Puckety Presbyterian Church

1009 Puckety Church Road Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

REMINDER:

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Zoom/video at pucketychurch.org



Puckety Church

a monthly publication

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

Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

November 2024

Pastor's Corner

publicatio

month



I still find it interesting that November begins with a day that usually causes division on a massive scale (particularly this year) – *Election Day* – and it closes with a day designed to foster unity and other communal virtues – *Thanksgiving*. One might

wonder if it would be better if we had them the other way around. But for whatever reason, I'm glad Thanksgiving comes near the end of the month – not because we can group it with "the holidays" – but because, if observed well, it can put it us in a proper and prepared place for Advent. If you know me (like 50% of pastors), we harp about how people rush too quickly to Christmas. For Pete's sake, as I'm writing this, I bet Starbuck's is swapping out their pumpkin spice for peppermint and gingerbread, and the retail

stores? Well, don't get me started. I like when Thanksgiving happens; it's almost like a sentry at the gate, telling our culture to "slow down" – many may rush past anyway, but at least there's a kind of "guard" that is proclaiming, "Take the time to focus on what's important ... take the time to foster gratitude in your heart ... do the work of having your spirit ready – so relationships can take primacy over traditions." So, I'm encouraging you, don't rush past the sentry, stationed faithfully on the last Thursday of the month. Start looking for him now.

There's a good chance (a very good chance) that whatever happens on Tue. November 5th will either "put you in a bad mood" or give you anxiety that tempts you to turn "inward." I want to encourage you to counter that with the grace of God, and the help of his Spirit. In Christ, you have received an abundance that gives you the ability (the *power* really) to respond with gratitude. To that end, I close with Paul's words in 1 Thess. 5:16ff. (coming from one who was unjustly treated, abused, and imprisoned): "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*. Do not quench the Spirit. Hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. And may the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Amen (= May it be so!) ~ *Pastor Brian*

Remember to check Puckety's website and social media!

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

RAISERIGHT FUNDRAISING - an easy way to contribute to our Capital Campaign! All you do is buy gift cards from your favorite stores to earn money for Puckety Church to help with the cost of replacing the parking lot, church roof and new sign! There are flyers at each entrance to the sanctuary with all the information you need to get started. Time to stock up for those stocking stuffers or your own Christmas gifting needs! See Denise Wehrle for more info.



TAI CHI CLASS!!! Join in for a relaxing exercise that is beneficial to the whole body. Tai chi trains you to find alignments that are safe and unstrained allowing you to perform graceful movements. **Every Wednesday 6:00 PM in Faith Hall** Led by Donna Jeffries.

**Crafternoon: Mark your calendar for November 17th where we will meet in the conference room and share what we have been working on! Don't forget your lunch.



Near the end of September, power was lost to the lights in the Conference Room. We thought it had to do with the electrical upgrade to the building, but it was discovered that someone during the last part of September moved things around in the attic and in so doing knocked the cover off an electrical box and broke some wiring. It has been addressed *(many thanks to Fran Kapelewski!)*, but we would like to ask everyone working in the attic for whatever purpose to please be mindful of the space and careful when moving things around, etc. This will help us avoid costly damage and inconvenience. Thank you very much for your care as well as your work.



Ladies Lunch will be taking a break for November and December. We will resume on January 26th.

We continue our relationship with Origins supporting families in the Lower Burrell area. On the second Tuesday of the month a group from Puckety gathers at their location and helps in any way we can. We usually end up sorting through the clothing donations and help organize them by season, age and gender. Accommodation can be made for anyone who can't stand for a long time or carry items. We work as a team and the work is always appreciated by Origins and the families that use their services. We will be continuing this outreach in 2025. If there is a specific month that you want to make sure you are signed up for please let Wiebke know. There is always room for more just sign up on the sheet on the Outreach board.

Devotional - Read Revelation 11:15-19 & Ephesians 6:10-12

While Wiebke and I were in Glacier National Park, we took the time at one point to sit and listen to a park ranger's presentation about some of the larger wildlife, including moose (which neither of us saw on that trip, alas). Did you know that a moose can swim faster than Michael Phelps! *[Instead of kicking paddle style like we'd imagine, they usually move their front legs closer to what we'd call a breast stroke – I'm not making this up – still something I wish I could see with my own eyes]*. National Geographic ran an article about the Alaskan bull moose. The males of the species battle for dominance during the fall breeding season, literally going head-to-head with antlers crunching together as they collide. Often the antlers are broken. That ensures defeat. The heftiest moose, with the strongest antlers, triumphs. So, *the battle fought in the fall* is really *won during the summer*, when the moose eat continually. The one that consumes the best diet for growing antlers and gaining weight will be the heavyweight in the fight. Those that eat inadequately sport weaker antlers and less bulk. There is a lesson here for us – echoed by the chapters of Revelation we've been studying: *spiritual battles await*. Ephesians 6:12 says, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Our Enemy will choose a season to attack. Will we be victorious, or will we fall? Much depends on what we do *now*—before the wars begin. The bull-moose principle: enduring faith, strength, and wisdom for trials are best developed before they're needed. One thing is certain. We cannot afford to be ignorant of this invisible war because it is waged right here and now. The enemy of our souls wants to gain a foothold. So how do we prepare ourselves? How can we intentionally put on the full armor of God described in Eph. 6? We have to be a people of prayer. We must go before the Father when we rise in the morning, and when we lie down for the night; when we gather together in worship, and as we are sent out as advancers of the Kingdom of God. General Stonewall Jackson had a man on his staff who had become so accustomed to his ways that he was able to discern when the General was about to start on an expedition. Someone asked him how he knew the General was about to depart without telling him. "Oh, that's easy," he answered. "The General prays every night and morning. But when he is on the eve of an expedition he prays two or three times during the night. I pack his baggage, for I know where he is going." How will you prepare for what awaits you in the world today? *Pastor Brian*



- 03 Sophia Earhart
- 10 Michelle Gordon
- 17 Chari Burtner
- 24 Mick Dober

Your Session:

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

ATTENTION ALL SESSION MEMBERS, DEACONS, AND **TEAM LEADERS:**



Please be sure to check your mail slots in the metal cabinet at the top of the stairs often. You may receive correspondence or announcements that need your attention in a timely manner!

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



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

Please pray for the family and friends of Bob Bates who passed away on 10/11/24.

Offering counters:

- 3: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley Janet Karan or Jolene Kostelansky
- 10 : Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
- 17: Chuck & Judy West
- 24: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart

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.

Jesse Oddis

Housekeeper: Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary: Judy West

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!**

Women's Bible Study: As we finish our current study on November 3rd we look forward to starting The Chosen Season 4 in January. If you would like to join but need to catch up on previous seasons please let Wiebke know so we can figure out how to best catch you up!



Pastor: Reverend Brian Kilbert

Administrative Secretary: Kelly Kapelewski

> **Bookkeeper:** Debra Artman

Choir Director: Lorraine Menk

Music Ministry Specialist:



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

November 3:

Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Deut 6:1-9 Hebrews 9:11-14

November 10:

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127 1 Kings 17:8-16 Hebrews 9:24-28

November 17:

1 Sam 1:4-20 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-14 Mark 13:1-8

November 24:

2 Sam 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12 Rev 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

JOIN US FOR PRAYER WALKING ON 11/17 FOLLOWING WORSHIP. WE WILL PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR SCHOOLS.



Puckety's Fellowship and Care Team will be serving our
Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon to anyone that would
like to attend on November 10 following worship. Please
RSVP to Charlene McKay at 724-335-9645 by November 6 th
Pork, sauerkraut, kielbasa, hot dogs, mashed potatoes
apple sauce.

Please bring a dessert to share!!



1 Nate Manges 3 Doreen Dailey **Ryleigh Smith** 5 Jeff Jones **Owen Aungst Jesse Cribbs** 6 Jane Newell **Eldaree Meyer Dustin Marshall** 7 Dakota Jones 11 Jeff Ewing 16 Lauren Grady Debra Artman 18 Chuck West 23 Jordan Jones 25 Linda Benish

- 26 Joyce Yurko
- 27 Mick Dober

The new grand total for the Capital Campaign is: \$126,408.90!!

The next opportunities to help with the Campaign are the basket raffle and Spaghetti Dinner. We continue to be incredibly blessed by the power and provision of our great God. We thank all through whom the Spirit has been moving and working, and we give glory to the One without whom this would not have been possible - Soli Deo Gloria!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD here at Puckety Church! Shoe boxes will be placed at each door starting on Sunday, October 20 through Sunday, November 10. Deacons will will be covering the \$10 shipping fee. Shoe boxes are due back on Sunday, November 10 so they can be delivered to the local collection site which is Grace Presbyterian Church. Please see your bulletin inserts or any of the Deacons for more information.

Save the date: The Ladies Advent Tea will be held on Sunday December 8th after worship service. More details to come including the fantastic theme this year!



ORIGINS / FAMILY AND PREGNANCY SERVICES

If you have access to Medicare 'Over the Counter' health supplies and already have enough, please consider shopping and donating the items listed in your Post-Scripts and the bulletin board to Origins / Family and Pregnancy Services (formerly TryLife). Order, and once you have them in-hand, deliver them to Origins or let Matt Wehrle know, and he will deliver them for you.



Meals on Wheels is in Urgent Need of volunteers... If you can help, call 724-334-4404 Please leave a message!

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is on the ground responding to the many urgent needs following the destruction of Hurricanes Milton and Helene. TO GIVE: USE ANY ENVELOPE IN THE PEW RACK. MARK IT WITH "PDA".

PLACE IT ON THE OFFICE DESK OR IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

This effort will require ongoing support, not just for the physical recovery but also for the emotional and spiritual healing of those impacted. Presbyterians from nearby regions are engaging with other faith-based and nonprofit organizations to ensure coordinated efforts and that every affected person receives the help they need. In these difficult times, we are called to respond through generosity, action and prayer — standing in the "GAP" to uplift our neighbors and offer hope in their journey toward recovery.

We are hosting a basket raffle to boost the capital campaign. We'll be selling tickets at the Spaghetti Dinner on November 2nd. Cash, Zelle, or PayPal will be accepted.





The Deacons will be collecting names of local families in need of a Food Basket for Thanksgiving until November 22, 2024. Pick-up will be Saturday, November 23rd from 9:30 - 10:30am. Please email or call the church office, drop off a note or tear this off and place it in the offering plate: Sponsor's Name/Number:

Family Receiving Food Name/Number/Address: _____

Number of Adults:____Number of Children (& ages)_____



JOIN US!!

Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser! Saturday, November 2nd from 12-7pm Tickets are available at the door. Cash only!! The cost is \$10 for an adult dinner and \$11 for take-out. The menu includes Spaghetti, salad, bread and butter,

dessert and your beverage. We also have many wonderful baskets to be raffled off! You'll definitely want to participate in that raffle. See you there!!

The Lower Burrell Parks Commission has been planning a special event to intentionally celebrate Christmas, with a focus on including area churches to help promote both community and goodwill. The program will be held Saturday **December 14, 2024** (2:00-5:00 pm) at Kotecki Park (the Christmas parade will follow at 7pm). In addition to things like a "visit from Santa," they want to include as many churches as possible to help highlight the importance of faith in our traditions. The commission would like to hear from us ASAP in terms of who and what we'd like to offer. Some options include:



*helping with *children's activities or crafts* (the commission would provide materials) *providing *Christmas music* (choirs, praise teams, carols, instrumental Christmas music, etc.) *providing cookies or *baked goods* that can be shared with children and families.

*donating *nativity scenery*/pieces (or help setting them up) so the decorations are not just generic type for holidays, but specifically for Christmas.

We have a couple signed up for cookies, but we would like to do so much more. Please call the **church office or Pastor Brian** <u>by November 13th or call Beth Fazini at the parks commission</u> (724-594-5931) by Nov. 14th to volunteer or help support the event. Questions: you can email Debbie Kurtik at the Parks Commission: <u>zemsmom@comcast.net</u>.

Please take a moment to observe the two banners hanging in the sanctuary: "GRATITUDE" was donated by Mary Wilds in loving memory of Donna Bracken for her kindness and compassion. "ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING" was donated by the McKay family in memory of Ron

Kapustik.



Please join us after worship on November 24th as we decorate our beautiful church for Christmas! Many hands make for lighter and faster work! Young legs to travel up and down the attic steps are much appreciated. Thank you!

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2nd - **Spaghetti Dinner!** Please come out to support this major fundraiser for our capital campaign (Noon to 7:00 PM) - great food and a LOT of beautiful raffle baskets! Spread the word, and remember what (and when) you signed up for to help.

November 5th - **Election Day** - *remember to vote* - voting is a way that the church can play a part in "promoting social righteousness" (one of the great ends of the church) and "improving our community and world" - the last part of our mission statement. Remember, our faith isn't a private thing; it affects every sphere of life.

November 10th - Veterans Luncheon at Faith Hall after 10 AM Worship - join us as we honor our veterans. Also, Nov. 10th is also the *deadline to bring your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*.

November 17th - **Sacrament of Baptism for Hunter Sisco** - join us in remembering our baptism and affirming God's claim on us. *Congratulations to Melissa & Rider Sisco* on the baptism of their son, Hunter! God bless you and your family and may the Spirit make you and us vital parts together in the body of Christ and family of God.

November 18-22nd - If you didn't drop off your shoebox in time for our dedication (11/10), remember that *Grace Community Church* is a collection site and will have their Shoebox Collection Week from 11/18 to 11/22 - they are also looking for volunteers for various shifts that week, so please consider contacting them to sign up - call *Steve Lester* at 412-251-1207

November 26th - **Maria Copa** (our Compassion sponsor child) turns 18 on 11/26. Please pray for Maria as she reaches this milestone in her life, and contact Brenda McAllister to see how you can send a message or make a contribution/gift.

December 8th – Ladies Advent Tea

December 15th - Congregational Meeting & Christmas Dinner - please mark your calendars









<u>The Apple Dumpling</u> <u>Sale was a huge</u> <u>success!</u> <u>Total apple dumplings</u> <u>sold: 766</u> <u>Profit: \$3,452.28</u>



Youth Group

We continue to have a great time at youth group. We have started a *RightNow Media* video study called *Eternity* with Francis Chan as the teacher. On October 12th, we had some students join us for the annual church bonfire. On October 20th, we enjoyed pumpkin bowling! As of the time of this article, we have 6 signed up to help with the Trunk or Treat on the 26th and have a Halloween costume party on the 27th. In November, we plan to make a trip to Skyzone in Monroeville (something the kids have been itching to do again) and make a craft gift to hand out when we go caroling in December. Again, all middle school and high school students are welcome – we usually meet on Sundays from 6:00 to 8:00pm.



A handful of our members hosted a booth with information and children's activities at the LB Fall Festival on 10/19 at Kotecki park. The weather was beautiful and LOTS of kids came by for sand art (50 little bottles – all gone within 3 hours!), cornhole for prizes, and to learn about our Trunk or Treat and children's ministry. Special thanks to Mick Dober and Deb Artman for helping me man the booth from 11 to 4, and to Dustin and Karen Marshall for the great help with both set up before and take down after!









Notes from the choir director:



Corinthians 1:13: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

As part of the praying family of Puckety Church, it is just like being a musical note in a chord. When a chord is played it can make a beautiful sound. As long as an instrument can produce 3 notes together, it can play a chord. If we are in prayer alone, one on one with God, it is a beautiful note...music to God's ears. When we pray with love with someone else, it produces a strong harmony that no ties can break. And when we are in prayer with love with at least 3 or

more, we have a chord! Like angels singing, our prayer produces the kind of music pleasing to God. Now, not all chords are "pretty". Sometimes you get notes that clash together and we call that "dissonant". It's not kind to our ears but with proper attention, can be "resolved". If we find ourselves clashing with others, imagine ourselves, with love, as notes in harmony with each other. God is listening.

As Puckety Church we personally and collectively GROW IN FAITH

We want to speak again in support of you joining a **small group** – Some groups may be getting ready to start a new topic or theme, so please call the church office to find out more. Again, if you're on the line about whether to help facilitate a group, Pastor Brian is happy to meet with you for tips and starters.

CONFIRMATION CLASS - Pastor Brian plans to offer a confirmation class for any youth (6th to 12th grade) who would like to go 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 tentatively scheduled to start on *Sunday, January 12th* (meeting *weekly from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM*) and last for 13 Sundays. *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 by December 1st to sign up for the class so materials can be acquired.



















This year the Deacons are working with Origins (formerly Tri City Life) to provide Christmas gifts for local children in need. The Angel Tree will be put up around November 21. Please take an angel from the tree and sign the list by the corresponding name/number. All gifts may be placed in a gift bag. These gifts should be returned to the Church by Sunday, December 8. The Deacons will deliver them to Origins. Thank you so much for helping put smiles on children's faces. The Deacons truly appreciate your help.

AV Team: We still need a volunteer to run sound for the Christmas Eve service. Please see below the schedule for the rest of the year. For current team members please let Wiebke know if you have any 2025 dates that you know you will not be available so she can build them into the 2025 schedule.

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
11/3/2024	Jenn	Joyce	Zach	Wiebke
11/10/2024	Brian	Sandra	Rodney	Deb
11/17/2024	Matt	Matt	Nate	Wiebke
11/24/2024	Sandra	Sandra	Zach	Wiebke
12/1/2024	Wiebke	Joyce	Rodney	Wiebke
12/8/2024	Beth	Beth	Nate	Deb
12/15/2024	Jenn	Sandra	Zach	Deb
12/22/2024	Brian	Joyce	Rodney	Deb
12-24-24 Christmas Eve	Matt	Matt	TBD	Deb
12/29/2024	Sandra	Sandra	Zach	Deb
1/5/2025	Wiebke	Joyce	Rodney	Wiebke
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Curden Mondon Tuesdon Wednesdon Thursdon Eriden Saturda								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
27 10:00am Worship 11:30am Ladies Lunch 6:00pm Youth Group Halloween Party	28 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry	29 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm N.A. meeting	30 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	31	1 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED Spaghetti Dinner Prep	2 Turn your clocks back 1 hour at bedtime!		
3 Interpret of the second sec	4 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	5 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting Election Day	6 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	7 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	9 Veterans Lunch Prep		
10 10:00am Worship 11:00am Veterans Lunch 4:30pm Youth Group Outing	11 SUPERATE Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	12 5:00pm Origins Outreach 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Brownie Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	13 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	14 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	16 Velancey Birthday Party???		
17 10:00am Worship 11:00am Crafternoon 11:00am Prayer Walking 6:00pm Youth Group	18 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	19 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	20 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Tai Chi 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	21 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	23 Motosicky Birthday Party 9:30am Thanksgiving Food Baskets Distribution		
24 10:00am Worship 11:00am Hanging of the Greens Decorcite the Church	25 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting	26 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Brownie Troop 20834 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm N.A. meeting	27 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	28 The second se	29 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	30		

