

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**

(L)My soul magnifies the Lord;

(ALL)My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(L)The Mighty One has done great things.

(ALL)Holy is God's name!

***OPENING CAROL**

Page 781 *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

LIGHTING OF THE JOY ADVENT CANDLE

Hoffman Family

CALL TO CONFESSON

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad,
for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSON

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our
foolishness we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence.
We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance
and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace
to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands,
and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption!

Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

Tiffany Lakatosh and Gabby Bentley

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

Offertory Scripture

Luke 6:38

give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

MIDDLE HYMN

Page 711 *"Once in Royal David's City"* (verses 1, 3, 4 & 6)

LESSONS AND CAROLS

INVITATION

Hymn 770: "This Is the Truth Sent from Above"

FIRST LESSON – The Fall: Humanity Turns from God

Scripture: *Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19*

Hymn 723 - "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (verses 1 & 2)

SECOND LESSON – The Promise to Abraham: God's Covenant Blessing

Scripture: *Genesis 22:15-18*

Hymn 715: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1 & 2)

THIRD LESSON – The Prophecy of the Messiah: A Light for Those in Darkness

Scripture: *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

SOLO—Hymn 767: "For To Us a Child Is Born" (All verses)

FOURTH LESSON – The Peaceable Kingdom: The Branch from Jesse's Root

Scripture: *Isaiah 11:1-9*

Hymn 720: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (verses 1 & 2)

FIFTH LESSON – The Annunciation: The Angel Speaks to Mary

Scripture: *Luke 1:26-35, 38*

SOLO—Hymn 735: Magnificat (My Soul Will Magnify the Lord) (All verses)

SIXTH LESSON – The Birth of Jesus: Emmanuel, God with Us

Scripture: *Matthew 1:18-23*

359: "Away in a Manger" (verses 1 & 2)

SEVENTH LESSON – The Shepherds Hear the Good News

Scripture: *Luke 2:8-16*

Hymn 763: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (verses 1 & 2)

EIGHTH LESSON – The Wise Men Seek the King

Scripture: *Matthew 2:1-11*

Hymn 790: "We Three Kings" (verses 1, 2 & 3)

NINTH LESSON – The Word Made Flesh: The Light of the World

Scripture: *John 1:1-5, 9-14*

Hymn 762: "Joy Has Dawned" (All verses)

***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 CAROL**

Page 780 *Joy to the World*

***CLOSING PRAYER**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – PLEASE STAY TO VOTE FOR
THE 2026 BUDGET AND 3 NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS.**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec. 14	3 rd Sunday of Advent	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Dec. 15	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am -2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Advent Service- 6pm	-Common Room, 10:30am
Thursday, Dec. 18		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
Sunday, Dec. 21	4 th Sunday of Advent	-People's EC Church
		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
		-Sanctuary, 9am

Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

December Lead Usher: Diann Bittenbender

Altar Flowers: Vase #1 – In loving memory of Mom, Earlene Wunder's
100th birthday in Heaven

Vase #2 – In loving memory of Dad, Maynard Sterner's
100th birthday in Heaven

- ❖ 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 17th – 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 18th, January 25th and February 1st at 10:30am to 12:00pm.
- ❖ Christmas Eve Services – 3pm and 8pm
- ❖ Discipleship Seminar – January 11, 2026, 10:30am to 12:00.
Guest speaker is Vicki Smith
- ❖ You still have time to drop off gently worn, used or new shoes.
Donation box is located by the elevator on the first floor.
Last day is January 31, 2026.



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown
December 14, 2025
102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058
610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net
www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List – December 14, 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

NEW NEEDS:

- **Tom Barr**: strength and healing/2
- **Sterling Borger**: strength and healing/2
- **Darryl Breinich**: healing and strength/1
- **Devoe Breinich**: healing and strength/1
- **Bobby Dutt (Joyce Fusner's uncle)**: healing/4
- **Mary and David Eckhart**: strength and healing/5***
- **Robbin Eckhart**: strength and healing/4
- **Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith)**: healing/3
- **Diana Spillar (Vivian Smith's cousin)**: healing/3