

Puckety Presbyterian Church

1009 Puckety Church Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

Last Day For:

Post Scripts Information:

Third Friday of the month.

Bulletin Information:

The Tuesday before the Sunday the
article is to be announced

REMINDER:

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Zoom/video at pucketychurch.org



December

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.

December 2021

Pastor's Corner



Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Pastor's Corner + Devotional Combo – Read Judges 5:9-18

HELP! Yep, right out of the gate and to the point: I want to make clear that we need your help. And I'm asking you this personally as your pastor. This may be the most important appeal I have made to you all year – in terms of the specific mission of Puckety Church. A quick story. Our small group recently studied Judges 4 & 5 – the story of Deborah, Barak and Jael. It's a motivating story because God gives his prophetess and judge, Deborah, the command for Barak to deliver Israel from the oppressive king, Jabin. Barak was the first to hesitate, insisting that *she* lead, and he would follow as back-up. She said if they did it like that, the glory and fulfillment would go to another. Then, as if the author wanted to make the point *again*, when Deborah was victorious, she called out the particular tribes that sat

safely on the sidelines (Reuben, Dan and Asher) saying they had hearts of hesitation and indecision (Judges 5:15-17). Our small group talked at length about how many people in the church can also show hesitation and indecision in the face of something intimidating. We then tried to think and pray about how to overcome that temptation. Well, a present reality has been growing more urgent over the last year. Put simply, the core of leaders in the various ministries of Puckety are close to burnout. Many of them are serving on 2, even 3, of the Church's committees – let alone the other places they are trying to help lead. It's time to hear God's call like he issued through Deborah – "My heart is with those who offer themselves willingly" (Judges 5:9).

***Session & Deacons** – we have close to 150 people on our membership roll. As a result, there should be little trouble in discerning 9 individuals to serve on the Session. I believe God provides the spiritual gifts for every local congregation to not only fill the biblical positions of leadership (Elders & Deacons), but in other areas as well. Yet, the foundational parts are the boards of Elders and Deacons. If asked to serve, please don't let things like "inexperience" or "feeling unequipped" stop you. Why? Because MANY of the people God called throughout the Scriptures (often the best ones) felt the same way and said so, but God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called. And put simply, we cannot accomplish the mission Christ has revealed to Puckety Church without the committed leadership that lies in the potential areas of our membership.

***A/V Sound & Zoom volunteers** – the A/V team has made it clear that if they don't get a few more volunteers to help with the sound booth and Zoom hosting specifically, that the online options we offer (Zoom & Facebook Live) will not be available much longer. We've obviously come a long way to offer these online offerings, so please volunteer – they are happy to provide training and help anyone get acclimated.

***Praise Team and Choir** – our worship teams need more participants as well. The maintenance of divine worship is one of the great ends of the church, and to "Honor God" is the first arm of Puckety's mission. Please contact Lorraine, Rebecca, or myself if there is a way you can plug in regularly to one of our worship teams.

***Other ministry teams** – we are at a point where we NEED members of Puckety who are not currently on a

committee to join the standing committees. We are grateful for those who occasionally volunteer for “as needed” community and fellowship events. But I believe – with all my heart because it’s in the New Testament witness – that members of any body of Christ are called to be committed to a particular form of regular ministry where their spiritual gifts are engaged and cultivated. Please don’t wait to be asked; consider this message the *personal invitation*.

In short, we are humbly asking every member of Puckety to something far more impactful than a New Year’s resolution in 2022. We ask you to help our Mission and Vision statements be more than something that sound nice on our publications, more than something we think about theoretically and conceptually. To truly and practically reach our community with the gospel, and transform lives for Christ, it will take every one of us. I’m not exaggerating for effect – I mean that quite literally – it will take every one of us in submission to Christ’s Lordship, and the Holy Spirit’s leading. So, I thank you all for your faith, willingness and service. God bless you to the glory of his name.



Musical Notes from the choir director:

This Advent, the choir will be singing a song titled "Heaven Everywhere". The message is one of hope and joy and peace and love, just as our Advent candles remind us! This is a season where you can see "the smile on a man who has finally found hope" and "the tears of a mother whose child has come home". It asks us why it has to take a "holiday" to evoke those emotions in us. Yes, everyday should be Christmas. But it can be if we want it to be. Everyday we should thank God for His Son's birth... and how that changes the world for just a little while and spreads a "little bit of heaven everywhere".

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

Thank You Upkeep Team and Supportive Friends

As 2021 comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Upkeep Team for the diligent work. Reflecting back, we are happy to see and be able to utilize the results of their accomplishments.

This year in the Conference Room, they replaced the smaller cabinet style TV with a large screen smart TV that they were able to mount on the back wall. The Conference Room carpet was replaced with a commercial grade tile carpet system that will allow for the easy replacement of stained or damaged carpet tiles.

In Faith Hall, the entire old fluorescent lighting system in both the fellowship area and the kitchen, was replaced with new low wattage LED bulbs. This conversion required the complete change out of more than 60 light units. This project was completely done in house at a tremendous savings to the church. In addition, similar lighting systems were put in place in the church hallway off of the sanctuary as well as in the Conference Room.

The Upkeep team was able to see the completion of numerous painting projects and other outdoor projects by supervising this summer’s visiting youth work group. This work was done by two separate groups. One from the Annapolis, Maryland area and the other from Lower Burrell and several local neighboring communities. They were great kids and fun to work with.

The biggest challenge of the year was the mowing and landscaping care of the church campus and the cemetery. Since the mowing season was wet the mowing time was extended at both ends. The team confronted numerous equipment challenges as the present equipment is rapidly aging out. The robotic mowers prove to be a blessing by significantly reducing mowing times, while keeping the front areas of the church and manse looking freshly cut.

While the robotic mowers are extremely helpful, they still require constant surveillance and careful maintenance. They are much like little children they can misbehave therefore they need constant supervision. Upkeep wishes to thank the ladies for the care of the flower presentation in front of the church and the constant weeding that was done.

In the cemetery we lost one very large tree during a summer storm. Thanks to everyone who swung into action and helped remove the tree from blocking Puckety Church Road.

You may have noticed the new manse roof replacement came to fruition in late October. This was after an extended bidding process followed by a number of conscientious discussions and an investigation comparing asphalt shingle roofs and new technology metal roofing.

A church safety technology system was also put in place, offering another layer of safety against fire, freezing and potential flood damage. This system was provided to us by our insurance company.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UPKEEP COMMITTEE FOR THEIR DEDICATED COMMITMENT TO THEIR CHURCH. WE WOULD FURTHER LIKE TO THANK OTHER MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY WHO HAVE STEPPED UP AN VOLUNTEERED IN ASSISTING THE COMMITTEE IN THEIR MISSION. QUITE FRANKLY, WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE THESE THINGS WITHOUT YOU.

If you know of anyone who needs food for Christmas, please fill out the following and place it in an offering plate, give it to one of our Deacons, or put it on Kelly's desk in the office by December 12th! Pick up will be Saturday, December 18th at 9:30 AM.

Sponsors name/number: _____

Family in need's name: _____

Number of adults: _____ Number of Children: _____ Phone number: _____



Hi Kelly,

I really enjoyed today's worship. Everyone was so welcoming and kind. Several remembered me from before. That was extra nice. It was nice to talk to so many too.

I LOVE your music!! It went so perfect with the scriptures. I know it was Divine Intervention and not just good planning. Kudos to both choirs. Also I really liked the team effort in preparing the worship service.

Thanks again for calling me. Be sure to give me another opportunity when Brian is off. Happy Thanksgiving, a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you and all of Puckety. God Bless, Lynn Mance

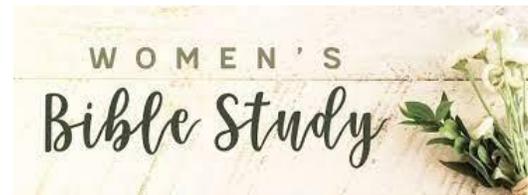


The Deacons have displayed our annual Angel Tree! Tri-Life has supplied the "angels" in need. The Angel Tree Gifts will need to be wrapped and placed under the SANCTUARY tree on or before December 19th.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ALL TEAM LEADS!!!

If you have *anything* you'd like to schedule to be held on church grounds in any of our buildings, please call or email the office to be sure the date/time/place are available to you! There is a master calendar kept in the office by Kelly. We are a wonderfully busy church family, but it requires everyone's cooperation.

Thank you!!



The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study will start a study on "The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis on January 5th. Deadline to let Wiebke know you want to join this study is **Sunday December 5th**. This study will require reading before each meeting to discuss. Wiebke can be reached at 724-799-3323 or veesb@yahoo.com.



ADVENT has started! The Christian year doesn't start on January 1st but with the first day of Advent (*often the last Sunday in November*). The Christian year is shaped by the life of Christ. Advent is a time of preparation, four weeks to anticipate the birth of Christ, the "coming" (what "Advent" means) of God into the world. *Then*, there is Christmas time (*ironically* when much of our culture *stops* celebrating 'Christmas') – Dec. 25 through January 6 (Epiphany). If we don't

intentionally observe and walk through the measured pace of Advent, we'll have a harder time being faithful during the times of Lent and Easter. The church seasons aren't just a religious way to break up time – they help us remember the prophecies, and *rediscover their fulfillment*, in the birth of Christ, his life and death and resurrection, followed by our receiving the Holy Spirit (Pentecost) so his life can continue through us. So, let's start WELL! In Advent, "we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ, God's 'righteous branch.' We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land!" (from PresbyterianMission.org). Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study would like to thank once again everyone who helped and participated at our Trunk or Treat. It was an overwhelming success and we received numerous requests from the families that attended to please do it again. We have the space in our lot for more cars so we hope to see more of you next year for this fun family event!



Bethlehem was the focus of an amazing prophecy by the prophet Micah.

Micah tells us that the story of Bethlehem is about a place. But, it is also about a plan.

The words "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule Israel" tell us that God has a glorious plan for humanity and Bethlehem was a part of his plan.

When God saved His people out of their bondage in Egypt, by the blood of a Lamb, He revealed a little more of His plan. When He gave Israel the Law and the sacrificial ceremonies, He was revealing more of His plan. Every aspect of the Tabernacle, the priesthood and the sacrifices

revealed more and more of God's plan. Through the mouths of the prophets God gave insight into His plan.

Then Micah revealed the birth place of the Messiah. He shared where the King would be born. He told us that the One Who would fulfill the plan would come from the little town of Bethlehem.

This plan involved God becoming human. For Him to come into this world and to live as a man. Micah closes this verse with these words concerning the Christ: "whose origin is from of old, from ancient days." These words reveal the truth that this One This One Who would be born in Bethlehem was no ordinary Man.

Micah tells us that while He may be coming out of Bethlehem, He is eternal! He may be born in Bethlehem, but His beginning is not there. He is Eternal!!!

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!
Amen and Amen!



Puckety Presbyterian Church Annual Christmas Dinner

**PLEASE JOIN US!! Sunday, December 19, 2021, following Worship
Feel free to bring a dessert to share! Please RSVP to the church
office or sign up on the bulletin board by December 12th.**

A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM WHEN DONATING FOR OUR DEACONS PANTRY - MINUS THE MEAT, DAIRY AND FRESH PRODUCE AS WE HAVE NO WHERE TO STORE IT!

So, I spent some time at a Food Bank today, and spoke to the people getting food. Here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for rice a roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meet.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. I does me!



- 04 Mick Dober
- 05 Mira Whalen
- 12 Beth Dober
- 19 Vince Appleman
- 24 Jennifer McKay
- 26 Maria Schafer

Your Deacons:

- Mick Dober
- Pat Fish
- Traci Kirchartz
- Cecil McCutcheon
- Brandy Roland
- Maria Schafer
- Kim Soulcheck
- Jean Welte
- Fran Kapelewski
- Nita Serene
- Brenda McAllister
- Rodney Schafer

Corporate Officers:

- President:** Matt Wehrle
- Vice-Pres.:** Jennifer McKay
- Secretary:** Debra Artman
- Treasurer:** Chuck West

Congregational Meeting - the annual December meeting will be **Sun. December 12th**, *immediately after worship*, for the purpose of reviewing and approving Pastoral Terms of Call/Budgeted Compensation for 2022. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Your Session:
 Deb Artman – Clerk
 Chari Burtner
 Charlene McKay
 Jennifer McKay
 Matt Wehrle
 Chuck West
 Kelly Kapelewski
 Irene Nelson



Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:

Sue Close

Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary:

Judy West

Christian Ed:

Jamie Kmett

Offering counters:

- 12/5: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart and Matt Wehrle
- 12/12: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
- 12/19: Janet Karan & Deb Artman
- 12/26: Chuck & Judy West

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 annual Christmas card mailbox will be in the hallway outside the

Church office beginning Dec. 5th and running through Dec. 19th. Puckety's youth will be delivering the cards to the congregation before Worship each of these Sundays. If you have any questions, please see Chari Burtner.

For the upcoming winter, we want you to be aware that WPXI and Severe Weather Team 11 will be your go-to source for cancellations due to inclement weather. We encourage you to watch Channel 11 Morning News or follow WPXI Sunday morning before you would head out for Worship.





The Bible readings are from
"Book of Common Worship"

For the week of:

December 5:

Mal 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Phil 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 12:

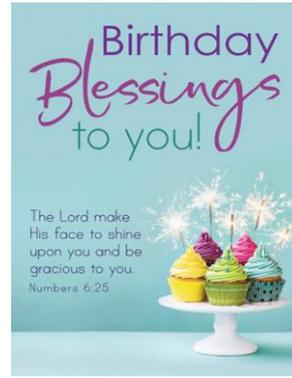
Zeph 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 19:

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:47-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

December 26:

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Heb 1:1-4
John 1:1-14



- The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:25
- 3 Donovan Cosentino
 - 6 Howard Newell
 - 8 Mark Benish
 - 9 Debbie Fotheringham
 - 10 Nita Serene
 - 12 Bernard Adams
 - 13 Karen Tkach
 - 14 Jeffrey Burtner (son)
 - 17 Brian Kilbert
Emma Hough
 - 20 Becky Cosentino
 - 21 Julia McAllister
 - 23 Bill Dailey
 - 24 Amanda Schirato
 - 27 Linda Zurenski
 - 29 Joyce Ewing
 - 30 George Tkach
 - 31 Jack Guyer

**Puckety Church collected 34 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child!
That's 4 more than last year! Always generous – Thank you!**

Hey, did you know? ... Did you know that Puckety Church is still using Zoom to share our worship services? The AV Team also live streams the worship service to Facebook and to YouTube. What does this mean for you? It means that *prayer concerns & joys that are shared in the worship service are sent out to the world* and once there cannot be removed. This is why Pastor Brian tries to not use last names in the prayer requests/joys/announcements. We know God knows which concern or joy we are praying about, but we want to keep these personal moments as private as possible, even as we come along side you to celebrate, mourn and pray for the need you have brought to your church family. So when you share something with Pastor Brian and he asks if he can share this news in worship we wanted to make sure you were aware that the information would not be staying just inside the walls of the building. If you have any concerns about who might hear the information please talk to Pastor Brian and he can help you.

YOUTH GROUP

On November 14, we went to Turf Attack to have a little fun with the Youth Group! Here are a few pictures from that evening!





On December 4th (Saturday), Puckety will once again be hosting a Blue Christmas Service (4:00 PM) - this service is offered particularly for those who find the holidays hard to celebrate, whether because of a loved one who has passed or other hardship. Bring someone along and come and receive God's peace for whatever valley you are walking in.

ONLINE GIVING – Now members, friends and other patrons can give to Puckety *electronically!* It is managed through the Presbyterian Foundation and very easy to use! You can either click on links on our website (*Home* page and *Give & Donate* page), or you can download the Give+ app (search for “GivePlus” in the App Store). When you download the app, make sure you search for “Puckety Presbyterian Church” – the full name is required to find us. You can do a quick profile set up and then you’ll be ready to give once you add a checking account or credit card to link to your profile. There’s more helpful information about the Give+ mobile app on the website (*Give &*



Donate page) and available in the office – please feel free to request a copy and help us share. You can also use the QR code in our printed publications (like the bulletin) and included below. Please note that using the online giving page charges the church a 2% transaction fee, so please consider the option of paying that fee if possible. Thank you for your generosity and please let us know how we can make this new process easier to use!



2nd Annual Ladies Advent Tea!

Puckety Presbyterian Church - Faith Hall

Sunday, December 5 - 11:30am-2:00pm

Hosted by the Women's Bible Study Group

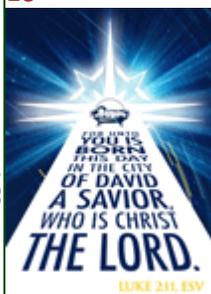
Join us for brunch and a chance to experience some calm amidst the Christmas chaos!

Please sign up on the hallway bulletin board!



****The latest edition of Our Daily Bread is now available at each door. Please take one for yourself and any additional for those you would like to share with one too!****

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p>  <p>10:00 AM Worship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 4:30 PM Worship Team Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2:15 PM Daniel Plan Group 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 8:00 PM N.A. meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605 7:00 PM Saints Of The Bible Speak Small Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00 PM Girl Scouts 26234 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00 PM Kostelansky Birthday Party</p>  <p>4:00 PM Blue Christmas Service 5:00 PM Christmas Tea Set-Up</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM 2nd Annual Ladies Christmas Tea 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 10:30 AM Card Ministry 12:00 PM Upkeep Meeting 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 46799 6:30 PM Nominating Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 6:30 PM Outreach Team Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605 7:00 PM Saints Of The Bible Speak Small Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:00 PM Girl Scouts 26234 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1:00 PM Klein Christmas Dinner</p>
<p>12</p>  <p>10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 5:30 PM MS Group Meeting 6:30 PM Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 6:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605 7:00 PM Saints Of The Bible Speak Small Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 PM Girl Scouts 26234 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Christmas Dinner Set-Up</p>
<p>19</p>  <p>10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group 11:00 AM Christmas Dinner</p>  <p>Christmas Dinner</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 4:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 46799</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting</p>  <p>First Day of Winter</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605 7:00 PM Saints Of The Bible Speak Small Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS EVE Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>THE LORD LUKE 21: ESV</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Miller Christmas Party 10:00 AM Worship	27 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM Men's Group	28 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	29 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 	1 

