

ST. MATTHEW'S EC CHURCH

WHITE DOVE FLYER

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ"



MARCH 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

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Kunkletown, Pa 18058

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St. Matthew's Church

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St. Matthew's Evangelical Congregational Church

A Call to Serve, Represent, and Strengthen the Church

St. Matthew's EC Church is prayerfully seeking individuals from our own congregation who are willing to serve as **Lay Delegates**—members who represent our church in the wider ministry and decision-making life of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

This role is not merely a position; it is a **calling to leadership, stewardship, and faithful representation.**

What This Means for You Personally

Serving as a Lay Delegate is an opportunity to:

- Grow spiritually through deeper involvement in the life and mission of the Church
- Use your voice and gifts to help guide decisions that affect ministry beyond our local congregation
- Build relationships with believers from other EC congregations and gain a broader vision of what God is doing
- Develop leadership skills and a deeper understanding of church governance and ministry priorities

Experience the joy and responsibility of representing your St. Matthew's church family

Many who have served in this role testify that it **strengthens faith, broadens perspective, and deepens one's sense of calling.**

Why This Role Matters to St. Matthew's

Lay Delegates play a vital role by:

- Representing St. Matthew's at District and General Conference gatherings
- Participating in prayerful discussion and voting on matters that shape the direction of our denomination
- Bringing back insight, encouragement, and information that help our congregation stay connected and informed

Serving as a bridge between our local ministry and the larger work of the Church

Through faithful delegates, **our congregation's voice, convictions, and ministry heart are clearly represented.**

Who Should Consider Serving?

You may be well-suited for this role if you:

- Are a committed member of St. Matthew's EC Church
- Have a heart for the Church and its mission
- Are willing to listen, learn, and represent others thoughtfully
- Are able to attend scheduled conference gatherings

Desire to grow in leadership and service

Prayerfully Consider

We encourage every member of St. Matthew's to **prayerfully consider** whether God may be calling you to serve in this way. The strength of our church depends on faithful people who are willing to step forward in service.

If you know of someone that you feel would be a great fit for this position, please invite them to consider. Please do not nominate someone without asking them first.

Again, if **YOU** have a heart for the Church and a desire to grow in service and leadership, we encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity.

Your Church Council is hoping to fill this role, no later than Mar 9th.

A complete list of lay delegate responsibilities can be found in this edition of the White Dove.

For more information, to nominate or express interest, please contact Pastor Wil Hoffman (wilhoffman21@gmail.com) or a member of the Church Council.

What Is a Lay Delegate?

A **lay delegate** is a non-ordained member of the local congregation, chosen to represent the church at the **Annual Conference** of the Evangelical Congregational Church. Lay delegates participate fully in the governance and discernment of the denomination alongside ordained ministers.

Core Responsibilities

1. Representation

- Represent the interests, concerns, and perspectives of the local congregation
- Speak and act on behalf of the church body at Annual Conference

Ensure the voice of the laity is included in denominational life

2. Voting & Governance

Lay delegates have full voting privileges and may vote on:

- Resolutions and motions
- Constitutional and disciplinary matters
- Ministry initiatives and denominational direction

Elections of denominational leaders, boards, and committees

3. Accountability & Oversight

- Participate in responsible oversight of denominational leadership
- Support transparency, integrity, and faithful stewardship

Help ensure decisions reflect both biblical faithfulness and local-church realities

4. Spiritual Discernment

- Approach all matters prayerfully and thoughtfully
- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in decision-making

Act in humility, wisdom, and unity for the good of Christ's Church

5. Communication with the Congregation

After Annual Conference, lay delegates should:

- Report key decisions and actions back to the local church
- Help members understand how denominational decisions affect local ministry

Serve as a bridge between the congregation and the denomination

6. Additional Service (As Needed)

Lay delegates may also:

- Serve on denominational boards or committees
- Participate in special task forces or initiatives

Encourage denominational engagement within the local church

Qualifications & Expectations

A lay delegate is typically:

- A professing Christian and member in good standing
- Spiritually mature and trusted by the congregation
- Willing to prepare, listen carefully, and participate respectfully

Committed to both local church health and denominational unity

Laymen's Fellowship – Who are we & what do we do?

We don't know exactly when Laymen's Fellowship began, but we do know that many, many years ago, Arlene Frantz announced at Church that our church needed help & a group needed to be formed to raise money to help our church. I was told that the first Laymen's meetings were held in members' homes. Laymen's began with holding suppers to raise money. Betty Kleintop said they even sold boiled peanuts to raise funds! They made & sold food and ice cream and held a raffle at the Annual Kunkletown Picnic & Smith's Reunion held in our church grove. The original group included women & many of their husbands at the fundraising events. They began the tradition of holding an Annual November Bazaar with homemade food & desserts, raffles with homemade items and a flea market. This event served not only as a fundraiser, but was a huge social event. All the Laymen's fundraisers were a time of fellowship & celebration & giving back to our church & its members.

No one knows when Laymen's added the Strawberry festival to their fundraisers, but it is thought it was in the late 70's or 80's. Cheryl Dorshimer said that she took over organizing the Strawberry Festival eleven years ago, so we know it was years before that. It was held on Father's Day & fathers were served a free strawberry shortcake. Connie Moretz remembers picking, cleaning & cutting up the fresh strawberries, as well as making homemade ice cream & shortcake. As time went on, fewer men participated; however, the women continued meeting & preparing suppers as well as providing meals for funerals & they made & sold their much-loved PA Dutch filling at Thanksgiving.

Laymen's have continued this time held tradition of helping the church by raising funds. Our meetings are held once a month, September through May, in the church social hall. We share fellowship, devotions, prayers, a meal & plan our fundraisers. We recently added chair stretching exercises to our monthly meeting to keep our bodies moving for the Lord. Our fundraisers continue to include our Annual November Bazaar & filling-making for Thanksgiving. Betty Kleintop kept all the recipes handed down from the original group. In 2024, we renamed the raffle, The North Pole Mercantile, for our Annual November Bazaar and it still features hand-crafted items created by our talented members. In 2025, we added Bingo to our fundraising events, again it is another great social event. The past two years, through our fundraising efforts, we were able to donate \$10,000 each year to support projects & expenses needed in our church.

Laymen's Fellowship continued on the next page.....

We serve others by providing soup & filling to the Visitation Team, as well as delivering Christmas goody bags to shut-ins and members who reside in personal care homes. Every December, we go Christmas caroling to Mrs. Bush's and Getz's Personal Care Homes and provide tissues for all the residents. We enjoy singing with the residents as much as they do & take great joy in seeing the smiles on their faces & having them sing along with us. Small spiritual gifts are also given to all women attending church each year on Mother's Day as a way of showing our appreciation and making the women feel special & loved.

We were asked by Pastor Wil which scripture verses help to guide us in our work. One is Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will harvest if we do not give up. Another is Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

God is good, all the time! I take great pride belonging to Laymen's & I think I speak for all our Laymen members! This group of women gives of their time, energy & many talents to do what Arlene Frantz envisioned...to help our church however we can! I thank God every day for these amazing women & how they serve the Lord! We welcome anyone, male or female, who would like to serve the Lord with us. If you are not able to attend our monthly meetings, we invite you to join us in any of our fundraising efforts. We can use the help & always welcome fresh new ideas! We hope you will consider joining us! "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." – Philippians 4:13

Dora Tartar & Connie Moretz

ELDRED TOWNSHIP

CLEAN UP DAYS

FRIDAY, APRIL, 2026

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

8AM TO 2PM

FREE TO ELDRED RESIDENTS (EXCEPT TIRES-\$5 TO \$50)

FURNITURE, LAWNMOWERS, BIKES, AND TOYS

DUMPSTER WILL BE AVAILABLE

ELDRED TWP MUNICIPAL BUILDING

490 KUNKLETOWN RD, KUNKLETOWN

FOR MORE INFO CALL 610-381-4252



Family Faith & Fun Day/St. Matthew's ECC Easter Egg Hunt - Kunkletown

Family Faith & Fun Day/St. Matthew's ECC Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, March 28 from 1-3 p.m.**, in the St. Matthew's EC Church in Kunkletown. Children from baby to age 12 will hunt with their age group. There will also be snacks, story time plus the egg hunt. Please bring your own basket. This is a free event for the community. For more information, call the church - 610-381-2442.

The Children's Ministry Committee would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Love Your Neighbor event. It was such a joy to come together to share fellowship, kindness, and fun.

We're excited to invite you to our next gathering—an Easter-inspired afternoon of family, faith, and fun, featuring a story, a hands-on craft, games, and snacks. This event will take place on Saturday, March 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, and is open to all ages, so bring the whole family!

Looking ahead, please be sure to mark your calendars for VBS 2026, happening July 13–17 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We are currently seeking youth and adult volunteers to help make this special week possible. If you're interested in serving, please contact Tiffany at childrensministrytl@gmail.com.

We are so grateful for the continued support of our church family and look forward to more wonderful moments together.

JANUARY 2026 NET INCOME

TOTAL OFFERINGS—ENVELOPES & PLATE	\$8,023.00
OTHER INCOME	\$1,052.66
FROM INVESTMENT (FOR PARSONAGE)	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
JANUARY 2026 TOTAL INCOME	\$24,075.66
JANUARY 2026 TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>(\$24,197.73)</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>(\$ 122.07)</u>

CIA COOK'S CORNER
CREAMY PARMESAN CHICKEN RICE
ABBY HUBER

When you send your babies out in the world, you hope they keep Christ in the center of their lives. While my 3 are in different stages of theirs, I pray each day they are safe, happy and healthy. One is busy working, leading and mothering 3 young children of her own. One is traveling for work and pleasure all over the world. Our youngest is working and living in Lancaster, land of many farms and fresh foods. She has taken on being quite the cook. Always trying new things.

It is not explicitly mentioned in the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. While the Bible includes various foods, rice does not appear in the text. However, the imagery of grains and seeds, which can relate to rice, is present in several passages. For instance, John 6:35 refers to Jesus as the "bread of life," emphasizing spiritual nourishment, which can be symbolically linked to grains like rice. In biblical times, grains such as wheat and barley were more commonly referenced, reflecting the agricultural practices of the region. Rice, while a staple in many cultures today, was not a primary crop in the biblical context.

Creamy Parmesan Chicken Rice

4 T butter
1 large onion, diced
3 teas minced garlic
2 teas Italian seasoning
½ teas pepper
1 teas salt
2 ½ cups chicken broth
1 cup long grain, white rice or orzo
½ cup heavy cream
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
Parsley for serving.

Heat the butter in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add the onion and cook for 2-3 minutes, till it begins to soften. Add the diced chicken to the pan along with the Italian seasoning, pepper and salt. Cook and stir for 5 minutes until chicken is golden on all sides. Add the garlic and cook for one more minute, stirring constantly. Add the chicken broth and rice to the pan and stir. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low. Cover with lid and simmer for 17-20 minutes, until rice is completely tender. Stir in the heavy cream and parmesan. Serve immediately. Top with parsley.

Enjoy and God Bless,
Submitted by Abby Huber(via Mom)

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Lent Service 6:30pm	5	6	7
8 New Member Reception	9 Council 7pm	10	11 Lent Service 6:30pm	12 Men's Group	13	14
15	16	17	18 Lent Service 6:30pm Peoples Laymen's	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Lent Service 6:30pm Location TBD	26 Visitation 9:30am	27	28 Easter Fun Night 1pm-3pm
29 Band & Breakfast	30	31				

March Birthdays

1 Tyler McInaw
 2 Leah Jane Sterner
 3 Brenda Dorshimer
 5 Kayleigh Beidleman, Diane Stuart
 6 George Huber, Wanda Smith
 7 Marlette Palermo
 9 Colton Courtright, Richard Frantz
 10 Shirley Brotzman, Jessica Petzold-Slawter
 12 Irene Rundle
 13 Jessica Meckes
 17 Danielle DeSieno, Brandi DeVivo
 Dean Zacharias

18 Zachary Huber
 19 Ali Snyder
 20 Boyd Gannon, Joan Madden
 Anthony Palermo
 21 Corey Smith
 22 Randy Smith
 25 Brielle McInaw
 28 Mark Neeb
 30 Annabel Beers

