Christian Education program. Different people bring different perspectives, energy, and resources – all which keep our children engaged and ensure they return regularly.

For more information or to sign up for upcoming events,  
email: [stacigeorge0317@gmail.com](mailto:stacigeorge0317@gmail.com) or call/text 610-283-4696.

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

**Edith George, Gladys 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

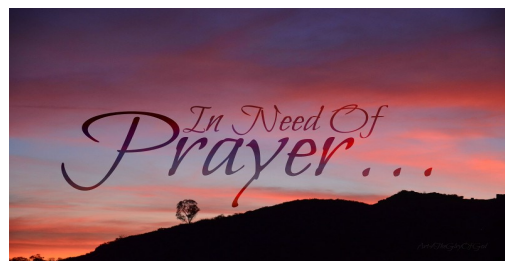
**Jesse Ziegenfus**—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

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

**Leon Barlieb**—P.O. Box 613, Kunkletown, PA 18058

### **Prayer Concerns**

Tina Martin (Pat's daughter), Todd Kresge, Alysha Katz, Wendy Peddigree, Rhonda Cramer (Randy and Ray's sister), Frank Rapa, Leon Barlieb, Ellen Kresge, Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Debra Kemmerer, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, 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), Barbara Marks (Pat Martin's sister-in-law), Georgia Smith (friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar), David Zacharias (Dean's brother), Helen Alpaugh, Leni (friend of Helen), Logan Mackes (Rose Fritz's grandson).





CIA Cook's Corner  
 Dolly Parton Bars  
 Shirley Heldt (Tonya Peddigree's Great Aunt)

- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 cup crushed graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 cup coconut flakes
- 1 cup crushed walnuts
- 1—15oz can condensed milk

Melt butter, mix with graham cracker crumbs. Spread in bottom of 9 x 13 pan that was sprayed with Pam.

Then layer the remaining ingredients as listed:

- ◆ Chips
- ◆ Coconut flakes
- ◆ Crushed walnuts
- ◆ Milk

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



June 2, 2024	83	\$2,307	June 4, 2023	73	\$2,847
June 9, 2024	51	\$2,120	June 11, 2023	53	\$2,387
June 16, 2024	Straw. Fest.	\$3,513	June 18, 2023	Straw. Fest.	\$3,354
June 23, 2024	40	\$1,115	June 25, 2023	48	\$1,505
June 30, 2024	78	\$2,735	Total		\$10,093
Total		\$11,790			

# August 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1 LAYMEN'S CRAFT DAY 10AM	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Men's Group 9am
11	12 COUNCIL 7PM	13	14	15	16	17
18 FAIR WEEK	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August Birthdays

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 3 Joyce Fusner                    | 19 Brooke Sheckler, Louise Shupp,<br>Rosemarie Stranahan         |
| 4 Leanne Sitler, Clinton Smith    | 20 Nancy Byerley, Randy Cramer, William Hosler,<br>Ruby Voorhees |
| 6 Judy Smith                      | 21 Patricia Martin   |
| 7 Tammy Strunk, Joanne Werkheiser | 22 Ashton Smith  |
| 8 Laurie Kratz, Michael Meckes    | 24 Cheryl Dorshimer  |
| 10 Paul LoMonaco                  | 26 Jason Borger  |
| 12 Tony Peddigree                 | 29 Kristen Heckman   |
| 14 Allison and Lydia Borger       | 31 Alissa Mathisen   |
| 18 Chris Barlieb, Carl Frantz     |  |