

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

**September 1, 2024**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Renee Keiper**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!**

**FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 15:1-2

(L) Who may abide in the presence of God?

**(ALL) Who may live on God's holy mountain?**

(L) All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

**(ALL) All those who speak truth from their heart.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*For the beauty of the earth, For the glory of the skies,*

*For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies.*

**REFRAIN:** *Lord of all to Thee we raise*

*This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour, Of the day and of the night,*

*Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light. (REFRAIN)*

*For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,*

*Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild. (REFRAIN)*

*For Thy church, that evermore Lifteth holy hands above,*

*Offering up on every shore Her pure sacrifice of love. (REFRAIN)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy to forgive.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Confessing our sins to God through prayer)**

God of mercy and compassion, I thank You for restoring me to Your friendship, but let me never forget the purpose of Your forgiveness. In this life, I must sanctify myself and work out my salvation. I have to love You and love my

neighbor. Therefore, allow me to build on this great gift that You have given me at my baptism and have continued to strengthen ever since. Now that my prayer has been strengthened, that I am once more a true member of Your flock, and benefit from the prayers of all Your saints and angels, let me despise sin and love You above all things. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Receive these words of comfort from God)**

Friends, do not despair: God renews us by the word of truth, that we might become the first fruits of God's creation. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – KRISTEN, IAN AND OWEN SNYDER**

**"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"**

**OFFERING – Basket located on the table as you enter the sanctuary.**

**INVITATION**

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

**OFFERTORY** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.*

*Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.*

*Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow-- Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;*

*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

**Responsive Reading – Psalm 15**

**(L)** O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**(ALL)** **Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;**

(L)who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

**(ALL)** **in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

(L)who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**\*The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

**New Testament Reading – Matthew 3:1-17** Pew Bible pg 784-785

**\*Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

**SERMON “Christian Baptism”**

**Bishop Randy**

**Matthew 3:1-17**

**BAPTISM – IAN AND OWEN SNYDER**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION – SEE INSERT**

**\*THE LORD’S PRAYER – ALL**

**Bishop Randy**

**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.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes.*

*Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious*

*Thy great name we praise, Thy great name we praise.*

*To all life Thou givest to both great and small; In all life Thou livest the true life of all.*

*Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free,*

*Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth Thee, for naught changeth Thee.*

*Great Father of glory, pure Father of light, Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight; All praise we would render O help us to see ‘Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee! Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious Thy great name we praise!*

*Thy great name we praise! Thy great name we praise! Thy great name we praise!*

**\*CLOSING PRAYER**

**Bishop Randy**

Beloved Savior, my heart overflows with your goodness. The night has Passed. The morning has come. Your voice calls me to arise and come with you into this new day. Let your love strengthen me to answer your call and follow you, caring for those in need of your love. Amen.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL** *Go Now In Peace*

*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.*

*(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)*

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*INDICATES THAT YOU STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**



### **Prayer Concerns**

Nicholas Blank (Joyce Fusner's Grandson), Tina Martin (Pat's daughter), Todd Kresge, Alysha Katz, Wendy Peddigree, Rhonda Cramer (Randy and Ray's sister), Frank Rapa, Leon Barlieb, Ellen Kresge, Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Debra Kemmerer, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother), Barry Serfass (Brenda Hawk's brother), Barbara Marks (Pat Martin's sister-in-law), Georgia Smith (friend of Connie Frantz and Dora Tartar), David Zacharias (Dean's brother), Helen Alpaugh, Leni (friend of Helen), Logan Mackes (Rose Fritz's grandson).



### **St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

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Office Manager: Renée Keiper

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Sunday, September 1	15th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, September 2	Labor Day	-Office closed
Wednesday, September 4		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, September 5	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Sunday, September 8	16th Sunday after Pentecost	-Sanctuary, 9am
	Guest Preacher – Will Hoffman	

**September Lead Usher – Tonya Peddigree**

**Altar Flowers**

**Vase #1 – In honor of Dan Wunder’s birthday – Love you so much, Wanda**

**Vase #2 – In memory of Lorraine Sterner’s heavenly 96<sup>th</sup> birthday**



**The Joyful Noise for September is Habitat for Humanity**

**Putting Love Into Action**

Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Monroe County Habitat for Humanity’s main focus for 2024 is Home Preservation. This program allows homeowners who are affected by low income, old age or disability to make necessary repairs on their homes. When these critical repairs are not made, homes can potentially become condemned. There is a great need for these types of repairs in our county.

**Laymen’s Fellowship is requesting donations of cash or gift cards valued at \$25 or more for the Bizarre raffle tickets. The deadline for ticket prizes is September 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Items for the PA Dutch Auction for the Bizarre will be accepted throughout September and October. These items should also be valued at \$25 or more.**

- **Thank you to Bishop Randy Sizemore for leading our service today.**
- **September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8am – meet at the fairgrounds to move equipment back to the grove and church.**

**S’MORE FUN  
CAMPFIRE FELLOWSHIP**

**At St. Matthew’s Kunkletown Church Grove  
Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (rain date Sept. 21)  
FREE COMMUNITY EVENT  
GAMES – MUSIC – HOT DOGS – FUN!!!**

**COMING SOON!**

**OCTOBER 6TH WE WILL**

**CELEBRATE ST. MATTHEW’S HISTORY!!**

**SHARE YOUR PICTURES AND MEMORIES BY DROPPING THEM OFF IN  
THE MARKED BOXES IN THE NARTHEX OR ON THE ROUND TABLE  
IN THE COMMON ROOM.**

**PLEASE MARK YOUR PICTURES WITH YOUR NAME OR  
LEAVE COPIES FOR US.**

**THE DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 8TH.**

**Bible Studies:**

- Wednesdays at 1:00pm – led by Pastor Mike at People’s EC Church (216 Wagner Street, Lehighton)
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm – led by Dan Smale from the book of Luke.  
**NO CLASS AUGUST 21, 28, SEPT 4; WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 11TH**
- Thursdays at 12:30pm – led by Pastor Mike at Papa Al’s (Delaware Ave, Palmerton). Contact Pastor Mike to find out what chapter and verse will be discussed while you have lunch.