

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

**July 12, 2020**

**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

(P) **Your word is our heritage forever, the joy of our hearts.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**OPENING SONG**

*The Family Prayer Song*

*Come and fill our homes with your presence;*

*you alone are worthy of our reverence.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord; We will serve the Lord.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving Lord, God of truth and fairness, we confess that being faithful to you often means disturbing the status quo. We are reluctant to do that. We long to do your will and yet we fall short of it. We strive to do the right thing and yet we find ourselves in conflict with others. We would rather compete with each other rather than work together. Give us courage to trust in you.**

**Life-Giving God, you have given us the gift of your word, a lamp to our feet and a light for our journey. But we fail to follow. Help us to do what we proclaim. Breathe your loving spirit into us and lead us in the path of truth. In the name of Christ our Savior. 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**

Staci Gower

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 25: 19-34

**19** These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. **21** Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

**22** The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. **23** And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

**24** When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. **25** The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. **26** Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

**27** When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. **28** Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

**29** Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. **30** Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom. ) **31** Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." **32** Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" **33** Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. **34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**THE MESSAGE**

"Family Scandal and Conflict"

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

**HYMN**

*For the Healing of the Nations*

*For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord,*

*For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.*

*To a life of love in action, help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead your people into freedom, from despair your world release,*

*That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.*

*Show us how, through care and goodness, fear will die and hope increase.*

*All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:  
Pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.*

*You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
For our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;  
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.*

#### **THE 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.**

#### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **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; 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**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

#### **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***

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

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

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope [sbcstmts@ptd.net](mailto:sbcstmts@ptd.net)

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

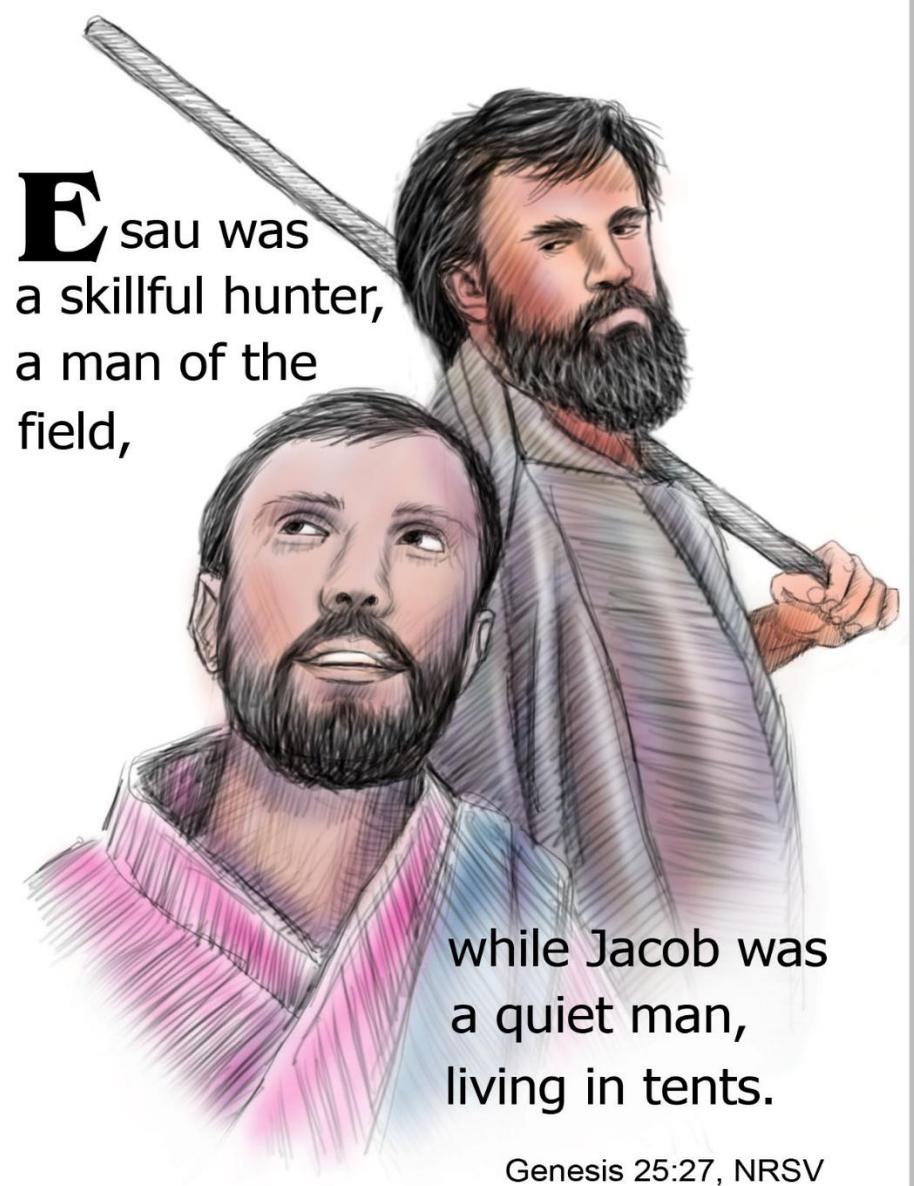
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

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

***A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.***



**E**sau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field,

while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.

Genesis 25:27, NRSV

# JULY

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ... Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances" (Psalm 119:105, 108, NRSV).*

## This Week Ahead

Sunday, July 12	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, July 13		-Office Open 9am-1 pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Tuesday, July 14	Council Meeting	
Wednesday, July 15		-Office Open 9am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, July 17		-Office Open 9am-1pm
Saturday, July 18	Strawberry Festival Picnic	--Grove, noon to 6 pm
Sunday, July 19	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

## Prayer Concerns

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

### **Today's Ushers:**

Diann Bittenbender and Darryl Breinich

### **Next Week's Ushers:**

Cheryl Dorshimer and Diann Bittenbender



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

**The council made the difficult decision last week to make this year's VBS virtual only due to COVID19. Staci Gower and her team are busy making this possible.** The theme will be the same-- Rainforest Explorers. The VBS teachers and volunteers are making packets and videotaping sessions so parents can lead the VBS message at home. The group field trip has been canceled but families may make appointments to go to the zoo on their own.



**Kay Frable 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 & Car Show** will take place [on July 18 from noon to 6 pm](#). The Cramer Brother Band will be playing [from noon until 3](#) and the Brian Dean Moore Band will play [4 to 6 pm](#). Spread the word and join us. The car show: antique and classic car owners are welcome to come and display their vehicles, designated parking will be provided. Dale's Concessions will be providing food. The ice cream stand will be open with strawberries, ice cream and shortcake. (We will be purchasing all ingredients this year). We will it be hold cakewalks. Please remember current CDC and other government guidelines for COVID safety. We apologize for any inconveniences these changes may present. We wanted to still provide an event for our community while continue to keep everyone as safe as possible.

**The 300 Club has been cancelled this year due to COVID19.** Hopefully, things will be back to normal next year.