

# Puckety Presbyterian Church

Following Jesus... Making Disciples... Loving One Another as He Loves Us

April 2016

Post-Scripts  
a monthly publication

## Why Christians Should Support Earth Day



The first Earth Day celebration occurred in 1970 amid social turmoil in the United States. Protests over the war in Vietnam were growing, Woodstock was in the rearview mirror, and “Let It Be” was at the top of the Billboard charts. Richard Nixon was in the White House and was the first American president to make improving the environment a policy goal.

The events of April 22, 1970, were supported by both Democrats and Republicans, intended to build awareness of real environmental problems. Environmental catastrophes like the fire on the Cuyahoga River in June 1969 and the deadening of the Great Lakes were public problems that required public responses. Earth Day was an attempt to raise awareness about legitimate concerns for the ecological welfare of the nation.

Unfortunately, like many good social causes, Earth Day and the environmental movement became identified with misanthropic and overtly anti-Christian ideologies. In 1967, Lynn White published a famous essay in the journal *Science* that blamed environmental degradation on Christianity. In 1968, Paul Ehrlich’s book *The Population Bomb* predicted famines and revolutions because of overpopulation.

Ehrlich’s solutions included government regulation of family size and abortion on demand. Some within the environmental movement alienated theological conservatives.

When the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future published a 1972 report calling for population control using government-provided contraceptives for minors, abortion on demand, and voluntary sterilization, conservative Christians understandably reacted negatively to a form of environmentalism hostile to scriptural ideals. Environmentalism and Christian ethics were set at odds due to irreconcilable differences about human worth. While we continue to disagree with some voices within contemporary environmental movements, there are strong reasons for theologically conservative Christians to participate in activities surrounding Earth Day and, more broadly, in environmentalism.

**Gospel Engagement** Our churches spend vast amounts of time and money on outreach programs to engage our communities outside the church. We have a strong interest in engaging our neighbors with the gospel. Participating in Earth Day activities is one way we can meet with fellow citizens—many of whom need to hear the gospel—by engaging in activities for the common good and building meaningful relationships. As people of the cross living in a world that needs to hear and see the message of the gospel, becoming cobelligerents for the common good through certain forms of environmentalism may provide opportunity to connect to our communities by being good neighbors.

When we use resources wisely, pick up trash, and maintain the landscaping in our parks, we demonstrate thankfulness for God’s work in creating the world around us. We also point forward to a future state

of flourishing when a frustrated creation will be set free from “its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God” ([Rom 8:21](#)). Caring for creation can powerfully demonstrate God’s love.

**Caring for God’s Good Creation** However we understand climate change data, we should still feel an ethical pull to care for the environment. Creation itself testifies to God’s glory ([Ps. 19: 1–6](#)). Adam and Eve were given responsibility to cultivate and keep the earth ([Gen. 2:15](#)), and proper stewardship of the environment remains a primary human function as sub-creators made in the image of God. Evangelicals broadly agree that humans have a God-given responsibility to use natural resources wisely and maximize flourishing of all creation. However, when we say we are concerned about creation care and fail to participate meaningfully in organized efforts to care for creation, our actions undermine our rhetoric. Participation in Earth Day events does not require agreement with every activity in a local Earth Day program or the worldview of supporting organizations. Among the many activities the Earth Day organization recommends are picking up trash in a local parks and planting trees. Such activities reflect a positive outlook on God’s creation and encourage engagement in pursuing the common good.

**Pursuit of the Common Good** Jeremiah’s instructions to the Israelites headed to exile in a hostile culture seem more relevant with every passing week. He calls for the exiles to “seek the welfare of the city where [God has] sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” ([Jer. 29:7](#)). As we look for ways we can agree with an increasingly alien worldview, pursuing the common good through simple environmental actions should provide a point of contact. “The earth is the LORD’s and everything in it” ([Ps. 24:1](#)). Just as saying the Pledge of Allegiance does not signify submission to the United States above Christ, participating in Earth Day activities does not require Earth worship or theological compromise. Even if bad theology is being proclaimed and practiced at an event, our mere attendance does not constitute affirmation. Instead, participating with our community in Earth Day activities allows for positively demonstrating our theological valuation of creation. The earth is our home; God is doing a work to restore it through Christ’s resurrection.

**Andrew J. Spencer** serves as the director of assessment and institutional research at Oklahoma Baptist University. He is a PhD candidate, studying Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Spencer has served as a submarine officer and taught at a commercial nuclear power plant. He frequently contributes to the blog for the Institute and his own blog, [Ethics and Culture](#). You can [follow him on Twitter](#).



*Palm Sunday*



**Attention Ladies:** We took a little break from our ladies' lunch, but we're starting back again in April! If you are a woman, and you eat lunch after church, and think you might enjoy the chance to get to know other women from Puckety, then consider joining us at Villa Ballanca in Lower Burrell on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month! Anyone who is interested meets inside the entrance to the restaurant. It's a fun time of conversation and fellowship! If you've never joined us, consider trying it! Questions?? Contact Rebecca Fisher at 412.260.1571 or [rfisher@suffcomputing.com](mailto:rfisher@suffcomputing.com)

The Outreach Team (ok, mainly Denise) has taken on the task of gifting Seekers (people searching for a church family) to our church with a personal visit and a small amount of baked goods. She has been doing this for the last year and a half, and the gifts & visits have been well received. Everyone she visited appreciated the gift, and guess what? Most have become a part of our church family! She is in need of occasional help baking the individual gifts.

If you would like to help bake, or set aside items the next time you bake **[a dozen cookies (this would be enough for 2 visits, depending on the size), a couple mini quick breads (again, 2 visits), or a couple cupcakes, no icing (2 would be the gift)],** please let Denise Wehrle know.



The Board of Deacon of Puckety Church met on March 2, 2016 and the meeting was opened with prayer.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Names can be submitted for Easter food baskets until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Baskets will be packed on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will be available for pick-up Tuesday morning. Rodney Schafer will enhance the baskets with

fresh produce such as oranges and potatoes and include some Easter candy along with a grocery gift card.

Sandy Ankney reported on the success of the collection of feminine products for women serving in the military. These items were donated to the "Cookies for our Troops" organization. They were very appreciative of Puckety's efforts.

Names of college students will be obtained in the coming weeks. They will be given a \$25 gift card to Walmart during final's week.

The upcoming Mother's Day and Father's Day holiday was discussed. Father's Day gifts will be ordered and Mother's Day gifts will be hand crafted with Jenn Motosicky's guidance. We plan to meet on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 o'clock to create.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A request was received for help paying for a hotel room in Harmarville. This was denied because we do not help with hotel rooms and the request is out of our "area."

Maundy Thursday's service will have communion served by Intinction. Kirk will prepare the communion. There will be no offering collected and no ushers are needed other than to greet. "Church starts in the parking lot."

Communion was discussed. Doilies and how full to fill the cups were discussed. The Deacons were also notified of an allergy concern of a parishioner.



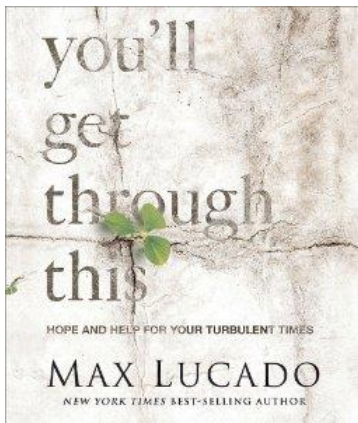


The Deacons are asking the congregation to provide the **names and addresses of Puckety Church members currently attending college**. This outreach endeavor is a way of letting them know that the Puckety Church family is thinking about them and praying for them as their finals approach.

Anyone who has attended college knows that academic and career success requires hard work, dedication and sacrifice as well as learning to prioritize your day and manage your time. Place this information in the offering plate or give it to Sandra Ankney (Deacon). The names/addresses will be collected until April 3rd. for distribution of a love gift to our college students the first week of April.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## you'll get through this

MAX LUCADO

You'll get through this. Whatever "this" is—financial woes, relationship valleys, health crises. You fear you won't make it through. You fear that the depression will never lift, the yelling will never stop, the pain will never leave. Will this gray sky ever brighten? This load ever lighten? Yes! Deliverance is to the Bible what jazz music is to Mardi Gras: bold, brassy, and everywhere. Consider the Old Testament story of Joseph—tossed in a pit by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongfully imprisoned. But God wove what was meant for evil into good. God is in the business of redeeming the broken. He was then. He is still. Do you crave some hope for these tough times? Then this is the message you need. Join us on a six-week small group campaign that encourages you to trust God in troubling times. Beginning Sunday, April 3!

Classes available are: Donna Bracken Tuesday 1:00pm in Faith Hall - Ellen Fisher at her apartment (unsure of day/time) - Vicki & Kirk Orr in the Youth Room Monday 7:00pm - Chuck and Judy West Sunday 2:00pm at their home - Matt Wehrle after Worship

**It's not too late! Kelly has ordered a few extra workbooks so sign up today!**



### **Week of April 3**

Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118: 14-29  
Revelations 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

### **Week of April 10**

Acts 9:1-6  
Psalm 30  
Revelations 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

### **Week of April 17**

Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelations 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

### **Week of April 24**

Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelations 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS In April

3 Michelle Hough  
10 Chari Burtner  
17 Brandon Brim  
24 Mick Dober

Your Session:  
Debra Artman  
Rebecca Fisher  
Matt Wehrle  
Sophia Earhart  
Kirk Orr  
Jolene Kostelansky  
Mick Dober  
Mike Tatem  
Vicki Orr

## Corporate Officers:

**President:** Sophia Earhart  
**Vice-Pres.:** Cliff McKay  
**Secretary:** Michelle Hough  
**Treasurer:** Donna Bracken

## THE POWER OF PRAYER!

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.

## Your Deacons:

Sandy Ankney  
Vi Adamski  
Cliff McKay, Jr.  
Brenda McAllister  
Lauretta Lockwood  
Jennifer Motosicky  
Irene Nelson  
Maria Schafer  
John McAllister  
Nita Serene  
Hilda Maxwell  
Denise Wehrle

## CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor:**  
Kirk Orr

**Director of Youth Ministries:**  
Brandon Brim

**Administrative Secretary:**

Kelly Kapelewski

**Treasurer:**

Donna Bracken

**Choir Director:**

Lorraine Menk

**Organist/Pianist:**

Sue Close

**Custodian:**

Dean Kunkle

**Housekeeper:**

Irene Nelson

**Assistant Treasurer:**

Sophia Earhart

**Financial Secretary:**

Judy West

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

3 Vicki Orr and  
Michelle Hough  
10 Rebecca Fisher and  
Cliff McKay  
17 Deb Fotheringham and  
Deb Artman  
24 Jolene Kostelansky and  
Mick Dober

## Counters:

3 Jolene Kostelansky and  
Sophia Earhart  
10 Chari Burtner and Matt  
Wehrle  
17 Janet Karan and Deb  
Artman  
24 Chuck and Judy West

## We Love Vacation Bible School!



Come Join Us!

VBS will be June 20-24th in the evening. Anyone wanting to help with VBS needs to have their clearances completed and submitted prior to the start of VBS. If you need help with that contact the church office or Rebecca Fisher!

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Graduate recognition will be held Sunday June 12. Any pictures or information to be shared on that Sunday needs to be given or emailed to Rebecca Fisher by Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World*

## **Christ at work in our midst**

### **Stories of Redstone**

In the last decade, there has been a major focus in the church on sustainability and community development. PC (USA) has long had a strong focus on mission throughout the world as well. In the local church, one of the great ways this call has begun to manifest is in "community gardens." Churches set aside a space of their land to grow a garden that is then cultivated and shared by the neighborhood. These gardens can help to feed the hungry, build relationships, and offer fresh produce to those who cannot always afford it.

At First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg, congregation members help to plant produce in a garden plot behind the church. The produce is used in a mission of the church called "Second Sunday Supper." This monthly meal is free to anyone in the community. Produce may be used in the meal, or given to those who attend the supper. How can your church start a garden?

1. Choose a plot of land on church property, or ask a member to volunteer a plot of land if your church doesn't have space.
2. Plant "heartly" veggies, such as potatoes, beets, beans, squashes, and zucchini.
3. Invite community members to help plant and tend the garden alongside church volunteers.
4. Build relationships over yams!



#### What You Don't Know Can Hurt You!

**If you are age 21-80 learn your risk for developing 6 different chronic diseases: \$3 out of every \$4 spent**

**on healthcare is for treatment of chronic disease and better lifestyle habits can help prevent 80% of heart disease and 90% of type 2 diabetes.** The **6 for Life Health Assessment** measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment. Puckety Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening preventive health event on Saturday, April 9, 2016. Protect your health by registering today for the 6 for Life Health Assessment for \$79. Call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners) to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health, knowledge is empowering.



Why not think about attending a fun filled few days or a week at our wonderful Christian summer camp in Jennerstown, PA! Camps are offered for the very young with a guardian and for the young elementary through high schoolers! For more information check out their website!

[www.pinesprings.org](http://www.pinesprings.org)

Puckety Church has scholarships available also.



*The invitations have gone out for the annual **Golden Angels Luncheon** for folks age 62 and over. It will be on **Sunday, April 10***

*immediately following Worship. Please look for your invitation in the mail! If you do not receive one and you are 62 or over, please let Irene Nelson know!*

## **Blessings On** **Your Birthday!!!**

- 4** Brian Smith
- 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
- 21** Chari Burtner  
Mary Wilds
- 22** Elmer Burd

## *Puckety Presbyterian Church*

1009 Puckety Church Road  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

*(Return Service Requested)*

### Last Day For:



### Post Scripts

### Information:

Third Wednesday  
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.

Youth Group: 6:00 p.m.

Every Sunday ☺

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