

Welcome to St. Matthews EC Church
“A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ.”
We are honored to have you worship with us today and
we hope that you will receive a warm welcome and experience
the presence of our Lord in a significant way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) You, who are many, are transformed to
become one in Christ.

**(ALL) We, who are many, are called to worship God,
the Three in One.**

Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN *"O God Beyond All Praising"* (Hymn 676)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help,
we come before the Lord, confessing our sin
and seeking forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God,

We confess that we are conformed to this world.

We conform to this world's frantic pace,

too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.

We conform to this world's reckless waste.

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,

preferring the latest instead of the lasting.

Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(L) If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

(ALL) we would now be lost in sin.

(L) But it is the Lord who is on our side.

(ALL) And so we are forgiven.

**Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made
Heaven and earth.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Gabby Bentley

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

Luke 21:1-4, page 856

“He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

MIDDLE HYMN *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"* (Hymn 665)

SCRIPTURE READING Ian Snyder

Old Testament Reading:

Ezekial 17:22-23, Page 684

“Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.”

Psalms Reading:

Psalms 72: 1-19, Page 464

“Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the [sun](#) endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May he **have**

dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight. Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all day long. May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field. May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the [sun](#). May all nations be blessed in him; may they pronounce him happy. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.”

SERMON Pastor Wil Hoffman
Sermon Title: “The Parable of the Mustard Seed”
Sermon Text: Mark 4:30-32
Sermon Notes:

***THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**
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**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, August 23		-Sanctuary, 9am
	West End Fair	-Aug 23 rd – Aug 29 th
Monday, August 24		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Class	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	Luke Bible Study	-CANCELLED
Wednesday, August 26		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Bible Study	-Large classroom, 6:30pm
Thursday, August 27		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Class	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, August 30	Band and Breakfast	-Sanctuary, 9am

Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

August Lead Usher – Mitch Hawk

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Vase #1 –Happy Heavenly Anniversary Roy, Love Deana

Vase #2 – available for purchase \$15

- ❖ **August Joyful Noise is Operation Touch of Home** which was established in 2004 by Dean and Sharon Green in response to their son's deployment to Fallujah, Iraq. The organization aims to ensure that local troops serving in war are not forgotten by providing them with essential items and a "touch of home".
- ❖ **Final summer worship service in the grove: 9am on September 13**
- ❖ **WEST END FAIR VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP:** The West End Fair is almost here, and we invite you to help staff the St. Matthew's Fair Stand! Volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to welcome our community, share the love of Christ, and enjoy fellowship with your church family. Whether you can serve for one shift or several, your help is greatly appreciated. Please consider signing up for a time that fits your schedule at <https://bit.ly/westendfair26>. If you have any signup questions, please contact RJ Cramer, Dan Smale, or Cheryl Dorshimer. Thank you for helping St. Matthew's be a welcoming presence at this year's West End Fair!
- ❖ **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** – shoeboxes are available in the gathering room. Information, suggestions and labels will also be available. Please return filled boxes by November 8th.



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown

August 23, 2026

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

www.stmattseccunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List – August 23, 2026

KINGDOM WORK:

- **Sister Helena** – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables and feeding the children.
- **Randy & Deb Sheagley** – Touch the World (touchtheworld.org)

MILITARY:

- **Major James Beidleman** (son of Kathy and Brian Beidleman): Pilot at Dover Air Force Base
- **LT Noah Krechel** (Grandson of Henry and Doris Krechel): Serving in the US Navy stationed in Norfolk, VA
- **Bryce Silliman** (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

- **John Armbruster** (friend of Rose Fritz): immunotherapy for a year
- **Conner Bittenbender** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing
- **Roberta Heffley** (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
- **Kathleen Houck** (Karol Meitzler's sister): Cancer
- **Jalene Keiser**: Cancer
- **Wade Koehler** (Vivian Smith's friend)
- **Shannon Osinski** (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
- **Eileen (Ravalico) Keller** (Roy Zeruth's friend): Cancer
- **Sheila Sherer** (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
- **Scott Smith** (Doris and Henry's son-in-law): Cancer
- **Sherry Smith** (Barbara and Richard Getz's daughter)
- **Hudson Stewart** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet
- **Nicole Zeruth** (Roy Zeruth's cousin): Cancer

SHUT INS:

- **Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt**: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091
- **Gene and Sandy Borger** – P.O. Box 907, Kresgeville PA 18333
- **James Borger**—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463
- **Kyle Frable**—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058

- **Shirley Kuntz**—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Gladys Meixsell**—Stroudsburg Post Acute Nursing and Rehabilitation, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360
- **Jacqueline Mock**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058
- **Marlette Palermo** – 276 Bollinger Rd., Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Velma Silfies**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Leah Jane Sterner**—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Jesse Ziegenfus**—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

PRAYERS NEEDED:

- **Larry Bonser**/4
- **Mason Buskirk** - July 30th earthquake in Japan/3
- **Cara Craft** (Dan Smale's friend)/2
- **Jean** (Robbin Eckhart's mother)/3
- **Jimmy Klotz** (Pastor Wil's brother-in-law)/5*
- **Jerry Kresge**/1
- **Pat Martin's neighbor**/5*
- **Martha Serfass** (Eleanor Long's sister)/3
- **Bobbi Jo Smith** (Vivian Smith's daughter- in- law)/1

BEREAVEMENT:

- **Kim Cope** (Pastor Suzanne and Pastor Scott's daughter-in-law)/3
- **Rhonda Cramer** (RJ's aunt)/3

(Numbers at the end of name tell you how many weeks the name will be listed in the bulletin. The * next to the number 5 tells you that the name is a new prayer request)