

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 Psalm 29; Luke 3:21-22**

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.

The Son of God is named, “Beloved.”

And all who worship shout out, “Glory!”

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

Let us worship God in holy splendor.

OPENING HYMN *You Servants of God* *Hymnal page 112

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,

and publish abroad his wonderful name;

the name all victorious of Jesus extol;

his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God rules in the heights, almighty to save;

though hid from our sight, his presence we have;

the great congregation his triumph shall sing,

ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

“Salvation to God who sits on the throne!”

Let all cry aloud and honor the Son:

the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,

fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give him his right,

all glory and power, all wisdom and might:

all honor and blessing, with angels above,

and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 43:1

God loves us and calls us each by name. Knowing we are eternally forgiven and infinitely loved, let us boldly confess our sins before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Isaiah 43:4; Luke 3:22

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

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

Beloved, God forgives your sins; know that you are pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Gabby Bentley

“THE PASSING OF THE PEACE”

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

INVITATION Isaiah 43:2

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism, let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

OFFERTORY *Take My Life and Let It Be* *Hymnal page 466*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love,

At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee;

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King,

Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for thee;

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold,

Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee,

Ever, only, all for thee.

COMMISSION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE TRANSITION TEAM

SCRIPTURE READING

Renee Keiper

1st Reading: Matthew 9:35:38

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;

38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

2nd Reading: Acts 8:26-35

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)

27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

SERMON

Pastor Rick Rufenacht

Church on Mission

Matthew 9:35-38

Acts 8:26-35

Mission Probable

Luke 19:10 Matthew 28:19

Let _____ Drive You

Colossians 3:12 Philippians 2:1-4

Embrace The _____

John 4:35

Let The _____ Guide You

Acts 1: 8

*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** *Song for the Nations* *Hymnal page 563*

*May we be a shining light to the nations,
a shining light to the peoples of the earth,
till the whole world sees the glory of your name.
May your pure light shine through us.*

*May we bring a word of hope to the nations,
A word of life to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows there's salvation thro' your name.
May your mercy flow through us.*

*May we be a healing balm to the nations,
A healing balm to the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows the power of your name.
May your healing flow through us.*

*May we sing a song of joy to the nations,
a song of praise to the peoples of the earth,
till the whole world rings with the praises of your name.
May your song be sung through us.*

*May your kingdom come to the nations,
Your will be done in the peoples of the earth,
Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord.
May your kingdom come on earth.*

***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)



St. Matthews Church Kunkletown
1st Sunday after Epiphany
January 12, 2025

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

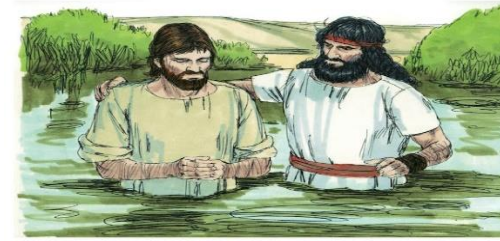
❖ **Prayer Concerns**

Jason Frantz, Wayne Halliday, Dawn Hockman, Brenda Hawk, Ralph Wunder (Dan's brother), Brooke Beck, Marlette Palermo, 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). Justin Hardy and Dave Zinkler (friends of the Hubers), Madelin Celentano and Roy Barankovich.

❖ **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 January Lead Usher: Mitch Hawk</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday, January 12 | 1 st Sunday after Epiphany | -Sanctuary, 9am |
| Monday, January 13 | Exercise Group | -Office Open 10am – 2pm |
| | Council Meeting | -Common Room - 10:30am |
| Wednesday, January 15 | | - CIA Classroom – 7:00pm |
| | Laymen's Fellowship | -Office Open 10am – 2pm |
| Thursday, January 16 | | - Social Hall – 10am |
| | Exercise Group | - Office Open 10am – 2pm |
| Sunday, January 19 | 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany | - Common Room -10:30am |
| | | - Sanctuary, 9am |

❖ **January's Joyful Noise is Hope Lodge.**

30+ Hope Lodge communities across the country provide a free place to stay during treatment so people with cancer can focus on getting better. These communities provide comfortable guest suites with private baths, as well as inviting spaces with all the comforts of home, including a communal kitchen, dining area, laundry rooms, and places to gather or find a quiet respite – all at no cost to guests.

Hope Lodge guests don't just find a place to stay – they find a community of support and an emotional connection with others facing the same journey.

❖ **Prayer vigil January 20th – sign-up sheet is in the narthex for ½ hour slots. You can pray anywhere – home, church anywhere you are comfortable.**

❖ **St Matthews has a goal which started last week. We started distributing 48 empty shoe boxes. Operation Christmas Child/ Samaritan's Purse kicked off an eleven-month campaign to fill the boxes by November 16, 2025. Information will be available to help you search for gift items. We believe the spirit of the Christ Child lives in us all year long. Please take one or more boxes and start filling today!**