

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-Scripts
a monthly publication



From the Hearts & Hands of Session

As Puckety Church we ***Honor God:***

The leaders of Puckety Church would like every one of you to be praying for us – all of us. On August 12th we will have our annual Joint Board meeting (where the Elders & Deacons join over a picnic for a kind of “big picture” discussion). For all our active **Elders & Deacons** ... we are asked to *intentionally prepare* for this time to discuss, dream, and discern. If you’re serving on one of the boards we ask you to come with prayer-sought observations and ideas – both: **1)** to be honest and grateful of how we have fulfilled our mission in the last year – to thank God and to learn – as well as **2)** to offer specific ideas and concrete ways to – “honor God,” “grow in faith,” and “improve our community and world in the coming year. For example, instead of saying something general like, “Well, we need to get more of our other members to join in our ministries,” think of actionable and realistic ways we could motivate others, both by leading ourselves and by inspiring in other ways. Yes, we “need more help” but let’s creatively open ourselves to the Spirit so we don’t rely on vague hopes. Let’s come, having sought the Spirit individually beforehand, ready to be receptive to the Spirit’s guidance in each other, as a whole.

As Puckety Church, we ***Grow in Faith:***

August is the month when we plan for our fall discipleship – individually and in groups. So ... how do you plan to grow in faith starting in September? Will you be joining one of our 4 adult small groups? If you find that they don’t meet at a time that will work for your schedule or the curriculum isn’t applicable for you, would you consider reaching out to some other members who may be in the same position and facilitate a different small group? *[The Church has funds and resources to help you!]* If weekdays and evenings won’t work for you, perhaps you could help our Children’s Church teachers by joining their team; they would love some extra help (even if it’s just once or twice a month) and it’s just around the corner! Finally, since growing in faith is obviously more than learning with our minds, what ways are you exploring to put the truth “into action”? Maybe you can help with the Meals 4 Children ministry to our school kids (see Matt Wehrle or Pastor Brian). Maybe help with Origins/TryLife (see Wiebke Kilbert). There’s a new opportunity called the Family Promise House in Brackenridge – they could use someone to cook a meal for several families (15 or so people) about 4 times a year (or there are other ways to help). We also grow in faith when we put what we’ve learned to good use in service. Truth isn’t complete until it is expressed in love. Let’s grow in the Lord by serving our neighbor.

As Puckety Church, we ***Improve our Community & World:***

In lieu of a normal stated meeting, on July 8th, the members of Session went as the work team *Origins Family Center* (formerly TryLife). We split up into two teams – half working inside with folding, consolidating, organizing clothes, etc. and the other half working outside (in the considerable heat) for the 5-8:00pm timeframe in clearing overgrowth, sawing up a fallen tree and removing,

repairing stairs on the outside deck – Mick, Matt, and I were soaked with sweat by the end, but grateful to be of help. Afterward, the back part of their parking lot was not only cleaner and clearer, but safer too. We even “uncovered” the hidden AC unit from the “bamboo-like” shrubbery that was blocking the side of the building. My many thanks to the men and women who gave of their time to support our community partner!

We encourage our members to please take advantage of either signing up (hallway) for one of the monthly teams for the 2nd half of the year, and/or to donate to the “OTC” (over-the-counter) box, which will be put back in the hallway starting in August for in-demand products for the families who come to Origins. Thank you.

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 – please see Pastor Brian, Jesse Oddis, or any member of the Puckety Praise Team for more info.



Our Pine Springs summer staff person is once again **Kylee Hoffman**! Take a moment to pray for Kylee, send a card or letter of encouragement or a small package to let her know Puckety is supporting her. There is more information on how/where to send things to Kylee on the bulletin board by the library and across from the office

A Devotional for You - Read James 1:2-4, & 12

After an extensive tour of the U.S., the German theologian Helmut Thielicke was asked what he saw as the greatest defect among American Christians. He replied, “They have an inadequate view of suffering.” There have been times I’ve agreed with him. “Why does God let such hard things happen?” This has been a season where this question has been asked in various ways (it’s always out there, but recently it seems more vocalized) – particularly when crises like the war b/n Russia and Ukraine, the deadly flooding in Texas, and the destructive wildfires around Grand Canyon NP (did you know that the Kerr County flooding and the Dragon Bravo Fire that started in the North Rim BOTH happened on July 4th?!). The amount of cries with the word, “Why?” in them were in the millions that day alone.

On the one hand, it’s a question that has been considered by over a 100 books in the last 300 years – some of those books being over 1,000 pages long (I haven’t made it through those ones quite yet). But that being said, I’m not going to answer in a page and a half what they haven’t done (satisfactorily) in centuries. After this, people will still say, “I can’t believe in a God who would allow Auschwitz, COVID, and the starvation in Gaza.” But I do want to try to give an insight to accompany the question.

For those in the Reformed tradition (and going back to the ancient Church Fathers), Christian believers have said that even when “evil” things happen, God uses them according to his purpose – i.e., for his glory. I know, I know, that doesn’t satisfy either. That’s a platitude. What we need is a window, or a “lens” to see through. God gave us one. The cross. No matter how bad the things that happen are, someone could trace the train of “wreckage” back to our own human sin. But in Christ’s death, where evil was done to one who was truly innocent, truly just, and fully good ... “Why?” None of the disciples saw why at the time. But on the “other side” of the resurrection – a real and tangible event – we see “why” – God used not just good, but the bad to bring about something even better, something more beautiful, and something WAY MORE lasting than the hurt. This is our lens to see through.

In a way, I see it as the two lenses in a pair of glasses, or a kind of “bifocal” lens. With one half, God uses pain because it sometimes is the only way to “get our attention” when we have chosen sin and evil. If you look at the accounts of the Bible and the course of history, without something, well, *horrible*, it would lead to something worse. What can God use to speak loudly enough so we’ll pay attention? What will convince us – when we’re so focused on earthly things – that this world is not running the way God’s creation is supposed to run? That the human condition is out of whack. But that’s just “one side” of the lenses. The other side is how God uses even our pain for our good. Both halves of the lenses are in full effect at the cross. We don’t see everything yet, but we know God has acted in an indescribably loving and merciful way.

What is God trying to tell us? And in addition, I leave you with one more question, for you to ask alongside the painful and honest questions: “Is it possible that God is using this to make me more like his Son; to conform me to the image of Him, who ‘was made perfect through suffering’ (Hebrews 2:10)? So, if Jesus wasn’t exempt, what right do we have to say that we do? And more than that, consider this as I believe this is what the Bible teaches – there is a kind of honor given to us, when we suffer and yet believe in the goodness of the Father, as Christ did (Acts 5:40-41). I’ll end with a quote from Philip Yancey in *Where is God When It Hurts* (still a great book): “With specific trials and torments, it may be dangerous and unscriptural to torture ourselves by looking for his message in the throbs of daily life ... But from the larger view, from the view of all history, God is speaking to us through pain – or at least in spite of pain. He can use it to make us aware of Him (when other attempts do not suffice). The symphony He is working out includes minor chords, dissonance, and tiring fugal passages. But those of us who follow His conducting through these early movements will, with renewed strength, someday burst into song.”

~ Pastor Brian



03 Jennifer McKay
10 Sophia Earhart
17 Jennifer McKay
24 Maria Schafer
31 Michelle Gordon

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



Sunday, August 17
Bagels with all the yummy fixings!
Join us!

Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk
Jolene Kostelansky
Mick Dober
Kelly Kapelewski
Marilyn Crumley
Alice Knopfel
Maria Schafer
Sandy Schafer
Chuck West
Matt Wehrle



Offering Counters:

03 Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart
or Matt Wehrle
10: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
17: Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
24: Chuck & Judy West
31: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart
or 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.

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!

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



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:

August 3:

Hos 11:1-11
Psalm 50:1-8,22-23
Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-3

August 10:

Isaiah 1:1,10-20
Psalm 107:1-9,43
Eccl 1:2,12-14
Col 3:1-11

August 17:

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2,8-19
Jer 23:23-29
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

August 24:

Jer 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Hebrews 13:1-8

August 31:

Jer 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1,10-16
Prov 25:6-7
Hebrews 12:18-29



**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



Have you seen the
transformation of the
little kitchenette here in the church
building? It is all thanks to the hard work
of the following: Rodney Schafer, Mark
Nelson, Tim Eckman and Irene Nelson. Stop
by! It looks great. If anyone would like to
lend a hand removing the wallpaper and painting in that area,
let Irene or Kelly know!



- 1 Sandra Ankney
- 9 Kim Soulcheck
- 10 George Davis
- 13 Kelly Kapelewski
- 15 Jack Barnett
- Marilyn Crumley
- Leroy Anthony
- 17 Julie Teichman
- 19 Sandy Appleman
- 20 Caroline
McAllister
- 22 Brennen Sugajski
- 24 Jacob Taylor
- 29 Amy Kostek
- 30 Leetha O'Neil
- 31 Debbi Fritz



SHARE YOUR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS If you or someone close to you
has a talent that should be shared with the congregation at one of the
services during the summer, we highly encourage you to!
When we sing "put it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine" this is
exactly what that means. Whether it is an instrumental, vocal, drama or
poetry presentation, if it brings you and others into God's presence, you
should share it! Contact Lorraine Menk (724-339-9531 or
kirbie1@comcast.net) or the office. The sign-up chart with available
dates is in the hall. Thank you for coming forward and blessing us!

Chef John McAllister cooking for us again at our annual picnic!
Thank you Fellowship and Care Team for a wonderful well-attended event!



Mick Dober hard at work clearing trees that fell behind Origins.



ATTENTION all current and new incoming choir members:

Please mark *Thursday, August 28 at 6:30 pm* on your calendar as **Choir Picnic Night** at Puckety Church!

We will do as we have before, chicken and paper products will be provided. The side dishes are being coordinated through Irene Nelson. Please call or text her to RSVP and let her know what you're bringing by August 24th. 724-681-0683. It will be a splendid meal and a wonderful time to fellowship and talk about the upcoming choir season!

Lap Blankets for Monarch Hospice: Monarch Hospice picked up the laundry basket full of lap blankets in July. They were once again overwhelmed by the variety of the blankets and very thankful that the crafters of Puckety remember to include blankets in colors that men may be more drawn to. They advised that even though it is summer the blankets get lots of use due to the air conditioning in the facilities. Personally, I want to thank all the crafters for staying so busy and producing such amazing work! The lap blankets are great ways to experiment with new stitches and gain confidence if you are starting out with knitting or crocheting. If you are interested in this ministry and how you can help, please reach out to Wiebke Kilbert. To those already involved, continue the excellent work!



VBS 2025 TRUE NORTH!!
41 KIDS LEARNING ABOUT JESUS!
MANY MANY VOLUNTEERS!



\$210 RAISED FOR OPERATION
KID TO KID!!

Provides warm clothes and blankets
 for kids in North America.



Job well done!! THANK YOU!



AV Team: The average number of people who worship with Puckety using Zoom or the Facebook live stream is 9. Nine people use technology to worship God and stay connected to their church family. We often have "mystery" people joining us, people we do not know but come back week after week to hear the word of God. This is why the AV ministry is so critical. It may be the only way a person may hear about God and their Savior Jesus. Please consider joining this team, no experience necessary, just a willing heart to learn. Below is the list of those serving in August.

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
8/3/25	Matt	Matt	Nate	Chari
8/10/25	Sandra	Sandra	Rodney	Beth
8/17/25	Jenn	Wiebke	Zach	Beth
8/24/25	Sandra	Sandra	Nate	Beth
8/31/25	Wiebke	Wiebke	Rodney	Beth



There will be a group heading to Origins on August 12th. This is an evening where we can be the literal hands and feet of Jesus to the families in our community. The good news is that the work that is done can be adjusted for any level of hand and feet ability. Can't stand for long? No worries, there are chairs. Can't carry things, no worries, the other team members will step in and help. Can't drive but really

want to go? Let Wiebke know and she will coordinate a ride for you. Below is the list of people signed up for August. If you would like to join them, please add your name to the list in the hallway. The donation box will be returned to the hallway with the list of over the counter items that Origins is always looking for. If you have any questions, please let Wiebke know.

August

8/12/25

Lisa Wilson

Barb Sprinkle

Lauretta Lockwood

Sophia Earhart



STORIES OF REDSTONE

Prayer Mailbox Need a prayer? First Presbyterian can help!

First Presbyterian Church of Avonmore has been blessed with a totally new unique outreach. Commissioned Pastor Lynn Mance shared an idea and member Bill Fraín self-designed a beautifully handmade church prayer mailbox and made it a reality. It is made of wood and has a metal roof. The cross on the steeple is very special.

Not only is it Jesus' cross it is made from shittim wood. Shittim wood grows along the banks of the Jordan River in Israel. In the Book of Exodus, God commanded the Israelites to make the Ark of Covenant and parts of the Tabernacle out of shittim wood. The

mailbox is placed in the front of the church accessible to the lower parking lot and sidewalk. Inside is a tablet, envelopes and opens to leave a personal prayer. The prayers will be collected and shared within the Sunday worship congregational prayers and then in personal prayers.

On Sunday June 1 members prayed over the mailbox to give it God's blessings to the community. Prayers of the community are welcome. The congregation is excited to see what God can do thorough this mailbox.

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

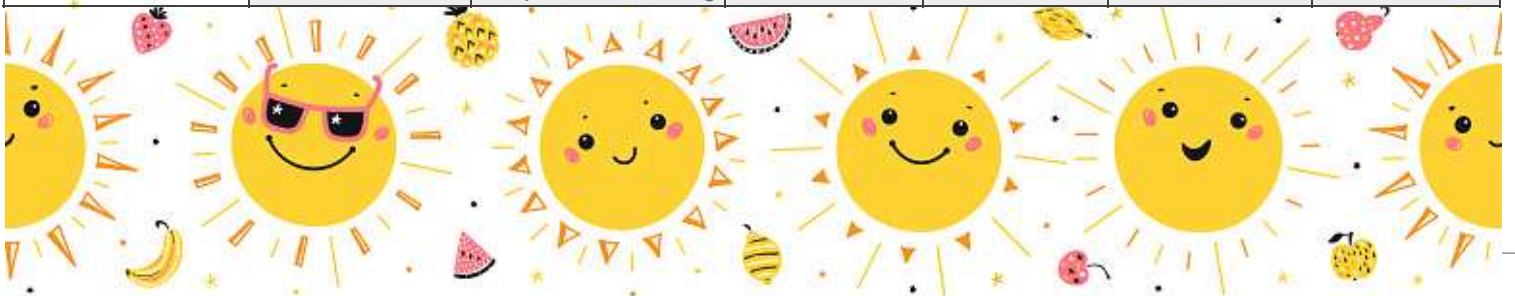
Kickoff Sunday
(September 14th) -

Breakfast at 9:00 AM
with *Worship and Children's Church* to follow during the 10:00 service hour.

All are welcome. Please invite a friend or neighboring family to join us and get back into the swing of things.

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00am Worship	28 Meals on wheels 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting	29 8:00pm N.A. meeting	30 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It! 7:00pm Dimension 360 Event	31 10:00am Band Camp Lunch 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	1 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00am Hicks/Becker Reunion
3 10:00am Worship	4 Meals on wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	5 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	6 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It! 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	7 10:00am Band Camp Lunch 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	8 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	9 Youth Group whitewater Rafting 12:00pm Zorich Birthday Party
10 10:00am worship	11 Meals on wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	12 5:00pm Origins Outreach 5:45pm Joint Session/Deacons Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	13 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It!	14 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	15 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	16 9:30am-11:00am Youth Group Service Project
17 10:00am Worship  	18 Meals on wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	19 8:00pm N.A. meeting	20 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It! 2:00pm On The Move	21 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	22 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 10:00am worship 12:00pm Barnett Family Birthdays	25 Meals on wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting	26 6:00pm worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	27 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It!	28 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 	29 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 10:00am Worship 	1 Meals on wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting	2  6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	3 Meals on wheels 1:00pm Move It! 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	4 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	5 Meals on wheels OFFICE CLOSED	6





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

There are many more details about the items listed above on the coat rack in the ramp hallway! 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.

THANK YOU!!