

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*August 25, 2024*

*14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Renee Keiper**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!**

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

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 34:22

(L) The Lord redeems the life of his servants.

**(ALL) Thanks be to God!**

(L) No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**(ALL) Praise the Lord!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *As for Me and My House*

*Oh, choose you this day whom you will serve  
The kingdom of heaven or the powers of earth  
Has He not spoken? Have you not heard?  
There is but one true God*

*The God of our fathers set us free  
His Son paid the price for our covenant peace  
Through generations His mercy speaks  
We trust in one true God*

**CHORUS:** *As for me and my house, we will serve, serve the Lord  
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord our God*

*This house is the Lord's and all within  
May we be pleasing and holy to Him  
Joined by His Spirit His people sing  
Great is the one true God  
Oh, great Is the living God **(CHORUS)***

*(2x) Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit now in us  
Let every heart and every tongue  
Praise the one true God **(CHORUS 2x)***

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Psalm 34:18

Because God is near to the brokenhearted, let us consider how we have lived, confessing our sins and trusting in God's mercy to save.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Confessing our sins to God through prayer)**

**Watchful God, you know our plight. Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost. Shine your light in our darkness, and guide us back to our place in you. Amen. (Psalm 34)**

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

The Living God hears our cry and forgives our sin! The Lord God is a sun and shield, bestowing favor and honor on us through Christ, the bread from heaven, who brings us back to God and feeds us with his strength. (1 Kings 8, Psalm 30, John 6)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Staci Gower**

**"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"**

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

**INVITATION** Joshua 24:14

Let all who revere the Lord, who desire to serve the Lord in Sincerity and in faithfulness, bring their gifts with joyful hearts.

**OFFERTORY** *Come Unto Jesus*

*Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary; Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy; Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.*

*Joy of the comfortless, Light for the straying, Hope of the penitent, Peace in our strife;  
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying: "My yoke is easy, my burden is light."*

**CHORUS:** *Come unto Jesus, Come unto Jesus.*

*Lay down your burdens, He is enough; Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.*

*Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners; Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.*

*Feast at His table as sons and as daughters; Grace overflowing is yours evermore.*

**(CHORUS)**

*Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking; All that was gain, count as nothing but loss.*

*Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading; Come unto Jesus, take up your cross;  
Come unto Jesus, take up your cross; Life everlasting He offers to us.*

*Come unto Jesus, Come unto Jesus. Lay down your burdens, He is enough;  
Come unto Jesus, Come unto Jesus. Lay down your burdens, He is enough;  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.  
Come unto Jesus, Come unto Jesus. Lay down your burdens, He is enough;  
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.*

**Responsive Reading – Psalm 84**

**Dora Tartar**

*(L)*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**(ALL)**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

*(L)* Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**(ALL)** Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

*(L)*Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**(ALL)**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

*(L)*They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**(ALL)**O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! (Selah)

*(L)* Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**(ALL)** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

*(L)* For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**(ALL)**O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

*\*The Gloria Tibi: Glory be to thee, O Lord*

**New Testament Reading – Galatians 6:1-5      Pew Bible page 948**

**1** My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. **4** All must test their own work; then that

**work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. 5 For all must carry their own loads.**

*\*Laus Tibi: Praise be to thee, O Christ*

**SERMON “Sharing the Heavy Load”**

**Will Hoffman**

**Galatians 6:1-5**

**\*THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**

**Will**

**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**

***We Will Feast In the House of Zion***

*Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things we will say together We will feast and weep no more*

*We will not be burned by the fire He is the Lord our God*

*We are not consumed by the flood Upheld protected gathered up (CHORUS)*

*In the dark of night before the dawn My soul be not afraid*

*For the promised morning oh how long Oh God of Jacob be my strength (CHORUS)*

*Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed You are the faithful one*

*And from the garden to the grave Bind us together bring shalom (CHORUS)*

**\*CLOSING PRAYER**

**Will**

**Living God, give me strength for this day. Let your truth surround me, your righteousness defend me, your gospel guide me, your trustworthiness shield me and your salvation protect me, that in every trial I may stand by the power of your Spirit and live by your holy Word. Amen.**

**\*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**

Nicholas Blank (Joyce Fusner's Grandson), Tina Martin (Pat's daughter), Todd Kresge, Alysha Katz, Wendy Peddigree, Rhonda Cramer (Randy and Ray's sister), Frank Rapa, Leon Barlieb, Ellen Kresge, Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Debra Kemmerer, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, 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 Serfass (Brenda Hawk's brother), Barbara Marks (Pat Martin's sister-in-law), Georgia Smith (friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar), David Zacharias (Dean's brother), Helen Alpaugh, Leni (friend of Helen), Logan Mackes (Rose Fritz's grandson).



### **St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, [stmatts@ptd.net](mailto:stmatts@ptd.net)

Council President: Diann Bittenbender

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

Office Manager: Renée Keiper

[www.stmattsucckunkletown](http://www.stmattsucckunkletown)



August

Sunday, August 25

Monday, August 26

Wednesday, August 28

Thursday, August 29

Sunday, September 1

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exercise Group

Exercise Group

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher – Bishop Randy

-Sanctuary, 9am

-Office Open 10am – 2pm

-Gathering Room, 10:30am

-Office Open 10am - 2pm

-Office Open 10am – 2pm

-Sanctuary, 9am

**August Lead Usher – Devoe Breinich**

**Altar Flowers**

**Vase #1 – In honor of Victor and Karrie’s Anniversary**

**Vase #2 – available for purchase for \$15**

The Joyful Noise for August is Operation Touch of Home which began in 2004 by Dean and Sharon Green in preparation of their son's deployment to Fallujah, Iraq. They had many questions for other seasoned Marines and in reaching out, they discovered the immense impact receiving items from friends and families at home had on their morale. This effort has since touched the lives of over 1,270 heroes with an excess of 133,595 pounds of essential items shipped in more than 5,422 large boxes. These individuals typically share these items with their whole unit, so not only hundreds, but literally thousands of US Troops have been touched by Operation: Touch of Home.

- Thank you to Will Hoffman for leading our service today.
- Laymen’s will meet for craft days on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am.
- September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8am – meet at the fairgrounds to move equipment back to the grove and church.

---

**S'MORE FUN**

**CAMPFIRE FELLOWSHIP**

**At St. Matthew’s Kunkletown Church Grove**

**Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (rain date Sept. 21)**

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**GAMES – MUSIC – HOT DOGS – FUN!!!**

---

**COMING SOON!**

**OCTOBER 6TH WE WILL**

**CELEBRATE ST. MATTHEW’S HISTORY!!**

**SHARE YOUR PICTURES AND MEMORIES BY DROPPING THEM OFF IN THE MARKED BOXES IN THE NARTHEX OR ON THE ROUND TABLE IN THE COMMON ROOM.**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR PICTURES WITH YOUR NAME OR LEAVE COPIES FOR US.**

**THE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 8TH.**

---

**Bible Studies:**

- Wednesdays at 1:00pm – led by Pastor Mike at People’s EC Church (216 Wagner Street, Leighton)
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm – led by Dan Smale from the book of Luke.  
**NO CLASS AUGUST 21, 28, SEPT 4; WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 11TH**
- Thursdays at 12:30pm – led by Pastor Mike at Papa Al’s (Delaware Ave, Palmerton). Contact Pastor Mike to find out what chapter and verse will be discussed while you have lunch.

