

Puckety Presbyterian Church
1009 Puckety Church Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

REMINDER:

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Zoom/video at pucketychurch.org



Puckety Church

*We are determined to be
the heart, voice, and
hands of God, making a
lasting difference in your
life, our community, and
the world!*

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication



Puckety Presbyterian Church

*At Puckety we personally and collectively Honor God, Grow in Faith,
and Improve our Community and World.*

April 2024

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Pastor's Corner

Praise God! It's Easter! (At least a couple of you are thinking, "*No it's not Brian*; Easter was March 31st). Ahh, my friend, that was "Easter Day." I like to spend the next week after that Sunday going around and saying to people, "Happy Easter," because there will be people who look at me weird, and I just may have the chance to let them know, guess what, Jesus is *still* alive, did you know that? I never understand why *the Sunday after* (the 2nd Sunday of Easter) is one of the lowest attended Sundays *every year* in most American churches. It staggers me. It even saddens me; because it's almost a denial of the power of the resurrection. Of course, it's no less true that Jesus is alive now as he was a week ago. And that's why the early Church had the wisdom to make Easter a SEASON (like Lent, but lasting for 50 days) leading up to *Pentecost* (literally "*fiftieth*" in Greek). There's a reason why the lectionary (church calendar of Scripture readings) goes on for several weeks with different resurrection appearances of Jesus for the weeks he continued to show himself. Some people (politely) complain, "We get it; we don't need to keep talking about the times people saw him alive." Are you sure about that? Because I think if we didn't need to continue hearing about how the living Jesus keeps popping up all over

the place, there would be a lot more people gathered to worship him on Sunday (it's called the "Lord's Day" because *it's the day he resurrected*).

So, this is just a very "Brian" way to say I want more people living like it's Easter with me. If we know it's Easter, if we know Jesus is alive, that makes our medical problems suddenly "more temporary," it makes our loneliness less lonely, it makes the things we're fearful about less scary. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and life to the full." He said, "these things I have done for you, that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete" (John 15:11). These are the realities we are called to live into as we trust the risen Jesus and wait on the coming Spirit. So the next time you see me anxious, frustrated or impatient, you have full permission to look me in the eye and say, "Hey Brian, remember, it's Easter."

~ Pastor Brian

Remember to check Puckety's website and social media!

Website: www.pucketychurch.org Like and Follow on Facebook: Puckety Presbyterian Church
Follow us on Instagram: Puckety Church Follow us on Twitter: @churchpuckety



There are different ways to give to the mission of the church. If you choose to give electronically, click the button on our website or you can also make it even easier by using the Vanco Faith App! (*search Vanco App in the App Store or Google Play*). When you search for our church, put in "Puckety Presbyterian Church" For more information on how to use Vanco Faith click the link on pucketychurch.org. Thank you for your generosity!

From the Hearts & Hands of Session

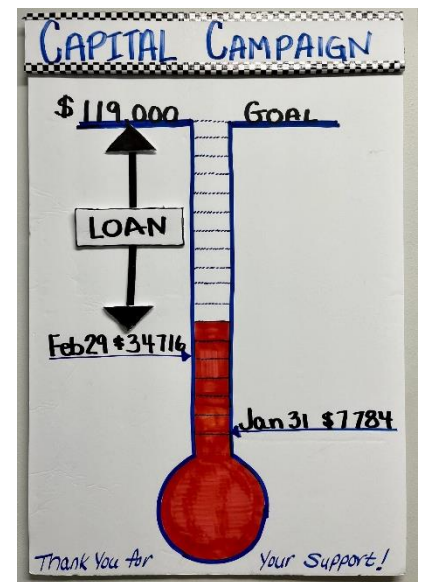
How have we been keeping Puckety's *Mission* in front of us this past month?

*The *Worship Team* has been helping us "Honor God" with not just some "new songs" but framing our Lord's Day worship in new *ways* – including other contemporary avenues of praising the LORD. At the same time, the Worship Team has been designing special opportunities for us to more fully appreciate the mystery of Christ's work for us (like with the most recent Maundy Thursday service). The team regularly asks ourselves how the things we do can help our sisters and brothers honor God more faithfully.

*The *Discipleship Team* continues to use various resources (e.g., RightNow Media, etc.) to "Grow in Faith" with our Children's Church – 2 age-based classes now, youth group, and small groups (Maria Schafer just began a group meeting in her home every other Wed. – if you're not currently in another small group, please call her for details – 412-377-8113.

*The *Capital Campaign Team* is happy to report that recent generosity to the campaign is not only encouraging for the specific projects (parking lot likely to be done by mid-summer) but ALSO continues to serve as a *challenge for all of us* to "Grow in Faith" – giving of ourselves (not just materially, but that way as well) so that we trust in the Lord, and can better see the Holy Spirit in action! [The current total of funds raised – as of 3/26 – is \$51,974.26]. In this and other ways, let us grow in faith so we *pave the way for more ministry!*

*Finally, for the 3rd part of our Mission – to "Improve our Community & World" – the Outreach Team continues to challenge all the members and friends of Puckety to more "hands-on" and "in-person" participation in the places we want to carry Christ's presence. A couple of us met with Superintendent Shannon Wagner (3/20) to discuss how Puckety can be of practical help to teachers in such a way that supports their desire to help their students. We will be communicating how we can do that in the 2024-2025 school year, but please take advantage of the remaining school-promoted events before the end of this school year. Please take advantage of the new and different ways to partner with *Family Life Network* (formerly TryLife) as there are varied monthly opportunities for people of all abilities. We also ask YOU to be part of Burrell's COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS event at **Huston Middle School** on Thur. April 11th (**4:30 to 7 PM**). We're sending a team to represent Puckety, but we would love YOUR help! Not only is it a great way to support our relationship with the school, we also have the opportunity to connect personally with lots of people in the community to give a "face" to Puckety and what we're about. We're given the chance at this event to network, advertise, and communicate our ministries (contact Pastor Brian or Matt Wehrle). Of course, there will be many ways to serve the community with our summer VBS – so please prayerfully consider right now how to help share Christ's love to our community families. Globally, we took up our collection for our partners in Myanmar during the month of March (for MUST's current needs: repair to their septic system, funds for teachers of the theological school, fields for planting rice, and medicine for their orphans).



As of Palm Sunday, Puckety collected \$1,228 for our global partners, MUST.



- 07 Jennifer McKay
- 14 Mira Whalen
- 17 Chari Burtner
- 21 Maria Schafer
- 28 Sophia Earhart

Your Deacons:

- Sandra Ankney
- Pat Fish
- John McAllister
- Cecil McCutcheon
- Brandy Roland
- Mira Whalen
- Kim Soulcheck
- Sandy Appleman
- Fran Kapelewski
- Nita Serene
- Bruce Sproull
- Vicky Eckman

Corporate Officers:

- President:** Jennifer McKay
- Vice-Pres.:** Maria Schafer
- Secretary:** Debra Artman
- Treasurer:** Jolene Kostelansky



Our thanks to our out-going Officers:

Elders: Debra Artman and Jennifer McKay
Deacons: Brenda McAllister and Rodney Schafer
Nominating Committee: Debra Artman, Mick Dober, Judy West and Joyce Yurko

Your Session:

- Deb Artman – Clerk
- Jolene Kostelansky
- Mick Dober
- Kelly Kapelewski
- Marilyn Crumley
- Helen Crissman
- Maria Schafer
- Sandy Schafer
- Chuck West
- Matt Wehrle



Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:

Jesse Oddis

Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary:

Judy West

Offering counters:

- 07: Chuck & Judy West
- 14: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart & Matt Wehrle
- 21: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
- 28: Janet Karan, Deb Artman & Jolene Kostelansky

PRAYER REQUESTS!

If you are not on our prayer chain, please consider signing up for it. It only takes a minute to lift someone who may need your prayers! Call or email the office. We have an email prayer chain as well as a phone call prayer chain.

ATTENTION ALL SESSION MEMBERS, DEACONS, AND TEAM LEADERS:



Please be sure to check your mail slots in the metal cabinet at the top of the stairs often. You may receive correspondence or announcements that need your attention in a timely manner!

The Deacons are in need of donations of any non-perishable food items for the Deacon's Pantry. Place your items outside the metal cabinet beside the library door. THANK YOU!



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

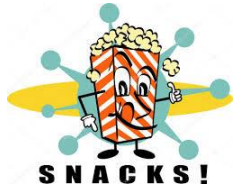
April 7:
Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
Psalm 3
1 John 1:1-22

April 14:
Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
Psalm 40:1-5
1 John 3:1-7

April 21:
Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
Psalm 80:1-7
1 John 3:16-24

April 28:
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
Psalm 118:19-25
1 John 4:7-21

Crafternoon: we will be meeting on April 14 after the pie social to craft together. Bring a lunch and the latest project you are working on. This group is open to any crafter and any experience level.



Please help provide youth group snacks!! There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.



- 4 Ryan Smith
- 5 Kathy Kirchartz
- 8 Peggy Uhing
- 10 Megan Benish
- 13 Maggie McMelleon
- Clare Kapustik
- 16 Jeff Ewing
- 18 Jennifer Spenik
- 20 Fran Kapelewski
- 21 Chari Burtner
- Mary Wilds
- 28 Kelly Pranievicz

rightnow MEDIA

A GIFT FROM OUR CHURCH

Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos—
Anytime, Anywhere, from Any Device

Scan the QR code to create your free account and start browsing.

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Our Daily Bread Devotional for April, May, June – 2024

The latest Our Daily Bread large print and regular print is available at all entrances to the sanctuary and on the glass display case near the Conference room. Please pick one up for yourself, a friend, or a relative.

Got rhythm? Or know someone who does? The Puckety Praise Team is actively seeking out a drummer to play for Sunday morning services and Thursday evening rehearsals! Compensation amount is 100 Grand (candy bar variety). If you or someone you know might be interested, please see Pastor Brian, Jesse O, or any member of the Puckety Praise Team.



A devotion for you -- Read Matthew 28:1-17

One of the things from this account that stuck out to me this year is verse 17 – “And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.” How many times reading this passage have I skipped over those last three words, “but some doubted.” Being a Christian for years my temptation is to blurt out, “Really?!” ... “Come ON guys! What more do you need?” But the more I think about it, these words are good for two reasons:

- 1) It adds yet MORE credibility to the *historicity* of the resurrection (along with great details like the women being the *first eye-witnesses* – in that culture where a woman’s testimony wasn’t admissible in court, a spurious author trying to convince others of the truth of their false account would *not* have had women as the primary witnesses, etc.) But the fact of Jesus being alive didn’t eradicate all doubts of trusting in him ... that just seems REAL!
- 2) The second reason those 3 (seemingly bad) words are actually good is because it shows doubt doesn’t preclude hope; or put another way, I can be comforted when I sometimes doubt God’s presence (or even his goodness) when life around me makes it HARD to believe, because those (literally) closest to the risen body of Jesus doubted too!

Matthew 28 really is largely about worship – it starts with individuals in “awe” in v. 8 (in Greek, the words “fear and joy” together mean awe and joy), and 10 verses later it has the disciples, collectively, worshiping Jesus together. But in the same verse it admits that in some of them, their faith was still shaken. ***This means choosing to let the reality of Easter move you to worship doesn’t mean that won’t sometimes have doubts.*** Even though I am totally convinced of the resurrection, sometimes I still doubt (like when faced with hard questions like, “If Jesus is alive, why is there still such SUFFERING in the world?” – *Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Haiti*). I want you to see a critical distinction. For some people, they let their doubts deny the resurrection. But *what if someone uses the resurrection to make them doubt their doubts?* That’s the distinction for the Christian – not the presence of doubt, but how it’s handled. Basically, the believing-doubting-but-still-following disciple of Jesus says, “Lord, I don’t know how to explain this right now – I don’t get it – but I *know* that since the resurrection happened, there is an answer somewhere, and that one day I’ll understand.” Because you know Jesus is who he said he is, you’re willing to give him time to lead you through your doubts to better understanding.

I’ll end with a great quote from the famous 19th century British church leader, Charles Spurgeon: “*Faith is like a foot poised*” (picture someone – maybe in the process of physical therapy, with one leg raised) – “Faith is like a foot poised; you could go forward or backwards. Some people go backward, and let their doubt drive them into unbelief; but even to go forward, you must pick up that foot” (which means for at least a moment, perhaps imperceptibly, you’re in the act of falling). Being a Christian basically means “falling well” ... picking up that foot in such a way to wrestle with that doubt, so you can move in the direction of a closer and more trusting walk with Jesus. So, even in fearful awe, let’s hold onto our joy, and even amidst doubts, let’s worship the risen Jesus. Amen. ~ Pastor Brian

Our Daily Bread – Discovery Series



The Deacons would like to inform the congregation that additional reading material titled Discovery Series from Our Daily Bread Ministry is available for you to take home. It is a resource of studies for spiritual growth. Currently, there are eight topics to choose from and are located on the wall above the water fountain in the hallway. Topics will change as books are replenished. If you go on-line at DiscoverySeries.org, over 150 compilations are listed according to subject. You do not need an account to have accessibility to read a few chapters of whatever you choose and find out how these books are written. Please consider using this resource to help you grow in faith and deepen your relationship with God.

Vacation Bible School

SCUBA VBS is gearing up. Pre-registration is a go! Please visit our website (go to *News & Events* page) or use the QR code below to register your kids (ages 4 to entering 6th grade – note there is very limited space for Pre-K). The dates are June 17-21st (5:50 to 8:15 PM each night) – we ask that *all participants arrive at 5:40 PM on Day 1!* You can help in 3 ways: **1)** We need more VOULUNTEERS! All kinds – *crew leaders* to guide the kids to their stations and help them stay



focused so they experience the love of Jesus, support volunteers for the different stations, and decorating team (especially Sun. June 9th and the day after) – please call Erika Manges to sign up – 724-351-2527. **2)** you can help *donate* some of our needed items – there is now a VBS Item Donation Board in the hallway – you can't miss it – just look for the *smack of jellyfish*. Please note the specific types requested and the date needed by. Finally, **3)** please PRAY – we ask everyone to please start praying every day for this ministry to the community in Christ's name. We've included a full page sheet – separate page of the newsletter - to help you pray each day for the months of April and May. Thank you!



***A reminder to all volunteers to make sure their State Clearances are up to date.**
If 5 years old (or more), you will need to update both of them:

Criminal Bkgd. <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/PA-Child-Abuse-History-Clearance.aspx>

Child Abuse History <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Clearances/Pages/Criminal-Background-Check.aspx>



Two words that create anxiety in the hearts of college students is

“Finals Week.”

This can be overwhelming, and our students realize that this is the toughest part of the semester. The Deacons are asking the congregation to submit the name and address of a family

member or relative who is currently attending college. This information will be collected between

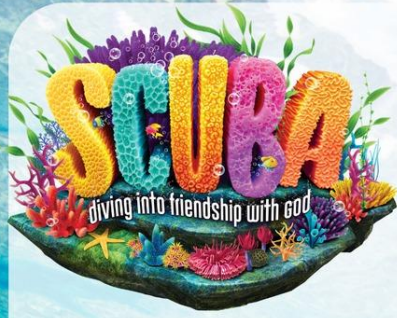
March 17, 2024 & April 07, 2024.

The student will receive a gift card as a way of letting them know the Puckety Church Family is thinking about them and praying for them. Gift cards will be mailed the week of April 7th, 2024.

Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate. You may also give the name and address to any Deacon or Kelly.

Student's Name _____

Address _____



Heavenly Father,
today I pray in Jesus' name
for your strength,
guidance, and provision for **VBS**

SUN: *Supply* all of the resources—both financial and the volunteer force—needed for a VBS that will draw children closer to you.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

MON: *Mold* the hearts and minds of every leader and volunteer so that we are able to embrace your beautiful vision for VBS.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9).

TUES: *Transform* the lives of children as they experience your love and walk with you in an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3).

wed: *Welcome* unchurched children and families in our community to our VBS, our church, and into a relationship with you.

“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).

THURS: *Touch* the hearts of people in our congregation to step into needed volunteer roles to reach as many children as possible.

“So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (Matthew 9:38).

Fri: *Form* meaningful friendships among children and volunteers, and (most of all) help everyone participating to develop a deep friendship with you.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God” (1 John 4:7).

sat: *Strengthen* our VBS coordinator and each leader who is planning and preparing for this outreach.

“The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped” (Psalm 28:7).

You are invited to use this guide to pray each day for one VBS need.

Youth Group

First, a big “Thank you!” to all the adult volunteer leaders who have stepped up their commitment and participation (now that we have 2 extra adults with me each week, it’s been helpful in many ways, but obviously requires a bigger time commitment, so God bless you all!) Next, we had a great month – we participated in Bowling for Blessings to raise funds for AVAC (10 students and 4 adults = \$280 for AVAC). We had a blast at the St. Patrick’s Party + Scavenger Hunt (so many green things!) – see pics! Finally, about 8 of the youth group helped with the Easter Egg Hunt on the 24th – either hiding the 2,000+ eggs and/or helping the little ones at various stations. We have two big events in April – a bike ride outing hopefully on 4/21 (2:30 to 5:30 PM) and Zone 28 on April 28th. Please pray for the students to continue to grow in their faith, including in the “off months” of summer.



**Puckety Church was featured in the most recent
"On the Road with Redstone."
You can find the video on YouTube
(search for "On the Road with Redstone - Puckety").
If needed, you can type this into your search engine bar:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yj1jD3E6Pog**



shutterstock.com - 76459261

Looking for Graduates! Do you know someone who is graduating this Spring from High School or other institution? Graduates will be celebrated at Puckety's Worship on Sunday June 2nd. We need to know the name of the graduate and who to contact about possible pictures and info for a power point presentation for that Sunday. Please submit this basic information by the end of April to the church office! Thank you!



I would like to personally thank all those that helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. As always it was a huge undertaking – it takes a village!! I could not have done it without any of you that volunteered but most especially my right and left hands, Brenda McAllister and Wiebke Kilbert! I believe we had 85ish children attend who had a great time finding eggs, getting their faces painted and eating popcorn! The list of volunteers is as

follows: Talor Kapelewski, Pamela McAllister, Youth Group, Linda Benish, Matt Wehrle, Bob Bates, Joyce Yurko, Helen Crissman, Jean Welte, Sophia Earhart, Marilyn Crumley, Pat Fish, Cecil McCutcheon, Mick Dober, Alice Knopfel, Irene Nelson, Gabby Lisella, Donna Jeffries, Karen Marshall, Jason Taylor, Nate Manges, Rod Schafer, Maria Schafer, John McAllister, Deb Artman, Jack Katona, Fran Kapelewski, Lisa Wilson, Jolene Kostelansky, and Brian Kilbert. If I left anyone off the list, I'm very sorry but please know you are much appreciated! I pray you all have a blessed Easter. ~Kelly~





OPEN MIC NIGHT

"Open Mic Night" – Saturday, April 6th - 6:30 to 8:00pm In the Puckety's sanctuary. Very *informal* - the **WHOLE** community is invited to come and play/perform/sing. Please: 1) spread the word, 2) plan to come, and 3) bring someone with you. For more information, please call Terry Sprinkle: 919-920-4986.

On Palm Sunday we had a Recognition of Scouts – *God & Church* for Jason Schwartz, Jacob Taylor & Owen Taylor – well done gentlemen!



The memorial banners in the sanctuary represent the season of Lent.

The one with Christ's words, *"I am the Way the Truth and Life"* has been donated by Deb Artman and the Benish family in loving memory of Theodore Karan, along with Pearl and Royden Calhoun.

The one with the 3 crosses and the script *"For God so Loved the World"* has been donated by the Matisko/Porcelli family – Michael, Diana and David – in loving memory of their parents, John and Martha Matisko.




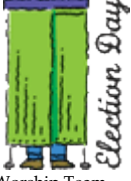



The next Ladies Luncheon is on **April 28th** and we will be going to the **Villa Ballanca** in Lower Burrell. It has been over a year since we were there for our luncheon. We will **gather after the service in Hope Hall** by the display case and head over more or less as a group. Contact Denise Wehrle for any questions or if you need a ride.

LARGE appliance box wanted! If anyone buys a refrigerator, washer, dryer or similar, please ask if it comes in a box or with cardboard around it. Beth Dober needs the box for VBS! Call her at 724-226-0913 if you can get one. Thank you!



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 One Great Hour of Sharing M.U.S.T. 7:00am Sunrise Service 10:00am Worship	1 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	2 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	3 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:00pm Schafer Small Group	4 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	6 6:30pm Open Mic Night 
7 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group	8 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	9 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:00pm FamilyLife Network Ministry 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Scout Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	10 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Fundraising Team Meeting	11 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	13 Pie Social Setup
14 10:00am Worship 11:00am Pie Social  12:30pm Crafternoon 6:00pm Youth Group	15 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	16 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 7:00pm Sewing Guild 8:00pm N.A. meeting	17 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Schafer Small Group	18 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 Youth Group Bike Ride 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walking 11:30am Women's Bible Study 12:00pm Marasco Baby Shower	22 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 	23  6:00pm Worship Team Meeting	24 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 26605	25 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	27 12:00pm Crissman Birthday Party
28 Youth Group @ Zone 28 10:00am Worship 11:30am Ladies Lunch 	29 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry	30 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm N.A. meeting	1 Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130	2 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	4



