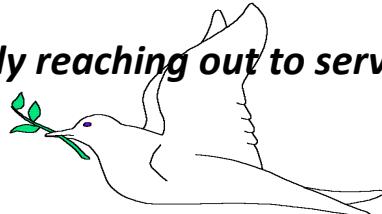


# ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

## WHITE DOVE FLYER

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



WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

CIA CLASS

10:30 AM SUNDAY

JANUARY 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

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

Website: [stmattsecckunkletown.com](http://stmattsecckunkletown.com)

RJ Cramer

Council President

Wil Hoffman

Pastor

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Renée Keiper

Church Secretary

Dan Smale

Music Director

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's Church

## Foreword by Pastor Wil:

This past Christmas season was filled, at least for me, with God's grace, hope, peace, joy, love and, of course, Christ. But boy, was it busy. Extra services, extra meeting, extra sermons at Jesus' Church in Kunkletown and at other locations. My wife and I were busy at home as well. We made the decision (maybe not the smartest decision) to renovate our master bathroom, all the while planning and preparing for all of the family and church events that come with this holiday season. Needless to say, we probably filled our plates too full. Please don't take that statement as complaining (even though, now that I read it, it does sound an awful lot like complaining), that is not my intent. Like many of you, life and our calendars fill up, many times to the point of busting at the seams. Lucky for me that I have not just an ordinary wife, but a superhero of a wife! A best friend and partner that helps me share the load. It is poignant that she would help me by writing our January White Dove Article entitled "Lightening the Load". She stepped in to help, just when I needed it most. I am very thankful that we, my wife and I, are in this ministry together. I am also thankful for you, all of you, each of you, as individuals and as a Body of Christ. Serving God's kingdom in our beloved community of Kunkletown. God bless each of you, and the one's you love, as we enter this new year. A new year of possibilities, sharing the load and sharing the Gospel. Happy New Year and God's grace and blessings to each of you!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Wil

## The Importance of Lightening the Load for Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I have a hard time saying no. Not to my husband, mind you, but when it comes to friends, family, or people in need. It's in my nature to do as much as I can. This often means spreading myself thin. When people ask what my hobby is, I tend to say *church*, because I spend most of my time at church or at the resource center. That is not a bad thing, but the time it takes me away from my home and family can become all-consuming.

We all know that 10% of the people in almost any setting do 90% of the work. This is true for the church as well. When the same handful of people try to handle most of the load, it can lead to burnout, frustration, or even resentment. Yet God did not design the Body of Christ to function that way. Scripture reminds us in **Galatians 6:2**, "*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" We are meant to walk alongside one another, sharing both the joys and the work of ministry.

We are all called to be the hands and feet of God. There are many jobs that need all kinds of hands and feet to get them done: greeting, reading, praying, singing, serving coffee, teaching, setting up chairs, or visiting those who can't come to church. You may have to step out of your comfort zone—but imagine if each of us tried something new, and in doing so made the load lighter for someone else.

Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 12:4–6**, "*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.*" Each of us has something unique to offer. Maybe you have a gift for hospitality, organization, encouragement, or simply showing up with a smile. Every act of service matters in God's kingdom.

Continued from page 1:

And while we serve, it's important to remember that even Jesus took time to rest and pray. He often withdrew to quiet places to be with the Father (**Luke 5:16**). Rest is not a sign of weakness—it's part of how we sustain our service. When we care for ourselves spiritually and physically, we are better able to care for others.

So let's look around and see who might be carrying a heavy load. Let's ask how we can come alongside them, lighten their burden, and work together as one body in Christ. As **Hebrews 10:24–25** reminds us, *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another."*

There's a place for everyone here at St. Matthew's to serve, to grow, and to share in the joy of ministry. Together, we can make the load lighter—for ourselves and for one another.



THANK YOU TO DIANN BITTENBENDER, TONYA PEDDIGREE AND HAL ECKHART FOR THEIR  
TIME SERVED ON THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

**Income for November 2025**

**11/2/25 170 attending \$3,230.00**  
**11/09/25 106 attending \$3,036.00**  
**11/16/25 164 attending \$2,447.00**  
**11/23/25 107 attending \$1,374.00**  
**11/30/25 113 attending \$1,860.00**  
**Pay Pal \$365.19**

**Total \$12,312.19**

**Income for November 2024**

**11/3/24 116 attending \$2,934.00**  
**11/10/24 70 attending \$2,025.00**  
**11/17/24 85 attending \$2,040.00**  
**11/24/24 71 attending \$2,863.00**

**Total \$9,862.00**



# Love Your Neighbor Family Event

February 7th 1-3pm

Join us for a warm, family-friendly afternoon inspired by the Good Samaritan and the kindness of Fred Rogers. Through fun activities, meaningful moments, and shared snacks, we'll explore what it means to love our neighbors with compassion, empathy, and simple acts of care—just like Jesus taught and Mr. Rogers modeled. All ages are welcome, and everyone belongs. We'd love to see you there!



**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, STARTING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

**ST. MATTHEW'S IS COLLECTING CANS OF SOUP FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY  
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE TEAM PLAYING IN THE SUPER BOWL  
ALL SOUP COLLECTED WILL GO TO THE WEST END FOOD PANTRY.**

**Laymen's News** - Mr. Pastie sale coming in February.

Hand-Made Pasties will be on sale starting February 1 and will end on February 22.



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Orders & money are due on February 22. Pasties can be picked up at St. Matthew's on March 16. Prices for Original Beef with or without onions, Chicken, Italian Sausage, Veggie melt, Spinach melt are \$7.00.

Premium Ham Pastie is \$8.00.

Small Fruit pies: Apple, Blueberry, Cherry & Peach are also available for \$4.00.

Orders will be taken starting at the end of January through February 22. Please see any member of Laymen's Fellowship to place an order.

Laymen's Fellowship met on December 3.  Continuing a yearly tradition, we delivered Christmas goodies to St. Matthew's members staying at Mrs. Bush's & Getz's Personal Care Homes. We sang Christmas carols for the residents & gave a box of tissues to each resident. We also had a luncheon & games at The Kresgeville Eatery. The Visitation Team will also deliver Christmas goodies from Laymen's to shut-in members. Please consider joining us next year. All are welcome!

Laymen's Fellowship will be meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 10:00 am, in St. Matthew's Social Hall. Please come & join us for Devotions, Fellowship, a luncheon & a good time. All are welcome!

## **St. Matthew's Prayer List – December 21, 2025**

### **KINGDOM WORK:**

**Sister Helena** – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables, feeding the children and can now put a roof on facility

**Randy & Deb Sheagley** – Touch the World website

### **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

### **NEW NEEDS:**

**Tom Barr**: strength and healing/1

**Sterling Borger**: strength and healing/1

**Bobby Dutt (Joyce Fusner's uncle)**: healing/3

**Mary and David Eckhart**: strength and healing/4

**Robbin Eckhart**: strength and healing/3

**Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith)**: healing/2

**Diana Spillar (Vivian Smith's cousin)**: healing/2

**Barbara Woodall** (Justin Guyer's Aunt): healing/5\*\*\*

**Braedon Wunder**: healing5\*\*\*

# CIA Cook's Corner

RENEE KEIPER

## PEPPER JELLY CHEESE DIP

8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
4 ounces shredded sharp cheddar  
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon onion flakes  
1/2 teaspoon of salt  
7 ounces pepper jelly

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

- Mix the softened cream cheese, shredded cheddar, garlic powder, onion flakes and salt until well combined.
- Spread the cheese mixture evenly into an oven-safe dish or pie pan.
- Bake for about 15 minutes, or until the cheese is bubbly and hot.
- While the cheese dip is baking, microwave the pepper jelly for 30 second intervals until melted and smooth.
- Once the cheese dip is baked, pour the melted pepper jelly over the top and spread it evenly for a spicy finish.
- Serve with your favorite crackers, tortilla chips or vegetable sticks for dipping.



# JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>LOVE FEAST SERVICE</b>		<b>VISION TEAM MEETING 6PM</b>		<b>MEN'S GROUP 7PM</b>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<b>COUNCIL 7PM</b>			<b>PRAYER TEAM MEETING 1:30PM</b>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			<b>LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP 10AM</b>			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 DIANE HUBER	23 ROSE FRITZ, JAMIE GARITA
2 RISTON BARR, JESSE ZIEGENFUS	24 KURT ECKHART, JAMES SMITH
5 DONNA WALTZ	25 KATHY BEIDLEMAN
6 KIM BUSKIRK, CHERYL HUMMER	26 CHARLOTTE KLEINTOP, WANDA WUNDER
7 LYNN BYERLEY, DEBBIE KEMMERER, DAVID KREISER	28 RACHEL FRABLE, AUBREY FREEBY
8 BETTY KLEINTOP	29 KATELIN ARACE
9 HENRY KRECHEL, ASHLEY SMITH	
11 LESLEY BYRNE	
14 JEFFERY GOWER	
15 JENNIFER HALL	
16 BONNEY KRESGE	
17 HAILEE SNYDER	
19 RYKER BARR	
20 CAROL KING, LINDA KOEHLER	
21 JENNIFER RAY, LARRY SMALE	