

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

Renee Keiper

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

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

PRAYER FOR CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Call upon the Lord!

I asked for help and I was healed!

We asked for freedom,

And we were given liberty beyond measure!

Praise God!

OPENING HYMN *Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

Verse 1: *You made the starry hosts, You traced the mountain peaks; You paint the evening sky with wonders.*

The earth, it is Your throne, From desert to the sea; All nature testifies Your splendor.

CHORUS: *Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord; Sing His greatness All creation.*

Praise the Lord, Raise your voice; You heights and all you depths,

From furthest east to west, Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord.

Verse 2: *You reached into the dust; In love, Your Spirit breathed. You formed us in Your very likeness.*

To know Your wondrous works, To tell Your mighty deeds; To join the everlasting chorus:

(CHORUS)

Verse 3: *Let symphonies resound, Let drums and choirs ring out; All heaven hear the sound of worship.*

Let every nation bring, Its honors to the King; A roar of harmonies eternal.

FINAL CHORUS: *Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord; Sing His greatness All creation.*

Praise the Lord, Raise your voice; You heights and all you depths,

From furthest east to west, You distant burning stars, All creatures near and far,
From sky to sea to shore, Sing out forevermore; Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Secure in the promise of God’s knowledge of us, and trusting in God’s readiness to forgive, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear Lord, fill us with your peace and with your mercy. Free us from the destruction of sin and restore us to a life lived in you. Lead us to the river of life that in all we do, we may honor your name. Amen

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

Peace! Peace is what you receive from God when you know that your sins are forgiven.

Peace is what you have when you know that the destruction of sin cannot harm you, because you are not alone in your journey of life. Therefore, peace, my sisters and brothers! In Jesus we have received forgiveness, and we have been restored!

Thanks be to God!

INTRODUCE TIFFANY LAKATOSH – St. Matthew’s Children’s Ministry Director

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Gabby Bentley

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

INVITATION

God has given us healing, word, forgiveness. God has given us so much! Let us now take the time to respond in gratitude, by giving of what has been given to us.

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God;

Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Praise Him, Lord above all lords, King above all kings, God’s only Son.

The Prince of Peace, who by His Spirit comes to live in us, Master and Friend.

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

SCRIPTURE READING Cheryl Hummer
Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things were created through him and for him.
17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Diann Bittenbender

SERMON Pastor Wil

Jesus is the Key!

Jesus is first

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus is the _____ of God.

Exodus 33:20 Philippians 2:6-8

Jesus is the _____ of all creation.

John 1:1-3

Jesus is the _____ of the body, the church

Revelation 21:5-6

Jesus is the _____ from the dead.

John 14:6

Therefore, Jesus must be _____ in our lives.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

***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 *America, the Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness, And ev’ry gain divine!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!*

*America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!
From sea to shining sea!*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor Wil

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
4th Sunday after Pentecost
July 6, 2025**

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

- ❖ **July benevolence is Touch the World (The Barn).**
- ❖ **Luke’s Gospel Bible Study will take place on Wednesday’s at 6:30pm on 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	
July Lead Usher: Cheryl Hummer	



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, July 6	4th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, July 7		-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room 10:30am
Wednesday, July 9		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Luke’s Gospel Bible Study	-CIA Classroom, 6:30pm
Thursday, July 10		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room 10:30am
Sunday, July 13	5th Sunday after Pentecost	- Sanctuary, 9am

Altar Flowers:
Vase #1 – Celebrating Gabby Bentley’s 31st birthday on July 7th
Vase #2 – available for purchase for \$15

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