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!



Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

September 2023

Pastor's Corner

I recently began facilitating our next Discipleship Essentials small group, and the very first lesson was perfect for the start of the Fall quarter: PRAYER! Isn't that what we all need to be doing as we seek to live out the mission Christ has given us – personally and collectively as Puckety? How else are we going to continue to *capitalize* on the relationship with our schools? How else are we going to *discern* the outreach and service opportunities *each* of us is called to in the community? How else are we going to find the *strength* to stay plugged in with the weekly use of our *spiritual gifts*? In Luke 11:1, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. Of all possibilities, prayer was the matter on their hearts. Why? There are many possible answers to that question; but for now, I want to highlight one: "*desperate people*" *pray*. They pray without thinking about it; they pray even if they are not sure who they're praying to or if anyone out there is listening at all. When we reach the limit of our resources, we pray instinctively, reflexively — like the way someone lacking oxygen gasps for breath and the way someone who is falling

reaches out for something to grab. It is not bad to pray in a time of crisis. One of God's most amazing attributes is that He is gracious enough to accept people when they turn to Him in sheer desperation, even when they've been ignoring Him for years. (That still amazes me ... and teaches me). Desperation prayers have been the beginning of spiritual life for many people. But, by themselves, such prayers are not sufficient to sustain spiritual life. It's an incomplete picture, like a puzzle with just the corner and side pieces put together. Many of us fall into a pattern where the only times we pray are the times when we are prompted by crisis or pain; the rest of the time we rely on our own strength and cleverness. This pattern points to what we really believe regarding prayer. In most ordinary moments, we are not convinced that prayer really changes things.

Many people believe that their prayers won't change God's actions, so they ask themselves what the point is of praying. But look at how seriously the writers of Scripture viewed prayer. In Revelation 8, John describes a scene in heaven after the seals have been broken on the scrolls that tell the story of human sin and God's judgment. Then a remarkable thing happens. John writes: "There was silence in heaven for about half an hour." During this time an angel with a golden censer comes to the altar and offers much incense, which represents prayers rising from earth: "The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God." John Ortberg speaks to this: "Usually we think of events on earth being interrupted because of actions taken in heaven. However, here it is the other way around. All of heaven comes to a standstill. The endless songs and praises of heavenly hosts suddenly stop. Why? Because someone is praying. Heaven, to some degree, 'stops' so the prayers of the saints — your prayers and mine,

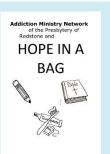
every one of them – can rise before God. They are heard. They matter. Prayers of real human beings – like you and me – interrupt heaven." (*The Life You've Always Wanted*).

Walter Wink says that this is the message of John's text: "History belongs to the intercessors – those who believe and pray the future into being." History does not belong to the powerful, or the wealthy, or the rulers, or the armies, or the corporations, or the global media. What they do on their own, apart from God, may look impressive for a time. But the day will come when all merely human actions will be tossed, forgotten, on the ash heap of the dead past. History belongs to the intercessors. Interceding is what Jesus is doing now: "It is Christ Jesus who died, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us" (Rom. 8:34). His teaching ministry lasted 3 years. His intercessory ministry has been going on for (at least) 2,000. That staggers me. The Bible's teaching on prayer leads overwhelmingly to one conclusion: Prayer changes things. Does it seem like your prayers don't affect change? Like they don't always matter? What if you believed that they did impact heaven and impact earth? How would you pray differently?

Beseeching His throne of grace ~ 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



Addiction Ministry Network Project for National Recovery Month

The Addiction Ministry Network in cooperation with the HOPE IN A BAG Project are once again joining together to provide support to individuals who are entering treatment and we are asking your congregation to participate in this project. The Addiction Ministry Network of Redstone Presbytery is sponsoring a presbytery-wide collection by asking congregations to contribute some or all the items listed below. Please consider donating the following items for recovery: Small bible ~ Pens and

pencils ~ Journals ~ Playing Cards ~ Daily Devotionals, old copies are fine, i.e., Upper Room, Daily Bread ~ Shampoo/Conditioner Toothbrushes ~ Toothpaste ~ Deodorant ~ Razors ~ Feminine hygiene products ~Soap/Body wash ~ Dental floss ~ Nail clippers ~ Q-tips ~ Small blankets ~Hardtack candies. There is a collection bin in the hallway across from the Conference Room. Kindly consider donating to this worthy cause. Thank you!



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!



We are having a VBS Reunion and all church bonfire on September 23rd at 7:00pm! Grab a chair and join us! There will be hot dogs, smores, hot chocolate and other goodies!

From the Hearts and Hands of Session



The Discipleship Team would like to invite all the families of the church - and community – to join us for our "Back to Church" Breakfast at 9:00 AM on Sun. September 10th at Faith Hall (*before* Worship). We'll have pancakes (different kinds), sausage, juice, coffee and more – including activity placemats for kids & families. Afterward, please invite others to stay for worship and Children's Church

(kids excused early in the service to this time designed especially for them). This is a great way to kickstart the school year, so don't just mark your own calendar, invite someone personally to join you.

We met for our Annual *Joint Board Meeting* with the Deacons on August 8th, to review how we have lived out our Church Mission in the last year and brainstorm how we could all, personally and collectively, "honor God, grow in faith, and improve our community and world" in the year to come. We reminded ourselves these aren't just words on a website or in a visitor's gift bag. We prayed and opened ourselves to the Spirit. And now we need all of your help to make it a reality. *Soli Deo Gloria*!

Youth Group

Our Youth Group will begin with our KICKOFF event on Sunday, Sept. 24th from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Students in 5th grade and up are welcome (any school district). We'll have games in the big field (weather permitting), a pizza party, and a great chance to get to know new people. Students are encouraged to bring a friend and help us make it a great start. Our first outing of the year will be *Kayaking at 10.7 Marina* in Verona, PA on the Allegheny River – on Sun. October 8th – leaving from the church at 2:30 PM (hoping to be back shortly before 6:00). NOTE – any student who wants to go MUST RSVP with Pastor Brian by September 17th DEADLINE. The cost is \$12 for *students in youth group* (5th grade and up) – due NO LATER than the Sept. 24th Kickoff night.



The family of Ellen Fisher would like to thank everyone for the cards, their prayers, support, and love over the past several months. We are grateful for the way God used all of you to ease our sadness and remind us of His care and love. John, Rebecca and family and Tim, Donna and family

WATCH YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OUR UPCOMING ANNUAL APPLE DUMPLING SALE!!





03 Michelle Gordon

10 Chari Burtner

17 Mick Dober

24 Beth Dober

Your Deacons:

Sandra Ankney
Pat Fish
John McAllister
Cecil McCutcheon
Brandy Roland
Mira Whalen
Kim Soulcheck
Sandy Appleman
Fran Kapelewski
Nita Serene
Brenda McAllister
Rodney Schafer

Corporate Officers:

President: Jennifer McKay Vice-Pres.: Cliff McKay, Sr. Secretary: Debra Artman Treasurer: Jolene Kostelansky

Memorial Banners Please take a moment to notice the 2 new banners "This is the Day the Lord has Made" - donated by Mark Nelson in memory of his parents and "Thy Word is a Lamp" - donated by Dean Kunkle in loving memory of Dottie.

Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk Jolene Kostelansky Jennifer McKay Cliff McKay Kelly Kapelewski Marilyn Crumley Helen Crissman Maria Schafer Sandy Schafer

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

You've-



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:

06: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart3: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart

& Matt Wehrle

10: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley

17: Deb Artman, Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky

24: 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 DEACONS ARE ACCEPTING
DONATIONS OF ANY NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE
DEACON'S PANTRY. PLACE YOUR
ITEMS OUTSIDE THE METAL
CABINET BESIDE THE LIBRARY
DOOR. THANK YOU!

may receive correspondence or announcements that need your attention in a timely manner!



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

September 3:

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Jer 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21

September 10:

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Exek 33:7-11 Romans 13:8-14

September 17:

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12

September 24:

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Jonah 3:10-4:11 Phil 1:21-30

WELCOME BACK TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH!

We will start back to every Sunday beginning on September 10!



Our deepest sympathies to the Family and friends of A. Jean Morrow who died on 7/29, Arlene Staller who died on 8/3, Wayne Mc Allister who died on 8/10 and also Howard Newell who died on 8/28.



- 1 Paul McCullough
- 4 Traci Kirchartz John McCullough
- 9 Lauren McCulloughDenise Wehrle10 Jim Serene
- 13 Cecil McCutcheon Mira Whalen

12 Fran Cosentino

- Melissa Smith
- 15 Erika Manges 17 Jeff Burtner
- 18 Mersades Schafer19 Erik WildsPamela McAllister20 Charlene McKay
- 21 Lauretta Lockwood
 - 23 Kaylee Hazlett Seth Fisher
- 24 Brenda McAllister Barbara Bentley
- 25 Conner Kapelewski 27 Hanna Fisher
 - 30 Clint Motosicky Kim Sproull



Ladies Luncheon will resume on September 24th immediately following Worship. All ladies are welcome to meet in the hall outside the conference room so we can all leave together.

Our next prayer walk will be on September 17th after worship. We want to encourage people to come out for this so that we can continue to lift up the schools and their students to God!!

A Devotional For You - Read Romans 12:14-21 & 1 Samuel 24:8-19

When I preached on Romans 12 a couple weeks ago, I was only able to really due justice to the first half of the chapter. So, I decided to use the devotional space of the Postscripts to include some of the rest. In the final verses of the chapter, Paul gives us explicit counsel for loving a hostile world (e.g., "do not repay evil for evil," "do not take revenge," feed and show compassion to your enemy, etc.). Maybe we've been anesthetized to this message with the many times we've heard similar expressions from Jesus in various contexts. But, still, this is supremely radical, because it is supremely unnatural. Our conditioned reflex is to "hit back." And the world gives us no help, because it says common sense demands "getting even." Paul says the way of renewed minds is different, and has two elements. First, *trust* God. Paul echoes Christ by saying we must trust God to work in the life of the one who has wronged us. In some mysterious way, God's wrath (displayed his way) may even bring enemies to repentance. Whatever happens, God will be equitable in the end.

The second element is to do positive good. We don't stop at passive resignation ("Fine, God, I won't get even, but it's up to you now, leave me out of it."). Nope, sorry, verse 20 exhorts us: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink." This extends to, if they are grieving or despairing (far from internally gloating), we are to comfort them. Paul says that by doing such things we "heap burning coals on their head." You're probably thinking, "Huh?!" It basically means that grace will wake them up in an intense (even uncomfortable) way.

One of the best examples of this in Scripture is the exchange between David and Saul after David had been so close to Saul in the cave that he cut off a corner of the king's robe, but for conscience's sake would not lift a finger against Saul (even though all David's friends would have told him to do so in a second because he had been maliciously seeking to end David's life and God had anointed David to be the next king anyway!) You can read about this in 1 Sam. 24. When I was on pilgrimage in Israel they took us to the area of these caves (in En Gedi National Park – *see image*), and we were likely at some point within 300 feet of the exact cave in which this happened. While there, I imagined David coming out of one of the

caves, holding up the piece of his robe, and crying out to Saul, "This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I said, 'I will not lift my hand against him, for he is yet the Lord's anointed.' Now see this corner of your robe in my hand, and understand that I have not wronged you" ... The 'coals' David heaped on Saul's head moved the wicked king to say, "You are more righteous than I – you have treated me well, but I have treated you badly



... When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you for the way you treated me" (24:16-19).

One last illustration. Toward the end of his life, it is said that W.C. Fields – a comedian known to be crude and egotistical – but near the end of his life he was seen reading the Bible. A surprised friend asked him why he was doing so, and Fields answered, "Looking for loopholes, looking for loopholes" ...

But in relation to Paul's words, there are no loopholes. We are never under any circumstances where we must avenge ourselves. And not only are we called to refrain from avenging ourselves, we are to do positive good to our enemies. Impossible? Our Lord did it. And before you say, "Well, yeah, but he's God." Just remember Jesus once said in John's Gospel, "I tell you the truth, you will do even greater things than I have done" (John 14:12) ... I don't think he meant miracles. I think he meant fallen, fickle human beings forgiving other human beings for the seemingly unforgivable. Love in the church and love in the world go together. They are the evidence of a renewed mind and transformed life. The Holy Spirit can do all this through us. So let us love the church, *not* as an end in itself, but as practice for loving the world. Amen.



RightNow! - Puckety Church has purchased a great resource to invest in all of you! We now have unlimited access to *RightNow Media*—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (the "Netflix of video Bible studies"). We believe that RightNow Media is a tool that can help you live out your faith in every area of your life—at home, small groups & in your community (24/7 access). We've started to use this in our Children's Ministry too, so make sure you tell your families! For *both* our members *and* friends of the congregation, *RightNow Media* has a free

app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. To get started, simply use the QR code below, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. Please help us spread this news to *everyone*. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!

https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/pucketychurch
Or you can text the code **PUCKETYCHURCH** to the number 49775 and you will receive a text back, welcoming you to RightNow Media and providing you with the invite link to register.



The current small groups that have just started up for the Fall are:

- *Women's Bible Study The Chosen (Season 2) every other Sunday (9/3, 9/17, etc.) at 11:30 AM in Faith Hall led by Wiebke Kilbert.
- *Men's Small Group The Chosen (Season 3) Mondays mornings at 10:00 AM (starting 9/11) in Conf. Room. Led by Matt Wehrle.
- *Schafer Small Group Max Lucado series Wednesdays at 6:30 PM beginning September 13 at the home of Rod & Maria Schafer.
- *Pastor Brian's Small Group Season 2 of *The Chosen* on Wednesdays 6:30 PM (starting in October 10/25).
- *Bracken Bible Study Time and location vary please check with Lauretta Lockwood or Helen Crissman.

Please contact whoever is in charge of any small group you may be interested in joining!

Photo Directory - Online Scheduling Available (Oct. 10th & 11th)!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter pa1031 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field.

Or you can scan the QR code below:



But you will still need to enter **pa1031** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Saturday. Sunday sign-ups are in-person at Puckety Church before or after worship.

Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.

We as a church are still supporting the Try Life Center by going to their Lower Burrell facility on the second Tuesday of the month and volunteering to organize and sort through the donations they have received. Those who have already participated in this program can confirm that this is an easy way to give back and support a group that supports those most vulnerable, mothers and young children. Ideally we like to send in a group of 4-6 people from Puckety. We need a few more volunteers for September, October, November and December. If you have volunteered before please consider signing up for a slot. If you are curious and have some questions please see Wiebke. You do not have to stand for the whole time you are there, we work as a group and can easily be the legs for the willing hearts that have unwilling legs and feet. This is also a great opportunity to show off your snazzy new Puckety shirt!



Memorial Banners - the Worship Team would like to procure 4-5 more hanging banners for the sanctuary so a different pair could be rotated about every 6 weeks — mid January — mid November. As before, this is an opportunity for families/members to purchase a banner (2' x 6') in memory of a loved one. The relevant information would be included on the backside of the banner, and in the printed announcements/postscripts for the respective period it is displayed. The average cost is about \$100/banner. Suggested options are available in the office (particularly Thanksgiving and Pentecost) If you are interested in purchasing one to be used in our yearly worship, please contact Rev. Kilbert to see the options. Thank you.

It's here again... Choir time! Time to learn old songs, new songs, fast songs, slow songs.

And all in praise of our Lord and Savior. We have a seat for you. Say "yes" to God's call and just try it out. First rehearsal is Thursday, Sept 14 at 7:00. First choir Sunday is September 24. You can return to the pews after the choir anthem or stay in the chancel. We are so VERY blessed to have such a nice group who know and believe it is their ministry. Come join us. Contact any choir member or director Lorraine Menk at 724-339-9531.

The **Operation Christmas Child** fundraiser dinner for our area will be held Saturday 9/23 from 4-7 pm at Grace Community Church. They are serving **Pulled Pork Sandwich Platters.** The side dishes will include macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, applesauce and of course a dessert. Cost will be \$15/ adult, \$10/ children under 12; \$1 discounted presale tickets will be available in the Grace Church office beginning 9/11 and after worship 9/17. They hope to see you there!

Women's Bible Study:

We will be meeting in Faith Hall on September 3rd to discuss Episode 2 and September 17th to discuss Episode 3. Bring your lunch and your questions as we continue the journey of The Chosen.



As the days grow shorter we get to look forward to the most wonderful time of year, Halloween!!!!! Join us for our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat. To make this a success we need volunteers to bring their cars and hand out candy and we need volunteers to run the games and craft station. We have put up two sign-up sheets in the hallway. One for cars to come and hand out candy and another for

those willing to help in other ways. Please prayerfully consider signing up for this event in some way. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us for this event. If you have questions, please see Wiebke or Kelly.

AV Team:

We wanted to thank all of you that stopped by our table during the ministry fair. We are still looking for help so if you are curious about any of the information you picked up or options you discussed with us please reach out to Wiebke. We are always open to having someone interested in seeing the work we do by spending a worship service with us.

Please find below the September AV schedule.

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
9/3/2023	Wiebke	Wiebke	Zach	Chari
9/10/2023	Jenn	Sandra	Rodney	Deb
9/17/2023	Matt	Matt	Nate	Deb
9/24/2023	Sandra	Sandra	Zach	Wiebke
10/1/2023	Brian	Joyce	Nate	Wiebke/Keira





Celebrating faith.

Connecting families.

Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.
 If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



Gathering families,

Connecting generations.



Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to **www.ucdir.com**, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **pa1031** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred** date and time.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00am Worship	28 Meals on Wheels 10:30am Card Ministry	29	30 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Discipleship Essentials Group	31	1 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study	Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	5 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	6 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Discipleship Essentials Group	7 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	8 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	9 Back to Church Breakfast Set-Up 9:00am DKG Breakfast Meeting 11:00am A. Jean Morrow Memorial Service
10 9:00am Back to Church Breakfast Page Kerry Page Page	Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting 6:30pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	12 5:00pm Try-Life Outreach 8:00pm N.A. meeting	13 Girl Scout Open Registration Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Discipleship Essentials Group 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	14 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal HOIR PRACTICE	15 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	16 Walters Birthday Party???
17 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walk 11:30am Women's Bible Study	18 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	6:00pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Sewing Guild 8:00pm N.A. meeting	20 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Discipleship Essentials Group 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	21 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:00pm Puckety Condo Assoc. Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	12:00pm Spang Birthday Party 7:00pm VBS Reunion and Bonfire
24 10:00am Worship 11:00am Ladies Lunch 6:00pm Youth Group Kick-Off	25 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 10:30am Card Ministry	26 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 5:30pm Girl Scouts 46799 8:00pm N.A. meeting	27 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Discipleship Essentials Group 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	28 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	30

