

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 11, 2021

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suzanne Brooks-Cope

JOY BREAK

Kyle Strohl

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kyle Strohl

(L) God has a sense of humor.

(P) God has the last laugh and the last word.

(L) That word is Resurrection in Jesus Christ! He is Risen!

(P) The joke is on human reason and rigidity. Rejoice!

***OPENING EASTER CAROL**

Deck the halls with Easter lilies, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Dance a jig and sing the sillies, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

At the devil, mean, old bloke, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

On whom God has played a joke, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Devil thought he'd won the battle, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Pranced around high in the saddle, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

Did not know God's special plan, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

To resurrect the Son of Man, Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Gracious and loving God - we thank you for today - for the joy and laughter you give - for the friends and family we have - for the beauty of the day - and for Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. - Help us to grow in faith - and be yours forever and ever. Amen.

***ACT OF PRAISE**

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus is alive.

JOY BREAK

Dora Tartar

THE TIME FOR CHILDREN

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The First Lesson: Genesis 21: 1-7 Scott Brooks-Cope

1 God visited Sarah exactly as he said he would; God did to Sarah what he promised: **2** Sarah became pregnant and gave Abraham a son in his old age, and at the very time God had set. **3** Abraham named him Isaac. **4** When his son was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him just as God had commanded. **5** Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. **6** Sarah said, God has blessed me with laughter and all who get the news will laugh with me! **7** She also said, Whoever would have suggested to Abraham that Sarah would one day nurse a baby! Yet here I am! I've given the old man a son!

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 126

(L) It seemed like a dream, too good to be true, when God returned Zion's exiles.

(P) We laughed, we sang, we couldn't believe our good fortune. We were the talk of the nations - "God was wonderful to them!"

(L) God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people.

(P) And now God, do it again; bring rains to our drought-stricken lives

(L) So those who planted their crops in despair will shout hurrahs at the harvest,

(P) So those who went off with heavy hearts will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

*The Gospel Lesson: Luke 6: 20-23

Brenda Dorshimer

20 Then he spoke: You're blessed when you've lost it all. God's kingdom is there for the finding.

21 You're blessed when you're ravenously hungry. Then you're ready for the Messianic meal. You're blessed when the tears flow freely. Joy comes with the morning.

22 "Count yourself blessed every time someone cuts you down or throws you out, every time someone smears or blackens your name to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and that that person is uncomfortable.

23 You can be glad when that happens - skip like a lamb, if you like! - for even though they don't like it, I do . . . and all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company; my preachers and witnesses have always been treated like this. Give Away Your Life.

SERMON "Combatting human depravity, corruption and sin" Brenda Dorshimer

***HYMN**

Beautiful Day

(Tune: Silent Night, Holy Night)

Beautiful Day, Glorious Day, All is new, all's okay! 'Round the tomb

There is dancing and song, See inside that the body is gone.

Christ, the Savior's alive, Christ, the Savior's alive.

Beautiful Day, Glorious Day, Soldiers quake and run away,

The stone is cleared from heaven above, Heavenly host says "Hallelujah,"

Jesus, Lord, at new birth, Jesus, Lord, at new birth.

Beautiful Day, Glorious Day, Sing and shout, tell and say,

Radiant beams from this sinner's face, Show because of amazing grace,

Christ, the Savior's alive, Christ, the Savior's alive.

JOY BREAK

Brenda Dorshimer

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

By Rev. Robert. M. Thompson

(L) We believe in God, who made us in His image.

(P) We live, we love, we laugh, because we are like Him.

(L) We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior.

(P) He had the last laugh on the devil when He rose from the dead.

(L) We believe in the Holy Spirit, coequal and coeternal with the Creator and the Son.

(P) Our counselor, our guide, our motivator - He is our joy!

(L) Forgive us, Lord, when we take ourselves too seriously, when we don't claim the happiness that is rightfully ours as your children, when we forget that you will have the last laugh in this world.

(P) Restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JOY BREAK

Diann Bittenbender

CONCERNS and JOYS

Diann Bittenbender

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

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** *Joy to the World, the Lord's Alive*

Joy to the World, the Lord's alive, Awake, rejoice and sing!

It's just as He had said, He's risen from the dead.

Salvation now He brings, Salvation now He brings,

Salvation, salvation now He brings.

Joy to the World, the empty tomb, Proclaims a victory.

Of light compelling, A great dispelling

Of darkness in the world, Of darkness in the world,

Of darkness, of darkness in the world.

Joy to the World, Our Savior reigns, Let Heaven and earth proclaim

The glories of ... His righteousness, And wonders of His love,

And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

***THE OFFERING**

Dora Tartar

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Suzanne Brooks-Cope

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hark the Herald Angel said, Why seek Jesus with the dead?

He's not here, as you can see, gravecloths lie where he would be.

On your way now, tell the others, Jesus will be with his brothers.

Sisters, too, he wants to see on the hills of Galilee.

Hark the Herald Angel said, He is risen from the dead.

***POSTLUDE**

(*Please stand in body or spirit.)

Matthews United Church of Christ
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610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope
Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower
Council President: Ms. Cheryl Dorshimer
Sunday Worship, 9 AM, Adult Sunday School 10:30 am
Children's Sunday School is Virtual at
www.stmattsucckunkletown.com





“The earth laughs in flowers.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sunday, April 11	Holy Humor Sunday CIA Class	- Sanctuary, 9 am - Stage Classroom 10:30 am
Monday, April 12	Blood Drive Confirmation Class Council Meeting	-Office Open 10:30 am-1pm -Social Hall, 1 to 6 pm -Youth Classroom, 4-6 pm -Social Hall/Zoom, 7 pm
Tuesday, April 13	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10:30 am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, April 14		-Office Open 10:30am-1pm
Thursday, April 15		-Virtual
Saturday, April 17	PNEC Conference Meeting	
Sunday, April 18	Third Sunday of Easter CIA Class	- Sanctuary, 9 am - Stage Classroom 10:30 am

Prayer Concerns

Conner Bittenbender, Hudson Stewart, Chip Diehl, Shirley Borger, McCoy Rapa, Doug Hawk, Gladys Meixsell, Janet Gower, Eliza Dymond, Lois Bohn, Neal Murphy, Janet Gower, Grace Everett, Dora Tartar, Randy Cramer, Lila Kleintop, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Joyce Smith, Rose Arace, Erica Pozza, Rosemarie Stranahan, Shirley Smith, Andrea Holec, Brayden Wunder, Kim and Trevor Cope, Josh & Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, and the Families of Roy Anthony, Megan Stranahan, Lorraine Borger, Bill Norton & Ernie Norton

Today's Ushers:

Shirley Brotzman and RJ Cramer

Next Week's Ushers:

Harry Koehler and Jennie Rose Serfass

Today's Acolyte: Cody Borger

Next Week's Acolyte: Lydia Borger



As members become vaccinated against COVID19, we ask that you continue to always wear a face covering when inside the building and to keep 6 feet away from others not in your household. We will continue to only allow 57 people in the sanctuary at any time. If you are not feeling well, *please* stay home.

The Gathering Room and Social Hall are available for overflow worshippers and late comers.

Welcome to Worship on this Holy Humor Sunday. The Creative Worship Team planned and is leading today's service. The team consists of Brenda Dorshimer, Dora Tartar, Kyle Strohl and Diann Bittenbender. We hope you enjoy a service devoted to joy and laughter in this Easter Season.

Thank You all who helped with our Holy Week Events. We appreciate Harry and John who got the Grove ready for Easter. Our readers, musicians, and tech crew have done a wonderful job helping observe Maundy Thursday and celebrat. Special thanks go to Norm Burger for donating our lilies and Kyle Strohl for decorating our sanctuary. Thank You!

We are hosting a blood drive on April 12th. There are a few slots left in the afternoon.

Don't forget to play CIA's Bible Bingo game based on the Fruits of the Spirit. Directions are on the back of the Bingo card. If you would like an extra card, speak to Diann Bittenbender. **This week's fruit is: Grapes—Joel 2:15; Grapes—Esther 4:14; Pear---Jonah 3:10**

Our faithful and committed Sexton, Dean Zacharias is resigning. He is staying on until we can higher his replacement. If you are interested in becoming our next Sexton/Housekeeper, please contact Cheryl Dorshimer, our Council President.



CIA is hosting gift card bingo in the grove on May 2nd. Refreshments are being sold beginning at 12 pm and gift card bingo is at 1pm. Tell your friends and come and join us.

Grove Food Stand Clean-up day is April 24th. Please come and give us a hand as we prepare the grove for our summer activities. Thank You!

Our Secretary, Rose Arace will be out of the office for 8 weeks beginning March 31 due to surgery. Office hours will be 10:30 am to 1 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and **Thursdays** while she is gone. **The office will be closed on Fridays during her recovery.** Joan Madden is filling in for Rose while she is away. Magen Snyder will be editing the White Dove Flyer.