

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 ☺



Puckety Church

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Following Jesus...

Making Disciples...

*Loving One Another
as He Loves Us*

Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

December 2016

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Curious, this royal throne room. No tapestries covering the windows. No velvet garments on the courtesans. And, instead of a golden scepter, the king holds a crudely whittled olive-wood rattle. Curious, the sounds in the court. Cows munching, hooves crunching, a mother humming, a babe nursing.

It could have begun anywhere, the story of the king. But, curiously, it began in a manger. Step into the doorway, peek through the window.

He is here!

The Arrival

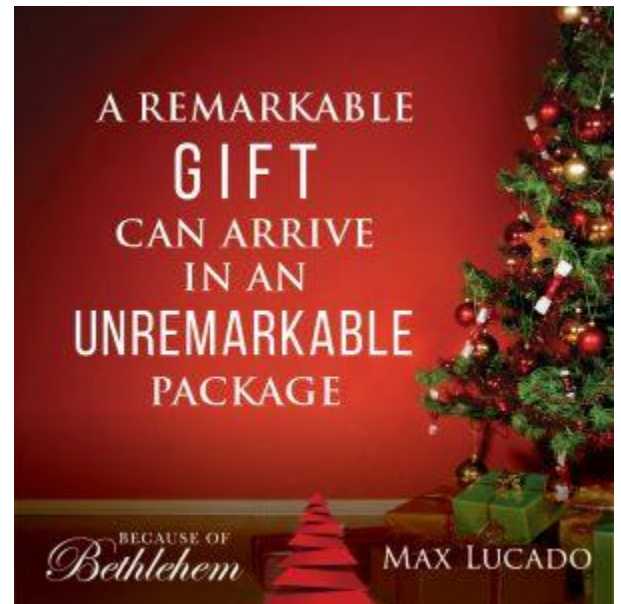
The noise and the bustle began earlier than usual in the village. As night gave way to dawn, people were already on the streets. Vendors were positioning themselves on the corners of the most heavily traveled avenues. Store owners were unlocking the doors to their shops. Children were awakened by the excited barking of the street dogs and the complaints of donkeys pulling carts.

The owner of the inn had awakened earlier than most in the town. After all, the inn was full, all the beds taken. Every available mat or blanket had been put to use. Soon all the customers would be stirring and there would be a lot of work to do.

One's imagination is kindled thinking about the conversation of the innkeeper and his family at the breakfast table. Did anyone mention the arrival of the young couple the night before? Did anyone comment on the pregnancy of the girl on the donkey? Perhaps. Perhaps someone raised the subject. But, at best, it was raised, not discussed. There was nothing that novel about them. They were, possibly, one of several families turned away that night.

Besides, who had time to talk about them when there was so much excitement in the air? Augustus did the economy of Bethlehem a favor when he decreed that a census should be taken. Who could remember when such commerce had hit the village?

No, it is doubtful that anyone mentioned the couple's arrival or wondered about the condition of the girl. They were too busy. The day was upon them. The day's bread had to be made. The morning's chores had to be done. There was too much to do to imagine that the impossible had occurred.



God had entered the world as a baby. Yet, were someone to chance upon the sheep stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem that morning, what a peculiar scene they would behold. The stable stinks like all stables do. The stench of urine, dung, and sheep reeks pungently in the air. The ground is hard, the hay scarce. Cobwebs cling to the ceiling and a mouse scurries across the dirt floor.

A more lowly place of birth could not exist.

Off to one side sit a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear him—so on this cloudless night he went to simple shepherds.

Near the young mother sits the weary father. If anyone is dozing, he is. He can't remember the last time he sat down. And now that the excitement has subsided a bit, now that Mary and the baby are comfortable, he leans against the wall of the stable and feels his eyes grow heavy. He still hasn't figured it all out. The mystery of the event still puzzles him. But he hasn't the energy to wrestle with the questions. What's important is that the baby is fine and that Mary is safe. As sleep comes, he remembers the name the angel told him to use . . . Jesus. "We will call him Jesus."

Wide awake is Mary. My, how young she looks! Her head rests on the soft leather of Joseph's saddle. The pain has been eclipsed by wonder. She looks into the face of the baby. Her son. Her Lord. His Majesty. At this point in history, the human being who best understands who God is and what he is doing is a teenage girl in a smelly stable. She can't take her eyes off him. Somehow Mary knows she is holding God. So this is he. She remembers the words of the angel, "His kingdom will never end."

He looks anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry, though strong and healthy, is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

She touches the face of the infant-God. *How long was your journey!*

This baby had overlooked the universe. These rags keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. And worshiping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.

Meanwhile, the city hums. The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he had just sent God into the cold. And the people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility.

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking.

Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?



Bible Readings

The Bible readings are from
"Book of Common Worship"

For the week of:

December 4:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11:

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18:

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25:

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2(1-7)8-20

Save the Date!!

We want YOU to join us for A Women's Retreat

- o Where: Puckety Church
- o When: Friday March 24th-Saturday March 25th
- o Cost: \$ 10.00 (Covers the cost of your book, coffee, light breakfast and lunch)
- o Theme: Sweet Life Café "Where Women Savor Time with God"

This retreat provides an experience that allows women to slow down and savor time with God and each other.

Key Verse: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

Pray about who you can bring with you!

Tuesday December 20th 6:15-7:00 is our Community Prayer Service. Please join us as we lift up our community to God in prayer!



Greetings Puckety Church! The month of November has flown by so quickly, but it is important during this time of year to take a beat and remember how God has blessed our lives. This is exactly what the Youth Group did the other night when we all shared the things we were all most thankful for. Among the obvious answers of friends and family the kids were also thankful that God had blessed with a place to come and hang out and learn more about him. These kids have been deeply moved by the work God had been doing through the Puckety Youth Group and I am so thankful for all the love and support everyone has given whether it's been through a snack donation or prayer. So here's to all the many blessings that God has given all of us and to all the people that God is able to work through to see The Kingdom of Heaven present on earth.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS In December

4 Brandon Brim
11 Mick Dober
18 Beth Dober
24 Kirk Orr
25 Denise Wehrle

Your Session:

Debra Artman
Rebecca Fisher
Matt Wehrle
Sophia Earhart
Kirk Orr
Jolene Kostelansky
Mick Dober
Mike Tatem
Vicki Orr
Sue Close

Corporate Officers:

President: Sophia Earhart
Vice-Pres.: Matt Wehrle
Secretary: Debra Artman
Treasurer: Donna Bracken

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.

Your Deacons:

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

4 Matt Wehrle and
Rebecca Fisher
11 Sue Close and
Jolene Kostelansky
18 Deb Artman and
Sophia Earhart
24 Mick Dober and
Mike Tatem
25 Vicki Orr and
Sophia Earhart

Offering Counters:

4 Janet Karan and Deb
Artman
11 Chuck and Judy West
18 Jolene Kostelansky and
Sophia Earhart
25 Chari Burtner and Matt
Wehrle

POWER OF PRAYER

To the family of God here at Puckety: We want to remind you that there are people here at Puckety who are available to pray for you after the worship service and we invite you to take advantage of these opportunities for prayer. We are asking that all who desire prayer to come and be seated in the first or second pew, up by the communion table. This will help us be aware of your desire for prayer. "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16b)

HELP NEEDED!

Would you like:

- To keep your mind fresh and sharp?
- To learn new things or utilize what you already know in a different way?
- To have the privilege of worshipping as you work?



JOIN THE VIDEO TEAM!

We need at least 2 new persons to join the team so that no one needs to volunteer more than once a month. There are either 4 or 5 Sundays or other worship opportunities each month. We currently have 3 volunteers.

WE NEED YOU!

You can work from the comfort of your own home and computer during the week. Someone will lead you and be beside you while you learn the ins and outs. Talk to Mark Benish, Beth Dober or Matt Wehrle if you are interested in being a part of this important ministry.



Please take a minute to send the office an email or drop a note in the offering plate or call if you have a new address/ phone number/ or email! Kelly is going to be putting together a newly

updated directory and would like any and all information by December 31st! Thanks for your kind participation!

Just a reminder that we have a wonderfully stocked library for your use. You may borrow and kindly return anything in there at any time! No need to sign any of the materials/books out. Stop by and take a look!

Blessings On Your Birthday!!!



- 6 Howard Newell
- 8 Mark Benish
- 9 Deb Fotheringham
- 10 Nita Serene
- 14 Jeffrey Burtner
- 17 Emma Hough
- 21 Julia McAllister
- 23 Bill Dailey
- 24 Amanda Schirato
- 27 Linda Zurenski
- 29 Joyce Ewing
- 31 Jack Guyer

(If your name does not appear, or if the information is incorrect, please contact the office so that the records may be updated.)



The Worship Team wants you to be aware and encourage you to use the Media Worship resource that is available on the church's website. All sermons for the year 2016 have been recorded and are available for playback. Go to www.pucketychurch.org. Then click on worship then media.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

The Deacons will be collecting names of local families in need of a Christmas Food Basket until December 16, 2016. Please email or call the church office or drop a note off!

Meals 4 Children

weekend meals for hungry kids



| Packing Date | Church | Puckety Team |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| December 7th | Puckety | 1 Team |
| December 14th | BCC | |
| December 21st | Grace Comm | |
| January 4th | Bethesda | |
| January 11th | Puckety | Team 2 |
| January 18th | BCC | |
| January 25th | Grace Comm | |
| February 1st | Bethesda | |
| February 8th | Puckety | 1 Team |
| February 15th | BCC | |
| February 22nd | Grace Comm | |
| March 1st | Bethesda | |
| March 8th | Puckety | Team 2 |
| March 15th | BCC | |
| March 22nd | Grace Comm | |
| March 29th | Bethesda | |
| April 5th | Puckety | 1 Team |
| April 19th | BCC | |
| April 26th | Grace Comm | |
| May 3rd | Bethesda | |
| May 10th | Puckety | Team 2 |
| May 17th | BCC | |
| May 24th | Grace Comm | |
| May 31st | Bethesda | |



*Sounds
of the
Season*

Would you like to sing for Advent and Christmas, and not make a long term commitment? We welcome "seasonal singers"! The choir is starting on beautiful Christmas music on Thursday evenings at about 7:30

p.m. as part of our regular Thursday rehearsal time. We would love to have you join us as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. If interested, please let me know so I can prepare your music.

~Lorraine Menk, Choir Director

KIRK'S KORNER

Dear Puckety Family,

Did you know that for nearly 70 years we have been part owners of a marvelous piece of real estate and disciple-making ministry? It is called PINE SPRINGS CAMP.

This season of Advent, we will be once again celebrating the INCARNATION, a big word meaning that God took on our flesh in Jesus Christ, bringing Good News to humankind as Savior, Redeemer, and Healer.

Pine Springs Camp has faithfully incarnated the awesome love of Christ, coming along- side the churches of Redstone and Washington Presbyteries and enhancing our efforts to make Disciples. I have invited Greg Davis, Executive Director, to come and share with us about the wonderful things God has been doing through Pine Springs Camp, and to introduce us to an opportunity to sow into the future of Pine Springs through our prayers and financial support.

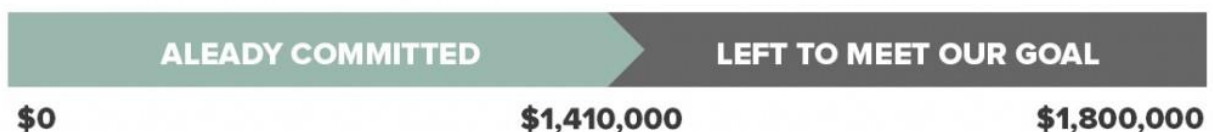
The greatest gift we will ever receive is the Lord Jesus Himself. I invite you to use this season of Advent to reaffirm the awesome gift God has given and keeps on giving through the constant presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May your experience of Emmanuel be sweet and your joy be complete!

Learn more by going to pinespringscampaign.org.

BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION

Together we can reach our goal.



The newest regular print editions of the "Our Daily Bread" publication are available at each door. Please take one for yourself and one to share!

It's that time of year again!! Please sign up to be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army - Friday, December 2nd. The list is on the bulletin board right outside the office. Times available are on the list! Thank you to all who have signed up!!



The Worship Team would like to announce that we will once again be having a Christmas Joy Offering. Beginning Sunday, December 4th, the envelopes will be in the pew racks. The final collection will be on Sunday, December 25th.

The Fellowship & Care Team



Would like to invite everyone to our annual Christmas Luncheon! It will be held December 11th immediately following the congregational meeting. There is a sign-up sheet by the side door entrance to the Sanctuary for those wishing to bring something to share!



The Puckety Church youth continues its' wonderful holiday tradition and will be delivering Christmas cards for the congregation! There will be a mailbox in the hallway outside the sanctuary from December 4th to the 18th. Just put your cards in the mailbox with the recipients' name/s on the envelope and the youth will deliver them before worship!

Note from our Elders

Dear Puckety Church Family,

The Session just realized that we made a decision in December of last year that we should have communicated to all of you. We voted to reaffirm a long-standing policy regarding not accepting designated funds that were not previously requested by a board vote. Our realization came when we were informed that non-approved designated offerings were still being received by the treasurer as of last month.

We are grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of our faith family, and we believe that the budget that the Ruling Elders present to the congregation should be followed by all of us except in unusual circumstances. For instance, when the session discovered that both furnaces in Faith Hall needed immediate replacement, we chose to let you all know about the need. Your response was wonderful! All needed funds were received in less than a month. Thank You!

You are probably also aware of the Memorial Fund and Deacons Fund, which are always options for designated giving. Other opportunities include approved offerings for various missions and ministries that we have chosen to support during the year.

In the future, if the treasurer receives a designated gift that has not been approved by session, she will return the gift with a brief note of explanation about our long-standing policy.

Once again, we are sorry that we did not think to communicate our December 2015 decision to you till now.

Puckety Church Session

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

There are many churches in our presbytery that have sewing and knitting groups. Hooks and Needles meets at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensburg, to knit, crochet and have a time of fellowship and prayer. The group, who has members from all over the community, has been faithfully getting together for about 10 years according to the founder, Ruth Magnuson. The group started out making prayer shawls for folks going through difficult times. Over the years they have also supplied hats and scarves for Welcome Home and the Blackburn Center, as well as Acadia Church in Indiana County. They also made dresses that were sent to Africa as part of a mission project. The group also works on individual projects and are always willing to help a fellow member who may be having trouble with a project. While needle work is the common bond that brought the group together, they enjoy the fellowship just as much. As one member put it, "It is fun to get together and get to know each other at a leisurely pace." If you would like more information on Hooks and Needles please contact the church @ [724-837-3540](tel:724-837-3540).

*"Loopin' for
the Lord"*



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

Together!

December, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter the Advent season, the Board of Deacons send their prayers that this celebration of the birth of our Lord will be especially meaningful to you. We also want to thank you for your continued support in our outreach.



It has been the tradition at Puckety to extend an opportunity to each of you to contribute towards a monetary gift for the pastor. The gift will be presented before the Christmas Eve service. Your gift may be given to any of the deacons listed below or mailed to the church office **no later than December 18th**. (Please mark the envelope “pastor’s gift”).

Prayerfully,

The Board of Deacons

Sandy Anckney

Maria Schafer

Nita Serene

Brenda McAllister

Irene Nelson

Vi Adamsky

Denise Wehrle

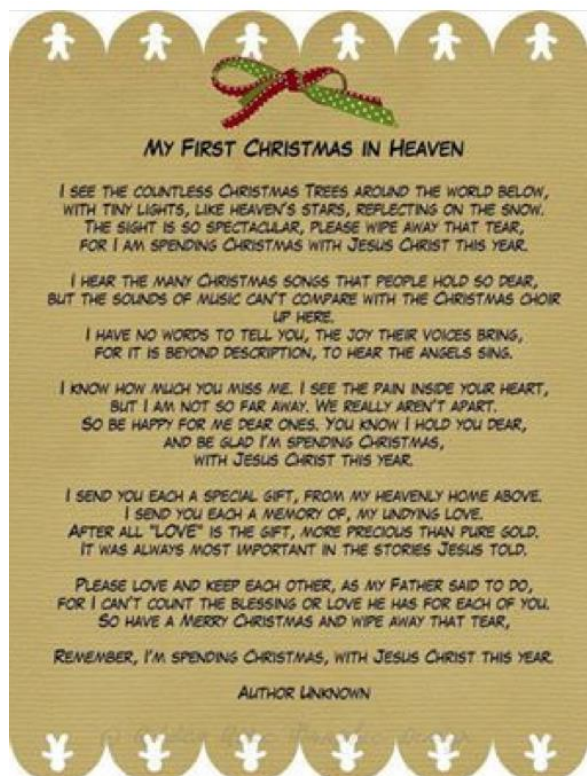
John McAllister

Lauretta Lockwood

Jennifer Motosicky



Cliff McKay, Jr.

Submitted by Darlene Miller:



DECEMBER 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 27 Advent 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:00 PM Youth Group | 28 Meals on Wheels | 29 1:30 PM Bulletin Board Group 8:00 PM N.A. meeting | 30 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Meals 4 Children Food Packing 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 1  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 2 Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Line Dancing | 3 4:00 PM Christian Moto Cycle Assoc Christmas Party |
| 4  Christmas Card Delivery Begins 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:00 PM Youth Group | 5 Meals on Wheels 10:30 AM Card Ministry 6:30 PM Upkeep Meeting | 6 6:30 PM Worship Purpose Team Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting | 7 Girl Scouts Christmas Party Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Meals 4 Children Food Packing 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 8 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 9 Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Line Dancing | 10 Christmas Luncheon Set-up |
| 11  CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting 6:00 PM Youth Group | 12 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Girl Scouts Leader Meeting | 13 6:30 PM Session Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting | 14 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Meals 4 Children Food Packing 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 15  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 16 Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Line Dancing | 17 |
| 18  FOURTH SUNDAY Advent 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:00 PM Youth Group | 19 Meals on Wheels 6:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting | 20 6:15 PM Community Prayer Time 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting | 21  First Day of Winter Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Meals 4 Children Food Packing 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 22 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal | 23 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00 PM Line Dancing | 24  7:00 PM Worship Service |
| 25 | 26 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED | 27 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 PM N.A. meeting | 28 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Meals 4 Children Food Packing 7:00 PM Boy Scouts | 29 | 30 Meals on Wheels 1:00 PM Line Dancing | 31 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|---|
|  <p>Christmas Day Worship Service</p> <p>Christmas Day 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship/Youth Church 6:00 PM Youth Group</p> | | | | | |  |

A Little Christmas Prayer

As Christmas nears, I am reminded of the greatest gift, Jesus Christ.

You didn't even spare Your Son, because you loved me.
And this is how I, a sinner, joyfully returned to Your arms.

Where would I be without my salvation?
My life would be meaningless. I would not know grace and peace.

How wonderful it feels to have this gift of eternal life given so freely.
How generous of You, my God, that you'd do this for me!

May the spirit of Christ fill me to open wide my heart and hands.
Help me share Christ with those in great need of Your touch
so they may see a glimpse of Your Wonderful Son,
who gave his all because of LOVE.

Thank you for Jesus!
In His name, Amen.

TALKAMEN