



WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A Faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 AM SUNDAY
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS 10:30 AM SUNDAY

OCTOBER 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am – 2pm

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Council President

Wil Hoffman

Pastor

Starlene Barr

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Music Director

Cheryl Hummer

Interim Children's Ministry

Renee Keiper

Church Secretary

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St. Matthew's ECC
102 Church Rd.
Kunkletown PA 18058

Why Does God Allow Non-Believers to Have Success?

Truly God is good to the upright, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For they have no pain; their bodies are sound and sleek. They are not in trouble as others are; they are not plagued like other people. Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them like a garment. Their eyes swell out with fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues range over the earth. Therefore the people turn and praise them, and find no fault in them. And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?" Such are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. All in vain I have kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, and am punished every morning. If I had said, "I will talk on in this way," I would have been untrue to the circle of your children. But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end. Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! They are like a dream when one awakes; on awaking you despise their phantoms. When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was stupid and ignorant; I was like a brute beast toward you. Nevertheless I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me with honor. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Indeed, those who are far from you will perish; you put an end to those who are false to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, to tell of all your works.

Have you ever looked at someone who doesn't believe in God and thought, **"Why does everything seem to go so well for them?"** I have. Sometimes we look around and see people who have little or no interest in God, yet they seem to be doing just fine. Their careers are successful. Their families seem happy. They have money in the bank, nice homes, good health, and plenty of opportunities.

Then we look at our own lives—or the lives of faithful Christians we know—and see struggles, sickness, financial difficulties, disappointments, and heartache. And somewhere in the back of our minds we begin to wonder: **"God, how is this fair?"**

If you have ever felt that way, you are in pretty good company. A man named Asaph struggled with exactly the same question in Psalm 73. He admits: **"For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."**— Psalm 73:3, ESV

I appreciate Asaph's honesty. He doesn't pretend that everything is fine. He looks at the prosperity of people who don't seem to care about God and admits, **"I was envious."** And if we're being truthful, sometimes we are too. Asaph even begins wondering whether following God is worth it. But then comes the turning point: **"Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end."**— Psalm 73:17, ESV

Notice something important. **Asaph's circumstances didn't change. His perspective did.** He stopped measuring life by what people possessed today and started looking at life from the perspective of eternity. That's something I think we all need to remember from time to time. **Having more doesn't necessarily mean that God loves someone more. And having less doesn't mean that God loves us less.** Jesus said that our heavenly Father **"makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous"** (Matthew 5:45, NRSV).

God is generous. He allows believers and non-believers alike to experience the blessings of this life. A successful career, a beautiful home, good health, and financial security can all be wonderful things. But none of them lasts forever. Eventually careers end. Possessions wear out. Money gets spent. Our bodies grow older. And someday every one of us will stand before God.

That's when Asaph realizes something much more important: **"Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you."** — Psalm 73:25, NRSV. Asaph finally understands that **the greatest blessing God can give us isn't something—it is Himself.** That's the part of Psalm 73 that challenges me.

Maybe instead of asking, **"Why does that person have something I don't?"** I need to ask, **"Do I realize what I already have because I belong to Christ?"** - We have forgiveness. - We have grace. - We have the promise that God will never leave us. - We have hope beyond the grave. - And we have a Savior who loved us enough to give His life for us.

The world may look at someone's bank account, house, career, or possessions and say, **"Now that's success!"** But Asaph discovered something better: **"But for me it is good to be near God."**

— Psalm 73:28, ESV. So the next time we are tempted to look across the fence and wonder why someone else seems to have it better, maybe Psalm 73 can remind us to stop looking around and start looking up. Because at the end of the day, **the greatest measure of a life isn't how much we have. It's whether we know the One who gave us life in the first place.**

And if we have Christ, we are far richer than we sometimes realize.

In Christ,

Pastor Wil Hoffman

St. Matthew's EC Church



October 10th at 8am

Power washing around the entrances of the church will take place (weather permitting).

Helpers would be appreciated.

Three hoses, cleaning solution, buckets, a long-handled brush and one power washer will be provided. We could use another power washer, hoses and brushes if there are volunteers.

Reach out to Melanie or Jason Frantz for information.

Children's Ministry Message

The Children's Ministry is excited for the month of October. Our homework help / tutoring program will begin Wednesday October 7th from 5-7. It will run every Wednesday evening from 5 - 7 with a snack provided. As of now, we have five volunteers to help us, some are teachers, retired teachers or they work in a school district. If you know anyone who would like to volunteer, please have them contact someone in the Children's Ministry. We hope to help many children in our area.

We also will be picking a winner for our Children's Ministry Logo Contest, all entries are due by October 4th, with the winning logo to be unveiled soon afterwards. The winner will receive a \$25 Visa gift card.

Then, on October 31st, we will be holding our Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot from 5-7. Many community organizations have been invited to participate. We hope that this turns into a huge community event that has to be moved up to the grove for the future. Everyone is invited to participate and hand out treats to our children. We will also have some special treats and a gospel message for everyone inside the fellowship hall if you choose to come inside. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

God Bless,

Cheryl Hummer



LAYMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

November Annual Bazaar

The Annual Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 7, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.** There will be a Ticket Raffle, PA Dutch Raffle, Bake & Soup Sale, Food to Dine in or Take Out & lots of fellowship. Soup will be available for purchase at \$10 a quart. We are in need of cash or gift cards, valued at \$25 or more, for our Ticket Raffle. Please give them to Brenda Sheckler, Shirley Brotzman, or Diane Huber by October 4, in order to be able to get the tickets printed. We also are in need of items for our PA Dutch Raffle...items should be valued at \$25 or more. You may drop these off at the church from October 18-30th. We hope you can come out for a day filled with food, fun & fellowship. Thank you for your support.



Annual November Filling Sale

Filling Orders will be taken starting in **October** until **Sunday, November 15.** See any Laymen's Fellowship member to order the filling. The cost of filling is \$8.00 for a 2 lb. container and \$2.00 for a pint of gravy. Filling orders may be picked up on **Tuesday, November 24,** from 1:00 to 5:30 pm. You may call our Renee in our church office to place your order M-W-Th 610-381-2442 from 10 am to 2 pm.



August 2026 – Net Income	August 2026	YTD
Total Offerings – Envelopes & Plate	\$ 10,960.00	\$ 82,950.13
Other Income (including West End Fair)	\$ 38,591.80	\$ 70,177.86
From Investments	\$ -0-	\$ 36,792.88
August 2026 – Total Income	\$ 49,551.80	\$ 189,920.87
August 2-26 – Total Expenses	\$ (21,295.11)	\$ (166,552.87)
NET INCOME	\$ 28,256.69	\$ 23,368.00

St. Matthew's Prayer List – as of September 27, 2026

KINGDOM WORK:

- **Sister Helena** – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables and feeding the children.
- **Randy & Deb Sheagley** – Touch the World (touchtheworld.org)

MILITARY:

- **Major James Beidleman** (son of Kathy and Brian Beidleman): Pilot at Dover Air Force Base
- **LT Noah Krechel** (Grandson of Henry and Doris Krechel): Serving in the US Navy stationed in Norfolk, VA
- **Bryce Silliman** (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy

LONG-TERM NEEDS:

- **John Armbruster** (friend of Rose Fritz): immunotherapy for a year
- **Conner Bittenbender** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing
- **Roberta Heffley** (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
- **Jalene Keiser**: Cancer
- **Wade Koehler** (Vivian Smith's friend)
- **Chelsea (Everett) Morgan** (Devoe Breinich's niece) ALS
- **Shannon Osinski** (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
- **Eileen (Ravalico) Keller** (Roy Zeruth's friend): Cancer
- **Sheila Sherer** (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
- **Scott Smith** (Doris and Henry's son-in-law): Cancer
- **Sherry Smith** (Barbara and Richard Getz's daughter)
- **Hudson Stewart** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet
- **Nicole Zeruth** (Roy Zeruth's cousin): Cancer

SHUT INS:

- **Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt**: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091
- **Gene and Sandy Borger** – P.O. Box 907, Kresgeville PA 18333
- **James Borger**—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463
- **Kyle Frable**—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Shirley Kuntz**—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Gladys Meixsell**—Stroudsburg Post Acute Nursing and Rehabilitation, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360
- **Jacqueline Mock**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058
- **Marlette Palermo** – 276 Bollinger Rd., Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Velma Silfies**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Leah Jane Sterner**—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
- **Jesse Ziegenfus**—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

PRAYERS NEEDED:

- **Roy Borger**/5*
- **Stephen Christiansen**/3
- **Sue DeLong** (Arlene Dunkelberger's neighbor)/4
- **Mason** (Mark and Brandy Bittenbender's nephew)/2
- **Nancy** (Rose Fritz's mother)/4

BEREAVEMENT:

- **Mark Michaels' mother** (Mark is a member of the men's group)/3
- **Kathleen Houck** (Karol Meitzler's sister)/5*

BIRTHS:

- **Russell Stanley Smith was born Sept. 18th** (son of Tiffany and Corey Smith)

CIA COOK'S CORNER
FEATURING - RASPBERRY SALAD
SUBMITTED BY ROBBIN ECKHART

1 large box of instant vanilla pudding
32 oz. vanilla yogurt
8 oz. Cool Whip
1 pkg frozen raspberries

1. Mix instant pudding and yogurt together
2. Add the Cool Whip and mix together
3. Add the raspberries (if frozen, leave out for about 10 minutes)
4. Mix it up well and often for the raspberries to blend
5. Refrigerate

Salad can be made the day before.



Operation Christmas Child – shoeboxes are available in the gathering room.

Information, suggestions and labels will also be available. Please return filled boxes by November 8th.



OCTOBER 2026
 MONDAY NIGHT -6:30PM LUKE BIBLE STUDY
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT – 6:30PM SERMON REVIEW BIBLE STUDY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 S'mores and More Campfire 6pm – 9:30pm
4	5	6	7	8 Council Meeting 7pm	9	10 Power wash Church 8am – 12pm
11 Historical Society Bingo 1pm	12	13	14	15 Men's Group 7pm – 9pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 Laymen's Fellowship 10am	22	23	24
25	26	27 St. Matthew's 247 th Birthday	28	29 Men's Bible Study 7pm – 9pm	30	31 Trunk or Treat 5pm – 7pm

October Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Tom Barr, Gerald Fusner, Bob Kratzer, Gerald Kresge | 18 Rodway Sterner |
| 3 Sterling Borger, Austyn Flurer, Jonathan Petzold | 19 Morgan Frantz, Jennie Rose Serfass, |
| 4 Zachary Frantz, Mallory Scheller, Kristen Snyder | Tracey Smith |
| 5 Robin Gitch | 21 Darlene Beers |
| 6 Michael Borger | 22 William Slawter, William Thek |
| 7 Susan Bonser, Karol Meitzler, Glenn Snyder | 24 David Eckhart |
| 8 Darrin Frantz, Steven Kocher | 25 Tom Hockman, Corey Peddigree |
| 10 Sandy Borger | 26 Eleanor Long |
| 11 Justine Shirghio | 31 Ronald Frantz, Yvonne Hosler, |
| 15 Hal Eckhart | Kerry Peddigree, Sherry Shupp |
| 16 RJ Cramer, Brian Snyder | |
| 17 Meredith Capuano, Stephen Christiansen,
Barry Greenzweig, Ian Snyder | |