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

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. **November 2023**

Pastor's Corner

November ... the month we remind ourselves to give thanks for all our blessings. You know as well as I do that "Thanksgiving" shouldn't just be a day. Some complain that having a special day for it gives the impression it's not needed as much at other times. We know better. I might say that without the holiday of Thanksgiving, that would be one less reminder to cultivate gratitude – and in my opinion we need more, not less. What could you do, on days other than Thanksgiving, in months other than November, that would cultivate a deeper (and more abiding) sense of gratitude? *[Seriously, think about it]*

In the meantime, let me tell you the story of a little boy who wanted his mother to pay him for all the services he was rendering in the home. [You can easily extend it as a parable for how we think of our "work for the church" or our "work for God" and subconsciously expect something in return]. The child left his mother a note that read: "For washing the dishes, you owe me one dollar. For cleaning my room, you owe me a dollar. For hanging up my

clothes, you owe me a dollar. For mowing the lawn, you owe me a dollar. Mama, as you can see, this is what you fairly owe me." He printed a bill for her, totaling \$4 and give it to her. The mother – probably a bit differently than my own would have done – put the \$4 on the table with a note of her own. The note said: "For carrying you nine months and being sick as a dog, no charge ... for staying up all night with you, night after night when you were scared or sick, no charge. For working overtime so that I could get you those special tennis shoes, no charge. For entertaining your friends when you wanted to bring 'em over without notice (making a mess they didn't clean up), no charge. Signed your mother who loves you. Total, *zero*."

After reading the note, that young man realized that he had lost sight of the goodness of his mother. *[How have we lost sight of the goodness of our heavenly Father?]* The boy had turned a love relationship into a business deal, motivated by selfishness and self-promotion. He had said to his mother what a lot of God's children say to Him: "What's in it for me? Pay up." Maybe that's why stewardship messages come in November, because they're all about remembering the One who owns everything ... remembering how we have been blessed, and given responsibility (not ownership) to care for what has been entrusted to us. This is the proper posture of a Christian's heart – gratitude for the grace we don't deserve, and a sense of responsibility for the good we've been given. Happy Thanksgiving to you (every day and all the time).

Pastor Brian

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



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

From the Hearts & Hands of Session

- Sanctuary Projector Update we want to thank everyone for your continued patience as our Worship + A/V Team works on getting a new projector for the front screen (special thanks to Jennifer McKay for the extra work and time she has put in with Music N' Stuff). To sum up the situation, the best option was to get a laser projector but with our set-up it means that the projected image will not be a perfect fit on the screen (which is designed for an older 4:3 picture ratio that is now obsolete). Rather than getting a new screen as well, we are going with a projector that will fill up the majority of the screen, with a small amount of empty space at top and/or bottom. But we believe the picture will be sharper and clearer to make up for that. The current estimate is to have the projector installed the week of November 20th (hopefully before Thanksgiving) so we can start using it either Nov. 26th or Dec. 3rd^t.
- Schafer Small Group GOOD NEWS we have room for new participants. For various reasons we have had to postpone the official start of our group using Max Lucado's *You Were Made For This Moment* (Esther study). We still plan on meeting Wednesday evenings (6:30 PM ?) at the Schafer home we will announce start time SOON watch the printed announcements but we want YOU to join us please take advantage of this opportunity for fellowship and discipleship! Call Maria ASAP at 412-377-8113.
- Apple Dumpling sale HUGE SUCCESS once again! We sold 552 dumplings for a profit (after expenses) of \$2408.36! GO PUCKETY! "Thank you" to all volunteers as well as patrons, and how about the goodness of God to help us get all the work done on the "first day" of the sale (Saturday)?!
- Angel Tree we are again sponsoring one of TryLife's Angel Trees for the children of our community. It will be up starting in late November please be sure to take a couple of the Angel Tree tags and bring back the gift (preference is in a gift bag) with the tag! Remember the *drop-off deadline is usually early* so they can process them *be ready to drop off your gift under the tree no later than December 10th.* Thank you for supporting this community ministry.
- Picture day has come and gone and here is a rundown of how it went. We had 62 completed appointments that included 103 people on site. We had 1 offsite appointment with 1 person for a total of 104 people. We had 9 submitted pictures with 18 more people. Total people participating was 122. We had a few snags on the second day of pictures. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding to get through, which we did. The team is working on the design and layout of the directory. At the same time the company is working on the printing of everyone's free picture and any orders that were placed. Those will be mailed directly to you at the address you wrote on the labels when you signed in. We will keep you updated as we are informed of them. We want to thank you all for such great participation and cooperation. Both photographers commented on the friendliness and cooperation they experienced. Thank you.

SATURDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 4TH, BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!!





05 Chari Burtner12 Michelle Gordon19 Mick Dober26 Mira Whalen

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

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

If anyone has need of a wheelchair, the church was donated one you may have. Please call the office if you are interested.



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: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
12: Deb Artman, Janet Karan & Jolene
Kostelansky
10: Church & Judu Mast

19: Chuck & Judy West 26: Jolene Kostelansky, Sonbi

26: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart & Matt Wehrle

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 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE DEACON'S PANTRY. PLACE YOUR ITEMS OUTSIDE THE METAL CABINET BESIDE THE LIBRARY DOOR. THANK YOU!

Volunteer opportunity: If you would like to help at the Samaritin's Purse Drop-off center at Grace Community Presbyterian church, there is a sign-up sheet in the hall!



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

November 5:

Psalm 107:1-7. 33-37 Micah 3:5-12 1 Thess 2:9-13 Matt 23:1-12

November 12:

Joshua 21:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7 1 Thess 4:13-18 Matt 25:14-30

November 19:

Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thess 5:1-11 Matt 25:14-30

November 26:

Psalm 951-7a

Matt 25:31-46

Eph 1:15-23

Our annual Veterans Luncheon will be Sunday, November 12th, after morning worship, at Faith Hall. We invite & welcome everyone to please join us, so that we can honor our veterans and thank them for Ezek 31:11-16, 20-24 their service to our country. Please RSVP to the church via email kelly@pucketychurch.org or phone 724-339-1323 by Wednesday evening, November 9.

Crafternoon in November will be Sunday the 12th after the Veterans Lunch

in the conference room. This group is

more of you at this gathering. If you want to try your hand at crocheting please let

Wiebke know and we can use that time to get

PLEASE HELP PROVIDE

THERE IS A SIGN-UP

YOUTH GROUP SNACKS!!

SHEET IN THE HALLWAY.

vou started.

KSI

open to any crafters and we hope to see



Happy Birthday in faith and blessings be upon you!



- 1 Nate Manges
- 3 Doreen Dailey
 - **Ryleigh Smith**
- 5 Jeff Jones
- **Owen Aungst**
- Jesse Cribbs
- 6 Jane Newell
- Dustin Marshall
- **Eldaree Meyer**
- 7 Dakota Jones 11 Jeff Ewing
- 13 Dorothy Beveridge
 - 16 Lauren Grady
 - Debra Artman
 - 18 Chuck West
 - 23 Jordan Jones
 - 25 Linda Benish
 - 26 Cliff McKay Sr.
 - Joyce Yurko
 - 27 Mick Dober

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 October, November and December. 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!



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 Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Box campaign is under way! Shoe boxes are available at each exit for you to pick up and return to the front pew of the Sanctuary by Monday, Nov. 13th. We will be dedicating them Nov. 12th during worship. Brochures are in each box with tips for "dos" and "don'ts" along

with a shipping label and an envelope for your shipping cost. The Deacons have decided to pay half of the \$10 shipping fee so you will only need to include \$5/box! If anyone is paying their \$5.00 electronically, a note or confirmation of some kind needs to be in the shoebox. (This is for the Deacons records. Thanks.) Help us bless children around the world with the good news of Jesus!

Because of event conflicts on the last Sunday of October, the ladies' luncheon is canceled. So, there will be no luncheon in November and December. We will start up again in January. Enjoy the upcoming holidays.

Maria - Our Compassion Network Child -

is turning 17 on November 26th!

Please keep her in your prayers and consider writing a note to her. Turn it into the office asap and we will make sure she gets it! Take a moment to read her latest letter to us to see what she has been up to and what her prayer requests are... located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Devotional for You - Read Matthew 5:1-16 & 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Deep in the heart of November, there was a woman struggling - her husband was fighting a fierce battle to ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). In years past, this woman would have been planning Thanksgiving dinner and baking pies and creating a holiday to remember for her family and friends. This year, however, she casts a wary eye toward the day: "I'm trying to be grateful. I really am," with guilt crouching behind her words. Her family and friends would affirm that she is a deeply, dearly grateful person; and yet, in the season of Thanksgiving, she felt that she wasn't thankful enough. Here's a theory: We tend to expect gratitude to act as a sort of emotional acid, absorbing all sorrow on contact. But let's be clear: Sorrow is not sin, and gratitude does not cancel out grief. Adoring one's children does not eradicate the deep pain of losing one's husband. We all need permission to experience both joy and sorrow. When we stop viewing grief and gratitude as mutually exclusive emotions, we are well on our way not simply to a healthier holiday, but a life with a God-given strength and peace. Jesus told us this very thing in one little sentence – in one of the *Beatitudes* at the start of the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

(Matt. 5:4). *Bless. Mourn. Comfort.* Three action words that seem at odds with one another but form a strategy for relying on and resting in our Refuge in the season of heartache. Some may retort: "Happy are those who mourn? Ridiculous. That's like saying, 'Healthy are those who are sick,' or 'Pregnant are those who are barren.' It makes no sense." Perhaps, at least until we add the third word: *comfort.* Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Comfort is a beautiful Greek word – *parakaleo.* It's formed from two words: kaleo, which means "to call by name," and para, which means "near." This word pulls us right up into the lap of God and invites us to experience the beauty of His presence in a way we may never have experienced before. The comfort of God is a bigger, more powerful thing than we give it credit for. It's in this uniquely "called by name" place that we are supernaturally strengthened, guided, and loved.

There may very well be times when we don't feel God in our pain. But these times of deep morning will be pierced and filled to the brim with the *parakaleo* of God. Comfort, love, guidance—it is all there in the middle of our sorrow, because our God shows up when we suffer. He speaks our name, and reminds us it's okay to be broken before Him. We have His Spirit within us – the One Jesus promised – the One called our "Comforter" – our *Paraclete*. By His Spirit, our Father has drawn near to us. By His Spirit, He calls us by name.

By His Spirit, he holds our life, heals our brokenness, and restores our hope. And for this, we can lift up our thanksgiving, now and always. Try something ... make two columns on a sheet of paper, labeling one grief and one gratitude. List all the things in each column, being brutally honest with how you're really feeling. Now write blessed, mourn, and comfort over the list, and ask Jesus to show you the ways He is working in every area of your life. Prayer: For strength, we thank You; it blesses us. For weakness, we thank You; it builds us. When all is bright, we thank You. In deepest dark, we trust You. And our souls sing 'It Is Well.' Now, to You, the One who is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine ... our endless, eternal thanks. Amen.

May God grant you comfort, peace and gratitude,

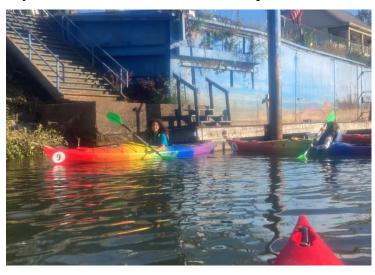
Pastor Brian

To all knitting and crocheting ladies who so diligently work on making lap blankets for Monarch Hospice patients, see the thank you note attached here. Your efforts are much appreciated!

Kelly, Manks Somuch for helping me with retrieving the beautiful lop Blankers from your Woman's group. We So appreciate their ministry of love. The blankers their ministry of love. The blankers are beautiful & provide much needed Umfort to our patients. Please Thank The ladies on our behalf. Sincerely, All of US At Monarch Hospi

Youth Group

October was a good month for our youth group. Even though we had to cancel our *kayaking* date (11/8) due to bad weather, we were able to reschedule for 11/13, which turned out to be a beautiful day on the Allegheny river with 7 of our students and a new one! We enjoyed the sunny weather, and as we spotted a blue heron, one of the kayakers exclaimed, "Look at that prehistoric bird!"



We participated in Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Fields of Faith (11/15) with 13 students, and had a GREAT time at our Halloween *costume party* on 11/22 – thanks to Maria & Rodney for the decorations and pumpkins. We have lots more in store for the remainder of the Fall (including a trip to either Sky Zone or Urban Air). Students 5th grade and up (any school district) are welcome to join us – normally Sundays from 6 to 8:00 PM but contact Pastor Brian just to be sure (724-678-6976).









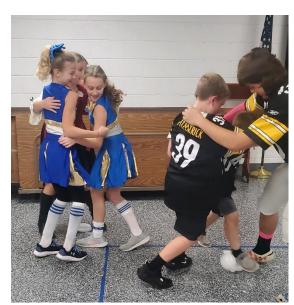


What a SpooKtacular time We Had At our annual Youth Group HalloWeen party!!

24 Kids and 5 adults Filled the evening With lots of games and crafts and food!











Women's Bible Study: I know I can't believe by the time you are reading this newsletter we only have 2 episodes of The Chosen left! We will be meeting November 5th for Episode 7 and November 19th for Episode 8. We are changing our venue to the conference room so we can hear each other a bit better. Bring your lunch and your questions and remember no binge watching!



Save the Date: The Ladies Annual Advent Tea will be Sunday December 3rd after service. We will be hosting a Baby Shower for Mary this year benefiting the TryLife Center. Like all baby showers we will provide a "registry" in the future. TryLife has some specific items that they don't receive a lot of and we thought that would be an excellent challenge for our gathering. There are some other surprises in store as well! Please share this date with any of your friends and family that you would like to join you at this event.

AV Team: Thank you all for being so flexible and encouraging as we continue to find the solution for the We are also still in desperate need for more sound volunteers. Please do not let the front projector. sound board intimidate you, we provide training and just like all the stuff your phone can do but you never use, most of those dials and slides on the sound board aren't used either. Please let Wiebke or Pastor Brian know if you are interested in shadowing the AV team. We will gladly welcome volunteers for any of the positions, zoom, slide creator, slide presenter and sound.

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
11/5/2023	Sandra	Sandra	Zach	Wiebke
11/12/2023	Brian	Joyce	Nate	Wiebke/Keira
11/19/2023	Beth	Beth	Rodney	Chari
11/26/2023	Wiebke	Joyce	Zach	Wiebke
12/3/2023	Jenn	Sandra	Nate	Wiebke



The Deacons will be filling Thanksgiving Food Baskets again this year. Please fill out the information below and place it in the offering plate or on Kelly's desk before November 12th. The baskets will be ready for pick-up on November 19th @ 9:30am.

SPONSOR'S NAME SPONSOR'S PHONE NUMBER

FAMILY'S NAME

PHONE NUMBER

NUMBER OF ADUILTS ______ NUMBER OF CHILDREN



Trunk or Treat Report: The fall wind was blistering cold on the Saturday we held our Trunk or Treat. We had 25 adult volunteers that day come out in their winter gear to provide a safe place for

kids of all ages. We had members of the youth group come out to learn how to make balloon ghosts and help in other areas. When we ask for volunteers because we can't do this without your help this is exactly what we mean. There is no way a small team could have handed out candy, run a craft table and provided two games for the kids to enjoy. It took each volunteer to make this event happen and bring a smile to 67 kids on the blustery fall day. Thank you to those who came out and we hope to see all of you, and hopefully a few more of you, next year!





Thanksgiving Meal Project

Here is the list of the items the Compassion Network needs for the Community Thanksgiving Dinners. We plan to share details about how and when you can volunteer to serve with the team – but if you may have time Wed. Nov. 22 or the morning of Nov. 23rd (Thanksgiving), we encourage you to pencil the project in on your calendar. CN is planning on providing over 500 complete, free Thanksgiving dinners to our neighbors. This is a body of Christ effort. Please feel free to call with any questions you may have: 724-448-8173. You can donate items from the list below or make a

financial contribution at the address at the end of this post. If you are planning on donating any of these items, you will need to coordinate dropping the items off with Mark Resetar – 724-448-8173 – or use his Facebook page (same name) to message. *Turkeys* -- We will be cooking 30 turkeys Stuffing – Preferred - Pepperidge Farms 16 oz bags. We need 30 x 16 oz bags Potatoes -- 50 lbs. Instant potatoes – Preferred - Idahoan 3.24 lb box. We need 10 of these large boxes Sweet potatoes or canned yams – "Bruce's Yams" - need either 30 x 6lb cans or 75 x 40oz cans *Mixed Vegetables* – Furmano's 6 lb. cans – need 10 cans (or large cans of green beans) **Butter** -- 50 lbs of salted butter *Cranberry sauce* – 6 *lb. cans* x 10 cans Rolls -- 600 dinner rolls Desserts -- 500 servings to fit a 3.5 x 3.5 to go dessert container We prefer pies, cakes or cookies in that order of preference, please. We have flour and other ingredients if you can help bake these. Sugar -- 50 lbs Mini Marshmalllows - 25 10oz bags If you'd like to help prepare the meals on 11/22 or 11/23, you can also Brown Sugar -- 25 lbs contact Matt Wehrle -724-396-6775 Pats of butter -- 500 Non-Food items Large foil pans & lids -- 75 pans and lids 500 3 oz portion cups with lids – we need 600 sets Dessert to go containers -- (3.5 x 3.5 inch500 containers) 3-Compartment to go containers -- (9 in. x 9 in. containers) 25 banana boxes Or you can use the link of their Facebook page to make online Checks can be made out to: "PAPP" and mailed to donations in support of the PAPP

PO Box 3055 New Kensington PA 15068

Thanksgiving dinners: Paypal.me/Parnassuspartnership



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Youth Group	Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's	31 4:30pm Worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	1 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting	2 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	4 12:00pm Barker Baby Shower
5 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group	<mark>6</mark> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting	7 Elections held Election Day 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	8 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	9 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	11 1:00pm Maloney Birthday Party VETERANS
12 10:00am Worship 11:00am Veterans Lunch After Worship 12:00pm Crafternoon 6:00pm Youth Group	10:00am Men's Group Meeting 5:00pm Directory Design Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting	14 5:00pm Try-Life Outreach 5:30pm Girl Scouts 46799 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	15 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting	16 5:30pm Girl Scouts 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	18 12:00pm Wilson Bridal Shower
19 10:00am Worship 11:00am Women's Bible Study 2:00pm Donna Bracken Memorial Service 4:30pm Youth Group - Sky Zone Outing	10:00am Men's Group Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship		22 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting 6:30pm Schafer Small Group	23 Happy THapks9iving Phillips Thanksgiving Dinner	24 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am Wilson Family Gathering	25
26 10:00am Worship	10:00am Men's Group Meeting 10:30am Card Ministry	28 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 5:30pm Girl Scouts 46799 6:15pm Daisy Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<mark>29</mark> Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting	<mark>30</mark> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2