

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

WELCOME EVERYONE!

FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God with us, Immanuel,
comes to give us our own Holy Family,
here with the body of Christ this day.
Rejoice and be glad!
Amen!

***OPENING HYMN *Joy Has Dawned* page 762**

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE ADVENT CANDLE Hawk Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that God hears our repentance,
let us turn our minds to the truth,
confessing our sins to God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts,
we have turned away from you,
neglecting the welfare of your creation,
taking from Earth what we cannot give back.
Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.
In your compassion, turn us to your way.
Retore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us,
and we shall be saved. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“You are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

For the sake of the One God promised to send,
named as God’s Son,
who died, was raised and through whom we receive grace,
God forgives you all your sins.
You are God’s beloved,
called to be saints.
Grace to you and peace.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Christmas Pageant

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

2 Corinthians 9:15, Pg 942

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Robbin Eckhart

SCRIPTURE READING

Linda Koehler

Genesis 1:1-4, Pg 1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.

Isaiah 9:2, Pg 555

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

Psalms 36:7-9, Pg 443

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

SERMON Pastor Wil Hoffman
Sermon Title "His Kingdom Shines Forever"

Sermon Scripture
John 1:5

Sermon notes:

*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 *Joy to the World* page 780

*CLOSING PRAYER

*CONGREGATIONAL SUNG 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.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – PLEASE STAY TO VOTE FOR
THE 2026 BUDGET AND 3 NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Guest speaker is Vicki Smith. Please sign up on sheet on information table in the gathering area.

- ❖ **You still have time to drop off gently worn, used or new shoes.**
Donation box is located by the elevator on the first floor.
Last day is January 31, 2026. We are up to 273 pairs of shoes as of Wednesday 12/17 and our goal is to get 2500 pairs of shoes by the end of January! Keep bringing in the shoes and to spread the word!

<u>THE WEEK AHEAD</u>		
Sunday, Dec. 21	4 th Sunday of Advent	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Dec. 22		-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, Dec. 24		-Office closed
	Christmas Eve services	- 3pm and 8pm
Thursday, Dec. 25	Christmas	-Office closed
Sunday, Dec. 28	First Sunday after Christmas	-Sanctuary, 9am
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Pastor: Wil Hoffman		Council President: RJ Cramer
December Lead Usher: Diann Bittenbender		

Altar Flowers: Vase #1 – In celebration of Mitch Hawk’s birthday on December 23rd.
Vase #2 – available for \$15

- ❖ **December Joyful Noise – West End Food Pantry**
- ❖ **New Hymnal dedication slips on the information table in the Gathering Room. \$20 for each dedication.**
- ❖ **St. Matthew’s EC Church new membership** – If you are interested in joining our church family please see Pastor Wil. There will be 3 classes to attend. January 18th, January 25th and February 1st at 10:30am to 12:00pm.
- ❖ **Christmas Eve Services – 3pm and 8pm**
- ❖ **Discipleship Seminar – January 11, 2026, 10:30am to 12:00.**



**St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
December 21, 2025**

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

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

SHUT INS CONTINUED

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: healing/5***

Bereavement:

Harry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew’s/5***
Terry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew’s/5***

*** indicates changes from last week. For additions, updates or removals, please contact the Church Office at 610-381-2442 or complete and return a Prayer Card.*