

*Puckety Presbyterian Church*

1009 Puckety Church Road  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

*(Return Service Requested)*

Last Day For:

**Post Scripts Information:**

Third Friday of the month.

**Bulletin Information:**

The Tuesday before the Sunday the  
article is to be announced

**REMINDER:**

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Zoom/video at [pucketychurch.org](http://pucketychurch.org)



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# *Puckety Church*

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

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication



## Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

**April 2022**

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication

### Pastor's Corner

Like many of you, I find my mind often turning to the war in Ukraine. The direction my thoughts naturally go is toward praying for the victims ... the people who are oppressed and vulnerable ... the ones displaced or wounded or orphaned and widowed. But there is another side, not nearly as natural, that Christ calls us also to address ...

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:43-44

I don't know about you, but I ask, “How am I supposed to love Putin?!” The people of Russia are a little easier – I can imagine many wish they weren't embroiled in all this.

But what about the ones whom we know are carrying out atrocities?

Jesus says *pray* for them ... that doesn't mean for their *demise*. For Putin, and those like him, it means praying for the following:

\*For them to *repent* – as this is the first step for all of us who believe, it must be the first for them as well. This is the “no” we say to the world's lies [like power as a primary goal] and the “yes” we say to God's truth [the way to greatness is service and humility] ... Sometimes, God's judgment (as God's prerogative) is necessary to move a human heart to this point. Eugene Peterson says it well, “In the Scriptures, God's ‘arrows’ are judgments

aimed at provoking repentance. The pain of judgment called down against evildoers is meant to turn them from their deceitful and violent ways to join our pilgrim way of peace. Any hurt is worth it that puts us on the path of peace” (*Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, p. 30)

\*After we pray for their (*and our*) repentance, we can pray for *wisdom for them* – one of the things God's Word tells us the Lord always stands ready to give when sought (*James 1:5-8*).

\*And finally, after asking for humility and wisdom for them, we can pray that God would grant them *righteousness expressed through love and justice*.

As we approach *Holy Week*, and think of the many enemies Jesus faced – enemies who should have believed in him (chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees, and many more), we can draw perspective and strength to pray for our own enemies by remembering how Jesus acted toward his own – *words*: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do...” and *actions*: he died for them too, you know – Nicodemus was a Pharisee who finally came out of the shadows, and Paul started out as the Pharisee (Saul), hunting down Christians. Yes, pray for your enemies on Palm Sunday – that those who merely give lip service and empty praise to God would lay down their hearts (and arms) to Christ. Pray for our enemies on Maundy Thursday as we think of those who are going through things like Jesus did that night: ganged up on by a mob ... falsely arrested ... wrongfully tried in a kangaroo court. Pray on Good Friday, as you think of the physical abuse sustained by the vulnerable and the innocent ... in many forms. Pray on Holy Saturday, as the hope of the world is buried in the tomb, for all those bereaved families, who have lost loved ones to violence and corrupt human schemes and agendas. And finally, pray on Easter, with the renewed hope (and evidence) that God really can change the world ... God can make all things new, even the most wicked human heart. With God, all things are possible.

*[You can find the other half of this reflection in the devotional at the end of the newsletter]*

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

Website: [www.pucketychurch.org](http://www.pucketychurch.org)

Like and Follow on Facebook: Puckety Presbyterian Church

Follow us on Instagram: Puckety Church

Follow us on Twitter: @churchpuckety



There are different ways to give to the mission of the church. If you choose to give electronically, click the button on our website or you can also make it even easier by using the Vanco Faith App!

(search Vanco App in the App Store or Google Play).

When you search for our church, put in

"Puckety Presbyterian Church" For more information on how to use Vanco Faith click the link on [pucketychurch.org](http://pucketychurch.org). Thank you for your generosity!

**From the Hearts and Hands of Session**

A great deal happened at our March meeting. The minutes can be publicly shared to members interested. These are *just a few highlights*:

\*With glad hearts, we approved the *wedding of Dustin Marshall and Karen Porter* (who have been faithfully worshipping with us for some time now) – to be wed early this summer – “Congratulations, Dustin & Karen!” God bless you and your family.

Our Mission to “Grow in Faith”:

\*The Discipleship team reported the following: - two new *small groups* are now open (current total of 6 ongoing) – one on growing more confident in sharing our faith, and one designed to give hope and help in turbulent times ... **summer VBS** planning is well underway (station leaders and decorating team secured) ... and it was reported that the *youth group* continues to have lessons on the life of Christ and how the students can apply faith in their day-to-day.

Our Mission to “Improve the Community”:

\*The Outreach team reported that:

- the *School Appreciation Kit* Project is on track with the goals – there are only a few “Donut Connection” gift certificate slips still to be taken – please take one and help this week if you can. We plan to deliver on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We *need help* **packing the kits on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> after worship** – please stay and help us pack if you can. We also need help filling out the special “Thank you” cards to the staff. Thank you.

Our Mission to “Improve the World”:

\*We also took unanimous action to support the people in *Ukraine* amidst the war effort. We voted to take advantage of a “matching pledge” promoted through the Synod of the Trinity [matching up to \$24,000 via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance]. Combined with this there was an internal pledge within Puckety (matching up to \$2,000) – to which we approved a special offering for the Sundays of 3/13 & 3/20. We plan to report the total of the collection, but the response to the overall Presbytery + Synod effort has been very good. Please continue to pray for the application of aid and all those affected in Ukraine.



## Your Deacons:

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

03 Beth Dober  
 10 Vince Appleman  
 14 Jennifer McKay  
 17 Mira Whalen  
 24 Maria Schafer

## Corporate Officers:

**President:** Matt Wehrle  
**Vice-Pres.:** Jennifer McKay  
**Secretary:** Debra Artman  
**Treasurer:** Chuck West



*Easter flower orders due on  
 or before April 2!!*

## Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk  
 Chari Burtner  
 Donna Bracken  
 Jennifer McKay  
 Cliff McKay  
 Chuck West  
 Kelly Kapelewski  
 Marilyn Crumley



### Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

### Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

### Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

### Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

### Organist/Pianist:

Sue Close

### Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

### Financial Secretary:

Judy West

### Christian Ed:

Jamie Kmett

## Offering counters:

4/3: Helen Crissman &  
 Marilyn Crumley  
 4/10: Janet Karan &  
 Deb Artman  
 4/17: Chuck & Judy West  
 4/24: Jolene Kostelansky,  
 Sophia Earhart and 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.



**Please plan to join us after  
 Worship on April 10, Palm  
 Sunday, for our annual Pie  
 Social in Faith Hall! All our  
 welcome!**



The Deacons are collecting names for those in need of an Easter food basket:

Sponser's name/phone:

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Family name/# of adults:

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Children/ages:

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Turn this into any Deacon/church office by 4/3. Food will need picked up 4/9.



The Bible readings are from  
"Book of Common Worship"

**April 3:**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Cor 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**April 10:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Phil 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23;56

**April 17:**

Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 114  
1 Cor 5:6b-8  
Luke 24:13-49

**April 24:**

Acts 5:2-32  
Psalm 118:14-29  
Psalm 2  
Rev 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31



- 4 Ryan Smith
- 5 Kathy Kirchartz
- 7 William Morrow
- 8 Margaret Uhing
- 10 Evelyn Smith  
Megan Benish
- 13 Maggie McMelleon  
Clara Kapustik
- 16 Jeff Ewing
- 17 John Zurenski
- 18 Jennifer Spenik
- 20 Fran Kapelewski
- 21 Chari Burtner  
Mary Wilds
- 28 Kelly Pranievicz

**Crafternoon:**

*We meet on one Sunday a month after church and coffee fellowship. This month will be April 10th after the Pie Social in the conference room. Any crafter is welcome to join as long as your craft travels. Per request Wiebke is doing crocheting lessons for anyone who wants to learn or refresh their skills. Please reach out to Wiebke at 724-799-3323 with any questions.*



The Deacons are looking for any of our college students' names and addresses to send them a note of encouragement and a small gift to let them know we're thinking about them and praying for them through finals. Please let any of the Deacons or the office know if you have any of this information.



## **Holy Week** - a time to witness and share the Good News

It's a common goal to invite a friend or two to Easter Sunday worship; but we want to challenge you to invite 2 to 3 people to *three separate worship events* during the month of April. It's been proven that those who are invited and come to 3 *successive* events are much more likely to continue than if they only come to one. So, choose **3** of the following to

invite your guests to:

\*Palm Sunday (4/10) - 10 AM Worship

\*Maundy Thursday (4/14) - 7:00 PM w/ Communion

\*Easter Sunrise (4/17) - 7:00 AM behind Faith Hall

Easter Morning (4/17) - 10 AM Worship

\***April 24** (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Easter) - 10 AM Worship - this should probably be the "3rd" service - because it's so important for them to "follow up" after Easter; to not see Easter as the "end event" but the *start*. We recommend not only inviting them but offering to *pick them up* and drive, and then take them to lunch after worship on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Youth Group**

Our group continues to have lots of fun each Sunday (usually from 6-8 PM). A couple students who are almost old enough to join are eagerly looking forward to doing so in the Fall. For our March outing we went to Wildlife Lanes on 3/13 to support AVAC's Bowling for Blessings - the cost of our games, etc. went to support their work with needy families in our community! And *boy* are some of our students GOOD bowlers!



We plan to have our last outing of the school year - our BIG event of the year - April 22-



24<sup>th</sup> at Pine Spring's *Remix* youth retreat. Please pray that this final event of the school year engages our students in a way that makes them embrace the gospel and gives them a hunger to return in September to experience more and grow in the Lord. Once again, I offer my deep thanks to all the other youth leaders and volunteers from Puckety who help make this ministry a blessing.



Puckety Church is hosting a community Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday, April 9 at 1:00pm. All children invited up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There are flyers distributed at each Sanctuary entrance and information in your announcement sheets!

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is on the bulletin board.  
Ask Kelly Kapelewski or Brenda McAllister if you have any questions!

Dear Kelly Kapelewski,

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your area. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening is able to bring these health screenings into your community and for that, we are very appreciative. We look forward to working together again!

Sincerely,  
Allen Burleson  
Health Service Coordinator  
Life Line Screening  
Phone: (216) 393-8530 N/A  
Mobile: 330-949-2837



Our *Monumental VBS* will be **June 20-24<sup>th</sup>**, 2022.  
Time: **6:00 - 8:30 pm**. Ages 3 yrs. to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Pre-Registration is now available – please go to:

<https://vbspro.events/p/puckety>

The theme will be “*Celebrating God’s Greatness.*”  
We need 4 things from Puckety and our friends:

1) start *Praying* for the kids & families – not only to come, but to encounter the love of God

in Jesus, 2) start *spreading the word* so people will know to register or help out, 3) we **NEED** more adult *Crew Guides* (to help guide the crews of kids to their stations!), and 4) we need specific *item donations* – please see the “Donation Board” that will be updated on the hallway bulletin board outside the sanctuary – we need a variety of items and lots of help.

If you have any questions or need more info. please contact one of our directors: *Erika Manges* (724-351-2527) or *Emilie Greiner* (724-882-3709). Our next **Planning** meeting will probably be Monday April 18th.

A special thank you to Fellowship team for the purchase of the new TV in Faith Hall AND the Upkeep team (Fran K., Vince A. and Jack B.) for updating the electrical access and mounting the TV!



## Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 17  
7:00 A.M.



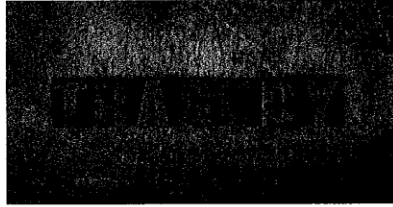
Easter  
SUNDAY

April 17 at 10am

Worship with us on Easter as we rejoice together in Jesus' victory over sin and death.



# Praying in the Middle of Senseless Tragedies



When we hear about yet another random act of violence, our first response is usually to pray away the pain or pray that this will never happen again. But how can we pray beyond the fear and shock, beyond the most obvious needs, for the issues of the Kingdom?

Hopefully, some of the following points will be a springboard for your prayers in the wake of tragedies that defy human understanding and are becoming more and more frequent.


## Praise

Though it is difficult, start with praise. Focus on God's character.

- Praise God that He is sovereign, that He has ultimate control over it all, and that nothing takes Him by surprise (Is. 45:5-7).

## Petition/Intercession

- Ask God to use this situation to bring unprecedented



April 10, 2022  
Palm Sunday

Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear. For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.

CCLI Licence 1153377



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
— Come To The Table —  
Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 PM





## Synod matching ~~\$24,000~~ **\$50,000** for Ukraine

The outpouring of support for the Synod of the Trinity's fund for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been staggering. The total we have received to assist the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine has exceeded our original matching figure of \$24,000.

Because of your generous donations, we are **increasing our matching figure to \$50,000** for individuals, churches and presbyteries in our region that donate through our giving platform at Presbyterian Mission Exchange!

As of this mailing, we have received more than 100 donations in amounts anywhere from \$10 to \$4,000. Every dollar counts!!

## How to Donate

**Online** Send funds to be matched by [clicking here](#).

Use our "General Ministry & Mission Fund." Include "Ukraine" in the notes section when donating. All administration fees will be covered by the Synod so your entire donation is sent to PDA.

**By Mail** While we prefer you use our online giving platform, we will accept mailed checks made out to

"Synod of the Trinity." Please write "Ukraine" on the memo line and mail to: Synod of the Trinity

702 East Simpson Street, Unit 87 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

## Where are the PDA donations going?







To date, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent support to several of the PCUSA's reformed and orthodox partners who are working with national and local churches. They are:

- Community of St. Egidio in Ukraine – working in western Ukraine
- Hungarian Reformed Church Aid – western Ukraine & Hungary
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid – Ukraine & Hungary
- Lutheran World Federation – Poland
- International Orthodox Christian Charities – Romania

**GO PUCKETY CHURCH!! WE RAISED \$2,000 + FOR OUR SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR UKRAINE IN ONLY 2 WEEKS! THAT WAS MATCHED SO WE WERE ABLE TO SEND \$5,000 + TO SUPPORT THE EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THOSE FLEEING UKRAINE!**



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth Group	<b>28</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group	<b>29</b> 6:00 PM DKG Meeting 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	<b>30</b> Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  FIFTH SUNDAY <i>In Lent</i> 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Youth Group	<b>4</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 10:30 AM Card Ministry 12:00 PM Upkeep Meeting 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 46799 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 6:30 PM Outreach Team Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	<b>6</b> Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605 7:00 PM Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting 7:00 PM Schafer Small Group Meeting	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM Community Easter Egg Hunt 
<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Pie Social 12:00 PM Crafternoon 6:00 PM Youth Group 	<b>11</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 5:30 PM MS Group Meeting 6:30 PM Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	<b>12</b> 1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 6:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	<b>13</b> Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 26605	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service 	<b>15</b>  GOOD FRIDAY Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>16</b> 11:00 AM Klepfer Birthday Party
<b>17</b>  EASTER Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Sunrise Worship Service	<b>18</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 4:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 46799	<b>19</b> 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	<b>20</b> Meals on Wheels 7:00 PM Pastor Brian Small Group Meeting 7:00 PM Schafer Small Group Meeting	<b>21</b> 2:00 PM Grief Group Meeting 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED Youth Group Retreat 	<b>23</b> Youth Group Retreat 10:00 AM PEO 75th Anniversary
<b>24</b> Youth Group Retreat 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Outreach Packing for Schools	<b>25</b> Meals on Wheels Outreach Burrell Staff Distribution Day 10:00 AM Men's Group 5:30 PM Girl Scouts 46799	<b>26</b> 1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 6:00 PM DKG Meeting 6:30 PM Christian Assembly of God 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	<b>27</b> Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM Menk Scrapbooking Event	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM Menk Scrapbooking Event



Al Mulder writes, “We often think of enemies in connection with *war*: enemies live in other countries and on other continents. But, whether across the ocean, or next to us in our pew, Jesus is calling us to pray for our enemies: the neighbor who throws loud all-night parties, the uncle who is abusive, the kid who bullies your little brother, the boss (or teacher) who has it out for you. We are angry with them. We would like to see them corrected ... punished! And yet Jesus tells us to love them! That doesn’t necessarily mean feeling good about them. Like repentance, agape love (the kind Jesus commanded) is not an emotion. It’s a combination of decision + action. 90% of the time (if not more), the love word Christ uses suggests action; Jesus is telling us to act in a

loving way toward people who are difficult to love. Jesus even tells us to pray for them. We can talk with God about them and ask God to guide and bless them. We can confess our fears and our anger. We can ask God to show us the image of God in them. We can ask for insight into why they might act as they do.” God does not expect us to make friends with people who disrespect us, or to tolerate abuse from them. But as we faithfully pray for them, God will help us think compassionately about them, and begin to act kindly toward them, and even learn to speak truth to them with love and respect.

Consider the woman who had been “caught in the act” of adultery and was brought to Jesus in John 8. Everyone knew she was guilty. They probably also knew that the religious leaders didn’t care about her but were just trying to trick Jesus. So how did Jesus respond? Notice how he did *not* respond. He did *not* further shame the woman publicly. Nor did he debate the religious laws of the day. He didn’t even ask, “Where’s the man who was with her?” Jesus took his time. He bent down and wrote on the ground, even as they kept questioning. When the time was right, Jesus stood up and shifted the focus from the woman to her accusers: “If you are without sin, go ahead and start throwing stones.” The woman’s accusers drifted away, one by one. And finally, when only the woman remained standing there, Jesus did not shame her further by lecturing her. He simply said to her, kindly and clearly, “Go and live a changed life!” Neighbors can do bad things. A coworker can embezzle thousands of dollars from a local charity. A teenager can get drunk, wreck the family car, and need to get bailed out of jail. How do we respond? If you are without sin, go ahead and feel superior, shun them, put them down! But if we too are sinners, let’s do as Jesus did. This is a good practice to continue after Lent, through the season of Easter ... and for the rest of our lives. Lord, teach us your ways. Amen.

