

ST. MATTHEW'S UCC WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

Sunday Services

9am Worship

CIA Class

start at 10:30am following
worship services.



March 2024

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsucckunkletown.com

Diann Bittenbender

Council President

Starlene Barr

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Dan Smale

Music Director

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's UCC

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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NONPROFIT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you ever notice how snow mysteriously falls during the night? When I was a kid, I received a book with a poem in it that stayed with me all these years and I recite it every time I wake up to a snowy world. It begins with:

“The snow fell softly all the night and slowly all the world went white.”

I recall loving winter and snow as a kid! Remember the joy of seeing those first snowflakes and thinking...could this mean a “Snow Day” tomorrow? Remember the joy you felt when you woke up the next morning to learn it WAS a “Snow Day”?

Snow Days meant sleigh riding, building snow forts for snowball battles, making snowmen, having wet mittens that didn't seem to bother you in the least. And if you were really lucky, a call from your mom to tell you to come in for a cup of hot cocoa, giving you a chance to warm up, change into dry clothes so you could go back outside to do it all again.

I feel so sorry for kids today because with virtual learning, very rarely, if ever, do they close schools because of snow. Imagine...no more “Snow Days”!

Now I dislike winter more every year. We've only had three “shoveling” snows so far but I'm over it!!! The only thing that makes me get out there to shovel is because my 92-year-old mother still does it and it shames me into doing it. My aging bones can't begin to imagine sleigh riding anymore. A snowball hitting me with remnants of it dripping down inside my coat? Yuck!

But...as I sit here writing this on a very cold brisk winter day, the sun is shining off a pure white snow-covered landscape that it's almost blinding! My whole body and soul rejoices at such beauty! God is an amazing and masterful artist.

I look out over the hills and fields around me and can't help but marvel at the pristine white blanket covering the earth. Soon that blanket will uncover a world waking up after a long winter's nap. There will be a resurrection of green grass, first flowers like crocus, tulips and daffodils. Trees and shrubbery will begin budding. It will be a time of the earth's rebirth. Already robins and bluebirds have returned to begin the search for perfect places for nests in which they will lay eggs. Eggs that hold the miracle of new life.

Spring brings Easter, a time of celebrating another resurrection...that of God's only son, Jesus, who suffered, was crucified and died for our sins and resurrected after three days so we can experience rebirth and have eternal life. 1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

We should think of ourselves as a blade of grass, covered in snow, not hearing the word of Jesus until a time when the Sun (Son) melts away the last of winter and forgives our sins. If we hear the word of Jesus, we grow tall and beautiful in his sight, also resurrected, reaching toward our heavenly Father. 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

It's time to recite a new line: “The snow melts softly all away and slowly God's world springs a new day.”

May the Son of God's words spring a new day for each of you.

Faithfully yours,

Linda Koehler

Staci's Stuff

By Staci Gower, Coordinator of Christian Formation



Welcome March! Our Easter services, family meals, and children's egg hunts are times well spent with each other. I am eager to celebrate the Easter season – which is a bit earlier this year.

Our annual Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, March 30 at 1 p.m. inside the West End Food Pantry, 516 Kunkletown Road, Kunkletown. Egg hunts will occur by age group. There will be snacks, crafts, and games after the hunts. The Easter bunny will be visiting. The event is free and open to the community. Please bring your own basket.

The Sunday School students are invited to be part of our Easter morning skit about the empty tomb, which will be narrated by Dora Tartar. We will rehearse during Faith & Family Night on March 8, which begins at 6 p.m. in the social hall. We will fill goody bags for the egg hunt during this event.

Sunday School meets March 10 and April 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the classroom. Our end of the year party will be held May 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the grove. Children's Church meets each week during worship, from 9:15-10 a.m. The children will stay in worship on Easter morning.

Please see me if you're interested in helping to staff the nursery or assist with Children's Church during worship. You can volunteer once or as often as you'd like. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

Ring, ring ... it's Camp Firelight VBS calling you into our grove July 15-19. We are seeking students ages 3 to 12, youth helpers ages 13 to 17 and adult leaders to join our team. VBS will be held 9 to noon daily, and includes Bible storytelling, crafts, science experiments, snacks, games, music, fellowship, and making new friends.

January 2024

January 7 – service cancelled -\$785.00

January 14—76 attending—\$3,819.00

January 21—54 attending—\$1,427.00

January 28—70 attending—\$2,420.00

Total \$8,451.00

January 2023

January 1—42 attending—\$1,220.00

January 8—71 attending—\$3,132.00

January 15—76 attending—\$1,887.00

January 22—67 attending—\$1,703.00

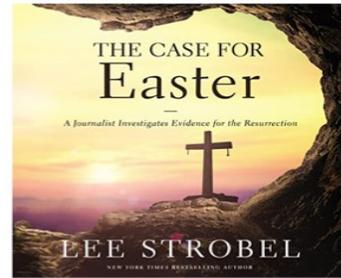
January 29—74 attending—\$2,126.00

Total \$10,068.00



THE CASE FOR EASTER

During Lent, everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM to investigate the Evidence for the Resurrection as presented by Lee Strobel in his book *The Case for Easter*. A few years ago I had the opportunity to lead a small group through this material and found it to be an inspiring experience as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week.



One of the things we will discuss over the four weeks (2/21, 2/28, 3/6, and 3/13) is what evidence exists for the Resurrection outside of the New Testament documents. Of course, as believers, we are satisfied and recognize the infallibility of Scripture, but the skeptic and unbeliever sometimes need more information to bring them to an understanding that the Resurrection of the Bible is indeed an accurate and trustworthy account that can be corroborated and authenticated as an event of ancient history.

Outside of the Bible, we have multiple extra-Biblical (i.e. non-Christian) sources that record Jesus died of crucifixion. While space does not allow for a detailed accounting of each of these sources, the fact that they exist makes it difficult for the skeptic to advance any claim relating to the idea that Jesus somehow escaped death by crucifixion or that the crucifixion narrative is just a legend that developed over the centuries. To accept this sort of skeptical narrative would require us to throw out everything we know about ancient history.

The five ancient sources we have that speak specifically about the crucifixion include the writings of Josephus, Tacitus, Lucian, Mara Bar-Serapion, and the Jewish Talmud. Here are excerpts from some of these ancient texts and what we can derive concerning Jesus, His crucifixion, and Resurrection:

Josephus excerpt (1st cent.)	“...Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die...They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive;...” (from the 1972 Arabic rendering)	(1) Pilate condemned him to die, (2) with crucifixion explicitly being mentioned as the mode. (3) The disciples reported that Jesus had risen from the dead and (4) that he had appeared to them on the third day after his crucifixion.
Lucian excerpt (2nd cent.)	“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day — the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account...”	(1) We are told that Jesus was worshiped by Christians. (2) It is also related that Jesus introduced new teachings in Palestine (the location is given in another unquoted portion...) and (3) that he was crucified because of these teachings.

Atheist and New Testament scholar Gerd Lüdemann concluded that “Jesus’ death as a consequence of crucifixion is indisputable.” The historical evidence for the crucifixion as well as the death and resurrection of Jesus is indeed strong. He has risen! He has risen! He has risen indeed! Join us on Wednesday evenings if you want to learn more. May you all have a blessed Easter!

Dan Smale, MA Christian Apologetics
(Email: dlsmale@gmail.com)



Dear St. Matthew’s Church Family:

Our many thanks to all for the love and support shown to our family during our difficult time.

Our father, Dennis taught us well and will be greatly missed.

With much gratitude,
Dan Smale and family.



Prayer Concerns

Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother)

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

Edith George, Gladys & Ray Smith—Scenic View Personal Care, 1305 Church Rd, Palmerton PA 18071

James Borger—Moravian Village Health Ctr, Rm 142, 634 E. Broad St, Bethlehem PA 18018

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

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

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

Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown, PA 18058

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

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

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





LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FUNDRAISER

PLACE ORDERS MARCH 3RD THROUGH MARCH 24, 2024

\$12 FOR A DOZEN ORIGINAL GLAZED DOUGHNUTS

\$9 FOR 6 DONUTS OF YOUR CHOICE:

CHOCOLATE ICED GLAZED

RASPBERRY FILLED GLAZED

GLAZED KREME FILLED

GLAZED LEMON FILLER

PICK UP TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 12:00PM—4:00PM



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Tyler McInaw | 19 Ali Snyder |
| 2 Leah Jane Sterner | 20 Boyd Gannon, Joan Madden, Tony Palermo |
| 3 Brenda Dorshimer | 21 Corey Smith |
| 5 Kayleigh Beidleman, Diane Stuart | 22 Randy Smith |
| 6 George Huber, Wanda Smith | 25 Brielle McInaw |
| 7 Marlette Palermo | 28 Mark Neeb |
| 9 Colton Courtright, Richard Frantz | 30 Annabel Beers |
| 10 Shirley Brotzman, Chapman Buskirk,
Jessica Petzold-Slawter | |
| 12 Irene Rundle | |
| 13 Jessica Meckes | |
| 17 Danielle DeSieno, Brandi DeVivo,
Joyce Gower, Dean Zacharias, Staci Gower | |
| 18 Zachary Huber | |



CIA COOKING CORNER

PECAN SQUARES

Linda Koehler

I love a good Pecan Tossie. But they're a lot of work. I came across this recipe for Pecan Squares and we love them just as much as a Pecan Tossie but a lot less work! Serve these as an Easter dessert and your family will thank you.

PECAN SQUARES INGREDIENTS

Crust

2 cups all-purpose flour

2/3 cup powdered sugar

¾ cup butter, softened

Filling

½ cup firmly packed brown sugar

½ cup honey

2/3 cup butter

3 tbsp. whipping cream

3 ½ cups coarsely chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

Sift together 2 cups of flour and 2/3 cup powdered sugar. Cut in ¾ cup softened butter using a pastry blender or fork just until mixture resembles coarse meal. Pat mixture on bottom and 1 ½ inches up sides of a lightly greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool.

Bring brown sugar, honey, 2/3 cup butter and whipping cream to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in pecans and pour hot filling into the prepared crust.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until golden and bubbly. Cool completely before cutting into 2-inch squares.



March 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6 The Case for Easter 7pm	7	8 Faith & Family Night	9 BBB 9am
10 Sunday School	11 Council 7pm	12	13 The Case for Easter 7pm	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20 Laymen's Fellowship 10am	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Egg Hunt 1pm WE Food Pantry
31 						