

# ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

## WHITE DOVE FLYER

*"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"*

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

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



### July 2025

Secretary Office Hours are:

**Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm**

**Phone: 610-381-2442**

**Email: [stmatts@ptd.net](mailto:stmatts@ptd.net)**

**Website: [stmattsecckunkletown.com](http://stmattsecckunkletown.com)**

**RJ Cramer**  
Council President  
**Rick Rufenacht**  
Interim Pastor  
**Wilbert Hoffman**  
Assist. Pastor  
**Starlene Barr**  
Treasurer  
**Renée Keiper**  
Church Secretary  
**Dan Smale**  
Music Director

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St. Matthew's Church  
102 Church Road  
Kunkletown, Pa 18058

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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### Meet our new Children's Ministry Director – Tiffany Lakatosh

Please join me in welcoming our new Children's Ministry Director, Tiffany Lakatosh. Tiffany will be joining us July 1, 2025. Tiffany lives in Palmerton with her husband, Justin and their 15-year-old daughter, Miranda. She and Justin just celebrated their Seventeenth Anniversary. She also has three fur babies: two tuxedo cats; Harley and Boots and their Pitbull, Lady.

Tiffany is currently serving as the Faith Formation Minister at a church in Neffs. She said she is looking forward to being a part of St. Matthew's to share her faith and love of God with children and teens. She will be joining us at our Church service on July 6, where she will be introduced to our Church family. Tiffany will also be helping us at our VBS, July 13-17. We are very excited to have Tiffany join us and look forward to her work with our children and youth!



## Worship in Focus: The Confession of Sin

Part 3 in our Series on the Elements of Worship

As we continue our series on the elements of the Sunday morning worship service, following our exploration of “The Call to Worship” and “The Affirmation of Faith,” this month we focus on the *Confession of Sin*. For many modern ears, this might seem like an unappealing or even off-putting practice. In a world where self-esteem is king and hard truths are often softened or avoided, why would a church intentionally make space in its worship to confront sin?

The answer is simple but profound: **without acknowledging our sin, we cannot truly understand or rejoice in the grace of God. Confession is not about groveling or earning forgiveness—it is about coming to God as we are, with honesty and humility, knowing that His mercy is already ours through Christ.** As the Apostle Paul reminds us, “*God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance*” (Romans 2:4). **Confession is not the precondition of grace—it is the response to it.**

Throughout Scripture and church history, **confession has always had a vital role in the life of God’s people.** From the prayers of Ezra, Solomon, and the Levites, to the reformers like Martin Bucer and John Calvin who shaped our liturgical heritage, **God’s people have understood that naming our sin is essential to experiencing gospel renewal. When we confess, we are not seeking to impress God with our sorrow. We are allowing the Spirit to soften our hearts and lead us back to the cross.**

Practically, this time in worship may take different forms—corporate prayers spoken in unison, reflective moments of silence, or extemporaneous prayers led from the pulpit. Regardless of the method, **the aim is always the same: to help God’s people acknowledge the truth of their condition and run anew to the mercy of Christ.** As John Newton famously wrote, “*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch; like me!*” The wretchedness is not the focus, but it gives meaning to the amazing.

### Confession of Sin

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer*

The confession often follows the opening praise in our service, a natural movement from the glory of God to the humility of our own hearts. But confession is never isolated—it is always tethered to the assurance of pardon that follows (which we’ll explore next month). **We confess not to wallow, but to be lifted by grace. We repent not to earn love, but because we are already loved.**

In this way, *The Confession of Sin* shapes us into people who know the truth about ourselves—and more importantly, the truth about the gospel. It is a **moment of honesty, of hope, and of heartfelt return to the God who forgives not because we confess well, but because Christ was forsaken for us.**

Let us approach this part of worship not with dread, but with gratitude—and with hearts ready to be reminded of the mercy that is already ours.



**VBS Registration Form (One Per Family)\* Please return by July 6, 2025**

St. Matthew's UCC – July 14-18, 2025 in the Church; 9 a.m. to Noon

Ages 3-11 as participants, Ages 12-17 as youth helpers

\* A parent or adult may stay with 3 & 4-year-old students.

Child(ren)'s name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren)'s age(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade(s) completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Release:** I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

**Photo Release:** I hereby grant the above-named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

**Permission to Attend:** I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church, and that all registration information will be removed from the hosting site by December 31 of this year.





**St. Matthew's Laymen's Fellowship**

**Cash & Gift Card Bingo**

**Sunday, July 27, 2025**

**Place: St. Matthew's EC Church, Kunkletown**

**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 by Laymen's Fellowship— Proceeds support repairs & updates to the Church & Picnic Grove**

## St. Matthew's Prayer List – June 22, 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:

Josh and Taylor Frantz are also celebrating the birth of a new baby boy – Owen Douglas!!/1

### 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

**Shannon Ozinski** (wife of James Ozinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

**Marlette Palermo**: is home and meeting with cardiologist to regulate medication

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

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

### BEREAVEMENT:

**Family of Georgia Smith** – friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar/1

**Family of Mark Kline** – friend to many St. Matthew's members/1

**Family of Richard Rex**: Husband to Ann from WE Food Pantry/4

### NEW NEEDS:

**Tammy Brown**/1: pacemaker implantation

**Dominic**: a friend requesting prayers for health/5\*\*

**Larry Eck** (brother-in-law of Eleanor Long's co-worker) in the hospital for tests to determine the origin of infection/4

**Kyle Frable**: requesting prayers to walk again/5\*\*

**Judy Hawk**: has been ill and needs prayers for healing/5\*\*

**Mitchell Hawk Sr.**: numbness in left leg/5\*\*

**Wade Koehler**: (friend of Vivian Smith) cancer treatments and surgery/2

**Henry Krechel**: stroke, getting home therapy/3

**Shirley Leinthall** (Janet Smith's Sister): under hospice care and wants understanding of her end of life/4\*\*

**Mack Family**: prayers for a better life for the family/5\*\*

**Marlene Miller**: she is sick with bronchitis and has cancer/5\*\*

**Vince Scarangelli**: is having surgery on July 1 for liver cancer/5\*\*

**Danny Serfass** (Brenda Hawk's Brother): Stomach cancer; he is now at home./1

\*\* indicates changes from last week

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



**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

**Kay Frable** – Riverton Rehabilitation and Healthcare Ctr,  
803 N. Wahneta St., Allentown PA 18109

**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

**May Revenue**

**2025**

5/4/25—70 attending \$2,524

5/11/25—80 attending \$2,280

5/18/25—75 attending \$1,740

5/25/25—82 attending \$2,692

**Total \$9,246**

**2024**

5/5/24—72 attending \$2,645

5/12/24—65 attending \$2,405

5/19/24—67 attending \$1,730

5/26/24—62 attending \$1,430

**Total \$8,210**

# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Laymen's Craft Day 10am	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Council 7pm Bible School	15 Bible School	16 Bible School	17 Bible School	18 Bible School	19
20	21	22	23 Laymen's Craft Day 10am	24	25	26
27 Laymen's Bingo 1pm	28	29	30	31		

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7 Gabby Bentley	28 Patricia Schneider
10 Matt Gower	29 Jared Kreger, Kyle Strohl
13 Angela Frantz, Jessie Keegan	30 Kasey Meckes
14 John Frable	
17 Marie Christman	
18 Joseph Shirghio, Amy Yaple	
19 Donna Kibler, Amy Kocher	
20 Jordan Meckes	
24 Frances Frable, Wilbert Kleintop, Jeff Long	
26 Kristen Cramer	
27 Richard Getz, Katelyn Heffelfinger, Mark Johnson, Tammy Sherer	