

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER



"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM SUNDAY
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS 10:30 AM SUNDAY

Summer Services in the
Grove at 9am—June 14,
July 12, August 9 and
September 13
June 21—10am service
festival/car show

JUNE 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

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kunkletown.com](http://stmattsec-kunkletown.com)

RJ Cramer
Council President
Wil Hoffman
Pastor
Starlene Barr
Treasurer
Dan Smale
Music Director
Cheryl Hummer
Interim Children's
Ministry
Renée Keiper
Church Secretary

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St. Matthew's ECC
102 Church Road
Kunkletown, Pa 18058

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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NONPROFIT

“Why is it different?” - By Wil Hoffman

I prepared this little blurb you are about to read for a sermon one Sunday morning but decided not to include it for the sake of time. Though I left it out of that sermon, I still feel it is an important lesson for us to understand. I ask that you allow me some time to explain.

I often get asked, why do the words I am saying, when I am reading scripture during the sermon, not match what the congregation is reading in the pew bibles? **THAT** is a good and honest question.

Even if you brought your own beloved bible with you, you may find that what I say, is not what you are reading. I won't spend a lot of time on this, except to inform you that there are many different translations from the original text (language) of the bible to the English language.

None of them are wrong, but the differences can be helpful depending on how your individual mind works. For example, the version I use, especially for sermons is the English Standard Version or ESV. It is considered a “word for word” translation, from the original text. But it can lack the comfort of standard readability. The translators sacrifice grammar and standard modern sentence structure, and so some may find it harder to read. It works for me and how my mind works.

That might work for you as well or it may not give you the understanding you are looking for. The bible, and its structure can be confusing enough, on its own. So, we are provided different translations so we can best understand God's word and its impact in our own lives.

There are 3 types of translations out there. Please hear this, **NONE** of them are wrong. The original words and sentence structures are sometimes vastly different than our language. Some words can mean several different things depending on where they are in the sentence or the context of the sentence. It's kinda like our English words There, their, and They're. They all sound the same but mean completely different things. I don't envy the very smart people that have learned the original languages and attempt to translate them into an understandable structure, using modern languages like English. All these translations are the infallible word of God. When you read them, you can hear God's meaning and intention for you, personally. Because the bible is a love letter from God to **YOU**. You must pick what works best for you and your reading and learning style.

As I mentioned earlier, there are word-for-word translations. These are more precise, closer to original wording, like the ESV or New American Standard Bible. These tend to work well for preaching and teaching. The second is the “Thought for Thought” translations. These balance accuracy with readability, translations like the NIV or New International Version or New Revised Standard Version which are your pew bibles. And the last is paraphrase translations like “The Way”, “The Message”, or “the Living Bible”. These focus on readability and use modern language to summarize the general thought of what the bible is attempting to convey. They provide great illustrations but lack the nuances and deeper meanings of the original text.

I am truly ok with, and God is truly ok with, whichever you choose, **as long as** you choose.

I love getting these questions and they make me very thankful for a few things. One that you noticed...That means, by following along and reading the bible with me on Sunday, and at home, you are inviting the Holy Spirit to into your heart “to walk with you, and to talk with you”.

And second, I am thankful that you asked. Just the fact that you asked, is a great outward expression of your love for God. It is exciting for me when people bring this up, because I know that they are searching for the answers in the one place they can find them, the infallible, unerring, and God breathed word of God.

Continued on the next page.

Thirdly, when you notice the difference, it's a great study tool to ask God "Why". To seek the Holy Spirit's discernment on how these words speak directly, individually to you. It is our nature to ask "why", and God wants us to ask. The more you ask, the more answers you get. The more answers you get, the better you understand. The more you understand, the deeper your faith becomes.

Question away! Ask God, ask me, ask each other. Ask and don't stop asking until you have an answer that satisfies you. We have been created to be curious and seek knowledge.

Brothers and Sisters, each day I am thankful for you. I am thankful that God has put us together. I am thankful for the lessons we learn together and thankful for the lessons you teach me. Discipleship is all about learning, together, so that we can love and walk through this world faithfully representing our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I pray you have a blessed day, your friend in Christ, Pastor Wil

The Story Behind the Strawberry Festival and Car Show



The St. Matthew's Strawberry Festival traces its origins back to the late 1970s and early 1980s, when it was first organized by the Laymen's Fellowship. Conceived as both a social event and a fundraiser for the church, the festival quickly became a beloved tradition. In its early days, volunteers would gather to pick, clean, and slice fresh strawberries, as well as prepare homemade ice cream and shortcake in anticipation of the festivities.

In 2004, to celebrate the 225th anniversary of St. Matthew's, a Car Show was introduced as a special addition to the festival, originally intended to last for just one year. However, the event proved so popular that it became an enduring part of the tradition. Over the years, the Car Show has drawn impressive crowds, with record-breaking years featuring 250 or more cars on display, further cementing its place in the festival's history.

The Car Show donates proceeds from the event to Meals On Wheels of Monroe County and Palmerton. These organizations have served members of the church, reinforcing the festival's commitment to supporting both the congregation and the broader community.

A number of years ago, the Laymen's Fellowship decided they would no longer organize the festival. To ensure St. Matthew's would not lose this cherished tradition, a new group stepped forward to plan the event and carry it forward. Remarkably, even during the COVID pandemic, organizers found creative ways to hold the festival, maintaining its spirit and bringing people together despite challenging circumstances.

Events like this bring church and community together on the rainiest or hottest Father's Days to enjoy cars, food, music, and fun. The festival's welcoming atmosphere fosters lasting connections among attendees, making it a highlight of the local calendar and a testament to the enduring spirit of St. Matthew's.

<u>APRIL 2026 NET INCOME</u>	APRIL 2026	YTD
TOTAL OFFERINGS—ENVELOPES & PLATE	\$ 11,958.00	\$ 41,415.13
OTHER INCOME	\$ 925.44	\$ 5,735.77
FROM INVESTMENTS		<u>\$ 36,792.88</u>
APRIL 2026 TOTAL INCOME	\$ 12,883.44	\$ 83,943.78
APRIL 2026 TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$(19,217.37)</u>	<u>\$(87,245.65)</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$(6,333.93)	\$(3,301.87)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY HISTORY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2014. Connie Moretz came to the CIA with a request to start one. She had a friend that received one from another church and loved the idea of them. So that is where it all started. The ministry is supported by Christians In Action, Joyful Noise donations and individual donations. The ministry started with 16 members, as of present we have 2. We are thankful for the past and present members, but we are always looking for new people.

We have sent shawls as far as Germany. As of 2026 we have given out 445 shawls to people in need of love and prayers. Each shawl is blessed with the love and prayers of the congregation before they are given out.

Shawls are there for anyone that would want the love and prayers from the lord. Please come and ask any of the CIA members and they can help.

SHAWL BLESSING

There are many blessings in this shawl we made for you,
It starts with a prayer and some yarn (with a lot of help from the Lord too)

As hours go by and your shawl has grown
We pray all the prayers and blessings for you and hope you will have
known that someone cares and think of you.

Like the Lord above and us too

There are a lot of blessings in this shawl we made for you,
it ends with a prayer and some yarn and gifted with blessings anew.

From the Lord and us and delivered to you.



Strawberry Festival

Laymen's Fellowship will be having the PA Dutch Raffle at our Annual Strawberry Festival on **Sunday, June 21**. We would greatly appreciate items for the raffle, valued at least at \$25. Please bring your donation to the Church no later than **June 14**. Thank you in advance for your support.



Laymen's Bingo

Mark your calendars! Laymen's Fellowship will be sponsoring a Cash & Gift Card Bingo fundraiser on **Sunday, July 19**. Donations of cash or gift cards would be greatly appreciated & will be accepted during May & June.



SERVING WITH FAITH AT THE WEST END FAIR

For more than a decade, St. Matthew's has been blessed to have a meaningful presence at the West End Fair through the fair stand. What began as a way to support Salem UCC in operating its longtime stand gradually grew into a ministry of St. Matthew's own. About five years ago, when Salem stepped away from the tradition, members of St. Matthew's warmly embraced the opportunity to carry it forward. Since then, the stand has become far more than a place to serve food—it has become a joyful expression of fellowship, faith, and community, allowing our church family to share the welcoming spirit of St. Matthew's and maintain a visible Christian presence on the fairgrounds.

In recent years, proceeds from the stand have helped extend God's love beyond the fairgrounds by supporting organizations that serve others in meaningful ways, including Valor and Operation Touch of Home. This year, St. Matthew's is once again honored to support Operation Touch of Home, an all-volunteer organization based in Monroe County. Through their mission of providing essential and comfort items to local military personnel, they offer both practical help and heartfelt encouragement to those who so faithfully serve our country.

The fair stand also represents the long and cherished connection between St. Matthew's and the West End Fair. In the fair's earlier years, many members of St. Matthew's devoted their time and talents to planning, organizing, and working at the event, from serving in the fair kitchen to supporting operations across the grounds. That beautiful legacy of service lives on [today](#), making the stand not only a fundraiser, but also a heartfelt tribute to the deep roots our congregation has in this beloved community tradition.

Running the fair stand takes many hands, many hours, and a generous spirit of service, and we are deeply thankful for every person who gives their time and energy to make it possible. Each volunteer shift is a gift, helping us welcome fairgoers with delicious, affordable food throughout the week. We are equally grateful to feature farm-fresh ingredients and to support local businesses, including Heckman's Orchard, Haydt's Meats, and Zimmerman's Dairy, whose quality products and partnership help make the stand a favorite stop at the fair year after year.

As another fair season approaches, we give thanks for this opportunity to serve, to share Christ's love, and to continue a tradition that brings our church and community together. May this ministry remain a blessing to all who visit the stand and to all who help make it possible.



ROCKY RAILWAY VBS
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH!

SCAN TO REGISTER
<https://vbspro.events/p/stmatthews>

JULY 13-17
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

AGE 3-11
PARTICIPANTS

12-17
YOUTH HELPERS

WHERE:
ST. MATTHEW'S
IN KUNKLETOWN

The graphic features a colorful illustration of a blue and red steam train on tracks, with children playing in a park-like setting with mountains and trees in the background. A QR code is prominently displayed in the center, and various icons represent the event's details.

St. Matthew's Prayer List – May 24, 2026

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:

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
Logan Mackes (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Poland
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:

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
Wade Koehler (Vivian Smith's friend)
Shannon Osinski (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
Eileen Ravalico (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
Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

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

Darryl Breinich/5*
Lee Byrne's son/5*
Harry Eckhart/1
Mary Eckhart/1
Deb Everett (Sue Hamlin's sister)/3
Kyle Frantz/3
Brenda Hawk/1
Rosa Hawk (friend of Rose Fritz)/5*
Charles Prince (Sue Hamlin's father)/3
Jean (Robbin Eckhart's mother)/4
Calvin Smith (Angie Procita's dad)/4
June Strohl (Marie Christman's friend)/1
Susan (Justin Guyer's friend)/4
Tom (Pat Martin's neighbor)/4

BEREAVEMENT:

Brenda (Wendy Peddigree's stepmother)/4
Lois Bachman (Homer Borger's sister)/5*
Joann Hunsicker (Penny Hawk's mother)/5*

CIA COOK'S CORNER

ITALIAN HOAGIE DIP

RENEE KEIPER

Ingredients:

1 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
2 tbsp banana pepper brine (optional)
1 tsp dried oregano
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1 small head iceberg lettuce, chopped
1/4 lb thin ham, diced
1/4 lb hard salmi, diced
1/4 lb pepperoni, diced
8-10 slices provolone cheese, diced
1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, diced
1/2 cup red onion, diced
1/2 cup banana peppers, diced (optional)

Dipper options:

chips
crusty bread
Ritz crackers

Instructions:

1. In a medium size mixing bowl, combine the mayo, red wine vinegar, banana pepper juice, dried oregano, salt and pepper. Whisk together until the mixture's smooth and evenly combined, then set aside.
2. On a cutting board, cut meats, cheese and veggies into tiny chopped pieces. The smaller the better.
3. In a large mixing bowl, add the chopped meats, cheese, tomatoes, onion and banana peppers. Stir to combine.
4. Pour the dressing mixture into the bowl with the combined meats and vegetables then toss until evenly combined.
5. Transfer the dip to a serving dish. Add the chopped lettuce right before serving so it's fresh and not wilted.
6. Dip with your favorite dippers and enjoy!!!

FIND THE 4 BRIDE BOUQUETS



June 2026

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4 MEN'S GROUP 7PM	5	6
7	8 Council 7pm	9	10	11	12	13
14  Graduate Sunday Service in Grove	15	16	17	18	19 FESTIVAL SET UP	20 FESTIVAL SET UP
21 Strawberry Festival/Car Show Worship 10am in the grove	22	23	24 10AM LAYMENS FELLOWSHIP	25 VISITATION MTG 9:30AM	26	27
28	29	30	PASTOR WIL ON VACATION JUNE 28—JULY 9			

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3 Lori Bentley, Ellen Kresge, Emily Maas, Barbara Souders

5 Christopher Bentley

6 Marlene Long

8 Destinee Smith

11 Larry Bonser, Matthew Kresge

13 Holly Green

14 Tracy Brotzman, Dawn Hockman, Kayla Wolf

15 Sandra Kresge

18 Jeana Keiser, Blake Bealer

19 Glenn Smith

20 Linda Miller

21 Brenda Sheckler

24 Rodger Eldridge, Ashley Stankovich

26 Daniel Barankovich

27 Stacy Halliday

28 Barbara Snyder

29 Jalene Keiser, Judith Lantosh,
Adam Smith

30 Cody Borger

