

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 5, 2020

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Kyle Strohl

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) Come, all you who carry heavy burdens, and Christ will give you rest.

(P) For he is gentle and humble in heart: in him we find rest for our souls.

OPENING PRAYER

Kyle Strohl

(L) Author of life, you cast your glory all around us; and invade our sleep;
you reveal yourself in ancient stories and the give and take of common life.
by the power of your Spirit, come to us now,
for you have called us to this place.
We pray in the name of Jesus—our hope, our confidence—
and your beloved Son. AMEN.

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

**Holy One, we confess to you and to each other
that we are tired and weighed down by the mistakes we have made,
even in our closest relationships with our friends,
our family and our co-workers.
We humbly ask for your forgiveness,
mindful of Jesus' promise of mercy and rest.
We trust in you, O God. 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

Kyle Strohl

Psalm 27: 7-13 (Read Responsively)

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!
8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.
9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have
been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
10 If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
**12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen
against me, and they are breathing out violence.**
13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Mark 14: 3-9

3 While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table,
a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she
broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. **4** But some were there
who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way?
5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii,
and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.
6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a
good service for me. **7** For you always have the poor with you, and you can show
kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.
8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its
burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole
world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

THE MESSAGE

"The Best Sermon I Ever Saw"

The Rev. Tom Albright

HYMN

Pass It On

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love, once you've experienced it,
You spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.*

*What a wonderful time is spring, when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming; that's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it. You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you my friend this happiness that I've found;
On God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top – PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know, the Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on.*

*I'll shout it from the mountain top – PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know, the Lord of love has come to me I want to pass it on.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation

(in unison)

We remind one another: Jesus welcomes everyone at this table. No one is turned away. If you seek God's presence on the road, come and eat. If you are hungry for this spiritual food, come and eat. If you have questions and doubts, come and eat. If you feel tired or energized, come and eat. This table is spread for all of us that we each might experience God's abundant and unconditional love.

The Prayer of Consecration *(adapted from the UCC Book of Worship, Amy Pitman)*

(L) We give you thanks, O God, for the mighty sweep of your love, that embraces all people and all nations. We thank you that you sent Jesus a child and a king to us, who showed us the way to new life – a new life of love that gathers all of our journeys together in the one body in Christ.

Bless this meal that we will share together today. As this broken bread was once scattered grain in a field, and then when gathered, became one loaf, so may we be brought together to have energy and joy for our road ahead this year. As this cup of the new covenant was poured out so that all might share in the signs of new life, so may our lives be poured out in compassion for our brothers and sisters' journeys everywhere. For it is in the way of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(L) Through the broken bread, we ourselves are broken open so that we might be open to God's spirit made manifest among us. Through the poured-out cup, we are inspired to go on the road ourselves, pilgrims following our star in 2020 sharing peace, hope and generosity to the world.

The gifts of God for the people of God! Come for all things are now ready!

Prayer After Communion

(In Unison)

Generous God, we thank you that you have blessed our world with wise men, women and young people, people of differing ages and races, people near and far. Send us forth into the world that we might spread the good news of your love and care to all, AMEN.

HYMN

America the Beautiful

*O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties, Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat, Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream, That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining sea!
From sea to shining sea!*

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

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

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

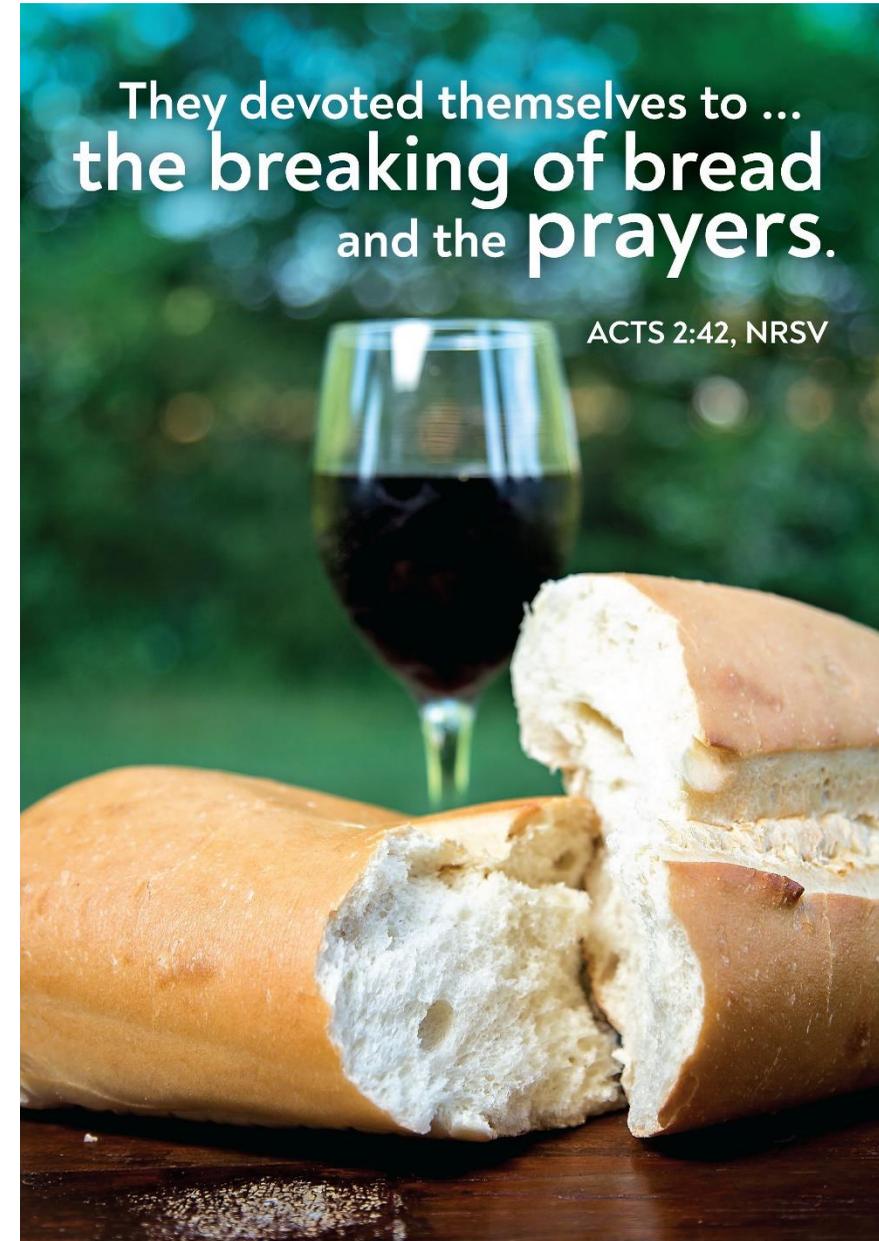
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.



JULY

*Ruler of the nations, thank you for the freedoms we enjoy.
Empower us to work for basic freedoms for all people worldwide. Amen.*

This Week Ahead

Sunday, July 5	Worship in the Grove Holy Communion	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, July 6	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1 pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, July 8	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, July 10	Worship in the Grove	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Grove, 9 am
Sunday, July 12		

Prayer Concerns

Loretta Hawk, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo, 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;
and the Families of Sylvia George, Edith Semmel, Don Schneider, Frances Ash and Robert Boyer

Today's Ushers:

Gabrielle Bentley, Star Barr, Shirley Brotzman, Norm Burger and Dora Tartar

Next Week's Ushers:

Diann Bittenbender and Darryl Breinich

Please welcome the Rev. Tom Albright. He will be preaching and officiating at the table this morning. Pastors Suzanne and Scott are visiting family for the weekend. We will be celebrating Communion, if you did not bring your own elements, please get them from the ushers before worship.



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— 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.*

VBS is scheduled for July 20 through the 24. The theme is Rainforest Explorers and will include a field trip to the zoo. 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 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 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. The committee is still making decisions about how best to keep all our guests safe during this pandemic. There will be a Kids Cake Walk—so we appreciate donations of school supplies, children's snacks and small toys.

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