

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

**July 26, 2020**

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Katie Fritz

(L) God keeps God's promises!  
**(P) Jesus leads the way.**  
(L) My Loving God gives direction!  
**(P) Jesus leads the way.**  
(L) Jesus is full of healing!  
**(P) Jesus leads the way.**  
(L) Jesus helps me share the Good News!  
**(P) Jesus leads the way.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Staci Gower

**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 God, you promise to lead the way. You love us and give us direction in our lives but we don't always listen; we don't always follow; we don't always love you or others.**

**Forgive us God when we fail to be your faithful disciples.  
Have mercy on us heavenly Creator. Bend our will to your own. Thank you for your steadfast love even when we disobey. 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!*

**VBS WRAP UP**

Staci Gower

**THE READING OF SCRIPTURE**

**Genesis 29: 15-28**

Staci Gower

**15** Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" **16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. **18** Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." **19** Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." **20** So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. **21** Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."

**22** So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. **23** But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. **24** (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) **25** When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" **26** Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. **27** Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." **28** Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

**Romans 11: 33-36**

Katie Fritz

**33** O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! **34** "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" **35** "Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" **36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

## THE MESSAGE

“Jesus Leads the Way”

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

## HYMN

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God and man the Son, Thee will I cherish,  
Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb of spring: Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.*

*Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine.*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

## 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, 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

*Take My Life and Let It Be*

*Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee.  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my voice and let me sing, always only for my king.  
Take my lips and let them be, filled with messages from thee.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour, at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be, ever, only all for Thee.*

## 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](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.***

# JULY

Welcome, dear friends. Because nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39), we have gathered to respond in worship and praise.

## This Week Ahead

Sunday, July 26	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, July 27	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am–1 pm
	Matthew Bible Study	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
		-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
		Or Zoom
Wednesday, July 29	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm
Friday, July 31		-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Sunday, August 1	Worship in the Grove	-Office Open 9am-1pm
	<b>Holy Communion Sunday—please bring your own elements</b>	-Grove, 9 am

## Prayer Concerns

Dale Meixsell, Lynn Borger, Loretta Hawk, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Erica Pozza, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, 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 Family of Linda Lindenmoyer

### **Today’s Ushers:**

Cheryl Dorshimer and Diann Bittenbender

### **Next Week’s Ushers:**

Darryl, Shirley, Cheryl, George, and Renee



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

**PVEN is planning on having a Back to School Extravaganza on August 18<sup>th</sup>.** They will be handing out backpacks filled with school supplies and also give out new school uniforms to the children. They need new socks, underwear, black or white shoes, school uniforms, back packs and school supplies. If you would like to help a child get ready for school, your donations may be dropped off at the church during office hours or at PVEN on Monday mornings. Thank you for your donations. (They have plenty of pencils—and don’t need any more.)

### **Are you or is your child or grandchild interested in**

**confirmation class this coming school year?** Pastor Suzanne would like to hear from you. Please email her at [sbcstmts@ptd.net](mailto:sbcstmts@ptd.net) or call her at the church office 610-381-2442 or on her cell 904-910-3034 if you or your child is interested. She would like to talk to parents about our options for this fall taking COVID19 into consideration.



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

**The Smith Family Reunion also has been cancelled due to COVID19.**