

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-Script
a monthly publication



Pastor's Corner

Well, my friends, I'm another year older (*my birthday is in pretty close to Christmas – as the sweater with Jesus smiling on it says: “All the cool people are born in December” – tongue in cheek of course*). But even though I'm older, I still feel the Christmas spirit! I'm glad Christmas lasts into the new year (and not just so I can keep the tree up longer). I expressed something at our congregational meeting on 12/21, but I want to share it here for any who weren't able to be present. I want to *intentionally and sincerely* say thank you for the support you have shown Wiebke and me over the last year – it is a great blessing to serve such a loving church – and there are a great many ways you manifest that – *I see it, acknowledge it, and appreciate it*. You have shown great love to me – in a myriad of ways (materially, emotionally, and spiritually). And I feel great love for you.

I also want to thank the leaders who give of themselves throughout the year – the church officers on the Session & Deacons, the staff that are *amazing* co-workers, and the leaders of the committees and ministry teams. I know you sacrifice a great deal and you might feel that your work sometimes goes unnoticed. I notice it, trust me. In fact, I know what it feels like to be overtaxed and stretched too thin.

As a gesture of solidarity with those who have labored for the Lord, I want to take this opportunity to ask every person who is part of Puckety's church family, to be open to the REAL possibility – no, the LIKELIHOOD - that God is calling you to a form of service. There are important areas where your giftedness is being called for, *by the Lord*. The Nom. Committee is discerning the next class of Elders & Deacons. If you are asked, at the very least you should sincerely pray about it. I wasn't going to serve as a GA commissioner; I almost said “no” right off, but then I remembered how Moses balked at God, and tried to wiggle out of God's call on his life. Make no mistake: God is calling some of you ... some to be Elders ... some to be Deacons ... some to serve on ministry teams like Discipleship & Children's Church, Outreach, Upkeep, and A/V, because EVERY single one of these teams not only needs additional hearts, hands and minds, but leaders. There a major opportunities to step up.

Have you ever heard a preacher say: “The all-powerful, all-sufficient God doesn't 'need' us, BUT He invites us!” And I am confident that others in Christ's Body here at Puckety need you; because *I* do. Every single committee and ministry team needs those who will answer the call, including those who think they don't have the *time* ... or don't have the *talent* ... or don't have the *energy* ... or the *know-how*. Moses, and a lot after him, thought they didn't have what it took either. I'm *not* a burning bush, but as your pastor, I can sense the Holy Spirit urging all of us to take off our sandals, because we're on holy ground ... God has something to say to us ... God has a mission for us ... God has a plan in store. Let's be ready to say, “Here I am. Use me.” Here's to following the ever-faithful God in the New Year.

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 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 Band is looking to extend an invitation to any drummers, guitarists, vocalists, or other musicians who want to dedicate their talents to the Lord for Sunday morning services and Thursday evening rehearsals! Come join us Thursday evening at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary if you or someone you know might be interested THEY DO NOT HAVE TO BE MEMBERS - please see Pastor Brian, Jesse Oddis, or any member of the Puckety Praise Team for more info.

The Puckety Church Board of Deacons is pleased to share an update on the recent Samaritan's Purse international outreach. The congregation made generous contributions to all three featured projects. At our December meeting, the following amounts were reported:

- \$240 for "Bring Clean Water to a Community" (Clean Water Project)
- \$240 for "Help a Poor Farming Family" (Farm and Garden Project)
- \$100 for "Send a New Missionary Doctor" (New Missionary Doctor Project)
- \$1,055 designated for any of the three projects, which was divided equally among them.

Additionally, the Deacons decided to increase their support by "rounding up" donations, resulting in:

- \$600 allocated to the Clean Water Project
- \$600 allocated to the Farm and Garden Project
- \$500 allocated to the New Missionary Doctor Project

Grace Presbyterian Church received a total of 26 shoe boxes from Puckety for Operation Christmas Child. These donations will be distributed to children globally and are expected to have a meaningful impact. We appreciate your contribution, and the positive difference it will make.



Luka James Ashbaugh born December 18th. 6# 13oz born to Kaylee and Matt. Grandparents are Chuck and Crystal Hazlett. "Great"Grandparents are Chuck and Margie Hazlett.
What a precious Christmas gift ❤

NEW SMALL GROUP CLASS LED BY PASTOR BRIAN!

It's *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Oden - a fantastic book! The cost is \$15 but the church pays 2/3. Below is a tentative schedule [based off Wed. evenings]. Please contact Pastor Brian at 724-678-6976 for details or to sign up!

Discipleship Essentials Small Group

Here is the tentative schedule of topics – please feel free to ask questions! Please be committed to make at least 7 of the meetings. Wednesdays from **6:30 PM to 8:00 PM** – try to arrive 5 to 10 min. early each week, so we can pray, start on time and end on time. We will **not** be covering every chapter in the book (there are 25), so I encourage you to start now, if you can, and do a few of the opening chs. (1-4) in advance of our first meeting. We will be starting with ch. 5.

1st Meeting (1/28) – Introduction & Ch. 5 (*Prayer*) – please have read & completed the sections on pages 32-39. We will review and discuss.

2nd Meeting (2/4) - *Worship* (ch. 6) – have completed before our meeting: pages 40-46. We will review and then discuss questions on p. 47-48.

NOTE – We will meet in Pastor Brian's OFFICE b/c Deacons in Conf. Rm.

3rd Meeting – (2/11) *Made in God's Image* (ch. 8) + some of chapter 9 (*Sin*) – use same pattern for the pages/questions to complete prior to meeting (*ongoing*).

**NO MEETING ON ASH WEDNESDAY

4th Meeting – (2/25) Finish *Sin* (ch. 9) and also chapter 10 (*Grace*) – Reformed theme

5th Meeting – (3/4) Chapter 12 (*Justification*) + chapter 13 (*Adoption*) – with some J.I. Packer quotes. **NOTE** – We will meet in Pastor Brian's OFFICE b/c Deacons in Conf. Rm.

6th Meeting - (3/11) Ch. 14 (*Filled with the Holy Spirit*) + ch. 15 (*Fruit of the H.S.*)

7th Meeting (3/18) – Chapter 20 & 21 (*The Church and Ministry Gifts*)

8th Meeting – (3/25) - Chapter 24 (*Sharing the Wealth of God*)

**No Meeting during Holy Week (4/1)

9th Meeting – (4/8) *Presbyterianism* – historical highlights / distinct doctrinal points

Possible reschedule because it is Holy Week

10th Meeting – (4/15) *Witness* (chapter 19)

[Possible/Optional Summary meeting if desired? ... Or make-up if cancelled?]

If you have any questions at all (about the reading, etc.) – don't hesitate to call me – 724-678-6976 or email me: pastor@pucketychurch.org. Thank you so much for being part of this important group!



Sunday Women's Bible Study will start January 18th after service. We will be watching the first episode of *The Chosen* Season 5. Bring your lunch to eat before we start the video. If you have any questions please see Wiebke.

From the Hearts and Hands of Session

The December Session had a particular theme that was wonderful! A large portion of the meeting involved reading and listening to the *personal requests of 5 different people seeking membership* with Puckety Church. It was a great joy to hear these individuals express their faith, describe the hospitality they've experienced at Puckety, and the leading of God's Spirit to become members! And boy has God been moving! We are ecstatic to announce the approval of their requests, which will become effective during morning worship on Sunday January 11th – *Baptism of the Lord* (what a great opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament)! Two of the candidates will be received through the Sacrament of Baptism: *Corinna Hackman & Jacob McCann* ... and three will be received through public affirmation of faith: *Judy Fluent, Matilda Lakshmanan, and Suzanna McCann*. Praise the LORD! Please spread the word because this will be a time *not* to be missed! Please join us in welcoming and rejoicing with:

Jacob & Suzanna McCann, Corinna Hackman, Judy Fluent, & Matilda Lakshmanan

Youth Group

On December 7th, under the great leadership of Lisa Wilson, the youth group made about 70 handmade Christmas ornaments (extra thanks to Emma Watters who worked the entire evening on them with fine touches – and extra thanks to Lisa who supplemented by making more – so we would have over 80!) – we distributed every single ornament (except 1 extra, which I got to keep as a reminder). On December 14th, partly due to the horrible weather (snow and cold), we only had 4 from our youth group come out to carol, but we thank the adults who joined us (and Emile Basile and her family built up our tiny crew to about 10). We visited 3 of our church's shut-ins along with The Addison and Logan Place and Hillcrest (formerly Belair) Nursing Center – and our modest group of youth faithfully and cheerfully personally handed out the ornament crafts to the residents as we caroled through the halls. We returned to enjoy the special snacks meticulously and lovingly crafted by Irene Nelson (mini donut snowmen with licorice scarves and PB cup hats!) The kids were able to get two and the hot chocolate was tasty too. We celebrated our Christmas Youth Party on the 21st with many games and a small mountain of candy canes. We probably won't be going to the Pine Springs Retreat (lack of leaders/interest), but we plan on snowtubing at Boyce Park on January 18th – youth are to RSVP with their student cost NO LATER than Jan. 11th.





04 Sophia Earhart
11 Michelle Gordon
18 Chari Burtner
25 Beth Dober

Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk
Jolene Kostelansky
Mick Dober
Kelly Kapelewski
Marilyn Crumley
Alice Knopfel
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
Donna Jeffries
Mira Whalen
Kim Soulcheck
Sandy Appleman
Fran Kapelewski
Nita Serene
Bruce Sproull
Vicky Eckman

Corporate Officers:

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



Do you have a key to the church that you do not use or only use once a year? Perhaps you were given a key for a committee that you are no longer on? If you have one, please turn it into the office. Our key supply has dwindled and instead of having new keys made, we would like to recirculate keys not currently being used. **THANK YOU!**



Pastor:
Reverend Brian Kilbert

Administrative Secretary:
Kelly Kapelewski

Bookkeeper:
Debra Artman

Choir Director:
Lorraine Menk

Music Ministry Specialist:
Jesse Oddis

Housekeeper:
Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary:
Judy West

Offering Counters:

04: Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
11: Chuck & Judy West
18: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart or Matt Wehrle
25: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley

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.



For those of you that don't know, we have a lost and found box in the library. There are MANY items in this box. Including a set of keys, beautiful leather bound devotionals and glasses! Check it out if you are missing something.



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

Week of:
January 4:
Jer 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Eph 1:3-14
John 1:10-18

January 11:
Isa 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matt 3:13-17

January 18:
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Cor 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 25:
Isa 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Cor 1:10-18
Matt 4:12-23



Please consider joining any of our Ministry Teams here at Puckety Church!

Outreach – Matt Wehrle
Discipleship – Chari Burtner
Praise Team (Band) – Jesse Oddis
Choir – Lorraine Menk
Fellowship and Care – Charlene McKay
Worship – Jennifer McKay
Upkeep – Vince Appleman
AV Team – Wiebke Kilbert
Youth Group Volunteers – Pastor Brian Kilbert
Pulpit Assistants – Kelly Kapelewski

- 1 Judy West
- 2 Tyler Schafer
- 3 Jennifer McKay
- 7 Owen Manges
- 9 Don Zellefrow
- 15 Matt Wehrle
- Mallory Soulcheck
- 16 Trey Sennett
- 17 John McAllister
- 19 Marlee Logan
- 21 Patty Summerville
- 23 Vi Adamsky
- 24 Tori Soulcheck
- 26 Sue Close

Would you like to be a sub [Pulpit Assistant](#) and read a Bible passage or 2 on an occasional Sunday throughout the year during Worship? If so, please email or call Kelly at kelly@pucketychurch.org or 724-339-1323 to be put on the rotation. Pastor Brian will provide you in advance with your reading material so you can practice! You can also reach out with any questions.

You see them for a few minutes each Sunday during the Children's Message, but that is just a brief look at the wonderful kids that we have here at Puckety! If you would like to get to know them better and have some fun with the children of our church, please consider signing up to take turns as a teacher or

helper for Children's Church. Our time with the kids is spent doing a lesson or story from the Bible along with crafts or games that help to reinforce the point learned in the lesson. Since we have grown so much, we would like to have a few helpers so we could have 2 adults in each class! If this sounds like something that you would be interested in, please call or text: Brenda McAllister 724-331-6462 or Jolene Kostelansky 724-882-0804.



DONATIONS CURRENTLY BEING ACCEPTED

BY ORIGINS:

All items need to be **NEW AND UNOPENED!**

- Diapers
- Pull-Ups/Training Pants
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Soaps
- Baby Shampoos
- Baby Lotions
- Diaper Rash Ointment
- Formula
- Baby Food
- Toddler Food
- Pedialyte
- Baby and Kids Hygiene Items
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Breastfeeding Supplies
- Sensitive/Baby Friendly Laundry Detergent

"Determined to be the heart, voice, and hands of God making a difference in our Community"

The 2026 schedule is up for Origins on the big bulletin board. If you have volunteered in the past please check the schedule and verify if the dates you are listed for will work for you. If not please see if any of the other volunteers would be able to switch with you and make the adjustment on the sheet. We are always looking for new volunteers so please reach out to Wiebke if you are interested in volunteering on one of the days listed.

January volunteers:

Wiebke Kilbert, Lauretta Lockwood, Manges Family.

There are many more details about the items listed in the library! Please take a moment to read the list and jot down what you might like to donate so when you shop, you know just what to look for 😊! Remember you can donate those over the counter no cost Medicare items that you may not need if they are on the list! If you are not on Medicare, Origins would greatly appreciate any donations of the specific items requested.



All church Committees and Teams are to submit their 2025 **Annual Reports** to the church office by Sunday **January 11th at the very latest** (emailed as Word files that can be edited please).

MAKE NOTE! We will “*raid the greens*” – remove Christmas Decorations – after worship on January 4th – and we would love helping hands to make quicker work. Please stay after worship to lend a hand!



AV Team: In the spring of this year the AV Team will be saying goodbye to a valuable member that has helped us with Zoom and Worship slide creation and presentation. To continue to function well and not overtask the other AV members we need to bring in and train additional volunteers for ALL positions: Zoom, Slide Creation, Slide Presentation and Critically the Sound team. These are all behind the scenes opportunities that are critical for worship each Sunday not just in house but also for our Zoom and Facebook users, many of whom are homebound and cannot join us. This is your personal ask to consider joining the team or at least come by and shadow what we do to see if you can help us in any of these positions. Please see Wiebke with any questions.



The Children's Christmas Pageant was a huge success!

Thank you to the Children's Church teachers, the wonderful kids and families that helped make it happen. It was a wonderful addition to our Worship service this advent season!





THE ANNUAL LADIES
ADVENT TEA WAS A
LOVELY TIME!
WE HAD A PAJAMA
PAR'TEA' WITH GOOD
FOOD AND LOTS OF
FUN!

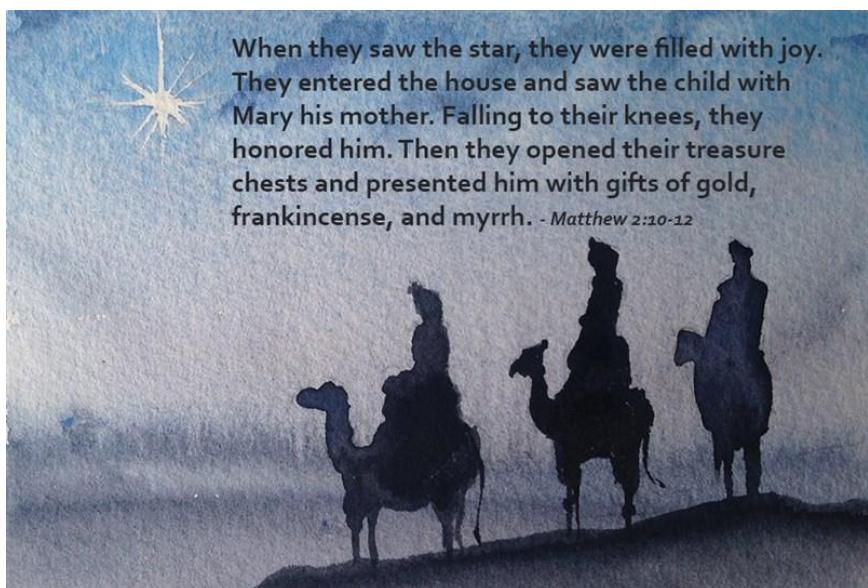




LOWER BURRELL'S CHRISTMAS IN THE WOODS



The Discipleship Team is asking for your help! We are looking for a **VBS Director** - or **co-directors** (since one person has indicated co-directing is a possibility). We would like anyone interested (or have questions) to contact us **by January 7th** please - call Chari Burtner (724-889-7553) or Pastor Brian (724-678-6976). We have a great team to support one another, so please prayerfully open yourself to this opportunity to love children in Christ's name.





January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Marney Birthday Party 10:00am Worship	29 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Schafer Small Group 6:30pm McCann Small Group	30 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00pm N.A. meeting	31  Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Move It!	1  New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Girl Scout Cookie Rally	3
4 10:00am Worship	5 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:30pm McCann Small Group	6  EPIPHANY 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	7 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It! 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 52527	8 1:00pm Meals 4 Children Food Packing 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group  JESUS Is Baptized	12 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Schafer Small Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting 6:30pm McCann Small Group 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	13 5:00pm Origins Outreach 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20834 6:00pm Session Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	14 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It!	15 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	17 8:00am Logan Birthday Party
18 Youth Group Snowtubing 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walking 11:30am Women's Bible Study	19 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting 6:30pm McCann Small Group	20 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:00pm Worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	21 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It! 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 52527	22 1:00pm Meals 4 Children Food Packing 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	24 9:00am Grow 25th Wedding Anniversary
25 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	26 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Schafer Small Group 6:30pm McCann Small Group	27 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	28 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It!	29 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	31

