

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

CIA CLASS

10:30 AM SUNDAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
TAKES PLACE DURING THE
9:00AM WORSHIP



MAY 2025

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

RJ Cramer
Council President

Rick Rufenacht
Interim Pastor

Starlene Barr
Treasurer

Renée Keiper
Church Secretary

Dan Smale
Music Director

DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DO NOT HOLD



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

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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BYLAW CHANGE

In view of the fact that St. Matthew's is now an Evangelical Congregational Church, it is important that the process of calling a new pastor is in line with the Conference Rules set forth in the E.C.C.

The process for the placement of pastors in the Evangelical Congregational Church differs from the former United Church of Christ model.

In the Evangelical Congregational Church "Pastors are assigned by a Stationing Committee through a cooperative process (Stationing Committee, pastor and local church) rather than called to pulpit ministries by a local congregation" (901 Defining Stationing... National Conference Rules) The Stationing Committee, which is made up of elected leaders and the Bishop of the Conference, works with the search committee to find the pastor who is a good fit in regards to the church profile and needs. The Church Search Committee carries the responsibility of vetting the candidate put forward by the stationing committee, and ultimately making the final decision to call the new pastor.

Following is the proposed bylaws change which is to be voted on **Sunday Morning, May 18, immediately following the 9:00am worship service.**

The old / current bylaws wording for Article 7, Section 3 is shown in strike out and the new change is shown in bold italics.

Article 7. The Call of the Pastor and the Termination of a Pastorate.

Section 3. ~~The Pastoral Search Committee, with the approval of the Church Council, shall present a candidate to the congregation that it feels can fill the office of Pastor. To receive the Call as Pastor the candidate shall receive a favorable vote cast by communicant members at the meeting that follows the worship service. The Conference Minister shall determine if vote cast is favorable.~~

The St. Matthew's Pastoral Search Committee shall operate in accordance with the National E. C. Conference rules (900 Stationing of Ministers) during the pastoral selection process. Pastors are assigned by an E.C. Stationing Committee, which is made-up of elected leaders of the National Conference and the Bishop. "The Stationing Committee shall give careful consideration to past performances and the gifts and graces of the men involved, as well as the needs of the local churches to be stationed."(901 Defining Stationing) The Stationing Committee will present one candidate at a time for the St. Matthew's Pastoral Search Committee's consideration and the Pastoral Search Committee's subsequent unanimous vote following assessments and interviews. The final decision on the new pastor for St. Matthew's E.C. Church will be made solely by the St. Matthew's Pastoral Search Committee.

Numerous times I have been asked about the purpose of various elements of the weekly worship service, such as the Call to Worship, Affirmation of Faith, Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Doxology. I thought it would be helpful to explore each of these practices in the coming months, with the goal of deepening worshippers' understanding and appreciation for the different parts of the Sunday morning worship service. This month, I will focus on the opening Call to Worship.

We read in Psalm 100... Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

This psalm calls people to joyful worship and gratitude toward God, recognizing Him as the Creator and Sustainer of life. **The purpose of the Call to Worship is to direct our attention away from worldly distractions and focus our hearts on revering God, inviting and guiding God's people in worship.**

God calls us to worship: Worship is initiated by God, not by humans. The Call to Worship is a **divine invitation**, and our response to it is both a serious responsibility and a joyful privilege. It should never be reduced to casual greetings or trivial distractions, as it is a **solemn moment for focusing on God**. Through the Call to Worship, God invites us into His presence, inviting us to join the eternal praise of the heavenly hosts. The worship leader should express this invitation with enthusiasm and joy, recognizing the significance of the moment. A well-planned Call to Worship also aligns with the theme of the service, setting the tone for the rest of the service and guiding the congregation's response to worship.

God calls us to respond to His revelation: The Call to Worship urges God's people to respond to His revelation of His nature and purposes. **Worship is a response to God on His terms, not our own.** This response includes praise, prayer, repentance, testimony, encouragement, and service, forming the foundation of covenant worship. Psalm 100 reveals God as Lord and Creator, prompting us to **respond with thanksgiving and praise**. The Call to Worship carries an imperative tone, meaning it expresses a command or urgent request, **prompting the congregation to actively engage rather than simply listen passively.**

God calls us to respond to His redemption: God's invitation to worship reminds us that, despite our weaknesses and sins, we are precious to Him. **His invitation reveals His grace, making us willing and able to respond in worship.** The psalmist emphasizes that we are God's people, and **our worship is motivated by God's goodness, love, and faithfulness, which are all reasons for praise.** While the full message of the gospel may not always be explicitly stated in the Call to Worship, its essence is reflected in the invitation to approach God's presence. This invitation **honors His worthiness while comforting us in our unworthiness.** God's grace not only establishes our relationship with Him but compels us to respond in worship. In the Call to Worship, God acts as both host and honoree, welcoming us into His presence.

In conclusion, **the Call to Worship is a sacred invitation from God, drawing us into His presence and prompting praise and reverence.** It sets the tone for the entire service, guiding our hearts toward God. As worship leaders and participants, we are called to approach this time with joy, recognizing its privilege and responsibility. In the coming months, I look forward to exploring other elements of the worship service, with the goal of deepening our understanding and enriching our worship experience.

Prayer Concerns for Shut ins:

Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
James Borger—Moravian Village Health Ctr, Rm 142, 634 E. Broad St, Bethlehem PA 18018
Larry Hahn—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064
Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360
Kay Frable—Complete Care at Lehigh Center, 1718 Spring Creek Rd., Macungie PA 18062
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—302 Kunkletown Rd, 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

St. Matthew's Prayer List as of April 27, 2025

KINGDOM WORK:

Sister Helena - Zambia
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
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 (Eleanore Long's Sister): Cancer
Marlette Palermo: Heart concerns
Sheila Sherer (Eleanore Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

BEREAVEMENT:

The Linda Muffley family (Friend of Mitch & Judy Hawk)
The Janet Gower family**

NEW NEEDS:

Brian Ahner (Eleanor Long's Nephew)/4: Health concerns
Christopher Bently (Gabby's Dad)/3: Back surgery
Diane Bonser/5: Health concerns; surgery recovery
Tammy Brown/1: Health concerns
Corbin/5: (Infant son of Eleanore Long's co-worker) colonoscopy reversal surgery recovery; financial concerns
Larry Eckhart (Marie Christman's Nephew)/3: chemo infusion going ok; found lump on thyroid
Benjamin (19 yr old friend of Nicholas Kaufmann)/4: Stroke; doing better
Gerald Kresge/5: Arm surgery**
Debbie Martin (Pat Martin's Friend)/4: Surgery
Marilyn McCloud/3: waiting for blood clot to dissolve
Jessica Meckes/3: Colon cancer
Faye Nicholas/2: Additional medical tests
Wendy Peddigree/2: Bone density treatments
Danny Serfass (Brenda Hawk's Brother)/4: Stomach cancer; back in hospital
Keith Serfass (Nephew of Sterling & Ellen Kresge)/4: Health concerns
Tim (Barbara Souder's Brother)/3: Stroke
Weston (Milton & Barbara Souder's Great Grandson)/3: back injuries from ATV accident
Anna Smale (Dan's Mother)/1: Fall while in Germany
Dean Zacharias/2: Medical procedure
Dave Zinkler/3: Strength for rehab recovery for walking



VBS Registration Form (One Per Family)* *Please return by July 6, 2025*

St. Matthew's UCC – July 14-18, 2025 in the Church; 9 a.m. to Noon

Ages 3-11 as participants, Ages 12-17 as youth helpers

* A parent or adult may stay with 3 & 4-year-old students.

Child(ren)'s name(s): _____

Child(ren)'s age(s): _____ Last school grade(s) completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (____) _____ Cell phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____

Home church: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church, and that all registration information will be removed from the hosting site by December 31 of this year.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

PLEASE SEE DORA TO SIGN UP FOR THE FOOD STANDS. IT TAKES EVERYONE TO HELP OUT TO MAKE A FUN AND SUCCESSFUL EVENT! THE SIGN UP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE OR CALL DORA.



March 2025

3/2/25 86 attending \$2,700
3/5/25 42 attending \$543 Ash Wed
3/9/25 80 attending \$1,546
3/12/25 64 attending \$1,234 Lent
3/16/25 84 attending \$2,115
3/23/25 77 attending \$2,203
3/30/25 94 attending \$1,900

Total \$12,241

March 2024

3/3/24 79 attending \$3,463
3/10/24 60 attending \$1,926
3/17/24 67 attending \$2,865
3/24/24 81 attending \$2,474 Palm Sunday
3/28/24 27 attending \$1,106 Maundy Th
3/31/24 51 attending \$1,917 Sunrise
3/31/24 116 attending \$2,578 Easter 9am

Total \$16,329

Graduate
Sunday
we honor you



Graduates Name: _____

Your Name: _____

Name Of School & Location: _____

Degree, License, Diploma or Certificate: _____

Future Education or Career Plans: _____

Graduates Address So We Can Send A Card:

Graduate Sunday date to be announced at a later time.

***Please return to office no later
than May 25h.***

CIA COOK'S CORNER

Strawberry Tres Leches

Diane Huber

1 box Strawberry Cake Mix- Bake according to directions.
Once cooled poke holes throughout the entire cake.
Mix 1 can of sweetened condensed milk and 1 can evaporated milk.
Create a puree from 1 pound of Strawberries.
Mix all 3 and pour over the cooled cake. Cover with plastic wrap.
Refrigerate overnight.

When ready to serve, have ready the toppings:
Mix together, 1 pint of heavy whipping cream, 3 T of sugar, 1 teas. of vanilla.

Take 20 vanilla Oreos, ¼ cup of melted butter, a small box of Strawberry Jello and pulse in a food processor.

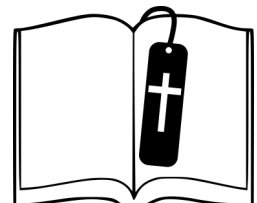
Spread the whipped cream over the cake and sprinkle with the Oreo mixture.

Serve and Enjoy!

Corinthians 10:31 Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking, or whatever you are doing, do it all to the glory of God.

Recipe submitted by Eileen Rufenacht
First Church of God Cookbook
Defiance OH
Best of Life

One "new" Heart –the younger and fresher, the better. Matthew 18:3-5
Blend in a daily chapter of God's word
Stir frequently with prayer
Pour a cupful of the Holy Spirit into life each day (two cups if you like a smoother texture)
Add a large measure of God's Love and a handful of Grace
Blend until well combined
Allow to rise gently
Serve yourself, your family and your world a slice of the Best of Life!!



May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Concert of Prayer 7 pm	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Men's Group 9am in grove
11 Mother's Day	12 Council 7pm	13	14	15	16	17 Birthday Bash 5pm
18 Bylaw Vote Hymn Sing 3pm	19	20	21 Laymens 10 am	22	23	24
25	26 Office closed		28	29	30	31

BIRTHDAYS

1 Milton Souders
 2 Chris Fisher, Samantha Kreger
 3 Darryl Breinich, Bridget Freeby, Michael Kratz
 4 Joshua Frantz
 5 Mary Eckhart, Barbara Getz
 7 Abigail Huber
 9 Delbert Kibler Sr.
 10 Carl Frantz, Alexandria Pfancook, Carl Smith
 12 Starlene Barr
 13 Laura Bealer, Ava Kresge, Arianna Gutierrez
 14 Brenna Perry
 15 Robert Dorshimer
 16 Cody Eckhart
 20 Michelle Gannon, Malvin Meckes

21 Lillian Leslie
 22 Tammy Brown, Karena Thek
 24 Skye Smith
 25 Linda Greenweig, Kathy Smith, Cassandra Yost
 28 Nickolas Snyder
 29 Jackie Gannon, Ashley Hahn, Frank Rappa
 30 Deanna Anthony
 31 Dale Greenzweig Sr.

