



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
September 13th

SEPTEMBER 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am – 2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattseckunkletown.com

RJ Cramer
Council President

Wil Hoffman

Pastor

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Dan Smale

Music Director

Cheryl Hummer

Interim Children's Ministry

Renee Keiper

Church Secretary

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St. Matthew's ECC
102 Church Rd.
Kunkletown PA 18058

A note from the Pastor:

Blessings to each of you, I am truly humbled to be God's servant, YOUR servant here in Jesus' Church in our beloved community of Kunkletown. As of late, I have been focused on exploring Jesus' parables on Sunday mornings. These stories that Jesus told reveal so much about God, Jesus, His Kingdom and us. They are short, easily understood and can be great way to begin reading the bible. With that in mind, If God is pressing on your heart to read the bible, I would like to invite you to give the parables a try. Below is a short article you can use as a guide.

Why Did Jesus Teach in Parables? If you are new to the Bible, some of Jesus' most memorable teachings are also among the easiest places to begin. Jesus often taught through parables—short stories drawn from ordinary life that reveal important truths about God, us and His Kingdom.

Jesus used familiar things to teach people unfamiliar spiritual truths, farmers planting seeds, fishermen casting nets, shepherds searching for sheep, families dealing with conflict, people losing things, workers earning wages, and travelers helping strangers. These were things His listeners could picture because they were part of everyday life.

Why Did Jesus Use Parables? Well, for several reasons. **First**, parables made spiritual truth understandable. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to understand what it means to lose something valuable, plant a seed, forgive someone, or help a person in need. **Second**, parables made people think. Jesus didn't always give His listeners a simple answer. His stories often required them to stop and ask, "*What does He mean?*" A parable invites us to think about the story and then think about ourselves. **Third**, parables reveal what is happening in our hearts. In Mark 4:9, Jesus says: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Obviously, most of the people listening to Jesus had physical ears, but Jesus was talking about something deeper: The question wasn't simply, "Did you hear the story?" The question was, "**Are you willing to hear Jesus?**"

How Should I Read a Parable? When you encounter one of Jesus' parables for the first time, don't worry about understanding every detail immediately. Read it slowly and picture yourself standing among the people listening to Jesus.

Then ask a few simple questions:

1. **What is happening in the story?** Don't look for hidden meanings yet. Simply understand the story Jesus told.
2. **Who was Jesus speaking to?** Was He talking to His disciples, religious leaders, a crowd, or someone who had asked Him a question?
3. **What caused Jesus to tell this parable?** Read the verses immediately before and after it. The context often provides an important clue.
4. **What is the main spiritual truth?** Don't assume that every tiny detail has a secret meaning. Look first for the central lesson Jesus is teaching.
5. **Where am I in this story?** This may be the most important question. Jesus' parables aren't merely stories to understand; they are invitations to respond.

Most importantly, when you read a parable, don't approach it as though Jesus is giving you a puzzle you must solve before you can understand the Bible. Instead, approach it as an invitation. Jesus is showing you something about God, His Kingdom, yourself, and what it means to follow Him. Read the story. Picture it. Think about it. Ask questions. Read it again. And then ask: "Jesus, what are You trying to show me—and how should I respond?" That's where a parable moves from being an ancient story to becoming a word that can change your life.

I pray that the time you spend reading God's word enriches you and blesses you. That was God's intention. God is interested in all aspects of your life. Give the bible a chance, you may find that when you read it, the Holy Spirit will speak directly to your heart. Not just about the past, but about YOU, today in the here and now.

May God bless and keep you until we gather together again. Pastor Wil

Dear Friends and Church Family,

We are excited to share an opportunity that God has placed before us. Wil and I will be traveling to Kenya with Shalom Christian Missions from June 19 through July 3, 2027, and we are asking you to prayerfully consider partnering with us in this mission. We will primarily be working at New Beginnings Children's Home, Rescue Center, and school in Nyasoti, Kenya. This is home and a place of refuge for many orphans and vulnerable children in the surrounding area & is also a rescue center for children of human trafficking, neglect, abandonment, and abuse.

Shalom Christian Missions is a Christian ministry dedicated to sharing the Gospel and serving communities in Kenya through practical, Christ-centered ministry. Their work focuses on meeting both spiritual and physical needs and building relationships with individuals, families, churches, and communities. Mission teams have the opportunity to serve alongside local believers and ministries, helping support the work that is already taking place within the community.

For Wil and me, this trip is about much more than traveling to another country. We want to be the hands and feet of Christ—to listen, to learn, to serve, to encourage, and to share God's love with the people we encounter.

First and foremost, we are asking for your prayers. Please pray for the people we will meet, the ministries we will work with, and the communities we will serve. Please pray for wisdom as we prepare, for safe travel, for good health, and for open hearts and opportunities to share Christ's love. Most importantly, pray that we will be sensitive to God's direction and willing to serve wherever He leads us.

We are also seeking financial support to help cover the costs of the trip. The expenses include travel, lodging, meals, transportation, and mission-related costs. Any amount you feel led to give would be a blessing and would help make it possible for us to participate in this opportunity. If you are unable to contribute financially, please know that your prayers and encouragement are just as meaningful to us.

We are excited to see what God has planned for us in Kenya and are grateful for the opportunity to serve through Shalom Christian Missions. We would be honored to have you join us through prayer, encouragement, and financial support as we prepare for this journey.

Thank you for considering being part of our mission team. We are truly grateful for your support and prayers.

With gratitude and blessings,

Tammy & Wil Hoffman

"Here I am! Send me." — Isaiah 6:8



Children's Ministry Message

The Children's Ministry will be holding our Back-to-School Family, Faith & Fun Night on Friday September 25, 2026 from 5-7 in the Fellowship Hall at the church. Come join the fun; there will be a gospel message, pizza & snacks, crafts, bingo and a raffle for a Back-to-School backpack filled with school supplies. Also, for the evening, we are holding a parent meeting while your child is playing bingo. We are looking for parental input on what you want for your child in their spiritual journey. Please join us, contact Cheryl Hummer if you plan on attending, either by email stmattsjoy@gmail.com or call the church at 610-381-2442. We will also be offering homework help / tutoring with a snack every Wednesday evening from 5-7 starting October 7th in the church Fellowship Hall.



Laymen's Fellowship is back!

Beginning on **Wednesday, September 16**, Laymen's Fellowship will be meeting at 10:00 am, in the Social Hall at Church! We welcome any new members to our group! At our meetings, we pray, have devotions, plan our events, & have lunch & enjoy a time of fellowship! Serving God is one of the most important principles of the Christian faith, as believers are expected to help the church with a joyful spirit. This is the essence of Laymen's Fellowship! If this sounds like something you would like to do, please join us! It's a fun time.

JULY 2026 - NET INCOME	JULY 2026	YTD
Total Offerings-envelopes & plate	\$ 9,397.00	\$ 71,990.13
Other Income	\$ 11,068.91	\$ 31,585.23
From investments	\$ -	\$ 36,793.71
JULY 2026 - Total Income	\$ 20,465.91	\$ 140,369.07
JULY 2026 - Total Expenses	(22,615.19)	(145,257.76)
NET INCOME (Loss)	(2,149.28)	(4,888.69)



25th Eldred Township Historical Society

Cash & Gift Card Bingo

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Place: St. Matthew's EC Church, Kunkletown



25 games for \$30 including coverall

50/50 Drawing

Tricky Tray

Doors open at 12:00 Noon

Bingo begins at 1:00 pm

Food & drinks available for sale by

St. Matthew's Christians in Action



St. Matthew's Prayer List – August 16, 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
- **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 Fable**—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**/5*
- **Mason Buskirk** - July 30th earthquake in Japan/4
- **Cara Craft** (Dan Smale's friend)/3
- **Jean** (Robbin Eckhart's mother)/4
- **Jerry Kresge**/2
- **Michele LoMonaco Mattocks** (Paul and Lisa's cousin)/1
- **Martha Serfass** (Eleanor Long's sister)/4
- **Bobbi Jo Smith** (Vivian Smith's daughter- in- law)/2

BEREAVEMENT:

- **Kim Cope** (Pastor Suzanne and Pastor Scott's daughter-in-law)/4
- **Rhonda Cramer** (RJ's aunt)/4
- **Kyle Frantz**/1

CIA COOK'S CORNER
FEATURING MINI CHOCOLATE CREAM CHEESE CUPCAKES
BY CHERYL HUMMER

Mini Chocolate Cream Cheese Cupcakes

Chocolate Batter:

1 ½ cup flour
1 cup sugar
¼ cup cocoa
½ tsp. salt
⅓ cup oil
1 cup water
1 tbsp. vinegar
1 tsp. baking soda
(mix vinegar with the baking soda)
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix all of the ingredients together and line small muffin tins with mini paper holders & fill ⅓ full with the chocolate batter.

Cream Cheese Filling:

8 oz. cream cheese
½ cup sugar
1 egg
Beat all of the above and add
6 oz. chocolate chips

Top the chocolate batter with a tsp. of cream cheese filling and bake at 350 degrees for 15 mins or less.



SEPTEMBER

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Church Office Closed	8	9	10 Men's Group 7pm	11	12
13 Church in Grove ***Council meeting 10:30am	14	15	16 Laymen's Fellowship meeting 10am	17	18 Visitation Team meeting 9am	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Back to School Family Faith & Fun Night 5pm to 7pm	26
27	28	29	30			

***Mondays - Luke Bible Study at 6:30pm**

*****Council at new day/time**

****Wednesdays - Bible Study at 6:30pm**



September Birthdays

1 Gloria Anewalt, Daniel Wunder
 2 David Beers
 3 Dan Smale
 4 Hajnalka Barankovich, Emily Smith Storm
 5 Kyle Meklas, James Pipitone
 6 Madison Borger, Keri Wunder
 8 Shayla Borger
 9 Karrie Gutierrez, Kaila Palermo
 10 Rachel Kresge
 11 Kaleb Slawter
 15 Calvin Smith

16 Bruce Eckhart
 17 Joanne Fisher, Brittany Heath
 19 Stephen Hall, Richard Scimeca
 20 Leeann Koch
 21 Sheila Beers
 22 Brianna Frable, Jane Frantz
 23 Kristy Bower, Jennifer Smith
 24 Brad Kibler
 26 Donna Smith
 28 Michael Meitzler
 29 Dora Tartar
 30 Richard Courtright