

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

**June 21, 2020**

**Third Sunday After Pentecost**

**Fathers' Day**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) God is great and does wondrous things.

**(P) Teach us your way O God.**

(L) God helps and comforts us.

**(P) God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger  
and abounding in steadfast love and mercy.**

(L) Come and worship God. Let us pray.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING SONG**

"How Very Good and Pleasant it is"

*How very good and pleasant when we live in unity.*

*It is like precious oil, like fresh morning dew.*

*We gather here together with our hearts and voices raised to God,  
who's the center of our unity and praise!*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, God of Hagar and Ishmael,  
who gave us your Son, Jesus Christ crucified, sent your Holy Spirit  
to help us confess and truly repent of our sins.**

**We turn against one another; we fail to care for the weak and poor.**

**We often pay no heed to the cries of the powerless,  
and we seek our own advantage.**

**Your Son emptied himself upon a Roman cross  
and revealed your eternal, self-giving love.**

**Forgive us merciful God. Wipe sin from our lives.  
and let us find ourselves wholly in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
It is in his name we pray. AMEN.**

**MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**ACT OF PRAISE #136**

*Holy, holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

*Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee!*

*Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

**THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

"Fathers' Day"

Staci Gower

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 21: 8-21

*8 The child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." 11 The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.*

*12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13 As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring."*

*14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. 15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.*

*17 And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. 20 God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.*

**THE MESSAGE**

“Family Squabbles”

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In life and death, we belong to God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

**HYMN**

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

**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.

**HYMN**

*This Is My Father’s World*

**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.)**

**“What troubles you, Hagar?  
Do not be afraid; for  
GOD HAS HEARD  
the voice of the boy  
where he is.”**

Genesis 21:17, NRSV



***St. Matthew’s United Church of Christ***

***Worship, 9 am Sundays in the Grove***

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

***“A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ”***



Welcome to worship. We especially thank God for fathers and male mentors today.  
Let us praise God for these special people and for all their gifts to us!

### This Week Ahead

Sunday, June 21	Worship in the Grove Fathers' Day	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, June 22		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Walking Group (Exercise)	-Outside, 1 pm
Wednesday, June 24		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Walking Group (Exercise)	-Outside, 1 pm
Friday, June 26		-Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, June 28	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

### Prayer Concerns

Loretta Hawk, Edith Semmel, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo, George Keller,  
Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Charlotte Christman, Erica Pozza,  
Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Jeannie Anewalt, Doug Hawk, Bruce Devoncourt  
Lee Sitler, Marlene Prutzman, Janet Fowler, Carol Popay, Donna Smith,  
Shirley Smith, Chapman and Mason Buskirk, Sylvia George, Jan Burger, Dean Zacharis  
Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Alan Miller, Kim Cope, Margaret Hahn, Josh and Kevin Engler;  
and the Families of Don Schneider, Frances Ash and Robert Boyer

**Today's Ushers:** Jennie Rose Huber and Henry Krechel  
**Next Week's Ushers:** Harry Koehler and George Huber



**We will continue to worship up in the Grove on Sunday mornings at 9 am.** We will record the service and post a video of our worship service online later this afternoon for those who are not comfortable joining us in person. If you know of someone who is unable to worship at the Grove or unable to access the Sunday worship service online, please let the office know and we will mail the bulletin and message to them through US Mail.

**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— keep 6 feet apart 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 or to continue sheltering at home and worship with us digitally on your smart phone and computer. The bathrooms are cleaned and open.*

**VBS is scheduled for July 20 through the 24.** The theme is Rainforest Explorers. For parents who are not comfortable bringing their children to VBS, Staci Gower will be making packets so parents can lead the VBS message from home. There is a wish list of needed items on a poster board if you would like to give a donation. Our VBS teachers need individually (store bought) wrapped snacks this year and individual 100% juice boxes.



**Kay Fable collects our Weis and Shoprite receipts,** tallies them up and turns them into receive a donation for PVEN. Please continue to save your receipts. You may drop them in her mailbox any afternoon or drop them by the church office.



**The Strawberry Festival Picnic** will take place on July 18 from noon to 6 pm. The Cramer Brother Band will be playing from noon until 3 and the Dean Moore Band will play for 4 to 6 pm. Spread the word and join us. Please wear your mask!

**Our planned Sight and Sound Field Trip to see the production "Esther"** has been rescheduled to September 22. If necessary, we can reschedule it for even a later date.