

*Welcome to St. Matthews*

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

*We are honored to have you worship with us today and we hope that you will receive a warm welcome and experience the presence of our Lord in a significant way.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME EVERYONE!**

**FAMILY JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!**

**PRAYER FOR JOYS AND CONCERNS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge and joy.

**Amen. So be it.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**Page 752    *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**LIGHTING OF THE PEACE ADVENT CANDLE    Kristen, Ian and Owen Snyder**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people.**

**We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation.**

**We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do.**

**We do not see our neighbors, families and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to hear us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Gabby Bentley**

**"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"**

**PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING**

**Luke 3:11**

And he answered them, whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.

**MIDDLE HYMN**

**Page 623    *Like a River Glorious***

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Ian Snyder**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Psalm 55: 16-22**

But I call to God, and the LORD will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he hears my voice. He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me. God will give ear and humble them, he who is enthroned from of old, because they do not change and do not fear God. My companion stretched out his hand against his friends; he violated his covenant. His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

**New Testament Reading**

**Matthew 6:25-27**

"Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than them? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

SERMON      Pastor Wil Hoffman

Sermon Title "Anxiety can be overthrown, His kingdom cannot"

Sermon Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-9

Sermon Notes:

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

Page 724      *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (APOSTLES CREED)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy general Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER - ALL**

**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**

Page 779      *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

**\*CLOSING PRAYER**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SUNG 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)*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec. 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Kunkletown Christmas	-Sanctuary, 9am -Sanctuary, 6pm
Monday, Dec. 8	Exercise Group Council Choir Rehearsal	-Office Open 10am -2pm -Common Room, 10:30am - Large Classroom, 7pm - 6pm
Tuesday, Dec. 9		
Wednesday, Dec. 10	Advent Service- 6pm	-Office Open 10am – 2pm - Living Hope Lighthouse
Thursday, Dec. 11		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
Friday, Dec. 12	Family Fun Night Pageant Rehearsal	- 5pm – 7pm
Sunday, Dec. 14	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	-Sanctuary, 9am

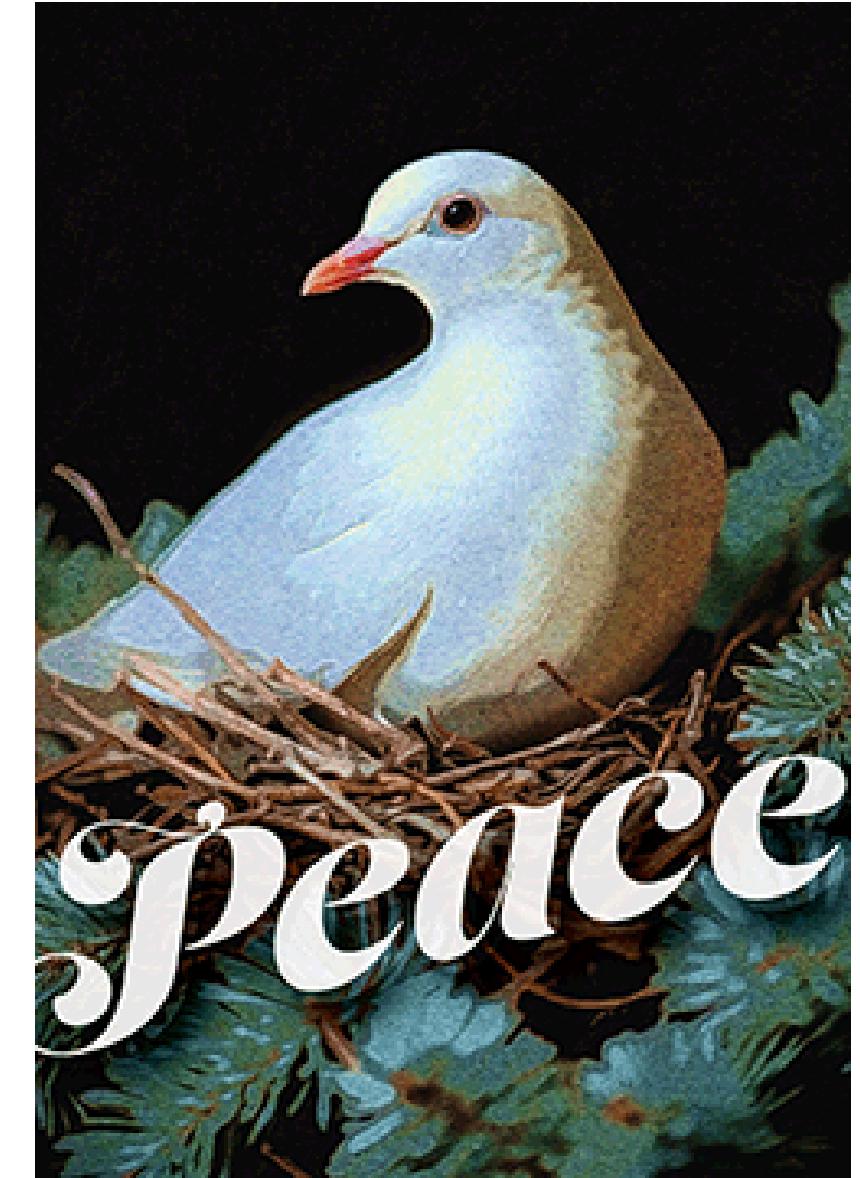
Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

December Lead Usher: Diann Bittenbender

Altar Flowers: Vase #1 – Celebrating the Holiday Season by Irene and Dean Zacharias  
Vase #2 – In memory of Helen Gower by Michelle Berhel and family

- ❖ **December Joyful Noise – West End Food Pantry**
- ❖ **New Hymnal dedication slips on the table in the Common Room. \$20 for each dedication.**
- ❖ **Advent Services – Wednesdays during Advent at 6pm.**  
December 10<sup>th</sup> – Living Hope Lighthouse, 705 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Palmerton, PA 18071  
December 17<sup>th</sup> – People's EC Church, 216 Wagner St. Lehighton, PA 18235
- ❖ **St. Matthew's EC Church new membership** – If you are interested in joining our church family please see Pastor Wil. There will be 3 classes to attend. January 18<sup>th</sup>, January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am to 12:00pm.
- ❖ **Kunkletown Christmas** Tonight at 6:00pm  
Featuring: RJ Cramer and friends, St. Matthew's Choir and more



**St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown**

**December 7, 2025**

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

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

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

## St. Matthew's Prayer List – December 7, 2025

### KINGDOM WORK:

- **Sister Helena** – Zambia – raising chickens, growing vegetables feeding the children and can now put a roof on facility
- **Randy & Deb Sheagley** – Touch the World website

### MILITARY:

- **Logan Mackes** (Grandson of Rose Fritz): Serving in the U.S. Army in Fort Hood, TX for next 2½ years from Jan. 30, 2025
- **Bryce Silliman** (Irene and Dean Zacharias' grandson) US Navy
- **Conner Wise** (Hal's cousin's son): U.S. Marine deployed to Iwakuni, Japan (via Hawaii & Guam) for 6-9 months.

### LONG-TERM NEEDS:

- **Conner Bittenbender**: (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; lab test results & healing
- **Gene Borger**: Strength and healing
- **Roberta Heffley** (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
- **Shannon Osinski** (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
- **Marlette Palermo**: healing
- **Sheila Sherer** (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
- **Hudson Stewart** (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

### SHUT INS:

**Shirley Kuntz**—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058  
**James Borger**—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463  
**Larry Hahn**—Gracedale, 2 Gracedale Ave, Nazareth PA 18064  
**Leah Jane Sterner**—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058  
**Kay Frable** – Liza's House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038

\*\* indicates changes from last week. For additions, updates or removals, please contact the Church Office at 610-381-2442 or complete and return a Prayer Card.

### SHUT INS CONTINUED

**Kyle Frable**—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058  
**Gladys Meixsell**—Pleasant Valley Manor, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360  
**Velma Silfies**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058  
**Joann Hunsicker**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown PA 18058  
**Jacqueline Mock**—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058  
**Jesse Ziegenfus**—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330  
**Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt**: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091

### BEREAVEMENT

- **Tom Barr Sr./1**
- **Chapman Kim Buskirk/1**

### NEW NEEDS:

- **Tom Barr**: strength and healing/3
- **Sterling Borger**: strength and healing/3
- **Darryl Breinich**: healing and strength/2
- **Devoe Breinich**: healing and strength/2
- **Countryside Square Stores**: prayers for those affected by the fire/1
- **Pete (friend of Vivian Smith)**: knee surgery/1
- **Bobby Dutt (Joyce Fusner's uncle)**: healing/5\*\*\*
- **Robbin Eckhart**: strength and healing/5\*\*\*
- **Wayne K. (friend of Roy Zeruth)**: prayers for healing after farming accident/1
- **Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith)**: healing/4
- **Roger (Leanne Sitler's son in law)**: health concerns/1
- **Mary and Bob Ryan (friends of St. Matthew's)**: prayers for strength/1
- **Donna Serfass (Grandmother to Wade and Harper Serfass)**: knee surgery/1
- **Diana Spillar (Vivian Smith's cousin)**: healing/4
- **Barbara Souders**: strength and healing/1