

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.

PRELUGE

GATHERING HYMN *"Make Room In Your Heart"* See video on the screen

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) We recount the gracious deeds of God,
all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

(ALL) Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Emmanuel.

(L) Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

(ALL) Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

(L) Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

(ALL) God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

***OPENING HYMN** *"He is Exalted"* See video on the screen

CALL TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters,
Jesus became like us in every respect
so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
in the service of God.
As we confess our sins,
we come before One who was also tested by what he suffered,
confident that he is able to help us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children.
We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans;
we grow weary and give up when the way is hard.
We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend.
Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence,

we fail to recognize our own complicity.

**Forgive our misuse of power against people,
and against your creation.**

Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace.

We pray that you strengthen us in our time of testing.

Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners.
He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us.
Declare with me the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE FOR OFFERING

2 Corinthians 8:12 Pg 941

"For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have."

MIDDLE HYMN *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore thee"* See video on the screen

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Harry Koehler

Isaiah 1:18 Pg 548

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

Psalm Reading:

Psalm 119:33-34 Pg 494

"Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart."

SERMON Pastor Wil Hoffman

Sermon Title

“A Mind for the Future”

Sermon Text:

Romans 12:1-2

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 *“Joy to the World”*

See video on the screen

*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.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec. 28	First Sunday after Christmas	-Sanctuary, 9am
Monday, Dec. 29		-Office Open 10am -2pm
Wednesday, Dec. 31	Exercise Group	-Common Room, 10:30am
Thursday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day	-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Sunday, Jan. 4	Second Sunday after Christmas	-Office closed
		-Sanctuary, 9am

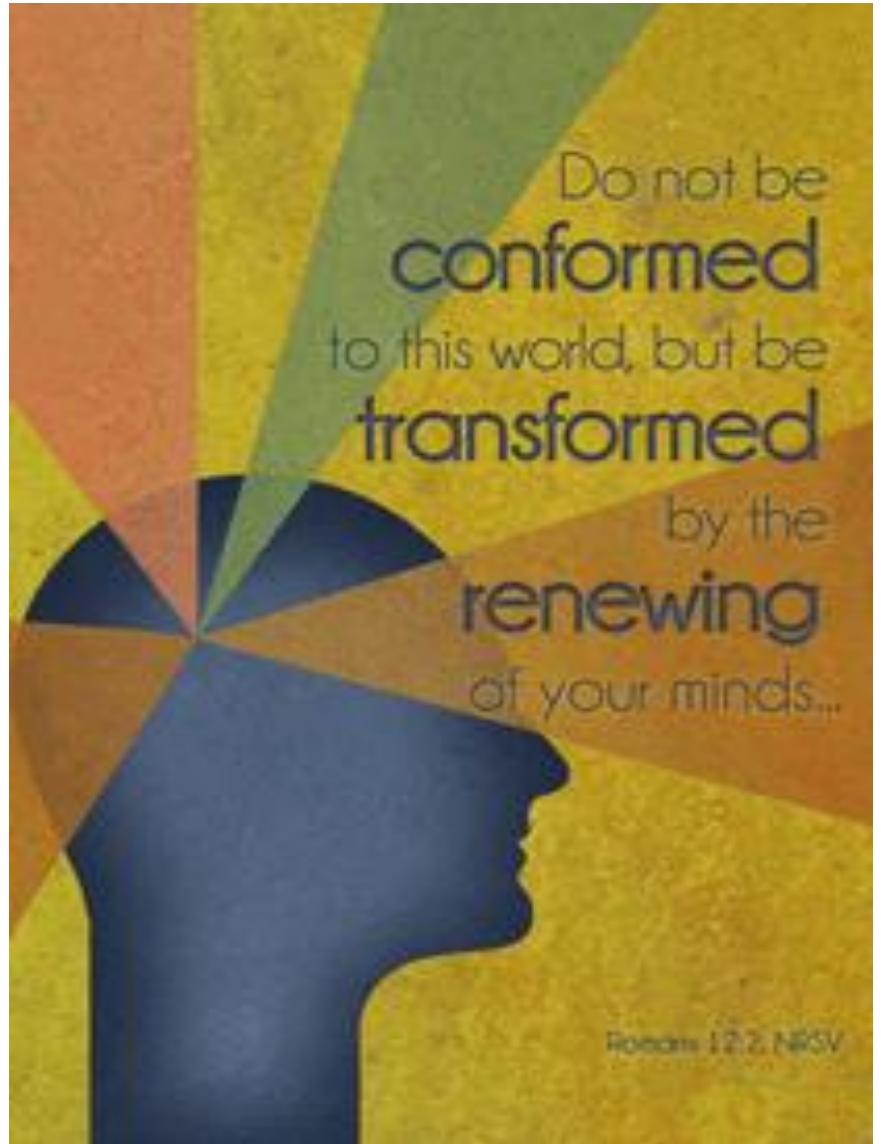
Pastor: Wil Hoffman

Council President: RJ Cramer

December Lead Usher: Diann Bittenbender

Altar Flowers: Vase #1 – In celebration of Kaylee Hawk's birthday on December 30th.
Vase #2 – available for \$15

- ❖ **December Joyful Noise – West End Food Pantry**
- ❖ **New Hymnal dedication slips on the information table in the Gathering Room.**
\$20 for each dedication.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Discipleship Seminar – January 11, 2026, 10:30am to 12:00.**
Guest speaker is Vicki Smith. Please sign up on sheet on information table in the gathering area.
- ❖ **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. We are up to 273 pairs of shoes as of Wednesday 12/17 and our goal is to get 2500 pairs of shoes by the end of January! Keep bringing in the shoes and spread the word!



St. Matthew's EC Church Kunkletown

December 28, 2025

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

www.stmattsecckunkletown.com

St. Matthew's Prayer List – December 28, 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

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:

Bobby Dutt (Joyce Fusner's uncle): healing/2
Mary and David Eckhart: strength and healing/3
Robbin Eckhart: strength and healing/2
Mitchell Hawk Sr.: healing/5***
Tom Hockman: healing/5***
Harold Irwin (family friend of Joan Madden): strength for cancer treatments/5***
Wade Koehler (friend of Vivian Smith): healing/1
Diana Spillar (Vivian Smith's cousin): healing/1
Barbara Woodall (Justin Guyer's Aunt): healing/4
Braedon Wunder: healing/4

Bereavement:

Harry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew's/4
Terry Hahn: friend of St. Matthew's/4

** 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.