

Welcome to St. Matthews
“A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ.”
We are honored to have you worship with us today
and we hope that you will receive a warm welcome
and experience the presence of our Lord in a significant way.

PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMNS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

*****FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.**

PRAYER FOR CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus calls to the crowds with warnings.

Jesus calls to the converts to follow him.

Jesus calls to the resisters with parables of rejection.

Jesus calls to you: “Proclaim the kingdom of God.”

And the people answer:

Thanks be to God for the life and health and all goodness.

OPENING *Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia, amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King Alleluia, amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice, Alleluia, amen!

Come lift your hearts on high, Alleluia, amen!

Let praises fill the sky, Alleluia, amen!

He who made all things well Formed us His praise to tell;

Hear now the anthem swell, Alleluia, amen!

Sing this salvation song, Alleluia, amen!

Christ on the cross has won, Alleluia, amen!

Praise we the risen Lord; Come run through mercy’s door;

Loved, rescued, and restored, Alleluia, amen!

Lift high the Savior’s name, Alleluia, amen!

Til all the earth proclaims, Alleluia, amen!

Let now the gospel ring, Christ for the world we sing;

The world to Christ we bring, Alleluia, amen!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Clothed with the mantle of baptism and protected by God’s promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God and to one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, open our eyes to new ventures. Help us love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us and renew us, in the name of life abundant, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Receive these words of comfort from God)

The crucified Christ has set us free to live in the Spirit of life. Hear the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Gabby Bentley

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

INVITATION

As Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem to offer himself for the sake of the world, let us now offer our tithes and gifts in thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY *I Will Follow*

Where You go, I’ll go; Where You stay, I’ll stay;

When You move, I’ll move. I will follow.

All Your ways are good, All Your ways are sure;

I will trust in You alone. Higher than my sight,

High above my life; I will trust in You alone.

CHORUS:

Where You go, I’ll go; Where You stay, I’ll stay;

When You move, I’ll move. I will follow You.

Whom You love, I’ll love; How You serve, I’ll serve;

If this life I lose, I will follow You.

Yeah. I will follow You, yeah.

Light into the world, Light into my life–

I will live for You alone. You’re the One I seek,

Knowing I will find All I need in You alone.

*In You alone. **(CHORUS)***

*In You, there's life everlasting. In You, there's freedom for my soul.
In You, there's joy, unending joy; And I will follow. (CHORUS 2x)
I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah. I will follow You, yeah.*

SCRIPTURE READING Stephen Christiansen

1st Reading: John 13:33-35
33 Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come.'
34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant
5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.
7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
8 Love never ends.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Rose Fritz

SERMON Pastor Rick
Church DNA
The Priority of Love
John 13:33-35

Love _____ An Option
1 John 3:10-11 1 John 4:7

Love Follows Christ’s _____
His Love ...
is Sacrificial

Philippians 2:5-8

is Merciful

Luke 6:35-36

is Unconditional

Anticipates Good Outcomes

Luke 15:20-22

is Tough Love

James 5:19

Love Tells The World _____
John 13:35

***THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Victory In Jesus (Christ Won the Victory)
*I heard an old, old story how a Savior came from glory.
How He gave His life on Calvary to save a wretch like me.
I heard about His groaning, of His precious blood's atoning.
Then I repented of my sin, Christ won the victory.*

CHORUS: *Oh victory in Jesus, My Savior forever!
He sought me and bought me with His redeeming blood.
He loved me ere I knew Him and all my love is due Him.
He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.*

*I heard about His healing; all his miracles revealing
That He alone can save a soul and set the captive free.
I'm happy in His promise, how soon He's coming for us,
And home with Him I'll sing again, "Christ won the victory!" (CHORUS)*

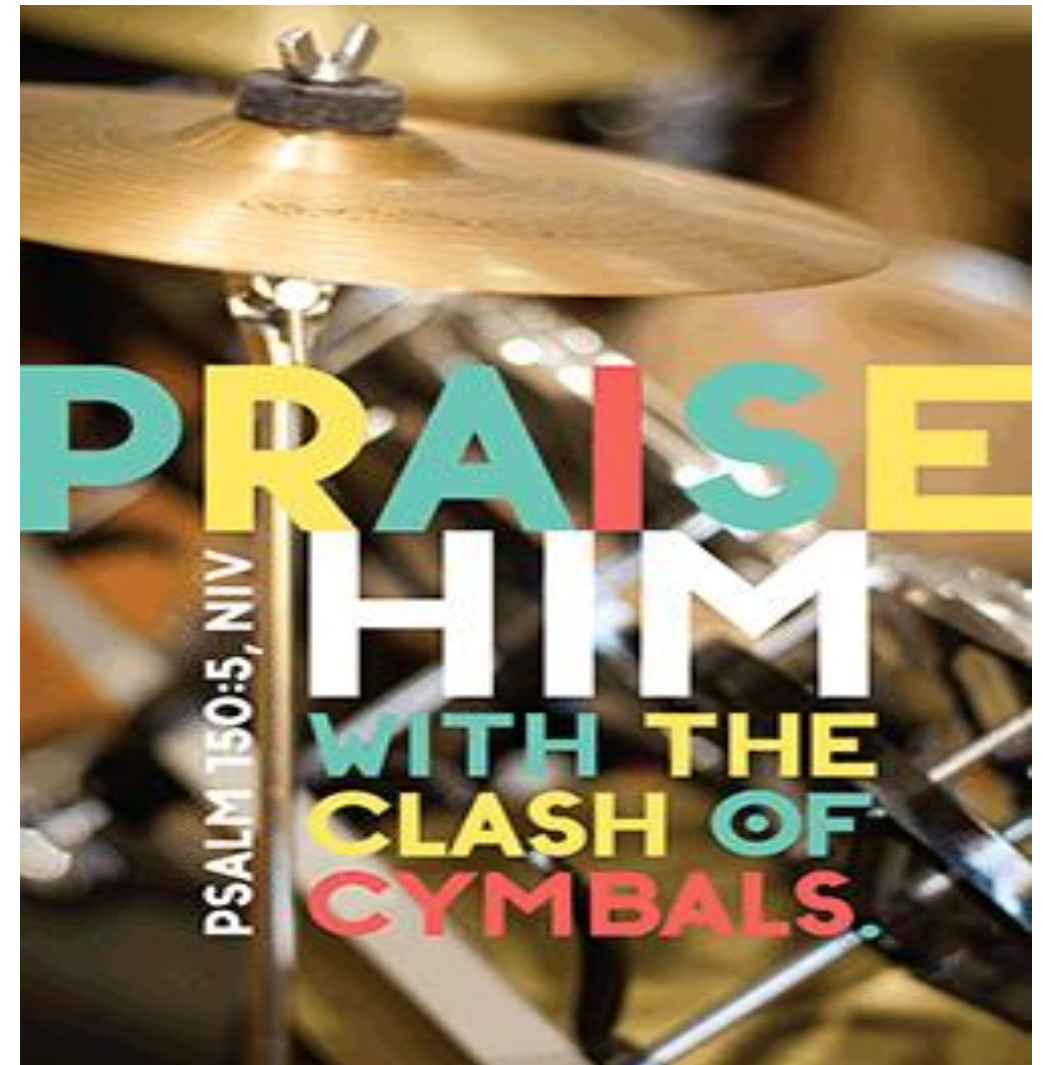
*I'll tell the old, old story till my Savior comes from glory.
I'll tell of all the Lord has done to set this sinner free.
That all who will believe Him, by faith, can still receive him
and share in that redemption song: "Christ won the victory!" (CHORUS 2x)*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor Rick

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL** *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen



**St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 29, 2025**

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058
610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

❖ **Prayer Concerns for 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 – Riverton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Ctr,
803 N. Wahneta St., Allentown PA 18109

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

Tom Barr Sr. – Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

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

❖ **June benevolence is Garden of Giving. July benevolence is Touch the World (The Barn).**

❖ **Breakfast will be served in the social hall immediately following today’s worship service.**

❖ **Luke’s Gospel Bible Study will take place on Wednesday’s at 6:30pm on July 2, July 9 and July 16 in the CIA Classroom.**

Council President: RJ Cramer	
Interim Pastor: Rick Rufenacht	Assistant Pastor: Wil Hoffman
Church Secretary: Renée Keiper	
June Lead Usher: Kyle Strohl	July Lead Usher: Cheryl Hummer



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, June 29	3rd Sunday after Pentecost Band and Breakfast	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, June 30	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am -2pm -Common Room 10:30am
Wednesday, July 2	Luke’s Gospel Bible Study	-Office Open 10am – 2pm -CIA Classroom, 6:30pm
Thursday, July 3	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am – 2pm -Common Room 10:30am
Sunday, July 6	4th Sunday after Pentecost	- Sanctuary, 9am

*****Please make all church checks payable to St. Matthew’s EC Church