

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Cramer

CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Cramer

(L) The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

(P) Praise the Lord!

(L) Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

(P) Let us worship God!

OPENING PRAYER

Karen Cramer

(L) Holy One, with great gentleness and care, you call us to be your people and to do your work. Be here with us today, for we come asking for your support in all we do. We need your love, transforming our lives in hope. Be with us, we pray. AMEN.

OPENING SONG

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning,

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,

Great is Thy faithfulness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,
you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
We have not loved you with a pure heart,
nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not done justice, loved kindness,
or walked humbly with you, our God.**



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.*

Welcome to our pulpit the Rev. Cliff Herring. Cliff is a retired member of the Penn Northeast Conference. He is active at Phoebe Ministries and serves on the CPE Committee. Cliff is a roller coaster enthusiast and has ridden just about every coaster in our nation! He has even married people on the top of a coaster. Welcome Cliff!

Next week, The Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer will be our guest preacher while Pastors Suzanne and Scott are away. Rev. Kramer-Moyer is also a retired member of the Penn Northeast Conference. He was the Director of Pastoral Care at Phoebe and CPE educator. He is married to Nancy. Allan continues to be very active in the life of our conference. Welcome Allan. Next week, he will officiate at the celebration of Holy Communion. Please be sure to bring your own elements.

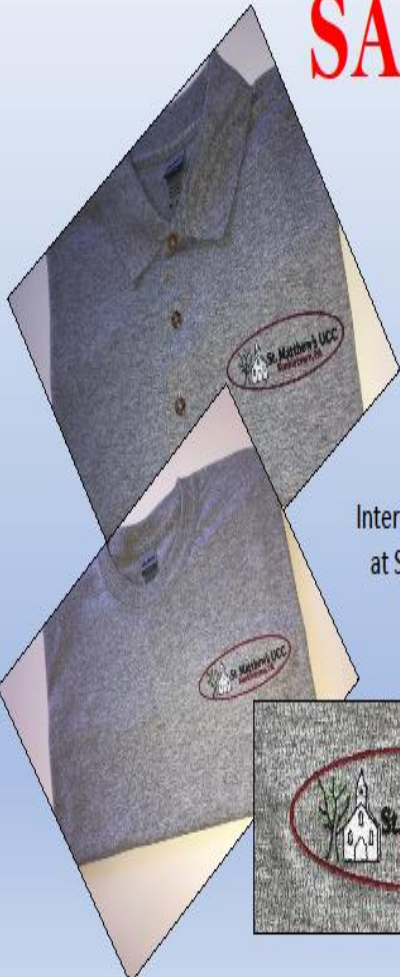


Are you or is your child or grandchild interested in confirmation class this coming school year? Pastor Suzanne would like to hear from you. Please email her at sbcstmts@ptd.net or call her at the church office 610-381-2442 or on her cell 904-910-3034 if you or your child is interested. She would like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

The Sight and Sound trip to see Esther on September 22, 2020 had been postponed until THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 at 11 am. If the virus situation improves and our evening bible study class is comfortable, we can move it up sometime next spring, but for now our tickets have been reserved for Sept. 2, 2021. Please mark your calendars.

Did you like the gray polo shirts and t-shirts with a St. Matthew's logo that were worn by our VBS staff? They are available for sale throughout September. Short sleeved gray tee's are \$16 for small to XL and \$19 for 2XL and up. The short sleeved gray Polo shirts are \$20 for small through XL and \$25 for 2XL and up. If you are interested, contact Cheryl Bartholomew at 570-224-2570 or Jessica Slawter (wjlawt02@gmail.com) our website manager. There will also be an order form in the September White Dove. \$3 for every shirt purchased will be given to the Church.

St. Matthew's shirts for **SALE!**



Short Sleeved Polo:
\$20 for sizes SM thru XL
\$25 for sizes 2XL and up

Short Sleeved Tee:
\$16 for sizes SM thru XL
\$19 for sizes 2XL and up

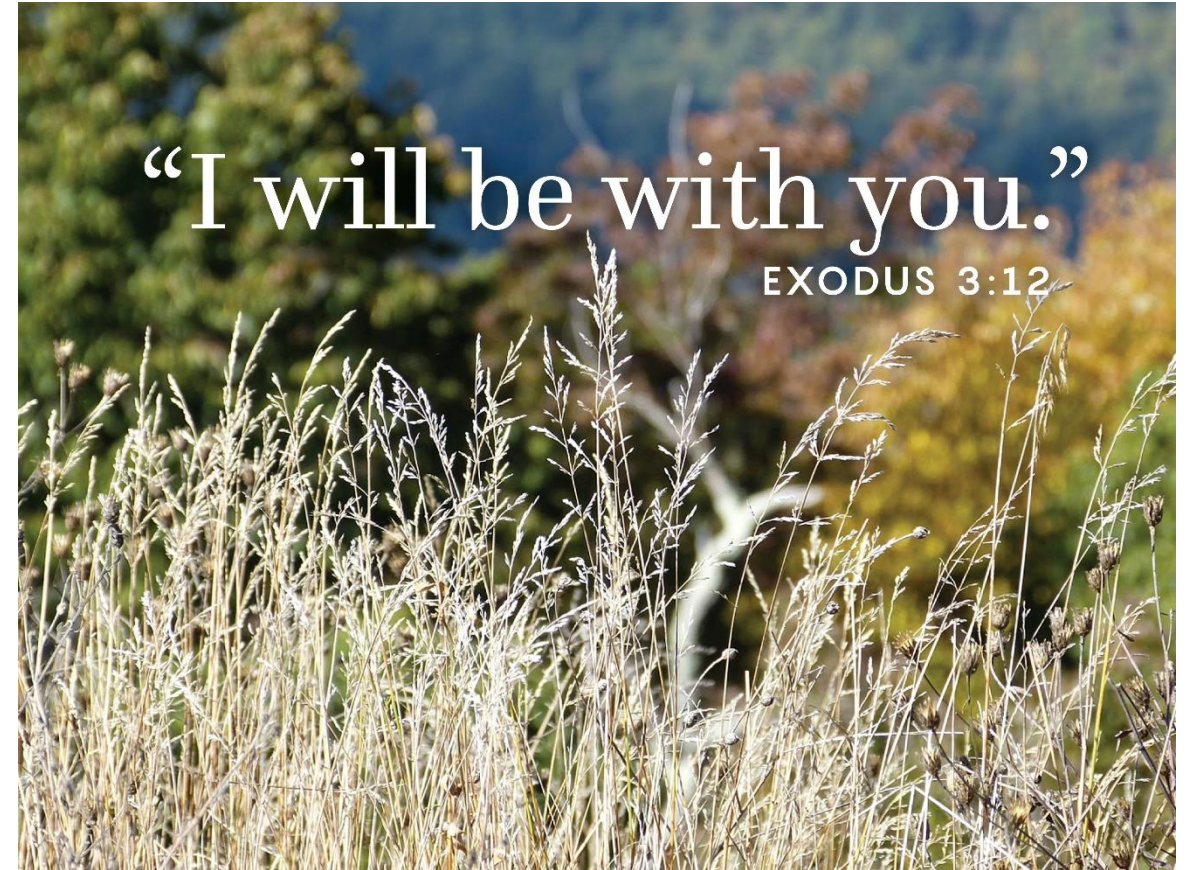
Interested? Please call/email Cheryl Bartholomew
at Stitch Craft Magic or contact Jessica Slawter.



Stitch Craft Magic

www.stitchcraftmagic.com
info@stitchcraftmagic.com
570.224.2570

Stitch Craft Magic is a family owned and operated retail and custom embroidery boutique located in the historic Victorian town of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. "Our focus is to make truly beautiful pieces you'll love to own!"



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.

AUGUST

Welcome to this opportunity to worship our loving and life-giving God! "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

This Week Ahead

Sunday, August 30	Worship in the Grove The Rev. Cliff Herring preaching	-Grove, 9 am
Monday, August 31	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1 pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, September 2	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm
Friday, September 4	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm
Sunday, September 6	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am

Communion Sunday—please bring your own elements

The Rev. Allan Kramer-Moyer preaching

Prayer Concerns

Dale Meixsell, Loretta Hawk, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith
Linda Handwerk, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton Kleintop, Erica Pozza,
Lynn Borger, 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 The Rev. Sterling Schnell

Today's Ushers:

Harry Koehler and Henry Krechel

Next Week's Ushers:

Jenny Rose Serfass and Dora Tartar
Stephen Christiansen, Gabrielle Bentley, Starlene Barr

Sept. 13th Ushers:

Cheryl & Darryl

**Have mercy on us, O God in your loving kindness.
In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.
Do not cast us away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and sustain us with your willing Spirit. AMEN.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE #63

*Give to our God immortal praise; Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Karen Cramer

Exodus 3: 1-15

1 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. **9** The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. **10** So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" **12** He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." **13** But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" **14** God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" **15** God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

THE MESSAGE

"Presence"

The Rev. Cliff Herring

HYMN

Holy Ground Medley

*This is holy ground, we're standing on holy ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is is holy. (Repeat)*

*We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now, We are standing in His presence on holy ground. (Repeat)*

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(In unison)

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*I have decided to follow Jesus. (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Tho' none go with me, still I will follow. (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.*

*Will you decide now to follow Jesus? (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.*

*I have decided to follow Jesus. (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.
No turning back, no turning back. (4x)*

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.)