

# *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.

Children's' Church 10:00 a.m.



# *Puckety Church*

*Our Vision is to be the heart, voice  
and hands of God,  
making a lasting difference in your  
life, in our community,  
and the world.*

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication



## Puckety Presbyterian Church

The mission of Puckety Presbyterian Church is to glorify God through Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Evangelism.

September 2020

Post-Scripts  
a monthly publication

**Pastor's Corner** - Please read Ephesians 2:10-19 (*read verse 14 several times*)

Recently, I've been confronted more in my conversations regarding the racial issues going on in our country (*by friends who come down on both sides of the issues*). For example, I recently went to visit my dad for the first time since March, as he is struggling with neuropathy in his feet. As we watched the news, he said, "I just don't understand why they're protesting like that!" – which led to a long discussion (good, healthy and productive I think) ... Then, recently I read an article from a good friend from college (Daniel Jones) who works with CRU (a Christ-centered campus ministry). He writes in response to actual questions from the students he works with:

- *Why don't our white Christian brothers and sisters believe our pain?*
- *Why is the Church so silent?*
- *Why is there more support from white people who aren't Christians?*

Dan goes on to reference my favorite theologian – Dietrich Bonhoeffer – for something he may not be known as much for: "Bonhoeffer was able to recognize well before his German compatriots the atrocious forms of racism against Jews. Bonhoeffer's year of study in the U.S. in 1929-30 gave him a front row seat to the systemic atrocities (e.g. Jim Crow laws, lynchings and subsequent postcards) against Black Americans. Through his involvement in Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church he got a picture of Jesus as a holy agent of liberation. Instead of the abstract and distant Jesus he discussed in his seminary studies, he encountered Jesus as *'the-God-who-suffers-with.'* Regardless of his status as a white theologian, and University of Berlin faculty member, Bonhoeffer took a posture of humility allowing him to listen fully, learn freely, and empathize wholeheartedly with his Black friends and the Black community at large. Upon returning to Germany, he lived out the incarnation of Jesus by being with and fighting for the least of these, German Jews among others, for whom he was martyred."

I know this is an issue that immediately brings forth heated emotions (*some may even wonder why I'm talking about it here*), but I think it's an opportunity for all of us to be the church ... I think we are called *continually* to a posture of humility. My prayer is that I would not stop seeking to understand what it feels like to be on *either* side (whether as a minority that feels victimized, or, for example, police officers who are just trying to do their jobs but feel attacked, disrespected and unsupported). There is a chasm before us, one that is filling up with hate, *but hate will never function as a bridge by which to get to the other side*. We need the *cross of Christ* for that. I pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you and me to live life with eyes wide open, looking for ways to live out Jesus's *costly grace*. ~ Pastor Brian

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS In September

6 - Cliff McKay  
13- Jennifer McKay  
20 - Maria Schafer  
27-Mick Dober

## Your Session:

Deb Artman - Clerk  
Chari Burtner  
Jack Barnett  
Rebecca Fisher  
Michelle Gordon  
Charlene McKay  
Jennifer McKay  
Matt Wehrle  
Chuck West  
Mira Whalen

## Corporate Officers:

President: Matt Wehrle  
Vice-Pres.: Jennifer McKay  
Secretary: Debra Artman  
Treasurer: Donna Bracken



## Your Deacons:

Sandy Ankney  
Mick Dober  
Pat Fish  
Margie Hazlett  
Traci Kirchartz  
John McAllister  
Cecil McCutcheon  
Brandy Roland  
Maria Schafer  
Kim Soulcheck  
Peg Uhing  
Jean Welte



## Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

## Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

## Treasurer:

Donna Bracken

## Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

## Organist/Pianist:

Sue Close

## Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

## Financial Secretary:

Judy West

# GREETERS SCHEDULE

## September

None at this time

## Offering counters:

Chuck West will handle  
Counting with Donna  
Bracken until further notice.



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Planning meeting will be Sun. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:00 PM at Faith Hall - this will be the time to firm up the concrete plans for action, so all teams/committees are reminded to do their separate work (SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound) in advance.

## Near East School of Theology

Some of our members are familiar with NEST – the Near East School of Theology (where Ellen Fisher worked for a time) in Lebanon. We wanted to include some correspondence from them in the wake of the Beirut explosion:

First letter – 8/06/20

“We thank God that no one was injured at NEST as a result of the huge explosion that devastated most of Beirut last night. There were not many people in the building, but those who were escaped unharmed. The damage to the building is extensive. All 8 eight floors above ground and two basements were hit. Glass windows, glass doors, glass panels inside the building, as well as many internal wooden doors were shattered. Never has NEST been hit so badly as yesterday, not even during the worst days of the 15-year war in Lebanon. Of course, we are not the only ones. The devastation in the rest of Beirut is vast.

Our wonderful team of employees and workers are cleaning the glass today, but we have no illusions; the cost of repairing the damage will be enormous. We do not have an estimate yet, but it will be in the thousands of dollars. We appeal for your help.

Thank you for all your inquiries and messages of support. God bless you.

George Sabra

President & Professor of Systematic Theology

Near East School of Theology

Second Letter 8/10/2020

“On the first morning after the explosion, our employees and staff started cleaning the debris. The cleaning process has been continuing for three days so far. The impact of the explosion on Lebanon far exceeds damage done to buildings and property. The Beirut Port which was almost totally annihilated by the explosion is the storage place for all the necessary imports that Lebanon needs at this difficult time in its severe economic and pandemic crisis: wheat, medications, medical equipment, foods ... All of these have been severely damaged, if not destroyed, by the explosion, and Beirut Port will not be able to resume its operations in full capacity anytime soon. The Lebanese people, and all who reside in this country, stand to suffer further due to this horrible event. So far, there are 135 confirmed fatalities and 5000 wounded, and many are still missing.

So many of you have asked about information for sending donations. **Below** you will find information for donations. Please indicate that it is for “NEST Recovery”.

**If you are in the US**, you can send donations through:

**Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church**

**Send check to:**

Dr. *Peter E. Makari* Executive, *Middle East and Europe*

Made out to “Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ”

700 Prospect Ave., #718, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 USA

*Designate the gift for NEST Recovery in the Memo line*



***Ephesians 5:19 "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord..."***

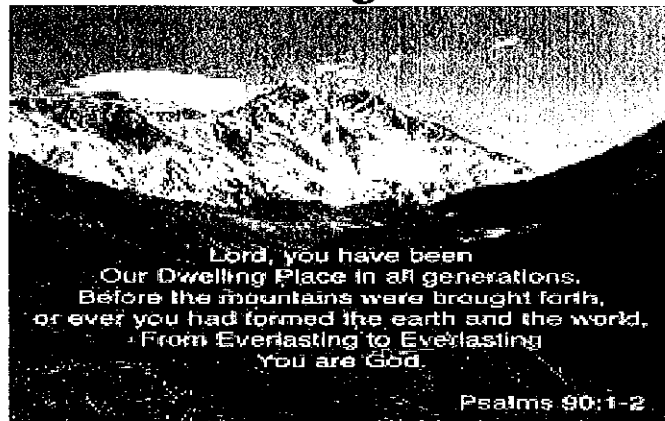
We know that God meets us where we are. We know he is omnipresent. So we know he hears us when we sing whether with our lips or from the silent recesses of our hearts. Sometimes the most powerful musical prayer is sung in the dark of the evening in whispers. We know he hears it. So as we sing from home during virtual worship or silently from our pew, He hears us.

Our Puckety choir has met a few times via "zoom" to meet and chat and yes, try to sing. We learned that did not go so well because of delays and such, and we got a chuckle out of that!

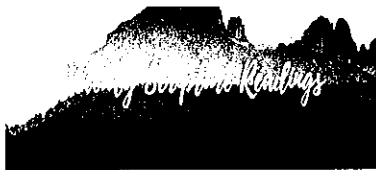
We truly need people to step forward to offer special music this summer either at worship or via recording. Please contact Lorraine Menk, choir director, at 724-339-9531 or kirbie1@comcast.net if you would like to learn more.

And keep a song in your HEART!

## ***Our Daily Bread***



*The Our Daily Bread devotional, **Regular Print** for the months **September, October, November 2020** is available in a waterproof tote outside the side entrance to the sanctuary. Also, there are copies available inside the church at all entrances to the sanctuary. Please stop by at your convenience and pick up a copy for you, a friend, or relative.*



The Bible readings are from  
"Book of Common Worship"

**For the week of:**

**September 6:**

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 149

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

**September 13:**

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 114

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

**September 20:**

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Phil 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

**September 27:**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Phil 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Our first "Hybrid" in-person worship will be Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM – you're invited to join us, but please remember your mask, and use the marked seating for proper social distancing. We look forward to seeing you "in person"!

# Birthday Blessings to you!

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
Numbers 6:25



- 1 Paul McCullough
- 4 Traci Kirchartz  
John McCullough
- 7 Nicole Zurenski
- 9 Lauren McCullough  
Denise Wehrle
- 10 Jim Serene
- 12 Fran Cosentino
- 13 Cecil McCutcheon  
Mira Whalen  
Melissa Smith
- 15 Erika Manges
- 17 Jeff Burtner
- 18 Mersades Schafer
- 19 Erik Wilds  
Pamela McAllister
- 20 Charlene McKay
- 21 Laretta Lockwood
- 23 Kaylee Hazlett  
Seth Fisher
- 24 Brenda McAllister  
Erin Murillo  
Barb Bentley  
Sara Nadolny
- 25 Conner Kapelewski
- 27 Hanna Fisher
- 29 Harley Wilds
- 30 Clint Motosicky





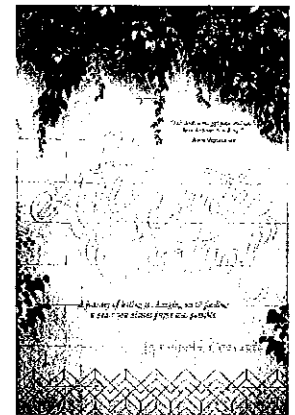
## PASTORAL CARE



From Pastor Brian: I would like all our members to know that I am happy to come and visit you at home if that is something you would like. Of course, I will continue to practice the wise precautions (face covering, social distancing, etc.) as long

as they are in effect. For all those who are not quite comfortable with home visits yet, I would love to start with a phone conversation. If either sounds good to you, feel free to call Pastor Brian: 724-678-6976 (mobile number). I am greatly looking forward to getting to know everyone.

*A new Women's Bible Study will begin September 9 at 7 PM in Faith Hall. Please wear a mask until we are properly social distanced. We will be studying "It's All Under Control. A journey of letting go, hanging on, & finding a peace you almost forgot was possible." by Jennifer Dukes Lee. This group is open to all women in the church and any friends you feel might like an evening Bible Study. Please let Wiebke Kilbert know if you are interested in joining the study group at 724-799-3323 or veesb@yahoo.com.*



"The Crafting Circle will meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM in Faith Hall. ALL crafts that can travel are welcome, not just yarn crafts. So if you crochet, knit, sew, needlepoint, cross stitch, scrapbook, paint, build intricate structures with Legos, work with model clay, etc please feel free to join us! If your craft can be a bit messy please bring something to protect the table surface. Please wear a mask until we all get settled at a good social distance."




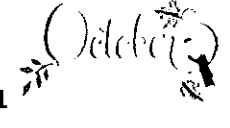


Like and follow us on Facebook for updates and info on activities and events as well as announcements!

## 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.

# SEPTEMBER

<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>31</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>1</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship Team Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> AV Team Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> N.A. meeting	<b>2</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:30 PM</b> Deacons Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED <b>1:00 PM</b> Line Dancing	<b>5</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Crafting Circle
<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>7</b>  Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED <b>10:30 AM</b> Card Ministry	<b>8</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Bracken Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 20130 <b>6:30 PM</b> Session Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> N.A. meeting	<b>9</b> Meals on Wheels <b>7:00 PM</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>10</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Young Life Meeting	<b>11</b>  Remembering 9/11 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED <b>1:00 PM</b> Line Dancing	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>14</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:30 PM</b> Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Upkeep Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Sewing Guild <b>8:00 PM</b> N.A. meeting	<b>16</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>17</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Puckety Condo Assoc Annual Meeting	<b>18</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED <b>1:00 PM</b> Line Dancing	<b>19</b> McCall Baby Shower ???
<b>20</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Ignite Gathering	<b>21</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:30 PM</b> Discipleship Team Meeting	<b>22</b>  <b>1:00 PM</b> Bracken Bible Study <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 20130 <b>8:00 PM</b> N.A. meeting	<b>23</b> Meals on Wheels <b>6:00 PM</b> Girl Scout Troop 26605	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED <b>1:00 PM</b> Line Dancing	<b>26</b> Church Bonfire???
<b>27</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> In Person - Hybrid <b>Worship</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Strategic Planning Meeting	<b>28</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>29</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> N.A. meeting	<b>30</b> Meals on Wheels		<b>2</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>3</b>





In the wake of our Strategic Planning meeting, an opportunity arose – one that seemed to be a direct answer to our prayer for God to help us reach the students of our area and make the Lord’s ministry through us more visible to the community. Pastor Brian received an email with these opening words:

“Would your church host IGNITION 2020?”

This month will be the 15th anniversary of the IGNITION *See You At The Pole* event in the greater Pittsburgh region but this year is going to look different for obvious reasons! SO....they were looking at having IGNITION at several churches this year as a way to keep the crowds smaller with an "unplugged" version of it focused on worship and prayer for this school year.

*Puckety’s Session discussed the opportunity and, with consideration of safety precautions, voted unanimously to host the event.*

**The event will be Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 PM.**

It is designed for all ***middle school and high school students*** in the area – both in the Burrell School District and other local areas. It will begin with lively worship in the sanctuary and a special “See You at the Pole” video presentation that encourages the student bodies to be in prayer for their campuses and nation. Afterward there will be a “socially distanced” refreshment time at Faith Hall. It promises to be an exciting and meaningful evening.

We need your help doing three things:

- ***Praying*** that God blesses the event, moves in the hearts of many to come, and works in the hearts of many more *after* the event.
- ***Spread the word*** to students in your family or those of neighbors and friends, making sure they know they’re invited with their families – don’t forget to use both word of mouth and social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)
- ***Volunteer*** at the event – whether it’s *greeting visitors warmly* at the entrances, handing out masks in a friendly way to those who did not bring one, helping the praise band, or the serving team at Faith Hall, we need faithful hands in action. If you can’t help the day of, consider making a donation toward the costs of the event.

We’d like to end this by emphasizing how this event lines up with many of the “goals” that have been discussed by the Vision team in our Strategy sessions:

- “Become more visible to the community”
- “more interactive with the schools/students”
- “reaching out to youth”
- “Inviting the next generation to join in God’s purposes”
- “Be a place where people say, “Yeah, that’s the Church where \_\_\_ happens!”

***So, join us in responding to God’s call to us and investing in God’s mission!***

## *It's a Plan!*

Puckety's leadership (the Elders, Deacons, and Brian) have been hard at work charting the future of Puckety. As part of this effort, we've re-energized our Vision and Mission statements. The Vision is what we at Puckety long to be:

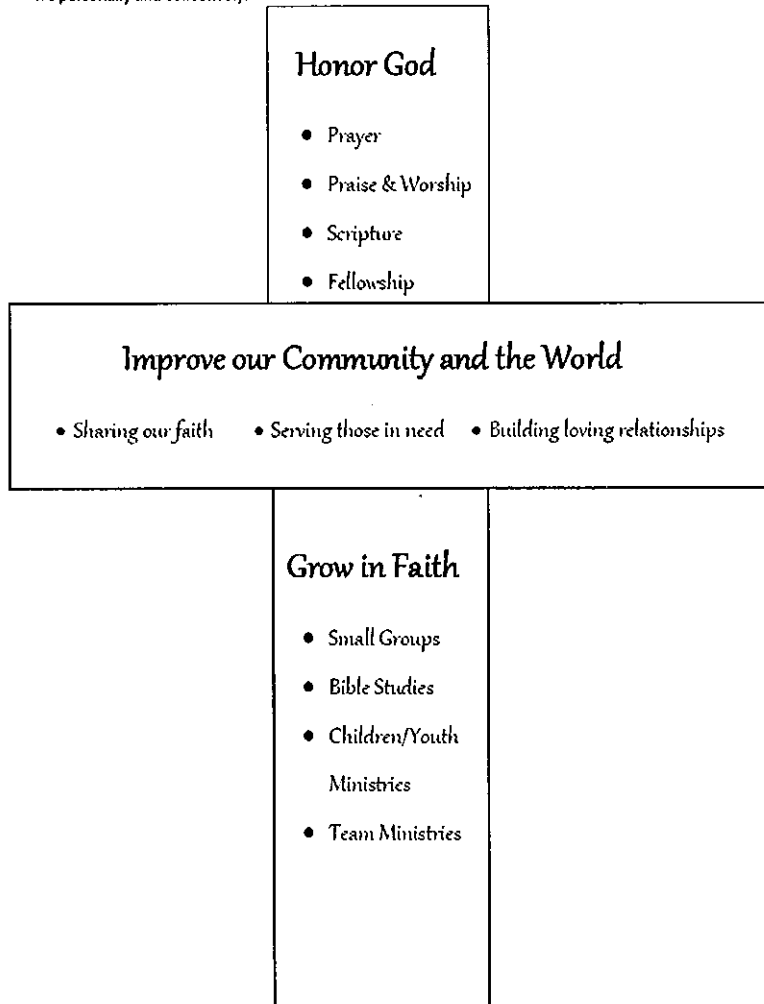
**We are determined to be God's Heart, Voice and Hands, making a lasting difference in your Life, our Community, and the World.**

Our Mission is our central purpose. It's why we're here:

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

The planning group has developed a memorable and meaningful graphic to remind us of our mission. It's centered, of course, on the cross:

At Puckety Presbyterian Church,  
we personally and collectively:



As you can see, Puckety's mission aligns directly to the *three* "parts" of the cross:

**"Top of the Cross"** – First and foremost, we reach higher to Honor God – this is not only in worship & prayer on Sundays, but every day - *Sola Deo Gloria!*

**"Bottom Anchor"** – Next, we reach deeper to Grow in Faith – this is the foundation we "grow up" from, the soil in which we put down roots in Christ. Well-grounded discipleship ensures the rest of

the cross is secure and stable. Otherwise it “tips” over.

“**Arms of the Cross**” – Finally, just as the top and bottom are *vertical* (focusing on our relationship with God), the *horizontal* crossbeam reminds us to reach broader to Improve our Community and World. God requires us to build relationships with our neighbors. We all are people made in God’s image, whom God loves, wants to redeem, and includes in his covenant family.

These are exciting times for Puckety. We’re rapidly moving forward to:

- \* Finalize 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year sets of goals
- \* Grow Life Groups and discipleship small groups/activities
- \* Identify and utilize the congregation’s Spiritual gifts
- \* Enhance technology and Social Media utilization
- \* Create viable community & ministry alliances
- \* Reinvigorate youth and community outreach and ministry

***And we need YOU to make all these good things happen!***

How can you plug into all the great things happening at Puckety? First and foremost, please attend one of our *Spiritual Gifts Discovery Events* on 10/31 or 11/2. Becoming more aware of the spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit has specially bestowed upon you will illustrate how you can be God’s heart, voice, and hands to others. This event will help us all understand how God has blessed us, and how we can use these blessings to Honor God, Grow in Faith, and Improve our Community and the World. Thank you.

## Spiritual Gifts Discovery Event

The Apostle Paul writes of how *every* Christian has a *special* gift from the Holy Spirit – this is different from natural talents and interests (1 Cor. 12). God bestows to each believer in Christ at least one *particular* gift that he intends to be used for the good of the church body and in service to the world. So, we are going to “get to know our giftedness” together on Reformation Day weekend - when we remember we are the *Church reformed, always reforming*, according to God’s Word! **This event is for every member of the church** – to be clear, we are asking *every single member* of Puckety Church to take part. Even if you’re thinking, “Oh, I’ve already done that before”... *or*, “That kind of thing is for someone else,” please know this event is for all of us, and will only benefit Puckety’s vision and mission if all participate. To that end, we have made it practical for all – everyone can choose one of two times for the experience:

**A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.**

1 Corinthians 12:7

### I. Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

9:00 AM – introduction of the inventory (tool that helps discern spiritual gift) and individual completing of the inventory

9:45 AM – gather for Breakfast (*provided*) in groups to continue the discovery discussion with others – w/ social distancing - including next steps of putting them into practice. End time goal is 10:45/11:00 AM.

Or:

## 2. Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>

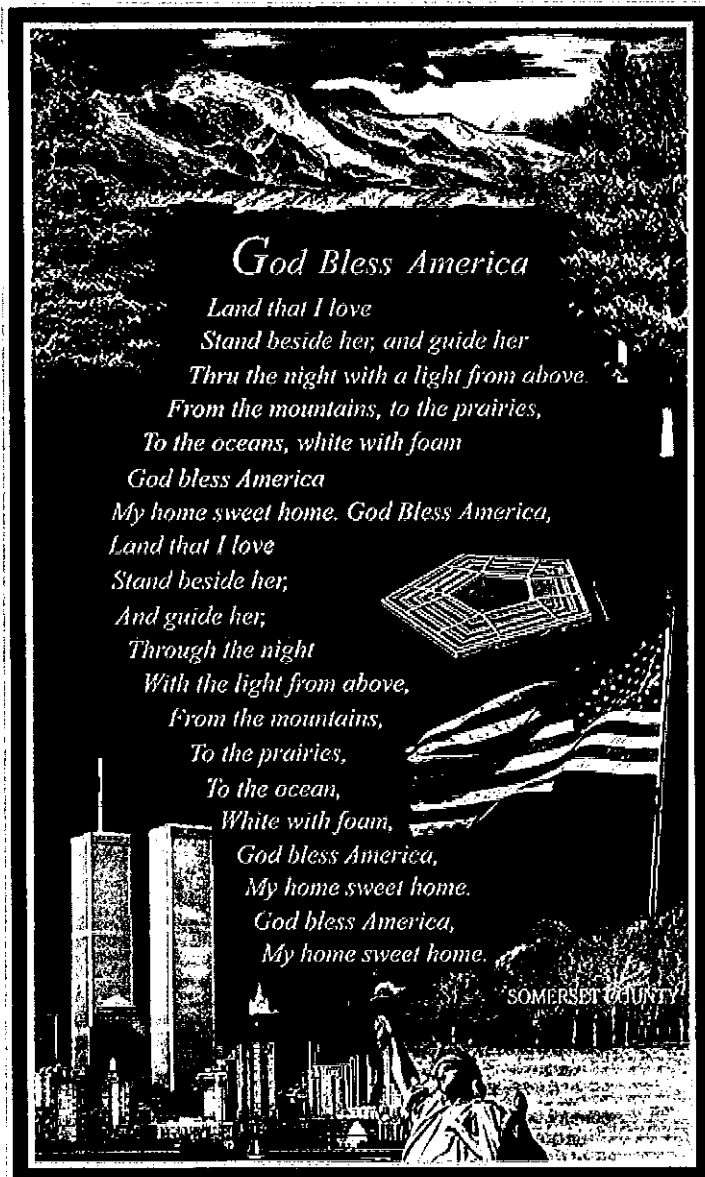
10:00 AM Worship — with focus on Scripture's teaching on spiritual gifts.

11:00 AM — Introduction of Inventory and individual completion

Noon — Lunch provided - gather in groups — w/ social distancing measures - to eat, discuss and discover more how God can use you with your giftedness. Wrap-up, prayer and departure @ 1:00 PM.

This event is far more than an exercise in curiosity. It is an intentional part of the strategic planning of Puckety's Vision Team! Don't hesitate to call Pastor Brian if you have questions (724-678-6976). We believe that with greater awareness of the special way God has equipped each of us, we can take the next steps to better build up the church and reach the next generation around us, to have more effective outreach and Kingdom of God impact. So, let us know you're coming and bring someone with you as well. **Please RSVP to Kelly Kapelewski by Sun. October 18<sup>th</sup>** by emailing [kelly@pucketychurch.org](mailto:kelly@pucketychurch.org) or call the office at 724-339-1323.

Thank you, The Puckety Discipleship Team



*First day of Autumn falls on  
September 22, 2020*

**Remember to check Puckety's website and social media for information on upcoming events and encouragement!**

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

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Follow us on Instagram: Puckety Church

Follow us on Twitter: @churchpuckety