

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

*(Return Service Requested)*

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**REMINDER:**

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom/video at [pucketychurch.org](http://pucketychurch.org)



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# *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.*

*January 2025*

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication

## Pastor's Corner

Happy New Year! And, closer to my heart, "Happy Epiphany!" The reason I like to emphasize the season of Epiphany is not only because it gets overshadowed by seasons like Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, but because it is a vital bridge in our calendar, or to put it better, a natural bridge on the path of living out "our story" – the Christian story, with its themes (or "arcs") of *promise/anticipation, birth/arrival, revealing* (Epiphany time!), *ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection*. So, I encourage you to keep seeing (in the events of Jesus' life) *how* the Word became flesh, *how* the true light was shining in the world, and the times the darkness tried (*but failed*) to overcome it. Epiphany is about opening our eyes to the many and varied ways that God's Word manifested himself (and still does).

As a final note, I want to acknowledge a specific example of God manifesting his light: through all of your love and support to Wiebke and me. Both in the many, ongoing, ways – such as your participation in our ministry teams in 2024 or continued words of encouragement – and in the special times – like the gestures of generosity and material support – I can speak for both of us that we are incredibly grateful to be part of a congregation and faith family that loves God and loves us. I look forward to the ways we can honor God *together* (in the ministry teams and new opportunities to sacrifice for the glory of his name), grow in faith *together* (in small groups and other spiritual development means), and improve our community and world *together*. Perhaps the best motivation to keep all these things "going," is the gratitude for the grace God shows us, like a fountain that keeps going, and doesn't stop flowing. Peace to you, and *Soli Deo Gloria*.

~ Pastor Brian

I have a confession to make ... as Chuck West was giving the happy report on 12/15 about the Capital Campaign reaching its goal and us having paid off the loan, I was tempted to take the fundraising thermometer (moved from the hallway and was right next to me as Chuck gave his great report) and get up and TEAR IT IN TWO! 😊 I wanted to convey the joy and excitement that the Capital Campaign team and Session felt (and still feel) over the achievement – God working through all of you – in a space of 11 months, completing 3 projects (parking lot, roof, and outdoor sign) that were estimated to take 2.5 years to do ... and THEN, paying them ALL off, not in the 5 years anticipated to do so, but in just under one year! We have raised approximately \$140,000, and all that remains is roughly \$7,500 to pay back the Cemetery Fund for the amt. we borrowed to upgrade the power supply as needed. Your continued Capital Campaign gifts and offerings will go to this. You've heard us say it, but it bears repeating (just like the Psalms do) – "God is good" ... "Give praise to the Lord" and "forget not his benefits." I want to thank the Campaign Team (*Chuck West – chair – along with Jenn McKay, Deb Artman, Jolene Kostelansky, Tim Eckman, Charlene McKay, along with Kelly Kapelewski for the many office/administrative elements, and the Upkeep Team for their diligent and indispensable oversight with the projects*), along with the fundraising team, the many other cheerleaders, pledgers/donors, workers, and various supporters. Finally, thank you for your continued support until the Cemetery Fund amt. is fully paid back. God bless you.

**Remember to check Puckety's website and social media!**

Website: [www.pucketychurch.org](http://www.pucketychurch.org) Like and Follow on Facebook: Puckety Presbyterian Church  
Follow us on Instagram: Puckety Church Follow us on X (formerly 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](http://pucketychurch.org). Thank you for your generosity!



The Puckety Praise Team is actively seeking out a drummer to play for Sunday morning services and Thursday evening rehearsals! They are also wanting to open themselves to any guitarists, vocalists, or any other musician who wants to dedicate their talents to the Lord. Come join us Thursday evening at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary if you or someone you know might be interested - please see Pastor Brian, Jesse O, or any member of the Puckety Praise Team for more info.

AV Team: Please find the AV schedule for January below:

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
1/5/25	Wiebke	Joyce	Rodney	Wiebke
1/12/25	Jenn	Joyce	Zach	Wiebke
1/19/25	Brian	Joyce	Nate	Wiebke
1/26/25	Matt	Matt	Rodney	Wiebke

We are still looking for an additional sound person to help man the sound board. Please consider volunteering for this position. With an additional person we would be able to do a once every four weeks rotation. Volunteering in this position is an amazing behind the scenes way to support the work that the worship leaders and musicians put into worship every week.

**Devotional** - - *Luke 2:41-52*

There’s a story between the birth narratives of Jesus and the heralding of John the Baptist preceding the core of Christ’s public ministry, the Epiphany story of when he was a boy. When I was boy, I walked to school by myself, well with my twin brother, Chris (sometimes by myself though when we were mad at each other). In the afternoon, we came back the same way. A few times in the darkest part of the winter, we would come home when the light was failing and almost gone. But I never felt unsafe. Now, of course, most children are taken by bus or car. Parents are worried about all kinds of dangers that might be waiting for them. One of the remarkable things about the story at the end of Luke 2 is that Mary and Joseph were happy to set off with their large family group from Galilee without checking that Jesus was with them. [*I wish we still had the kind of close-knit mutual trust this account implies*]. Now, consider the agony of Mary and Joseph – this is more than momentarily losing your child in the store during the Christmas rush; they were searching for **THREE DAYS!** [*I wonder if there is some symbolism there?*] ... Then contrast this with the calm response of Jesus when they found him. Mary blurts out an accusation tinged with a drop of guilt and a pound of relief: “How could you do this to us?!” Jesus accepts no blame, but in total “chill” as the kids say, replies, “I have been busying myself in my Father’s work.” Remember how Mary “treasured up things in her heart”? Well this must have been more like a stab in the notebook of her heart. As will be the case *many* more times in the future with Jesus and the people around him, this scene is accented with

surprise; Jesus doesn't do or say what Mary or Joseph were expecting. [I challenge you to count the number of times that happens in just the book of Luke alone!] ... It will be like that with us, too. God in a manger, a boy teaching in the Temple, a convicted Savior on a cross, and about 100 times in between. Every time we relax and think we've really understood him, he will be up ahead, or perhaps staying behind while we go on without thinking. I can't tell you how important it is to consciously and regularly "re-pace" yourself with Jesus, leaving room for surprise, for discipleship always involves the unexpected. One last thought, the Temple is an image pregnant and bursting with meaning. The Temple was meant to be a "symbolic" house for God – not the "real" thing, but pointing to the real thing. Guess what the *real* Temple was? ... It was the little boy seated inside the symbolic structure, astonishing the teachers within. And this true and perfect Temple came so that by his life, death, and reign, he could make us little true temples for God's Spirit. We may want to reflect on whether we have taken Jesus himself for granted; if Mary and Joseph could do it, there is every reason to suppose that we can too. We mustn't assume he is accompanying us as we go off on our own business. If we suspect the lack of his presence, we must be prepared to hunt for him, to search through prayer, Scripture, and gathered worship, and not give up until we find him. And when we do find him busy with the Father's work, remember, he may not say or do what we expect. Happy Epiphany.

- Pastor Brian



New Year's Eve Game Afternoon: We would like to invite the church members to gather together at Faith Hall on December 31st from 2-4 PM to celebrate the New Year with snacks and games. We ask that you bring a game or puzzle to share and your favorite snack food or sweet to share. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor that may not have anyone else to celebrate the New Year with. This is a low key event focused on fun and fellowship. Please let Wiebke or Char know if you will be joining us so we can make sure there are enough tables and chairs set up.

### A Heartfelt "Thank You!"

I want to take the time to try to put into words the DEEP gratitude both Wiebke and I feel at the extremely generous gift we received on Christmas Eve, collected from our Puckety faith family. We were, well, dumbfounded. After so much sacrifice this year already (e.g., with the commitment and stretching support for the Capital Campaign), we are impressed by the faith and touched by the love shown to us. I've never been part of a congregation where I felt so supported in my work and appreciated as a pastor ... We are incredibly blessed. There is a very particular and powerful element I feel led to share as well. Not many know but I was in an auto accident while in Florida at the beginning of December to visit my daughter. Though it was a major collision (T-boned with passenger airbags deploying, etc.), neither I nor the other driver were harmed (no injury other than minor aches), praise be to God. I was left with relief for that outcome, but still anxiety for the "financial" ramifications of this event. Though Wiebke was reassuring that we would be okay (with our Financial Peace Univ. planning for situations like this), it still caused me some anxiety. Here is the place where I see God's hand very clearly: when one looks at the unplanned expenses this accident caused, it is very close to the amount of the Christmas gift. The more that sunk in the more I marvel at God, not only for how he cares and provides for his children, but how he uses his *other children*, the church family, to care for one another ... including in ways they don't fully see or realize. God is truly awesome. I am truly blessed, and you are instruments of grace in his hand. Thank you and God bless you.



Your grateful pastor,  
Brian





- 05 Alice Knopfel
- 12 Michelle Gordon
- 19 Chari Burtner
- 26 Mick 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

Sunday Women's Bible Study: We will be starting The Chosen Season 4 on January 19th after worship. Bring your lunch as this will be a longer session as we will be watching the episodes together before discussing. If you have any questions please let Wiebke know.

**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

**Music Ministry Specialist:**

Jesse Oddis

**Housekeeper:**

Irene Nelson

**Financial Secretary:**

Judy West

**Offering counters:**

- 5: Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
- 12: Chuck & Judy West
- 19: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart  
Or Matt Wehrle
- 26: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley

**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!**

Please plan to join us after Worship on 1/12 for a Pastor Appreciation Luncheon in Faith Hall. All are welcome!



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

**January 5:**

Jer 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Eph 1:3-14  
John 1:10-18

**January 12:**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17,21-22

**January 19**

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Cor 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

**January 26:**

Neh 8:1-3,5-6,8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Cor 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

Monarch Hospice lap blankets: The saying goes, "Winter is coming, knit/crochet faster to keep warm!" We are still collecting knit or crocheted lap blankets for Monarch Hospice. Finished blankets can be placed in the tall laundry basket in the corner of the conference room. If you need help with a pattern to get started please see Wiebke. We have received thanks in the form of candy and a card from Monarch Hospice for continuing this ministry. Please feel free to stop by the office to help yourself if you have made a blanket in the past. A warm hand made blanket can bring comfort during dark and lonely times.

**Origins Outreach:** The 2025 volunteer schedule is up for Origins! Puckety has committed to sending a team in to the Origins center in Lower Burrell on the second Tuesday of every month. We meet at 5:00 at the center and then spend a few hours doing tasks that are needed. What kind of tasks you ask: usually it is taking totes off of shelves and sorting and refolding the baby clothes inside. We have also cleaned toy donations and sorted clothing donations into the correct bins. If you can't stand for any time have no fear there are chairs and counters or tables to work on. We work as a team so if you can't lift totes but another volunteer can bring you the totes and take them back. This is an easy way to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. By doing this folding and sorting we bring dignity to the families that are using the services of Origins. Ideally we would like teams of 4 for each of the Tuesdays in 2025. Please take a look at the volunteer schedule and consider joining us for one of the dates listed. If you have volunteered before you have already been signed up again. Please let Wiebke know if you need to switch the date you are

currently listed on. Rides can be provided if you would like to volunteer but don't have transportation. Please see Wiebke with any questions you might have.



- 1 Judy West
- 2 Tyler Schafer
- 3 Jennifer McKay
- 7 Owen Manges
- 9 Don Zellefrow
- 15 Matt Wehrle
- Andrew Fisher
- Marie Hough
- Mallory Soulcheck
- 16 Trey Sennett
- 17 John McAllister
- 18 Kenzie Girard
- 23 Vi Adamsky
- 24 Tori Soulcheck
- 26 Sue Close
- Lois Barnett

**Please consider joining any of our Teams here at Puckety Church in 2025!**

- Outreach – Matt Wehrle
- Discipleship – Chari Burtner
- Praise Team (Band) – Jesse Oddis
- Choir – Lorraine Menk
- Fellowship and Care – Charlene McKay
- Worship – Jennifer McKay
- Upkeep – Vince Appleman
- AV Team – Wiebke Kilbert
- Youth Group Volunteers – Pastor Brian Kilbert
- Pulpit Assistants – Kelly Kapelewski



## Youth Group

It was a beautiful, chaotic, and blessed December. I anticipated about 12 of the youth to go caroling on December 8<sup>th</sup>, but we had 16 students (17 with wonderful little Avery – she did great). We visited 5 different shut-ins and finished at the Logan Place to sing to the residents during their dinner. We gave to every shut-in and resident present one of the crafted “puzzle piece wreath” ornaments that Lisa Wilson helped us make.

Thanks to the awesome caravan drivers! On December 15<sup>th</sup>, I prepared decorations and holiday game stations for 3+ hours ... it was WORTH it; we had twenty-one (21) students for the party – videos and pictures were taken to record the fun and memories. The kids devoured and were delighted by pizza, special Christmas treats (thank you Irene Nelson), fudge, chocolate covered pretzels, and a partridge... wait, that’s a song. We discussed the true meaning of Christmas. When the kids say, “It was when Jesus was born,” I said, “Right! Very good ... now, someone tell me *why?*” And, as I was prepared for, a discussion ensued as that’s something some had never really thought about before. Thanks to Rodney, Maria, Jason, and the others who helped with vital things (including clean up – God bless you!). Several of the students will be in Burrell’s production of *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* in January (1/24)! Please watch the bulletins and plan to attend to support our youth. We are finishing up a video Bible series called *Eternity* with Francis Chan as the featured teacher. We encourage everyone to take advantage of the amazing (and free) resources on *RightNow Media*. Thank you again for your support and keep praying for our students and that they grow closer to Christ and stronger in their faith in 2025.







**YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024 WITH 21 STUDENTS PARTICIPATING!!! A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!**



### **Christmas in the Woods**

The event was a success – thanks be to God, the weather that Saturday was by far the best among the week (way better than the 3 bitter cold days before and 3 wet days after) and many people came to enjoy the offerings. Thanks to Wiebke Kilbert and Deb Artman for leading a children’s craft corner, for those who donated cookies, and for all the carolers (we had 12 from Puckety in our caroling choir, and Debbie Fritz added to the fun with another group of friends). It is our hope that the true Spirit of Christmas was “seen” and that a common witness among the local churches made a difference, and honored Christ.







Beautiful ladies of Puckety, our monthly Ladies Lunches are restarting this month on January 26. January is the beginning of our new year, and also the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Green Wood Snake. So, we will be observing both New Years at the China Lobster. We will meet in Hope Hall by the display case, after service, and all (sort of) travel over together. See Denise Wehrle with any questions or if you need a ride.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** - Pastor Brian plans is conducting a confirmation class for any youth (6th to 12th grade) who would like to learn more about the Christian faith with the intention of making it personal, becoming ready to affirm it in worship, and become a member of Puckety Church. The class is scheduled to start on *Sunday, January 19th* (meeting *weekly from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM*) and last for 13 Sundays ending on Palm Sunday. *Please note that to complete the requirements of the class and become a member, every student would need to attend & participate in at least 10 of the classes (no more than 3 absences).* Please contact Pastor Brian for more information.



There will be a brief Congregational Meeting immediately following Worship for all members on January 26<sup>th</sup> to review the annual reports by our teams. Please plan to stay.

## **2025 ON THE MOVE**

Pastor Brian and I have been successful in bringing ON THE MOVE to Puckety Church.

On the Move is a program from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences for improved mobility in older adults. OTM is a group based motor learning exercise program designed to improve walking in older adults.

It specifically challenges the nervous system with stepping and walking patterns. Music is used during the class to facilitate the appropriate timing and coordination of walking.

I have completed my training and certification to instruct this class and have taught at three of the local YMCA's and the RCAC Senior Center in Oakmont (they loved the class and have asked me to continue working with them to maintain their skills). I have a passion for helping older adults to enhance their health and prevent falls and improve balance.

There is a stipend paid for your involvement in this class by University of Pittsburgh which will be explained at the meet and greet meeting before you begin. The class will be held **TWICE A WEEK FOR TWELVE WEEKS**. They recommend that you attend as many as possible but understand that appointments and obligations will be accepted.

They recommend 8 to 10 people in a class and the classes will be held during the day. Times and dates will be forthcoming. Folks with walkers and canes are allowed.

Please contact me, Alice Knopfel, 412-400-9463, if you are interested in improving balance, walking skills, and stamina. Please leave your phone number and name please.

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>30</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting	<b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED 2:00pm New Years Eve Games Party 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>1</b>  Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 5:00pm Girl Scout Cookie Rally	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>6</b>  Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	<b>7</b> 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>8</b> Meals on Wheels 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 52527	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>11</b> Luncheon Set Up???
<b>12</b>  10:00am Worship 11:00am Pastor Appreciation Lunch 	<b>13</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	<b>14</b> 5:00pm Origins Outreach 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Brownie Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>15</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Youth Group Outing 8:30am Communion Class 9:00am Logan Birthday Party 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting 	<b>21</b> 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>22</b> Meals on Wheels 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 52527	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>25</b> Fontana Baby Shower
<b>26</b> 8:30am Communion Class 10:00am Worship  11:30am Ladies Lunch	<b>27</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting 6:30pm Brownie Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>29</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>1</b>

