

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



APRIL 2026

Secretary Office Hours are:

Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10am—2pm

Phone: 610-381-2442

Email: stmatts@ptd.net

Website: stmattsecckunkletown.com

WORSHIP SERVICE

9:00 AM SUNDAY

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS

10:30 AM SUNDAY

RJ Cramer
Council President
Wil Hoffman
Pastor
Starlene Barr
Treasurer
Dan Smale
Music Director
Tiffany Lakatosh
Children's Ministry
Renée Keiper
Church Secretary

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St. Matthew's Church
102 Church Road
Kunkletown, Pa 18058

LEHIGHTON, PA 18235

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He is Risen – Can they see Him?

Have you heard the quote “People won’t care how much you know unless they really know how much you care?” This is a rhetorical expression empathizing empathy and genuine concern as prerequisites for influence and trust.

The origination of this quote is debated – but there is truth in the statement, even biblical truth. Faith and belief is the foundation of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Faith and belief become words of action, when God works in our life, through our faith and belief, we have a natural tendency to work in God’s Kingdom, for the advancement of God’s Kingdom and the welfare of His Children.

This desire “to do” is natural and biblical. God is alive within us and through us – Jesus lives, and our actions prove it to the world. The Apostle James tells us, in his epistle, James 2:14-17. “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

The congregation of St. Matthew’s EC Church, the Body of Christ here in Kunkletown, exhibits Jesus’ love in so many ways –

Over the course of this next year, we are asking the leaders of each of our committees and ministries to write an article, explaining the history, purpose and expressions of love emanating from you, Christ’s representatives in our community. And there is much!

Here is a list of some of the ministry emanating as external evidence of God’s Children who worship at St. Matthew’s. (In creating this list, I ask you for your grace and mercy. I have seen amazing participation from the congregation. Things often happen fast around here. If I miss anyone, or any ministry, please forgive me and let me know so I can put in a correction next month.)

I wish God’s blessings upon all of you. I am so grateful to be able to serve Him, and you. Pastor Wil

Outreach:

Children’s Ministry
Christians in Action
Laymen’s Fellowship
Men’s Group
Prayer Shawls
Prayer Team
Sunday School
Small Group Bible Studies
Strawberry Festival
Car Show
West End Fair
Thanksgiving

Church and Outreach:

Cemetery
Music and Worship
Membership
Safety Team
Vision Team
Visitation Team

Church:
Budget
Investment and Finance
Church Property
Congregation Relations

Why External Evidence Matters: Strengthening the Witness of the Rural Church

In many rural communities, the church has long stood as a visible and trusted presence—often at the center of spiritual life, relationships, and local identity. Within the Evangelical Congregational Church, rural congregations carry a rich heritage of biblical faithfulness, simplicity, and relational ministry. Yet in today’s culture, one growing challenge stands before us: the need for **external evidence** of our faith. Not just what we believe—but what others can see.

Faith That Can Be Seen

Scripture consistently teaches that faith is not merely internal—it is meant to be visible.

“Show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” (James 2:18)

In a rural setting, where word-of-mouth travels quickly and relationships run deep, the credibility of the church is often shaped not by its statement of faith, but by its **demonstration of faith**.

People are asking: Does this church actually love people? Do they care about the community? Is their faith real... or just spoken? External evidence answers those questions.

Why Rural Churches Especially Need It

Rural churches face unique dynamics:

1. Familiarity Can Breed Assumption

Many people in rural communities feel they already “know” the church. Perhaps they grew up attending, or they know someone who does. This familiarity can lead to assumptions—both positive and negative. External evidence challenges outdated perceptions and shows that the church is **alive, active, and relevant today**.

2. Limited Visibility Beyond the Building

Unlike larger urban churches with strong digital presence or high foot traffic, rural churches can easily become “invisible” outside of Sunday morning.

External expressions of faith—community service, visible acts of care, engagement in local events—help the church move **beyond its walls**.

3. Trust Must Be Earned Relationally

In rural areas, trust is not built through marketing—it is built through **presence and consistency**. People are watching over time. External evidence becomes the language of trust: Showing up in times of crisis, supporting local initiatives, caring for neighbors in tangible ways.

What Does External Evidence Look Like?

External evidence is not about performance—it is about authenticity lived out publicly.

Here are key ways it can be expressed:

1. Acts of Compassion

- Helping families in need
- Supporting local schools, fire companies, and community efforts

Providing meals, care, or resources during difficult seasons

2. Visible Unity and Love

Jesus said, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35). A church that genuinely loves each other becomes a powerful witness to a watching community.

3. Community Presence

- Participating in local events
- Hosting gatherings that welcome outsiders

Being known as a place that is open, not closed

4. Transformed Lives

Nothing speaks louder than changed lives: Testimonies of redemption, stories of healing, restoration, and growth, people living differently because of Christ. This is the most compelling evidence of all.

The Danger of Internal-Only Faith

A church can be biblically sound, theologically accurate, and spiritually sincere—and still lack impact if its faith remains mostly internal.

When there is little external evidence: The community may see the church as irrelevant, faith may appear theoretical rather than transformational, opportunities for outreach are quietly missed. Jesus never intended His followers to be hidden. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

A Call to Intentional Witness

For rural churches in the Evangelical Congregational tradition, this is not about becoming something different—it is about becoming more visibly what we already are.

It means asking: Where can our faith be seen more clearly? How can our community experience the love of Christ through us? What would change if we lived with intentional visibility? External evidence is not about drawing attention to ourselves—it is about pointing clearly to Christ.

Conclusion: Faith That Leaves a Mark

In small towns and rural communities, a church has a unique opportunity: to be known not just for its building, but for its **impact**.

When faith becomes visible: Hearts open, trust grows, the gospel becomes tangible

And the church becomes what it was always meant to be—not just a place people attend, but a people whose lives **bear evidence** of the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The Children's Ministry Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated drinks, snacks, and filled eggs for our *Family Faith & Fun Egg Hunt*. Because of your generosity and willingness to help, the event was a joyful and meaningful time for our children and families.

We would also like to thank everyone who attended the event and helped make the day so special. Seeing families come together for fellowship, fun, and faith truly made it a wonderful celebration.

Your support, participation, and encouragement help make events like this possible. Thank you for continuing to support the children and families of our church community!



FEBRUARY 2026 NET INCOME

TOTAL OFFERINGS—envelopes and plate	\$9,095.13
OTHER INCOME	<u>\$ 931.84</u>
FEBRUARY 2026—TOTAL INCOME	\$10,026.97
FEBRUARY 2026—TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>(\$18,658.80)</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(\$ 8,631.83)</u>

ELDRED TWP. CLEAN UP DAYS

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026 7AM TO 4PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 8AM TO 2PM

Free to Eldred Residents

(except tires, see below)

Dumpsters will be available

- Old Outdoor Furniture •Lawnmowers and Bicycles
- Old Children's Toys, furniture
- Tires

Car Tires-\$5.00 Truck tires \$10.00

Large Truck Tires \$20.00 Extra Large Tires (construction vehicles etc.) \$50.00

If you can not put it in the regular trash, bring it for disposal

ELDRED TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

490 KUNKLETOWN RD, KUNKLETOWN PA 18058 610-381-4252

REP. JACK RADER INVITES YOU TO HIS

SENIOR SCAM SEMINAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 - 5:30 TO 7:30PM

KUNKLETOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE CO., 597 KUNKLETOWN RD, KUNKLETOWN, PA 18058

SPEAKER: DAVID SHALLCROSS

JOIN US IN LEARNING HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT AND OTHER RECENT SCAMS.

RSVP IS REQUIRED

CALL 570-643-7683

OR REGISTER at RepRader.com/events

St. Matthew's Prayer List – March 29, 2026

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:

Major James Beidleman: Pilot at Dover Air Force Base
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
Roberta Heffley (Eleanor Long's Sister): Cancer
Shannon Osinski (wife of James Osinski) Ehlers Danlos Syndrome
Sheila Sherer (Eleanor Long's Niece): Fluid on her brain
Hudson Stewart (Bittenbender Family Member): Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy; no symptoms yet

SHUT INS:

Gloria (Jeannie) Anewalt: Walden Building III, Room 118, 325 N. Broadway, Wind Gap, PA 18091
Gene and Sandy Borger – P.O. Box 907, Kresgeville PA 18333
James Borger—526 Wood Street, Apt 439, Bethlehem PA 18018-4463
Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown PA 18058
Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
Gladys Meixsell—Stroudsburg Post Acute Nursing and Rehabilitation, 4227 Manor Dr, Stroudsburg PA 18360
Jacqueline Mock—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown, PA 18058
Marlette Palermo – 276 Bollinger Rd., Kunkletown PA 18058
Velma Silfies—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care, 302 Kunkletown Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
Leah Jane Sterner—300 Covered Bridge Rd, Kunkletown PA 18058
Jesse Ziegenfus—Brookmont Healthcare Ctr, 510 Brookmont Dr, Effort PA 18330

PRAYERS NEEDED FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING:

Lois Bachman/1
Darryl and Devoe Breinich/5*
Sandy Christman (Marie's sister-in-law)/2
Rose Fritz/3
Roger Hawk (Mitchell Hawk's brother)/3
Jeff Keiser/3
Wade Koehler (Vivian Smith's friend)/2
Pastor Larry Laine (Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church)2
Christy Larue (Magen Snyder's friend)4
Eileen Ravalico (Roy Zeruth's friend)/5*
Ian Snyder/5*
Jordan Vitale (Paul LoMonaco's cousin)/2

BEREAVEMENT – Prayers for the family

Barbara Dorshimer (friend of Judy Hawk)/2
Kay Frable/1
Melissa Frey (Janet Smith's great niece)3
Larry Hahn/1
Meghan (family friend of Dawn and Tom Hockman/1
Lenore Morrow (George Huber's sister-in-law)/3
Daniel Shea (Paul LoMonaco's brother)/4
Tiffany Smith's uncle/1

CIA COOK'S CORNER

CHOCOLATE PEANUT BUTTER PIE DORA TARTAR



Everyone who knew my Mama, Mae Borger, knew what a great baker she was. Growing up she baked every week & sometimes not just for our family! In fact, when neighbors would help her with yard work, they wouldn't take money, so she would bake them their favorite pie. Unfortunately, I am not much of a baker...but I do like my desserts, so when I do make desserts...they are easy peasy ones! Well, here is a delicious easy peasy pie for all you peanut butter lovers! It's very rich and soooo delicious!

Ingredients:

Crust: 25 whole chocolate sandwich cookies, such as Oreos
4 Tablespoons butter, melted

***Now I did say, I do easy peasy...so I buy the already made crusts...you can get them in chocolate or a pecan crust & they are delicious!!!**

Filling:

1 cup creamy peanut butter (I don't measure, so I'm sure there is a little more than 1 cup)
One 8-ounce package cream, cheese softened
1 ¼ cups powdered sugar (I like a little stiffer, so I put in almost 1 ½ cups)
One 8-ounce package whipped topping, such as Cool Whip, thawed

Directions:

For the crust: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Use 9 inch pie pan. Crush the cookies until they're fine crumbs. Pour the melted butter over the top and stir with a fork to combine. Press into a pie pan and bake until set, 5-7 minutes. Remove from the oven & allow to cool completely.

Or the easy peasy way...use the prepared pie crust & eliminate this step!

For the filling: Beat the peanut butter with the cream cheese until smooth. Add the powdered sugar gradually and beat until smooth. Add in the thawed whipped topping and beat until smooth, scraping the sides as needed.

Pour the pie filling into the crust, evening out with a knife or spatula. I like to top with peanuts, mini chocolate chips or sprinkles for garnish! Chill for at least one hour.

ENJOY!

April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30PM	3	4
5 EASTER 6AM GROVE BREAKFAST 9AM SANCTUARY	6	7	8	9	10	11 CIA DINNER & MOVIE 5PM
12	13 COUNCIL 7PM	14	15 LAYMENS 10AM	16 MENS GROUP 7PM	17	18
19 NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS 1 OF 3 10:30	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS 2 OF 3 10:30	27	28	29	30		

April Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Alexander Wunder | 21 Norman Burger, Delphin George |
| 4 Diane Bonser, Kaitlyn Delbertis, Renee Rapa | 22 James Borger |
| 5 Melanie Frantz, Alexander Greenzweig | 23 Marc LoMonaco |
| 6 Wil Hoffman, Doris Krechel | 24 Josh Adams, Sue Hamlin, Drew Meckes,
Jaxson Gower |
| 7 Terri Meklas | 25 Marjorie Borger, Janet Smith |
| 8 Leonard Ash | 26 Jennifer Kratz |
| 11 Richard King, Sara Warner | 28 Stella Christiansen, Tracy Smith |
| 12 Amanda Pawlicki | 29 Mark Andrews |
| 14 Desiree Kresge, Steven Maas | 30 Diann Bittenbender, Robbin Eckhart,
Megan Scimeca |
| 15 Gladys Meixsell | |
| 19 Dennis Rundle | |