

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!*

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 2024

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Pastor's Corner

It's *January?! How do you feel about that?* January is that month of *weird tension* – you're holding on to certain things from the year before (*I'm not talking about Christmas expenses on the credit card, but other things we don't want to let go of*), along with the desire to open our hand to the new possibilities in the coming year. The *Baptism of the Lord* (first Sunday after Epiphany) is a good way to handle that tension. At his baptism, Jesus was publicly declaring the start of his formal ministry. I'm sure he wanted to hold onto some things he had grown to love (e.g., maybe traditions or habits he'd grown accustomed to in his home and with his mother ... maybe times when he could relish being with his Father, without the expectations, the train rolling toward his saving the world). At the same time, like he says in the Gospels, he loved to do the Father's will, so his hands were open to the work the Father was calling him to in the 3 years ahead of him (*hands open ... see what I did there?*)... He said near the start of his ministry (John 4:34) - "My

food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

Don't you think that's a good perspective at the start of the year? I believe it's *way* better than, "This year, I'm going to lose 25 pounds and *look good*" ... or "this year, I'm going to make more money" ... Many of our resolutions are good, and we should have them as goals. But those *baptismal waters* remind us not to settle for the good if it means sacrificing the best. The picture of Jesus being baptized (remember, it wasn't for his sins – *he had none* – instead, he was fully consecrating himself to the redemptive work of God, *for us*, as the 2nd Adam) – his baptism gives us better incentive than the kind we have for short-lived resolutions. Instead of thinking of the New Year "ball dropping" on the year behind us, think of the Holy Spirit dove falling on the Leader in front of us. Instead of listening to the voices of self-doubt and longing within, listen to the Voice saying to Jesus (and us): "This is my Son, whom I love; listen to him."

That's how you start the year, my friends, that's how you start the year – *all in*. May we Honor God, Grow in Faith, and Improve our Community & World, because, with our identity in Christ, we are now children of the Father, consecrated to redeeming work in the world. *Soli Deo Gloria.* ~ 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



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

Coming Campaign – It has become clear to the Session and Upkeep Committee that several major projects now need acted on – particularly:

*the need for the ***parking lot*** to be repaved, with particular urgency to the pad by the dumpster (parking lot and the dumpster pad may turn out to be two separate operational projects)

*the need for a ***new/updated sign*** in front of the Church on Puckety Rd.

*the need for a ***new roof*** for the Church building (it has been patched/shingled multiple times to repair) – *may* be able to be patched for about 3 more years.

One might ask, “Which is the priority?” Our answer is: all of them are, but the *parking lot* needs addressed first. We have thought and prayed about the imminent needs, with special consideration of the helpful information supplied by the Upkeep Team from previous bids, etc. Since the needed amount will likely be *over* \$100,000, the Session of Puckety Church believes a church & community capital campaign is needed. Please be watching for updates and information. For now, the timeframe of the campaign will likely be 6 months to a year, and involve multiple parts:

- a) Multi-form solicitation, mass communication, and personal appeal.
- b) Likely the application for a loan (in full knowledge and approval to the congregation and Redstone Presbytery)
- c) Some manner of fundraising events (if approved – e.g., dinners, etc.)

Puckety has a long and encouraging history of “rising to the challenge” when it has come to caring for or enhancing our facilities, so they may continue to serve the Lord and be useful in the mission he has given us. Though a daunting reality, we have an even bigger God, and we know his faithfulness – from both the past and in the present. So, we are greatly encouraged. We ask every single member, and every friend of Puckety, to join us in our hope, and in our commitment to this endeavor. Let’s start with prayer, and reliance upon the Lord.



- 07 Sophia Earhart
- 14 Michelle Gordon
- 21 Chari Burtner
- 28 Mick Bober

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.:** Maria Schafer
- Secretary:** Debra Artman
- Treasurer:** Jolene Kostelansky

Sunday Women's Bible Study:

We will be continuing our study on the Chosen by starting our discussion of Season 3 on January 21st after worship. We will be meeting every other week. Please bring your lunch to enjoy as we discuss. This group is open to new participants. Please let Wiebke know by Sunday the 14th if you will be joining us for this study.

Your Session:

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



Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

Offering counters:

- 07: Deb Artman, Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
- 14: Chuck & Judy West
- 21: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart & Matt Wehrle
- 28: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley

Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:

Jesse Oddis

Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary:

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 non-perishable food items for the Deacon's Pantry. Place your items outside the metal cabinet beside the library door. THANK YOU!

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!



Attention all committee chairpersons!! The annual reports are due into Kelly no later than January 7th! Please email them to her if at all possible! Thank you.



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

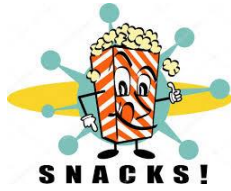
January 7:
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 14:
1 Sam 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 21:
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 28:
Deut 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Crafternoon: Winter is coming, knit and crochet faster! Did you know that crafting is good for your brain, your hands and your soul? This group is open to anyone who has a craft that can travel. If you are starting or have been doing your craft for years we have a chair for you! Our first 2024 meeting will be on January 14th after the coffee hour. We will meet in the conference room. Please see Wiebke if you have any questions



Please help provide youth group snacks!! There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.



Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bill Morrow who passed away on 12/9 and Cliff McKay, Sr who passed away on 12/15.



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

Thank You from the Pastor

In lieu of my normal devotional, I wanted to take the space to express a heartfelt "Thank you" to all of you. This year I have felt incredibly supported by many of you. The generosity of our Puckety family has been expressed in many ways, all of which I want to *acknowledge* and show my *appreciation* for – whether it's in the time spent on committees and teams (that's a lot of commitment and energy, planning and prayer), tangible tokens of material support, emotional or written gestures that bolster me when I've been discouraged or the special gifts shared with Wiebke and me at Christmastime, it all adds up to a colossal expression of love. It means the world to me. I'm so grateful to God for placing me here, and I look forward to serving with you all in 2024!

Soli Deo Gloria ~ Pastor Brian



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.



Youth Group

Another great month with the youth group! On December 3rd, we had a large bunch of students to help put together hand-crafted ornaments (for the following week during caroling) – thanks to Lisa Wilson for gathering the supplies, the great instruction, and the expert finishing touches! On December 10th, we had a group of 10 students and 6 adults go caroling to 3 nursing/personal care facilities in the Lower Burrell area and two homes of our church members. We handed out approximately 45 ornaments and sang not only good cheer, but the good news of God coming to us in his Son. On Dec. 17th, we had our annual Christmas Party (16 students) with great holiday-themed games – snowball toss, “sled riding” races (blankets with Santa hats and reindeer antlers), Christmas music and so many candy canes, people. Many thanks to those who baked Christmas cookies (beautifully decorated too) and supplied pizza and drinks for a GREAT night! We will continue with the RightNow series, *God’s Heart*, with Francis Chan, this month, and plan another trip to *Las Hachas Axe Throwing* in January. Thank you to everyone for your support!



45 YOUTH-CRAFTED ORNAMENTS GIVEN
10 STUDENTS
6 ADULTS
3 PERSONAL CARE FACILITIES
2 SHUT IN HOMES
AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE





January is here and with the start of the new year, we resume **Ladies Luncheons**. What better way to start than with a pizza with your choice of crust, covered in classic marinara sauce, topped with ooey, gooey mozzarella cheese, and any of the other classic toppings. (Mushrooms, sausage, extra cheese... yum!)

January's luncheon is on January 28 at Pizza Hut. The ladies will meet in Hope Hallway directly after service and we will all (sort of) travel together to the venue.

Another very successful Ladies Advent Tea!

The Sunday Women's Bible Study and Outreach Committee would like to thank all the ladies who brought in diapers and supplies for the mothers that TryLife supports. You filled Wiebke's car to the brim and floored the TryLife volunteers and employees with your generosity.



Special Open Mic Night . . . January 6, 2024 at 6:30 – 8:00 PM



**Help us welcome Epiphany with
carols and songs of praise to the
King! All seekers are welcome!
For more information, call
Terry Sprinkle: 919-920-4986.**

Come play or perform whatever piece you'd like. Or just come enjoy the music!
Church sanctuary (with refreshments in conference room).
Invite some friends and help us spread the word!

AV Team:

We wanted to send a thank you to the congregation for your patience as we continue to adjust to the new front projector. The change in technology comes with a need for the slide creators to make adjustments and tweaks. It's a bit like when you get a new cell phone and everything is there but not where you left it so you have to relearn some things.

If you are a Zoom or Facebook user you may have noticed that our camera footage of the children's sermon and the choir has greatly improved. We made some changes to our camera set up using the same equipment we purchased in 2023 when the iPad died. This change has also simplified things for our Zoom hosts.

We would very much like to add two more volunteers to run the sound system. This would allow more space in the rotation of the current volunteers. Please speak to Wiebke or any of the sound volunteers if you are interested in helping with this part of the worship service. We know all the buttons can look scary but we promise that the ones we use are marked and full training and support will be given. This is a great behind the scenes way to help with worship. We just need willing hearts that come with a smart phone and ear phones!

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
1/7/2024	Wiebke	Joyce	Zach	Wiebke
1/14/2024	Beth	Beth	Rodney	Deb
1/21/2024	Jenn	Sandra	Nate	Chari
1/28/2024	Brian	Joyce	Zach	Deb

Puckety will continue the relationship with TryLife in 2024. We will be continuing the monthly volunteer evenings at the TryLife center (now known as FamilyLife Network). This is an amazing hands on way to be the hands and feet of Christ to those that are most vulnerable in our community. We encourage every member to sign up for an evening at the center. The time is usually spent folding and sorting clothes and modifications can be made to allow any of our members to participate. The sign up sheet is in the hallway on the big green bulletin board. We need volunteers to sign up for Tuesday January 9th. The group volunteers at FamilyLife from 5 PM to 8 PM. IF you have previously volunteered we have signed you up for dates further into the year. If the date does not work for you please let Wiebke know or find someone on the list to trade with and mark up the list as needed. If you have more questions about this opportunity please see Wiebke, Pastor Brian or Matt Wherle.






What is the *First Fruits Offering* all about?

Puckety Church is one of the 67 churches in the Redstone Presbytery, of the Synod of the Trinity, of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Both the Synod and the General Assembly carry out significant ministry and mission programs beyond the scope and geographic boundaries of each Presbytery. The financial support for the work of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, comes from contributions from each local church within the presbytery. Redstone Presbytery uses the *First Fruits Offering*, to fund this important work of the “larger” church. The total projected cost for Redstone Presbytery’s share of these programs is divided by the total membership of the 67 churches of Redstone Presbytery, in order to determine our *per-member cost*. This results in a suggested *First Fruits Offering* of \$45/member for 2024. For many years, the Puckety Session has designated a *tithe* (ten percent) of our budgeted expenses, to be focused *beyond* our own work here at Puckety. The *First Fruits Offering* has been the cornerstone of this tithe. A special envelope is included in the yearly offering envelopes box for the *First Fruits Offering*.



It's hard to see "Joseph" in either of these pictures but the Puckety Youth and teacher volunteers did a great job with the Christmas Pageant this year!

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am Worship	1  Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	3 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	4 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	6  EPIPHANY 6:30pm Open Mic Night
7 Youth Group Outing 10:00am Worship  <i>Removing of the Greens</i>	8 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting 8:00pm Scouts God and Country	9 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:00pm FamilyLife Network Ministry 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Scout Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	10 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	11 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	13 10:00am PEO Event
14 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour  12:00pm Crafternoon 6:00pm Youth Group	15 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting 	16 2:30pm Sewing Guild 8:00pm N.A. meeting	17 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 23087 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	18 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	20 10:00am Logan Birthday Party
21 10:00am Worship 11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group	22 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 8:00pm Scouts God and Country	23 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 8:00pm N.A. meeting	24 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	25 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting 11:30am Ladies Lunch 6:00pm Youth Group	29 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry	30 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	31 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 23087 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	1 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	3

