

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 EVERYONE!

FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who delight in the Word of God. They are like trees planted by streams of water and they will flourish.

*OPENING HYMN *O Church Arise*

O church, arise, and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth, We'll stand against the devil's lies.
An army bold, whose battle cry is love, Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul, But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole, We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side, We know the outcome is secure.
And Christ will have the prize for which He died: An inheritance of nations.

CHORUS: *Arise, shine for your light has come Arise, shine for the Risen Son*
Lift your eyes, we are His radiant bride Arise, o church arise!

Come, see the cross, where love and mercy meet, As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride; Give grace for every hurdle.
That we may run with faith to win the prize Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old, still line the way, Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls, and hunger for the day When with Christ we stand in Glory. (CHORUS
2x)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In penitence and in faith, let us confess our sin to the One who waits to pour out mercy upon us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful Maker, you created us for better use; remake us now. Where we are distorted re-center and reshape us, bring us low and raise us up. Then fire our hearts until we shine with your glory and find our place in your purpose.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, your sins are forgiven. Therefore, be at peace to follow the good road for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

Offertory Scripture

Romans 12:6-8 page 922

6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;

7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching;

8 the exhorter; in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

OFFERTORY *How Great Thou Art (#33) Page 51 in the hymnal*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

CHORUS: *Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:*
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, (CHORUS)

*And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. (CHORUS)*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" (CHORUS)*

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament:

Joel 2: 28-32 page 742 in the Pew Bible
28 Then afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.
29 Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.
30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.
31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.
32 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

New Testament

Acts 2:17-21 page 885
17 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.
18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and smoky mist.
20 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

SERMON

Would Jesus Join This Church?

(The Mindset of the Early Church.)

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 general Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

*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 *Hear the Call of the Kingdom*

*Hear the call of the kingdom Lift your eyes to the King
Let His song rise within you As a fragrant offering
Of how God rich in mercy Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace*

*Hear the call of the Kingdom To be children of light
With the mercy of heaven The humility of Christ
Walking justly before Him Loving all that is right
That the life of Christ may shine through us*

*(Chorus) King of Heaven we will answer the call
We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion, filled with power to proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name*

*Hear the call of the Kingdom To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion In the wonder of the cross
Bringing peace and forgiveness And a hope yet to come
Let the nations put their trust in Him (Chorus 2x)*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE – ALL**

❖ **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 – Liza's House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038

Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058

Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360

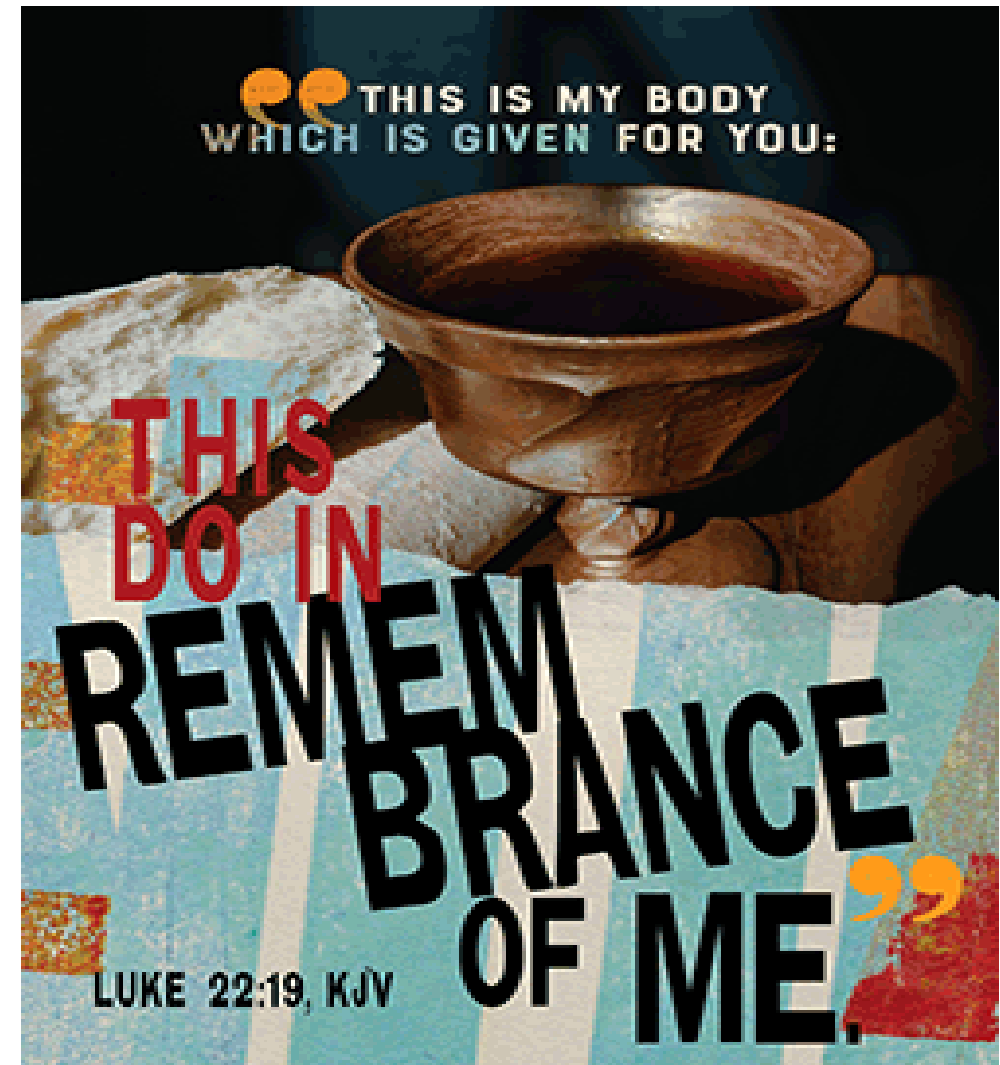
Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd,
Kunkletown PA 18058

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



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
13th Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058
610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
www.stmattsecckunkletown.com



THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Sept. 7	13th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Sept. 8		-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room 10:30am
Wednesday, Sept. 9		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
Thursday, Sept. 11		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Common Room 10:30am
Sunday, Sept. 14	14th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am

Altar Flowers

Vase #1 – in celebration of Kaila’s and Kerrie’s 38th birthday.

Vase #2 – in celebration of Devoe’s and Darryl’s 54th wedding anniversary on September 11th.

Pastor: Wil Hoffman	Council President: RJ Cramer
Children’s Ministry Director: Tiffany Lakatosh	Church Secretary: Renée Keiper
September Lead Usher: RJ Cramer	

- ❖ **September benevolence – Habitat for Humanity**
Help build strength and stability.
Your donation will help families in need of a decent place to build long-term financial security. With an affordable, stable home, families have more to spend on food, medicine, childcare, education and other essentials. Your support can help us do more in all the many ways that Habitat builds.
Thanks to you, Habitat is transforming lives around the world.
- ❖ **Shoebox deadline is only 2 1/2 months away!!**
Please start thinking about filling the shoe boxes you took last year.
Fill them to the brim with lots of toys, crafts, needed items.
Check the board in the Gathering Room for ideas.
You do not need a red and green box to fill with items.
Any shoe box will do. We provide the labels.
Please be age and gender specific, as it helps with the processing.
- ❖ **September 13th – Men’s Group Kickball Picnic in the Grove, 12pm – 3pm**
- ❖ **September 15th – Council Meeting, 7pm ** Note: this is the 3rd Monday.**
- ❖ **September 17th – Laymen’s Fellowship Meeting, 10am**
- ❖ **September 19th – Family Campfire and S’mores in the Grove, 6pm to 8pm**
- ❖ **September 20th – Kid’s Movie Night, 5pm to 7pm**
- ❖ **Laymen’s Fellowship Annual Bazaar is Nov 1.**
Ladies are looking for prizes for the raffle drawing. Gift Cards, Cash or Prizes valued at \$50 or more would be greatly appreciated. Items must be in by **Sept 28**. Other items for the auction table can also be donated to the group by Friday, Oct 31, the day before the Bazaar.