

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.

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: God's Spirit dwells in us,

C: for we are God's temple.

L: We belong to Christ,

C: and Christ belongs to God.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING HYMN *Our God*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God declares to God's beloved,
you shall be holy, for I your God am holy.

Trusting in divine mercy,
we confess our faults before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, your law shows the way of righteousness,
but we forsake your commandments.**

We have not provided for the poor or aided the disabled.

We have not been truthful in our daily business;

we have been unjust in our judgment of others.

We have sought vengeance against our enemies;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us our sins and rouse us to sincere repentance.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

free us to live as your holy people with Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, God who is just and merciful reproves our sinful ways,
offers the grace of repentance and frees us to live as God's beloved children.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Gabby Bentley

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

Matthew 10:8 Page 791

**"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received
without paying; give without pay."**

MIDDLE HYMN *Great if Thy Faithfulness* Page 595

SCRIPTURE READING

Rose Fritz

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 26:7-16 Page 636

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant'?" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears." Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your

ears." Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets,
"This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the
name of the LORD our God."

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 27:11-14 Page 437

**Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my
enemies.12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have
risen against me, and they breathe out violence. I believe that I shall look upon
the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong,
and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

SERMON Pastor Wil Hoffman

Sermon Title: "Writing Your Story – Are You Out of Your Mind?"

Sermon Text: Acts 26:24-32

Sermon Notes:

***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 *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* Page 6**

***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, Feb 22	1 st Sunday of Lent Coffee Hour with Council	-Sanctuary 9am -Fellowship Hall 10:30am
Monday, Feb 23		-Office Open 10am -2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Rm, 10:30am
Wednesday, Feb 25		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Lent Service – 6:30pm	-Bethany EC Church
Thursday, Feb 26		-Office Open 10am – 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Rm, 10:30pm
Sunday, March 1	2 nd Sunday of Lent	-Sanctuary, 9am

Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

February Lead Usher – Kyle Strohl

❖ **February Joyful Noise – Family Promise (Carbon County)**

The mission is to offer families experiencing homelessness in Carbon County temporary shelter, meals, and a safe place to sleep. Family Promise empowers families to use support networks to become self-sustaining and secure permanent housing within 90 days.

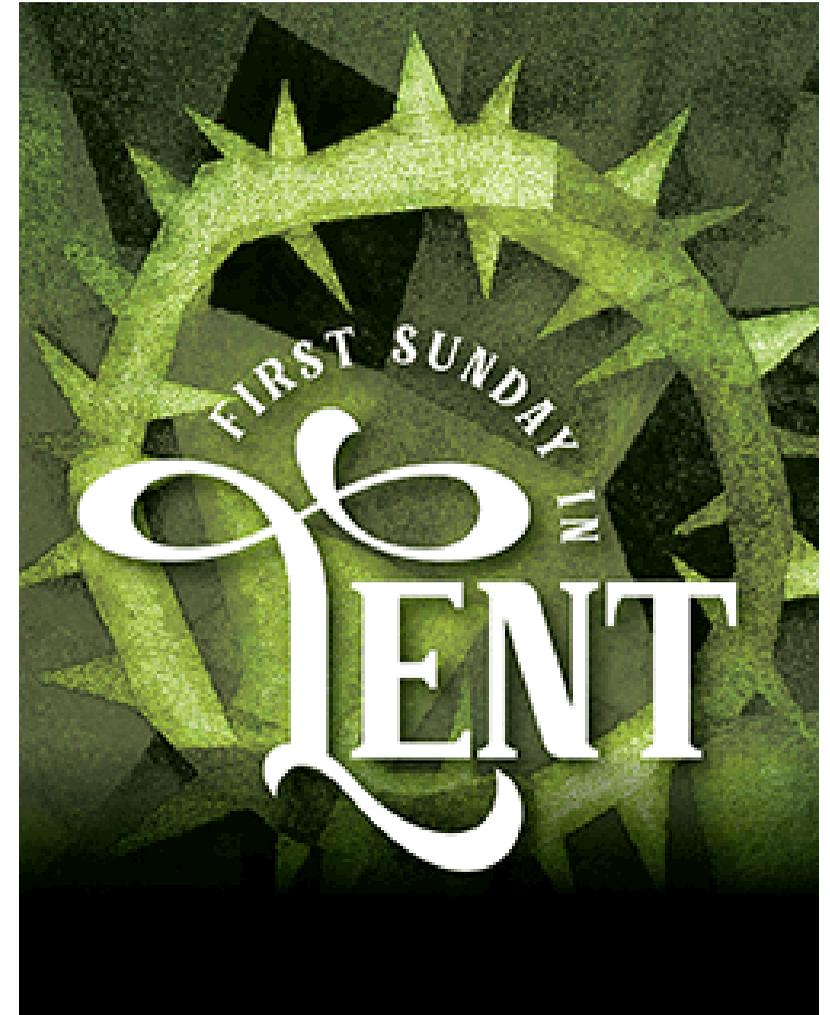
❖ **You can still put soup cans on the playing field in the gathering room for the month of February.** The soup will be donated to the West End Food Pantry at the end of the month.

❖ **Lent services schedule (all services are at 6:30pm)**

February 25: Bethany EC Church – Pastor Mike Coulson
March 4: St. Matthew's EC Church – Pastor Dale Oplinger
March 11: Living Hope Lighthouse – Pastor Wil Hoffman
March 18: People's EC Church – Ian Snyder
March 25: TBD – Pastor Keith House

** GPS addresses for above churches:

People's EC Church, 216 Wagner St., Lehighton PA 18235
Living Hope Lighthouse Church, 705 3rd St., Palmerton PA 18071
Bethany EC Church, 222 North St., Lehighton PA 18235



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown

February 22, 2026

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List – February 22, 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
Kay Frable – Liza's House, 1357 Blue Mountain, Danielsville PA 18038
Kyle Frable—104 5K Lane, Kunkletown PA 18058
Joann Hunsicker—Mrs. Bush's Personal Care—2W, P.O. Box 327, Kunkletown PA 18058

SHUT INS CONTINUED:

Shirley Kuntz—Getz Personal Care Home, 1026 Scenic Dr, Kunkletown PA 18058
Gladys Meixsell—Pleasant Valley Manor, 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:

John Ambruster (friend of Rose Fritz)/3
Lois Bachman/5*
Pastor Mike Coulson/3
Tom Hockman/3
June Hudock (Tammy Hoffman's Mother)/4
Nadine Miller (friend of Rose Fritz)/3

BEREAVEMENT – Prayers for the family

Kay Frable/5*
Harvey Handwerk (Eleanor Long's brother-in-law)/3
Larry Hahn/5*
Meghan (family friend of Dawn and Tom Hockman)/5*
Tiffany Smith's uncle/5*

* 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.



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. Donations of candy and plastic eggs or filled plastic eggs are appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the church by March 21st. Please bring your own basket. This is a free event for the community. For more information, call the church - 610-381-2442.