

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Renee Keiper

(L) The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it.

(P) God has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.

(L) Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good.

(P) God's love endures forever.

OPENING PRAYER

(L) Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone.

Therefore, we offer ourselves to you, in service, love and praise. Use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

OPENING SONG *Make a Joyful Noise*

Make a joyful noise, shout to the Lord all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us not we ourselves.

We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.

Show thankfulness to Him and bless His name.

For the Lord is good; His love is everlasting.

His truth endures to every generation.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

What a debt we owe to you, O God. You have given us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap those with whom we disagree, mock your truth with empty praise and put your patience to the test.

Forgive us O God, and by your grace restore in us the image of your face, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE #726

With voices united our praises we offer,

our songs of thanksgiving to you we now raise.

your strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,

to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22: 15-22

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. **17** Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" **18** But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? **19** Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius.

20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

THE MESSAGE

"Made in God's Image"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Softly and Tenderly

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me.

See on the portals He's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.

Come home; come home. You who are weary, come home.

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for me?

Come home; come home. You who are weary, come home.

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, "O sinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me.

Come home; come home. You who are weary, come home.

Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Calling, "O sinner, come home, come home, come home!"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord; God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE 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.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above;

Praise His name! I'm fixed upon it Name of God's redeeming love.

Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.

Hither to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast brought me to this place;

And I know Thy hand will bring me Safely home by Thy good grace.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God;

He, to rescue me from danger, Bought me with His precious blood.

Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.

O to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, Bind my wandering heart to Thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, oh take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.

Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount. Come, Thou Fount.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

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.

POSTLUDE

(When you leave, please practice social distancing.)

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ
Worship, 9 am Sundays in the Grove; 105.5 FM

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope sbcstmts@ptd.net

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.

“Give therefore to
the EMPEROR the
things that are the
EMPEROR’S,
and to GOD
the things
that are
GOD’S.”



Matthew 22:21, NRSV



Jesus, you told the Pharisees to “give ... to God what is God’s” (Matthew 22:21, NIV).
Show me how to give my whole self to you, for I am yours.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, October 18	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, October 19	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Matthew Bible Study: <i>Godspell</i> Movie	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, October 21	Laymen’s Fellowship	-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm
Friday, October 23		- Social Hall, 10 am
Sunday, October 25	Worship in the Grove	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
		-Office Open 9am-1pm
		-Grove, 9 am

Prayer Concerns

Franklin Smith, Janet Gower, Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk, Marlene Prutzman, George Keller, Linda Handwerk, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza, McCoy Rappa, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Lee Sitler, Janet Fowler, Shirley Smith, Chapman and Mason Buskirk, Dean Zacharis, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Alan Miller, Kim Cope, Margaret Hahn, Josh and Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo and the Family of The Rev. Sterling Schnell and Betty Dutt

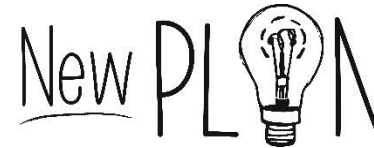
Today’s Ushers: Gabby & Renee
Next Week’s Ushers: Shirley & Starlene
Nov 1st Ushers: Stephen, Dora, Harry, Norm & Gabby



When we worship in the Grove, we ask that all worshipers follow best practices for the safety of our members and visitors. *Best Practices will include—wear a mask while finding your seat and returning to your car and also while singing— keep 6 feet apart from others at all times—no congregating in groups—no hugging or shaking of hands—no playing on the playground. Other practices may be added. Any who are uncomfortable joining us, we encourage you worship in your car at 105.5 FM or worship with us digitally on your smart phone and computer.*

Middle School and High School youth are invited to come help harvest pumpkins for the West End Food Pantry’s Annual Pumpkin Patch for the children in the community, this Friday, October 23 at 4 pm. It will take about 2 hours to pick the pumpkins and get them arranged at the food pantry. After that we will return to our grove for a campfire, food, and games. Friends are welcome to join us. Some parents are needed to help with driving. Talk to Pastor Suzanne if you are interested.

The next Friday Fun Night is October 30, 5-8:30 p.m. Please join Miss Staci and the others in the grove for our Howling Happy Halloween Party. Kids and adults may come in costume. Bring an old shirt or smock, as we’ll be painting pumpkins. We will have scavenger hunt for treats, play a game, roast hot dogs, and make s’mores, and watch a movie! Bring blanket/pillow/warm coat. The C. E. committee is seeking donations of wrapped candy, treats such as stickers and bubbles, hot dog rolls, hot dogs, snack packs, juice, marshmallows, and string cheese. Please contact Staci if you have questions or concerns. Rain date is Nov. 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



We are moving into the sanctuary on November 1—All Saint’s Day. The electrical work to be able to stream our services to the Social Hall and rooms in the new addition will not be done until December. Only 59 people will be allowed to sit in sanctuary. We will continue to use our radio

transmitter for those who remain in the car. Hopefully, in December, once the sanctuary is full to COVID capacity, you can pick any room with a TV in it to participate in worship. If anyone is uncomfortable coming back to our buildings, our worship service will continue to be found on our website each Sunday. Masks will be required for worshipping inside the building.

The Gospel of Matthew Evening Bible Study will meet tomorrow in the Social Hall. We will be watching the movie *Godspell* together. Bring a bag dinner with you. Zoom will also be available.