

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L)The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

(ALL) Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

***OPENING HYMN**

Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord has come

Let earth receive her King

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Saviour reigns

Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat repeat the sounding joy

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Bittenbender Family

CALL TO CONFESSION Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said, Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial. With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 25:4-6

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

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

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Gabby Bentley

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

OFFERING – Basket located on the table as you enter the sanctuary.

Trusting in the sure promises of Christ, and grateful for the Spirit's sustaining power, let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERTORY

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Chorus: Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes (Chorus)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (Chorus)

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore (Chorus)

SCRIPTURE READING

Marie Christman

Responsive Reading Psalm 25:1-10

(L) To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

(ALL) O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

(L) Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

(ALL) Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

(L) Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

(ALL) Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from old.

(L) Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

(ALL) Good and upright is the Lord; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way.

(L) He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

(ALL) All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8-11 Pew Bible pg 833

SERMON

Pastor Rick Rufenacht

The Christmas Invitation

You are Invited

Luke 2:8-11

The Invitation Requires _____

Matthew 7:13-14 Romans 10:9-10

The Invitation Calls for _____

Luke 3:7-8 Isaiah 54:6 Psalm 139:23 - 24

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

***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**

Come Thou Fount

*Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise His Name I'm fixed upon it
Name of God's redeeming love*

*Oh to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above*

*Oh that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen
How I'll sing Thy sovereign grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Bring Thy promises to pass
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me
Till I'm home with Thee at last*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor Rick

***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.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

***POSTLUDE**

***INDICATES THAT YOU STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

❖ **Prayer Concerns**

Jason Frantz, Wayne Halliday, Dawn Hockman, Brenda Hawk, Ralph Wunder (Dan's brother), Brooke Beck, Marlette Palermo, Tina Martin (Pat's daughter), Todd Kresge, Alysha Katz, Wendy Peddigree, Rhonda Cramer (Randy and Ray's sister), Ellen Kresge, Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Debra Kemmerer, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn and Howard McCloud, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother), Barry and Danny Serfass (Brenda Hawk's brothers), Barbara Marks (Pat Martin's sister-in-law), Georgia Smith (friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar), Helen Alpaugh, Leni (friend of Helen), Logan Mackes (Rose Fritz's grandson). The family of Edith George.



St. Matthews Church Kunkletown
1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

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



Sunday, December 1	1st Sunday of Advent	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, December 2		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room - 10:30am
Wednesday, December 4		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, December 5		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room –10:30am
	1st Thursday Game Day	- Social Hall – 12:30pm
Sunday, December 8	2nd Sunday of Advent	-Sanctuary, 9am
	Annual meeting/Assessment Results	

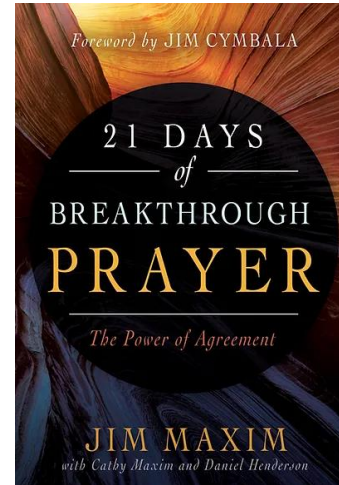
ALTAR FLOWERS

Vase #1 – Irene and Dean Zacharias in celebration of the Holiday Season

Vase #2 – In memory of Maynard Sterner’s heavenly 99th birthday

- ❖ CIA is taking orders for poinsettias. Order forms are available on the table in the narthex. Give orders and payment to any CIA member or drop it off on the secretary’s desk. Today is the deadline.
- ❖ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** The Kunkletown Christmas Show will take place on December 7th at 6pm.
- ❖ “Be a volunteer – you may not always have the time, but you have the heart.” Our Church Council is looking for volunteers to sit on the Council for the next term. Speak to a Council member if you are interested. Nominations will be made at the annual meeting on December 8th.
- ❖ December’s Joyful Noise is the West End Food Pantry.

❖ Also, on December 8th Lonnie Bullock from NXTStep Church Services will be here to give us the results of the assessment that was conducted on October 26 and 27.



St Matthews EC Church family is joining together in prayer for the month of November. We are encouraging all members to read through and pray daily through the 21 days prayer guide.

Here’s how it works:

Read the devotional for the day.

Navigate to www.acts413.net/21days or www.strategicrenewal.com/21days and listen to the prayer of the day.

Pray with us for God to breakthrough in our lives and the life of St Matthews EC Church as we proceed in our new future and pursue our new pastor.

❖ **Bible Studies:**

- Wednesdays at 1:00pm – led by Pastor Mike at People’s EC Church (216 Wagner Street, Lehighton)
- Wednesdays in the CIA classroom at 6:00pm – led by Dan Smale from the book of Luke. Class will resume on January 15, 2025
- The 3rd Thursday of the month at 12:30pm – led by Pastor Mike at Papa Al’s (Delaware Ave, Palmerton). Contact Pastor Mike (717-503-0821) to find out what chapter and verse will be discussed while you have lunch.

<p>Council President: Diann Bittenbender Interim Pastor: Rick Rufenacht Church Secretary: Renée Keiper December Lead Usher: Devoe Breinich</p>
