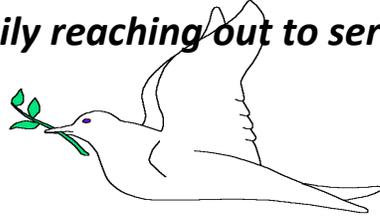


ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



JUNE 2025

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsecckunkletown.com

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY IN GROVE

CIA CLASS IN CLASSROOM

10:30 AM SUNDAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND
CHILDREN'S CHURCH IS
CANCELLED FOR JUNE.

IT WILL RESUME ON JULY 6

RJ Cramer

Council President

Rick Rufenacht

Interim Pastor

Wilbert Hoffman

Assist. Pastor

Starlene Barr

Treasurer

Renée Keiper

Church Secretary

Dan Smale

Music Director

DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DO NOT HOLD



Kunkletown, Pa 18058

102 Church Road

St. Matthew's Church

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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NONPROFIT

EC Stations Pastor Wil Hoffman to St. Matthew's ECC Kunkletown.

On Sunday, May 25, 2025 Bishop Randy Sizemore informed the congregation that Pastor Wil Hoffman is being stationed here at St. Matthew's. Pastor Wil enters the ministry in a part-time Assistant Pastor role and will be working closely in a mentoring relationship with current interim Pastor Rick Rufenacht.

At such time as our Church Council, Pastor Rick, and Pastor Wil deem appropriate, Pastor Wil Hoffman will become the full-time lead pastor.

After Wil progressed through the EC Pastoral Assessment Center process and was interviewed by the EC Board of Examiners, the stationing elder, Rev. Charles Walker, met several times with the search team to present this proposal and discuss the interview process. The search team met with Wil and his wife Tammy on Monday, May 19th in a very informative and lengthy interview, after which the search team voted unanimously to assent to the stationing of Pastor Wil as our assistant pastor.

Wil retired from the Air Force in 2008 and moved back to his hometown of Lehigh. After returning, he and Tammy married, and they both became involved in People's EC church. It was in early 2024 that Wil felt the Lord calling him to re-examine his life and after much prayer and meditation he discovered a strong desire to enter into pastoral ministry. He has since dedicated his life to serve God and His people.

Tammy oversees the St. Peter's Resource center in Lehigh which Wil founded. Through this ministry they have formed close relationships with many which have resulted in a number coming to faith in Jesus. Wil has also been active over the last year in the men's ministry here at St. Matthew's as well as at People's ECC in Weissport. He has also led small group studies which several from St. Matthew's have attended.

Wil has actually been attending St. Matthew's for over a year. He has preached several times at St. Matthew's and has a great love for the people and a God-granted vision for reaching others and disciplining them for the good of God's Kingdom.

Wil states "My greatest blessing in ministry is to be able to walk with people through their journey... I will always do my best to apply the grace and forgiveness that God gives to me to others."

**St Matthew's will host a Meet and Greet Supper for Wil and Tammy
on Sunday, June 8 at 5:30pm at the church. Lasagna, salad, bread and drinks will be provided.
Attendees are encouraged to bring a dessert.**

Over the next few months, I will continue explore the various elements of the weekly worship service to deepen worshipers' understanding and appreciation of the components of the Sunday morning worship service. Last month, I discussed the Call to Worship; this month, I will focus on the Affirmation of Faith.

The Affirmation of Faith holds a vital place in the worship service, offering **a moment for the congregation to express the core beliefs that unite them as a community of believers.** This collective declaration is more than just a ritual—it is **a powerful way for the church to connect with its historical roots, to testify to the world, and to strengthen the faith of all who gather.**

At its core, **the Affirmation of Faith is a public acknowledgment of the timeless truths that define Christianity.** When we recite, sing, or read together these declarations, we are not only affirming our personal beliefs but also **aligning ourselves with the global body of believers across generations.** The words of the Apostles' Creed (below), Nicene Creed, or other ecumenical statements serve as bridges linking modern worshippers with the church throughout history. **These creeds represent a shared understanding of who God is, the work of Christ, and the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

The significance of this moment in the worship service goes far beyond mere tradition. **It is a renewal of our convictions.** Through the Affirmation of Faith, **we publicly proclaim the gospel truths that sustain us,** such as the death and resurrection of Christ, and our identity as those saved by grace. This declaration is also **a humble acknowledgment of the sovereignty of God, a declaration that our lives and eternity are staked on the truths found in Scripture.** Whether spoken aloud or sung, these words remind us of the deep spiritual truths that shape our daily lives and our eternal destiny.

In some church traditions, the Affirmation of Faith is linked directly to the sermon, summarizing or affirming the message taught from the Scriptures. In other settings, it may follow significant acts of worship, such as baptism or the Lord's Supper, reinforcing the core themes of redemption and new life in Christ. The use of creeds and confessions like the Heidelberg Catechism or the Westminster Confession of Faith **provides a concise and powerful testimony of faith that helps the congregation remain grounded in the gospel message.**

The Affirmation of Faith also **serves as a testimony to the world.** In an age where belief in absolute truths is often questioned, the church's collective statement of faith **stands as a witness to the unchanging nature of God's word.** **It reminds both the believer and the observer of the certainty we have in Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

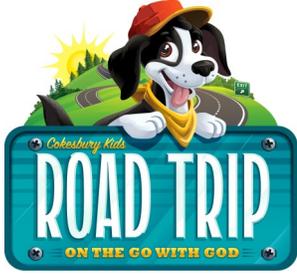
Finally, the Affirmation of Faith is not only for the present moment but **is an investment in the future.** It provides a means for parents and leaders **to pass down the truths of Scripture to the next generation, ensuring that the foundation of the faith is built on a solid rock.** By reciting these truths together, we also **affirm our solidarity with Christians around the world who may be persecuted for their faith, standing as one body united in belief and hope.**

In conclusion, the Affirmation of Faith is more than just a part of the liturgy. **It is a declaration of who we are as a church, a reminder of the truths that sustain us, and a powerful witness to the world.** As we affirm our faith together, we are joining in the great chorus of believers past, present, and future, **proclaiming the eternal hope we have in Jesus Christ.**

The 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.

• Resource: Chapell, Bryan. *Christ-Centered Worship* (pp. 169-170). Baker Academic.



VBS at St. Matthew's ECC

Get ready for a fun and thrilling Road Trip Vacation Bible School at St. Matthew's ECC, 102 Church Road, Kunkletown. Our journey will be held Monday, July 14 through Friday, July 18 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. There will be Bible storytelling, crafts, games, snacks, music, science experiments, a Wednesday afternoon field trip, and Friday afternoon lunch celebration! We need students ages 3 to 11; youth helpers ages 12 to 17; and adult leaders ages 18 and up, who have their PA background clearances. A parent or guardian may stay with students who are 3 or 4. For more information or to get a registration form: call the church, 610-381-2442 M-W-Th 10:00-2:00. Registration forms are due to the VBS team by July 1, 2025.



St. Matthew's Gift Card Bingo

Sunday, July 27, 2025

St. Matthew's EC Church
102 Church Road
Kunkletown, PA

Given by St. Matthew's Laymen's Fellowship

20 games for \$30 50/50 Drawing

Free Door Prizes

Doors open at 12:00 noon

Bingo begins at 1:00 pm

Food & drinks available for sale

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

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

102 Church Road, Kunkletown, PA

Strawberry Festival & 21st Annual

CAR SHOW



Sunday, June 15, 2025 (Rain or Shine)

Registration 8 am - 12 pm

Trophies Awarded 3 pm

Breakfast 8 am - 10 am

Worship Service 10 am

BBQ • Hot Dogs • Hamburgers • Salads • Assorted Beverages

Strawberries • Ice Cream • Shortcake

11 am - 4:00 pm

Brian Dean
Moore Band
1 pm - 4 pm

Top 25 Trophies by Participants Choice

100 Dash Plaques

50/50 Raffle

Activities for the Kids Starting at 1 pm

D.J. Eazy E!



Prayer requests can be anonymous

A portion of the car show proceeds will be donated to Monroe County and Carbon County Meals on Wheels.

For more information call: Glenn Snyder (610)762-9887

Disclaimer: You are responsible for your own car(s). St. Matthew's will not be held liable for any damages, accidents, theft or loss.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Vehicle Make _____ Year _____

Model _____

Pre-Registration \$8.00



Day of Show \$10.00

Checks should be made payable to: **St. Matthew's CIA**

Please mail pre-registrations to: **Magen Snyder, 1215 Valley Road East, Kunkletown, PA 18058**

St. Matthew's Prayer List – May 25, 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

Joe Osinski (RJ's friend): Serving as an International Guard in Guam until October.

Conner Wise (Hal's cousin's son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

JOYS:

It's a boy!! Logan Pawlicki was born on May 8th, his parents are Dan & Amanda Pawlicki; two of our newest members!!/4

Josh and Nicole Frantz are also celebrating the birth of a new baby boy – Owen Douglas!!/5**

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

Marlette Palermo: Heart concerns

Sheila Sherer (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain

Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

BEREAVEMENT:

The Rick Knecht family (passing of his wife)/4

Family of Jamie Franks (person involved in Josh Christman's accident and is Josh's buddy's uncle)/4

Family of Georgia Smith – friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar/5**

Family of Mark Kline – friend to many St. Matthew's members/5**

NEW NEEDS:

Diane Bonser/1: Health concerns; surgery recovery

Josh Christman (Grandson of Betty Christman)/3: Vehicle accident; in critical condition; other driver died

Corbin/2: (Infant son of Eleanore Long's co-worker) colonoscopy reversal surgery recovery- doing better

Dan Doenges (Friend of Pastor Rick & Eileen)/3: Motor cycle accident; in critical condition

Larry Eckhart (Marie Christman's Nephew)/3: chemo infusion going ok; thyroid is okay

Kay Frable/3: broken hip from fall at Care Home

Wade Koehler: (friend of Vivian Smith) cancer treatments and surgery/5**

Henry Krechel: stroke, getting therapy at Lehigh Valley Transitional Skill Unit/5**

Gerald Kresge/2: Arm surgery recovery and starting dialysis

Shirley Leinthall (Janet Smith's Sister)/3: Health concerns

Faye Nicholas/2: More medical tests

Jonathan Petzold/2: Pneumonia & collapsed lung

Richard Rex/5:(Husband to Ann from WE Food Pantry) circulation issues**

Danny Serfass (Brenda Hawk's Brother)/5: Stomach cancer; he is now at home.**

Dean Zacharias/2: Discernment on medical procedures

Dave Zinkler/3: Continued strength for rehab recovery for walking

** indicates changes from last week

For additions, updates or removals, please contact the Church Office at 610-381-2442 or complete a Prayer Card.

CIA COOK'S CORNER

APPLE CRANBERRY SAUCE DUMP CAKE

RENEE KEIPER

2 cans apple pie filling

1 can cranberry sauce (not the jellied kind)

3/4 cup melted butter

1 box Krusteaz crumb cake and muffin mix

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Layer apple pie filling in a 13 x 9 inch baking dish

Layer cranberry sauce on top of apple filling

Melt butter and mix with cake mix to make crumbs

Layer crumbs on top of cranberry sauce

Bake 40 to 45 minutes.

Serve warm with cool whip or ice cream.



April 2025 Income

4/6/25—85 attending—\$3,129

4/9/25—68 attending—\$67—7pm Lent

4/13/25—80 attending—\$2,835

4/17/25—42 attending—\$144 Maundy Thurs.

4/20/25—47 attending—\$1,525 6am grove

4/20/25—125 attending—\$4,050 9am sanctuary

4/27/25—60 attending—\$1,275

Total \$13,025

April 2024 Income

4/7/24—78 attending—\$2,670

4/14/24—71 attending—\$2,620

4/21/24—75 attending—\$1,871

4/28/24—57 attending—\$1,250

Total—\$8,411

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Grove	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Grove *Graduate Sunday *Meet the Pastors Dinner at 5:30pm	9 Council 7pm	10	11	12	13	14
15 Grove Strawberry Festival	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Grove	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Grove Band & Breakfast	30					

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 3 Lori Bentley, Ellen Kresge, Emily Maas,
Barbara Souders | 26 Daniel Barankovich |
| 5 Christopher Bentley | 28 Barbara Snyder |
| 6 Marlene Long | 29 Judith Lantosh, Adam Smith |
| 8 Destinee Smith | 30 Cody Borger |
| 11 Larry Bonser, Matthew Kresge | |
| 13 Holly Green | |
| 14 Tracy Brotzman, Dawn Hockman, Kayla Wolf | |
| 15 Sandra Kresge | |
| 18 Jeana Keiser, Blake Bealer | |
| 19 Glenn Smith | |
| 20 Linda Miller | |
| 21 Brenda Sheckler | |
| 24 Rodger Eldridge, Ashley Stankovich | |