

Welcome to St. Matthews EC Church
“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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The heavens declare the glory of God!
The skies proclaim God’s handiwork.
The day pronounces God’s glory without a sound,
the night expounds God’s knowledge without a word,
and yet their voices go out through all the earth.
Let us join our voices with the voice of creation
In declaring God’s glory!

OPENING HYMN *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness* (Hymn 254)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us boldly confess our sin
before the One who already knows our errors
and is gracious to forgive our hidden faults.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you have planted us
like a vineyard on a fertile hill.
You cleared away the stones,
planted us with choice vines,
and kept watch over us by night and day.
But we have not yielded the good fruit
that you expected or desired.
Forgive us, we pray.
Uproot our evil, prune away our sin,
and shower upon us the gift of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our salvation does not depend
on anything we have done,
but comes from the grace of God alone
through faith in Jesus Christ.
This is the good news:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Dora Tartar

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Page 941

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us,”

MIDDLE HYMN

***O Great God* (Hymn 400)**

SCRIPTURE READING

RJ Cramer

Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 36:23-28, Page 704

“I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.”

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 51:1-10, Page 452

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”

SERMON

Sermon Title: “Christ is not a Fashion, Fleeting Away” – By Cameron Smith

Sermon Text: Ephesians 4:17-24

“Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Sermon Notes:

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

APOSTLE’S 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, died and was 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 living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal 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 *All Sufficient Merit* (Hymn 838)**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

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.**

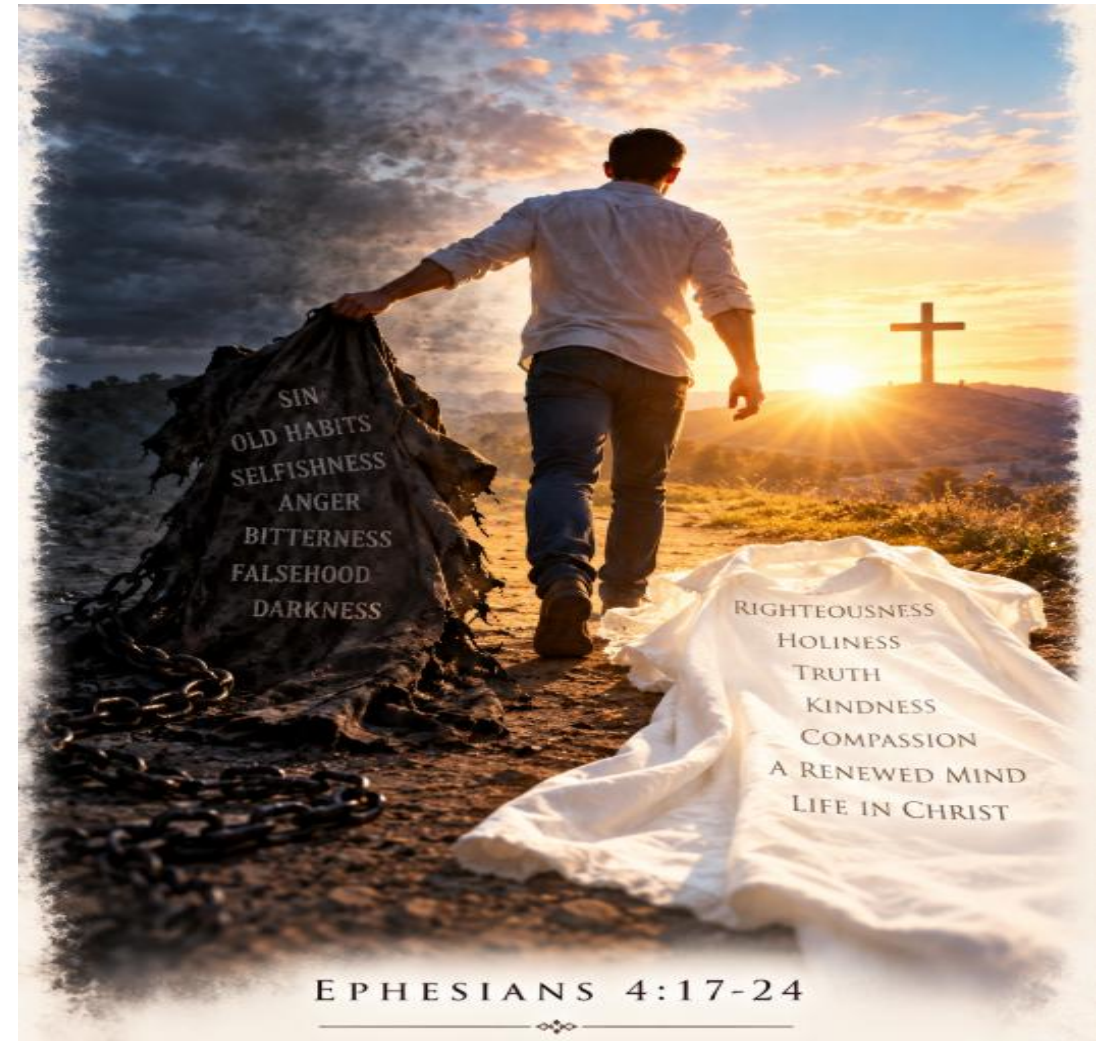
THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Oct. 4	Communion	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Oct. 5		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Class	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
	Luke Bible Study	-Large classroom, 6:30pm
Wednesday, Oct. 7		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Bible Study	-Large classroom, 6:30pm
Thursday, Oct. 8		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Class	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, Oct. 11		-Sanctuary, 9am

Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

- ❖ **October Joyful Noise – Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley**
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **St. Matthew's 250th Anniversary is coming up in 2029.** We need leaders, ideas and volunteers.
- ❖ **October 11th** – Historical Society bingo at St. Matthew's. Doors open at 12:00pm
- ❖ **October 31st** – Trunk or Treat in St. Matthew's parking lot. See Cheryl Hummer for information.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Saturday, 10/10, we will schedule power washing** for the entrances that morning 8-noon. 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 other volunteers.
Anyone can reach out to Jason or Melanie Frantz for more information.



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
October 4, 2026
 102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058
 610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List –October 4, 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
- **Judy Walck** (Louise Shupp's cousin): Cancer
- **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
- **Ellen and Sterling Kresge** -528 Silver Spring Blvd. 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**/3
- **Stephen Christiansen**/1
- **Sue DeLong** (Arlene Dunkelberger's neighbor)/2
- **Mason** (Mark and Brandy Bittenbender's nephew)/5*
- **Nancy** (Rose Fritz's mother)/2
- **Rick Rentschler** (Bruce Eckhart's brother-in-law)/4
- **Colin Smith** (Vivian Smith's son)/5*
- **Blaine Sterner** (Beverly Frantz's cousin)/5*
- **Donna Waltz**/5*

BEREAVEMENT:

- **Mark Michaels' mother** (Mark is a member of the men's group)/1
- **Kathleen Houck** (Karol Meitzler's sister)/4
- **Barbara Souders**/5*

BIRTHS:

- **Russell Stanley Smith – 9/18/26** (Tiffany and Corey Smith's son)/4

(Numbers at the end of name tell you how many weeks the name will be listed in the bulletin. The * next to the number 5 tells you that the name is a new prayer request)