

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



FEBRUARY 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsecckunkletown.com

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS

10:30 AM SUNDAY

RJ Cramer

Council President

Wil Hoffman

Pastor

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Dan Smale

Music Director

Tiffany Lakatosh

Children's Ministry

Renée Keiper

Church Secretary

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's Church

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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What's Your Story?

My wife and I sincerely wish God's grace and blessings for each of you.

I have a task for you, something I would like each of you to do. Now, before you stop reading, before you think "This guy...always wanting me to do something else.", I would like for you to know that, in truth, I want you to do this thing for you, and God of course, but not for me. My task for you is to write about a subject that you know better than anyone else (Besides God, of course). I would like to hear your story, your testimony, your witness.

I am interested in learning more about you, specifically your journey with our Lord, Jesus Christ. I want to know how He transformed you into the person you are today. It doesn't have to be a long story. You don't have to go back to the beginning. No one will fact check your dates or timeline; no one will look for grammatical or spelling errors. There will be no "red pen" or grade at the end. In fact, you don't have to turn it in, though you can, if you like. I want to get to know you better and I bet you will learn a little about yourself as well.

Here are some questions that you can answer to complete this task.

What is a Christian Testimony?

Why is a Christian testimony important?

How do I write a Christian Testimony?

The word testimony is most often used in church and court rooms. It's a term that defines evidence of what happened through the witnesses of parties that viewed the event. It can be the most powerful evidence provided both in a courtroom and in our Christian life. A Christian testimony is simply the story of how Jesus has affected your life.

Why is it important? Because it provides the proof needed to convince others of the transformational power that Jesus has had in your life. More importantly, it provides evidence needed to re-convince and re-convict us of Jesus' transformational power in our own lives. Remembering how God has blessed you today provides the comfort and peace needed during the next trial that will inevitably occur in our lives. Remembering how God has brought us out of our valleys in the past, gives us hope as we start the climb out of our current valley.

When you remember that story, and share that story, that story becomes a beacon of hope and peace and comfort for those we love as they walk through their own valleys. Your story is often more powerful than just reciting scripture. It can be more real, understandable and substantial, because it happened to someone we can see and talk to. Christian testimony is important because it clearly shows the transformational power of Jesus, in real time, to a "Real" person, in modern terms that can easily be understood.

Continued on next page:

So how do you write out your testimony? Here are a few steps to help you along the way.

Pray – as in all things, seek God and lay it at His feet. Pray and ask the guidance from the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you decide what to witness about. You already know your story; it’s remembering it that’s the hard part. You don’t have to include every detail of your life with Jesus, though it can. It can simply be how God has blessed you recently or how He has brought or is bringing you through a Valley.

Stick to the point – Focus on Christ’s impact on your life– Don’t let yourself go down rabbit holes – Look for Christ’s impact and keep that at the center.

Be specific – Include events, genuine feelings and personal insights. How you see it is the most important.

Be current – Use your story to lead the audience (which might only be you) to what is happening in your life, right now, today.

Be honest – Don’t feel you need to exaggerate or embellish. Your genuineness is all the Holy Spirit needs to convict and convince you and others of His love and grace.

I’m asking you to give this a try. I know in my heart that **your** story, yes, **YOUR** story, is the Gospel message that your friends, family, neighbors and strangers on the street need to hear. Just as importantly, it is the story **YOU** need to hear.

God is good...All the time... We say it often; I challenge you to prove that through your own personal witness.

My beloved member of Jesus’ Church and Community, I pray that God’s grace and blessings reach each and everyone of you. I pray that you see His hand in all things that you do. I am thankful for you and to God, for bringing us together. May His hand bless you and keep you, through all your days.

Pastor Wil

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Children’s Ministry Committee, we sincerely thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support.

As our ministry grows, we are looking for more volunteers to help on Sunday mornings and at special events throughout the year, like Vacation Bible School (VBS). Whether you can help regularly or occasionally, your time and talents can greatly impact the children’s lives.

No experience is necessary—just a willing heart and a desire to serve. Opportunities include teaching, assisting in the classroom, and supporting special events.

If you’re interested in volunteering or want more details, please reach out to Tiffany Lakatosh. She’d be happy to discuss ways you can get involved.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our children and this vital ministry. Together, we are planting seeds of faith that will nurture them for a lifetime.

With gratitude,

The Children’s Ministry Committee

CIA—CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION OR CHRISTIANS IN ACTION

Some of you may believe the CIA is a mystery organization within St. Matthew's. No, we're not Secret Agents. We're just a group of God's children who started out as an Adult Sunday School Class and found a mission. With God's help, we even learned our missions have not been impossible.

It all started many years ago, Hal and Chris Eckhart and Richard and Carol King expressed a need for a different kind of adult Sunday School class. After a few weeks of a group gathering in the kitchen, (close to the coffee machine,) sharing a Bible study and discussing how it affects our every day life, they wanted a name for the class. Too old to be considered children and younger than most of the existing adult class, the In-Betweeners was born.

One Sunday, a member mentioned a need for a family in the community and we decided to give them a donation that we raised among ourselves. It was small, but it made us feel like we were helping someone in need. Afterwards, a discussion was held and everyone agreed they liked the idea of reaching out to others who were in need. We saw it as our mission. St. Matthew's had Laymen's Fellowship who worked tirelessly to raise money for the church. We thought we'd like to raise money to support an outreach program that extended to members and our neighbors in need.

We grew in numbers, became good friends, even socializing outside of class. But no matter where we were, discussions always seemed to come back to who needs help?

As our members grew older, we no longer believed ourselves to be In-Betweeners. A search ensued to come up with a new name. CIA rang a chord for everyone...Christians In Action. That was who we aspired to be...Christians helping others.

When a family member of someone we knew was diagnosed with cancer, we donated gas cards and grocery store gift cards. When another person was needful for a ride to a doctor's appointment, someone from CIA volunteered. When someone needed money to have her car repaired, we asked the congregation for donations to add to our own and raised enough to pay for a new transmission and installation. Most recently, we made a sizable donation to the family in Leighton who lost everything in a fire.

Some of the ways we raise our funds come from: providing the food for the Eldred Township Historical Society Bingo; the Homemade Soup Sale in February; a Dinner and a Movie night; and others. Some of us noted that it's like our bank account is like the story of the five loaves of bread and two fish that fed a crowd of 5,000. We always seem to have enough to provide someone in need and when we don't, we learned how giving St. Matthew's congregation is when asked to help.

The list is long of the outreach we have contributed to over the years in the name of St. Matthew's.

Every Sunday, there is a small bucket in the back of the church called Joyful Noise. The idea was to collect coins to be donated to a specific charity. The thought of helping in a small way should be a Joy. The sound of coins hitting the bucket is the Noise. Thus, Joyful Noise. In addition to what is collected each month, CIA adds \$200 to it.

CIA comes up with the charities that are helpful to our community, often because of personal affiliation.

(CIA isn't a private club. We would greatly welcome anyone who would like to join us. We will no longer meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. We are going to meet at a different time (TO BE ANNOUNCED.) Instead, every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. it is an open Adult Sunday School class, studying the Bible and how we can apply what we learn to our daily lives. We would love to see more people attend!

So no, we are not Secret Agents. Instead, we'd like to think we're SPECIAL AGENTS of God, ready to do His work.

Proverbs 3:27—"Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to act."

DECEMBER 2025 NET INCOME

TOTAL OFFERINGS—ENVELOPES AND PLATE	\$ 15,169.75
OTHER INCOME	\$ <u>862.73</u>
DECEMBER 2025 TOTAL INCOME	\$ 16,032.48
DECEMBER 2025 TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>(18,838.85)</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ <u>(2,806.37)</u>

Laymen's News -

Mr. Pastie sale this month.

Orders and money are due on February 22.

Pasties can be picked up at St. Matthew's on March 16.

\$7.00 for Original Beef with or without onions, Chicken, Italian Sausage,
Veggie melt, Spinach melt.

\$8.00 for Premium Ham Pastie

\$4.00 for Small Fruit pies: Apple, Blueberry, Cherry & Peach

Please see any member of Laymen's Fellowship to place an order.

PASTIE ORDER FORM

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

\$7.00

BEEF WITH ONIONS _____

BEEF NO ONIONS _____

CHICKEN _____

ITALIAN SAUSAGE _____

VEGGIE MELT _____

SPINACH MELT _____

\$8.00

PREMIUM HAM _____

\$4.00

APPLE TART _____

CHERRY _____

BLUEBERRY _____

PEACH _____

TOTAL DUE _____ PAYABLE TO LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BY FEBRUARY 22.

St. Matthew's Prayer List – January 18, 2026

MILITARY:

Logan Mackes (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, TX for next 2½ years from Jan. 30, 2025

Bryce Silliman (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy

Conner Wise (Hal's cousin's son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

Conner Bittenbender: (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing

Gene Borger: Strength and healing

Roberta Heffley (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer

Shannon Osinski (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

Marlette Palermo: healing

Sheila Sherer (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain

Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

SHUT INS:

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

James Borger—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463

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

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

Kay Frable – Liza's House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038

Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058

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

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

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

Jacqueline Mock—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058

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

Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091

PRAYERS NEEDED FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING:

Helen Alpaugh (Marie Christman's friend)

Roger Cole (Leanne Sitler's son-in-law)

Jodi Fehnel (friend of Rose Fritz)

Harvey Handwerk (Eleanor Long's brother-in-law)

Mitchell Hawk Sr.

Tom Hockman

June Hudock (Tammy Hoffman's Mother)

Harold Irwin (family friend of Joan Madden)

Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith)

Jack Lovewell

Sterling Mack (Leanne Sitler's cousin)

Malvin Meckes

Shelby and Aaron Tripani (Renee's stepdaughter and son-in-law)

Russ Wollam (Husband of Marie Christman's granddaughter)

Barbara Woodall (Justin Guyer's Aunt)

Braedon Wunder

Connor Young (friend to the Huber's)

BEREAVEMENT:

Harry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew's

Terry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew's

CIA COOK'S CORNER
FEATURING STUFFED PEPPER SOUP
BY LINDA KOEHLER

"The weather outside is frightful, but soup is so delightful. And since you've no place to go, make some soup, make some soup, make some soup."

In case you didn't know, that was me singing.

I am not the homemade soup Queen that my friend Connie Moretz is, but I do like to make a good hearty soup on cold winter days. I somehow found "Just a Pinch" on email and joined. I get sent several recipes every day. (Talk about going down the rabbit hole!) Some have been super delicious. Some stinkers. But Stuffed Pepper Soup earned a "DELISH!!!" notation after making it the first time. It's become a family favorite.

I hope you enjoy it as much as we do! Goot Essa! (Good eating!)

STUFFED PEPPER SOUP

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. lean ground beef
2 tbsp. olive oil, divided
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 small onion, chopped (1 cup)
1 cup chopped red bell pepper
1 cup chopped green bell pepper
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 (14.5 oz.) cans fire roasted diced tomatoes
1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce
1 (14.5 oz.) can beef broth (2 cups)
1/4 cup brown sugar
2 1/2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley plus more for garnish
1/2 tsp. dried basil
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
1 cup instant rice or uncooked long grain white or brown rice (I used instant)
Cheddar or mozzarella cheese, for serving (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large pot, heat 1 tbsp. olive oil over medium heat. Once hot add beef and season with salt and pepper until browned. Drain and set aside.
 2. Heat remaining 1 tbsp. olive oil in pot then add onions, red bell pepper, green bell pepper and saute 3 minutes, then add garlic and saute 30 seconds longer.
 3. Pour in diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, beef broth and add parsley, basil, oregano and cooked beef, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Bring to just a light boil, then reduce heat to low, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, 30 minutes. (I put all of this in a crock pot on low and let it simmer all day. Makes the house smell so good and makes you really excited about supper time!)
 4. While soup simmers, prepare the rice according to directions. When you're just about ready to serve, add the rice into the soup. For a thinner soup, don't add all of the rice, for a thicker soup, add it all.
 5. Serve warm topped with optional cheese and garnish with fresh parsley.
- I like to serve it with a good crusty loaf of Italian or French bread. Enjoy!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Bible Study 6:30pm	5	6	7 Love Your Neighbor Family Event 1—3pm Soup Pickup 11am-12pm
8 Soup Pickup 10:30am—11:30am	9 Council 7pm	10	11 Bible Study 6:30pm	12  Men's Group 7pm	13	14 
15	16	17	18 Laymen's Fellowship 10am Ash Wed. Service 6:30pm	19 Membership Meeting 12pm	20	21
22 	23	24	25 Lenten Service 6:30pm Bethany EC	26	27	28

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Sandra Frable | 14 Margaret Hahn |
| 2 Matthew Frable | 15 Erica Pozza, Courtney Ulmer-Smith |
| 3 Delbert Kibler Jr. | 17 Michelle Berhel |
| 4 Susan Shoemaker, Elijah Hall | 21 Connie Frantz |
| 5 Kathryn Mingle | 23 Mason Buskirk, Susan Jansen |
| 7 Brenda Hawk, John Kile, MaryLou Kocher | 24 David Frantz, George Moretz, Daniel Hall |
| 8 Tighe Meckes | 25 Jason Frantz, Patty Hawk, Stacy Meckes, Christine Eckhart |
| 9 Darlene Smith | 28 Alison Frantz |
| 10 Beth Gannon | |
| 11 Karen Cramer | |
| 12 Renee Keiper, Jean Smith | |