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

a monthly publication

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



Puckety Presbyterian Church At Puckety we personally and collectively Honor God, Grow in Faith, and Improve our Community and World. May 2024

Pastor's Corner

I'd like my salutations this month to be on the more personal side. I am so thankful to God for the many and varied ways he has extended his grace to me in connection to my daughter's (Renee) recent health crisis (heart failure in early April). First, for the many, many people who have shown genuine concern and compassion, thank you for all your love and gestures (please continue your prayers for her health for she needs it) - I can't thank you enough for all the support. I have felt God's presence and providence in so many places: *in his Spirit's leading to go down to FL, *in safe & efficient travel, *in the gracious offer by Kelly's sister and brother in law (Jodi & Jay live in the same city as Renee) to give me a place to stay while there (what wondrous hospitality - even their two dogs were overwhelmingly friendly - we're talking 100+ lb. rambunctious sweethearts). Then, there was how God timed things so I could take Renee to 3 different doctor appointments (PCP, cardiologist, urologist), and how it afforded better opportunity to understand what was going on with her medically, and also the plan for her to get better (specifics w/ medication, diet & lifestyle change, etc.). I could go into greater detail, but that's best left for personal conversation. Suffice it to say: God is good, his

Church is a support and a refuge, and his many agents of grace surround us – going before us, and waiting for us when we "come home." As I continue to stay in contact with Renee, I'll be mindful of the ways people are interceding for us, and aware of God's foregoing faithfulness.

- Pastor Brian



Remember to check Puckety's website and social media!

Website: www.pucketychurch.orgLike and Follow on Facebook: Puckety Presbyterian Church
Follow us on Instagram: Puckety ChurchFollow 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?

*As for personally and collectively, "*Honoring God*," you've probably noticed we've had a couple more contemporary services, framing the worship time in new ways so that we don't allow our routines or traditions to get us "stuck," and so we can truly "sing to the LORD a new song" as the Psalms say. We've also had an intentional focus in the messages about consecrating who we are and what we have to God who has given it to us in the first place.

*The *Capital Campaign* Team is happy to report that we have \$62,580.85 collected as of April 21, and we have officially applied for the \$70,000 loan via PILP. The Upkeep Team has contracted with *Smullen Asphalt* for the parking lot (including milling) to be done at the end of June (after VBS)! Please watch for other ways to support the campaign (fundraising events are coming up in the Fall), but for now, please take advantage of the *Raise Right* Gift Card program – because you get 100% of the value you purchase (100's of participating retailers), and the retailer gives the church a percentage. With just a little forethought, you spend what you already were going to (gas, food, gifts, house items) and the church benefits – it's like the easiest thing ever – contact Matt Wehrle or Alice Knopfel for more information (724-396-6775 or 412-400-9463). We hope to have orders ready after worship on Sunday, May 5th (let family/friends with graduating students know! – great gifts) –

*Finally, for the 3rd part of our Mission – to "*Improve our Community & World*" – the Outreach Team sent members to the Burrell Connections event at Huston Middle School (4/11) – Matt Wehrle, Mick Dober, Jolene Kostelansky and Pastor Brian. It was a productive time of presenting various ministries at Puckety to many people – including providing activities (sand art, cornhole w/ prizes) to over a dozen children. ALSO, we'd like to give a shout out to two of our youth: Owen Taylor and Addison Zilka who intentionally brought some of their friends or fellow students by our booth to help us highlight our youth group ("Great job you two!") In August, we hope to do some more connecting with the National Honor Society and "Interact" Club at BHS to start up a "Homework Helpers" ministry (with the goal to offer it weekly on our grounds) - NOTE: we will need YOUR help with this – though Burrell students may give the primary educational assistance, we need monitors and helpers! Please reach out to Matt Wehrle to inquire!!! Lastly, take advantage of the "Honor Your Mom by Supporting a Mom" project for Origins (formerly TryLife) in Lower Burrell – please drop off the specified items in the big pink box no later than May 12th (Mother's Day).



Graduation Recognition

Graduate Sunday is scheduled for June 2nd (10:00 AM); any/all names and information of graduates (high school, college, trade school) must be in <u>by May</u> <u>12th at the absolute latest</u> (including any pictures desired to be included in presentation) to Beth Dober – 724-681-0939 or <u>elizabeth.dober@yahoo.com</u>. Please also inform the church office by 5/12 as well.

Musical Notes: As we approach the end of the 2023-2024 choir season, (so fast!!) I want to take this opportunity to thank God for the blessing of having such wonderful, dedicated, talented people in our music program. God has enriched Puckety with a very special choir, when so so many churches are struggling to hold on to just a handful of singers. Yes, we too have been hit with illnesses, family obligations, and more, but that is why having a group as we do is so important...there's always someone who has your back. I encourage anyone who loves to sing to start back with us in September. We need all voices, and we will find you a seat!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	Troop 46799 8:00pm N.A. meeting	1 Meals on Wheels 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	2 National Day of PRAYER	3 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	4 Pancake Breakfast Prep
5 10:00am Worship 11:00am Pancake Breakfast PdhCdke BredkfdSt 6:00pm Youth Group	6 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	7 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	8 Meals on Wheels	9 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal A S C ENSION	10 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 10:00am Worship Happy Mother's Day	13 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	14 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:00pm Outreach at Origins 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Scout Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:00pm Schafer Small Group	16 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal and Pizza Party	OFFICE CLOSED	18 9:00am DKG Meeting
19 10:00am Logan Birthday Party 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walking 11:30am Crafternoon 6:00pm Youth Group End of Year Party	20 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	21 8:00pm N.A. meeting	22 Meals on Wheels	23 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	24 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 10:00am Worship 11:00am Ladies Lunch	27 Meals on Wheels MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	28 10:30am Card Ministry 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 7:00pm Sewing Guild 8:00pm N.A. meeting	29 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	30 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	31 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	1 McLafferty Graduation Party



05 Michelle Gordon12 Chari Burtner19 Mick Dober26 Dark Dak

26 Beth Dober

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: Chuck West Vice-Pres.: Maria Schafer Secretary: Debra Artman Treasurer: Jolene Kostelansky



Your Session:

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

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!



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:

05: Chuck & Judy West

12: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart & Matt Wehrle

19: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley26: Janet Karan, Deb Artman & JoleneKostelansky

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.

The Deacons are <u>in need</u> 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"

May 5:

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 Psalm 101 1John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17

May 12:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 Psalm 108 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

May 19:

Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 107:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26:

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17 Crafternoon: we will be meeting on May 19. Bring a lunch and the latest project you are working on. This group is open to any crafter and any experience level.



SAVE THE DATE: TFUNK OF TREAT WILL BE SATUFDAY OCTOBER 26TH THIS YEAR. WHY ARE WE ASKING YOU TO SAVE THE DATE SO EARLY? WE WILL BE PAIFING TFUNK OF TREAT WITH A BASKET RAFFLE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. THE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WILL NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO MAKE IT A GREAT SUCCESS. IF YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR PUTTING FANTASTIC BASKETS TOGETHER OF WANT TO HELP IN SOME OTHER WAY PLEASE LET WIEBKE KNOW.





1 Morgan Girard 2 Dean Hurlbut

- 3 Joy Burd
- Barbara Sprinkle
 - Jean Morrow
- 4 Jessica Yohe
- Jolene Kostelansky
- 9 Scott Johnston11 Vicki Orr
- Cheyenne Kirchartz
- 12 Vince Appleman
- 13 Owen McKlaren14 Ami Zellefrow
- 17 Matthew Johnston Brittany Meyer
 - 18 Braden Serene
 - 19 Anne Mann
 - 24 Pat Fish
 - 27 Even Chen
 - 29 Jean Welto
 - Nancy Ellen Law
 - 30 Donna Jeffries

Every family has secrets until a Sunday School teacher asks a group of kids if they have any prayer requests.



We would like to thank the wonderful women who take the time to prepare and teach our youth during Children's Church each Sunday. It has been so awesome to watch how the program has grown over the past year! You bless the youth time and again with your ministry in this program. The ladies are as follows: Chari Burtner, Brenda McAllister and Jolene Kostelansky. Darla Cuppy and Pamela McAllister have also been known to assist. THANK YOU and we can't wait to see what God has in store for next year!

<u>A devotion for you</u> -- Read Colossians 3:8-15

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13). This sounds simple enough. It's not; it's one of the hardest things you'll ever do. I've been thinking (and praying) a lot about the situation between Israel and Hamas and Iran ... How does a Christian approach this kind of complex situation? John Paul Lederach spent most of his life pursuing peace in some of the most troubled regions of the world — Somalia, Colombia, Nepal, and Northern Ireland, to name a few. Central to any effort at peacemaking, he says, is the ability to imagine yourself in a relationship with your enemy. If we can't imagine having a relationship with our enemies, our own efforts to find the peace God promises will prove fruitless. But how does one begin to imagine such a thing, particularly if the offense has been grievous? It's one thing to imagine a relationship with a colleague who has bad-mouthed you in front of the boss, but quite another to imagine a relationship with an abusive ex-spouse. It may seem too painful and far too risky. Failing to do so, however, might be even riskier, because it places your heart in jeopardy of being destroyed by anger, bitterness, and depression. To suggest that people imagine having a relationship w/ their enemy may sound like folly. Isn't that the height of stupidity? Doesn't the advice sound preposterous? One would be tempted to think so if it weren't for the words of Jesus instructing His followers to take the outrageous step of offering their cheek for yet another slap. He told them to love their enemies, to bless those who curse them. We are tempted to dismiss Christ's teaching as being too hard or impractical for ordinary people to follow. It may even sound naïve. But Jesus prevents us from ignoring Him by following His own advice (he lived it) and following it all the way to the Cross. More than any other figure in history, Jesus was able to envision a relationship w/ the enemy. It's precisely this ability that made His death possible. Paul reminds us of this: "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation." (Col. 1:21-22) God started this whole business by believing that His enemies could become transformed into His friends. Listen again to the heart of the gospel: "Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:7-8)

As Christ's followers, we are to be catalysts of transformation, keeping the cycle going by imitating Jesus in our own most difficult relationships. In some cases, envisioning a relationship with an enemy may involve having some measure of contact with the offender. This was what happened when Pope John Paul II met with Mehmet Ali Agca in an Italian prison in order to forgive him for attempting to assassinate him. It also happens when our enemy is someone we can't avoid, like a neighbor or a colleague. What then is required? Something still painfully difficult — as victims of another's sin, we must at least imagine the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation. To do so requires not that we drop our demand for justice, but that we repudiate our desire for vengeance. In such cases, our relationship with our enemies will primarily consist of praying for them, asking God to transform them, and forgiving them from the heart whether or not they are repentant. A man was working a crossword puzzle and asked, "What is a four-letter word for a strong emotional reaction toward a difficult person?" Someone standing nearby said, "The answer is hate." A lady interrupted and said, "No, the answer is love!" Everyone is working that same crossword puzzle, but the way you answer is up to you. As you've been reading this, what person or group came to your mind? We all know what area or issue of unforgiveness we are hanging onto, because it's exactly where we are stuck in anger, resentment, or depression. Are you stuck? Ask the Lord to help you imagine the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation.

~ Pastor Brian

Vacation Bible School

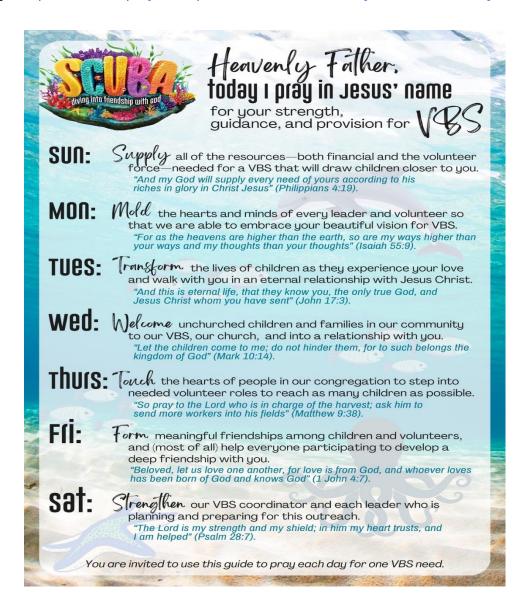


SCUBA VBS is almost here! Make sure you register the kids in your family! Please visit our website (go to News & Events page) or use the QR code below to register your kids (ages 5 to entering 6th grade - note there is <u>very limited</u> space for Pre-K - it's almost FULL). The dates are June 17-21st



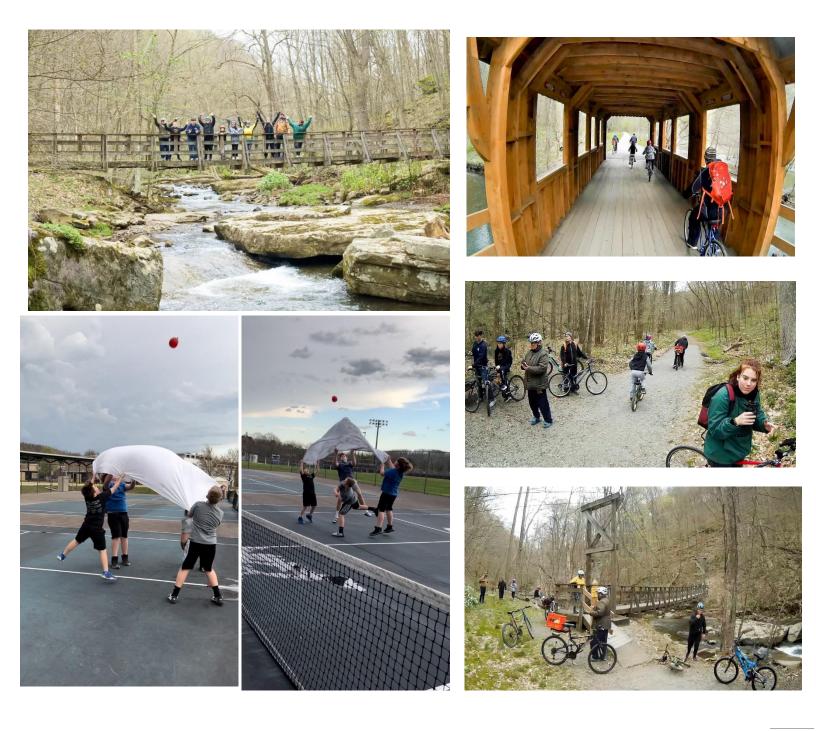
(6:00 to 8:15 PM each night) - we ask that ALL <u>participants arrive</u> <u>at 5:40 PM</u> on Day 1! You can help in <u>3 ways</u>: 1) DONATION BOARD - please see the VBS Board in the hallway (some items need to be in by May 26th deadline, and the Snack items will be posted very soon) please help us be all stocked and ready to dive in ... Check with Chari Burtner about helping the Decorating team (especially Sun. June 9th and the day after) - please call Erika Manges with other questions - 724-351-2527. 2) Get the WORD OUT - it's important people pre-register now. Finally, 3) please PRAY - we ask everyone to please KEEP praying every day for this ministry to the community in Christ's name. Thank you! ***A reminder to all volunteers to make sure their State Clearances are up to date**. <u>If 5 years old (or more), you</u> <u>will need to update both of them</u>: Criminal Bkgd.

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



Youth Group

So, we're "winding down" as we approach the close of the school year, but we're going out with a "bang," as they say. On April 14, we tried a new game – "water balloon tennis" (*see pictures*). On April 21st, we had a bike outing to Roaring Run Trail in Apollo (thanks to Matt Wehrle, Alice Knopfel and Nate Manges for organizing). On April 28th, we had a big bunch for Zone 28 (arcade and laser tag). We'll finish off in early May, but help us get the word out for the Fall – we'll start again in September helping with fundraising with parking for home games and then start meetings in late September (maybe including the American Revival on the Kelly Farm in Sarver on Sat. Sept. 28th). During the summer, *please pray* for the students to continue to grow in their faith, including in the "off months" of summer. Finally, I want to once more thank our amazing adult volunteers and supporters – all those who help with evening programming, the clean-up, the transport, the snacks ... the dozen different aspects that make this a successful ministry. God bless ALL of you. Gratefully – Pastor Brian.



VBS Board: The scavenger hunt is on! Thank you all who have taken slips so far. The containers for you to start bringing items in will be in the hallway by May 5th. Please remember to mark your item if you want it returned to you! Those of you waiting for the snack list it will be up on Sunday the 26th.

What are they going to do with all those jelly fish? They are up for adoption! There will be more jelly fish used to decorate the downstairs hallway as well. In total there are 32 jellyfish and they are all up for adoption. The small jelly fish are \$10 and the few larger ones are \$20. You can adopt now and pick up after VBS! You may notice a few of them already have small tags on them. If one or two really speak to you let Wiebke know she has the tags to reserve them with her on Sunday. Please note the safety eyes used on the jelly fish are rated for children 3 and up.

The two octopus, seal, dolphins and whale shark? Those will be up for auction after VBS. Details to follow! All funds raised are going to the Capital Campaign.

AV Team: Did you know:

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On average we have 9 people join us for worship via Zoom and 5 people watching us live on Facebook every Sunday. The slide shows that are used during worship can take anywhere from 3 to 8 hours to put together. The sound team monitors the sound in the church and the sound on Zoom so everyone can hear the word of God. Every worship requires three people to run these elements together to present the worship service in house and virtually.

The AV team has worked hard to create a balanced schedule so the members can have time where they can worship in the pew with you, sing in the choir and even help with children's church! This is why we need two more helpers for the sound team. Right now we have three volunteers so their rotation is very limited. Please prayerfully consider joining the sound team. No technological experience necessary! We will train.

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
5/5/2024	Beth	Beth	Rodney	Wiebke
5/12/2024	Matt	Matt	Zach	Deb
5/19/2024	Jenn	Sandra	Zach	Wiebke
5/26/2024	Brian	Joyce	Rodney	Wiebke/Beth
6/2/2024	Wiebke	Wiebke	Nate	Beth



Jason Schwartz on his experience in the "God & Church" Scout program: "What I learned while in our classes with Rev. Brian was that Jesus had to deal with the same kind of issues we deal with in our lives. Jesus got mad (*John 2*), he got in trouble with his parents when he disappeared to the temple. And most importantly, he had to deal with people not believing in him. Something I was surprised about was how people are so different. Some people will do good and *say* they are doing this for God but truly don't believe (or are just doing the deed for

recognition). While there are some that will do good and never need to be recognized or tell people why they are doing it, because they know that God sees them, and that is all they need. One thing that I am going to continue to do is read the Bible and learn more about God, my Lord and Savior. Thank you also to Rev. Brian, Mr. Jason Taylor, and my mom for all your time and support you gave to Jacob, Owen and myself through this journey."

Origins (formerly TryLife) Tuesday!

On the second Tuesday of the month groups of volunteers go to Origins (formerly TryLife) to help organize donations. We start at 5 and usually end around 7:30. This is a way we can all support the families in our community that need a little extra help. Generally we are asked to each take a bin of clothing, sort through them to ensure the right size and clothing type are in the bin, and put everything back neatly. There are counters and chairs to help accommodate those that cannot stand for prolonged periods of time. Those who have volunteered have found this opportunity a great way to be the hands and feet that help others and as an added bonus spend time with friends they know or getting to know members of the church they don't know. The sign up sheet has migrated to the hallway by the library while the VBS board is up. For May 14th the volunteers are Sandy Ankney, Vince and Sandy Appleman, Alice Knopfel and Joyce Yurko. Please consider signing up to join them or adding your name to one of the other dates listed. If you have any questions please see Pastor Brian, Wiebke or Matt Wehrle.



TO REGISTER & LEARN MORE!





Please take note of the beautiful memorial banners in the Sanctuary. *"His Love Endures Forever"* Donated by Irene Nelson in honor of her aunt, Laura Such. and *"He Is Risen Indeed"*

In "memory of Charles Hawk – a loving husband, father and grandfather whose light we lost far too soon". From Jeff, Chari, Jeffrey, Matthew and Samantha Burtner.

The next Ladies Luncheon is on **May 26th** and we will be going to **China Lobster** in Lower Burrell. 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.

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 special thank you note was included in the gift basket for all of those who made and continue to make lap blankets for the patients of Monarch Hospice. Please be sure to stop by Pastor Brian's office to help yourself to something in the gift basket if you have contributed.



Ascension Day May 9, 2024

Your Pine Springs Summer Staff Person Is...

Kylee Hoffman Westminster College Counselor(2nd year)

Please address letters/packages in the following ways:

If sending through USPS:

[staff member name] Pine Springs Camp c/o Maddy Duffield PO Box 186 Jennerstown, PA 15547

If sending through Fed Ex or UPS:

[staff member name] Pine Springs Camp c/o Maddy Duffield 371 Pine Springs Camp Road Boswell, PA 15531



TRINITY SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday May 26, 2024 **Pray:** Pray for your staff member weekly. You can remind the congregation during worship or through the bulletin.

Note:

Send a note between June 1st - 9th to introduce yourself and share an encouragement for their work this summer

Feel free to send as many notes as you would like throughout the summer.

Package:

- Send 1 shoebox sized package filled with the following items:
- Cards/Notes
- Snacks: Candy, Candy Bars, Chips, Salty Snacks, etc. (Nothing with peanuts or tree nuts)
- \$25 GAS Gift Card (Giant Eagle Get-Go or Sheetz are near camp)
- \$25 RESTAURANT Gift Card (Chains near us are Eat 'n Park, Subway, Applebee's, Chili's, Chipotle, Ruby Tuesdays, etc.)
- Small Devotional or Christian Book

You can send notes and packages until August 7th (staff's last day). Please include your return address so staff can write a thank you note! Email Maddy (maddyepinesprings.org) if you have any questions