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!



Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

December 2025

Pastor's Corner

Advent has started. Did you know that for the Church, Advent marks the official start of the year (not January 1st)? Since we're at that kind of moment, I want to ask, "How should we start?" As I also consider that question through the month of December, I do have one way I'd like to start. I want to ask for some help. I've been a pastor long enough to know if you would like to motivate people to join a team, making a "pitch from the pulpit" during announcements just doesn't get it done. I will try to express the need by word of mouth too, but since the "Let me think about it"s are beginning to pile up, I'd thought I'd share it here. There are a lot of things our various ministry teams are in need of right now, so if you can't help out in the very specific way I'm about to ask, please, please, don't wait to be asked. Instead, approach one of the many teams – the *Upkeep Team*, the *AV Team*, the Children's Church Teachers, the Praise Band – just because you don't think you have the "abilities" needed for their work, that doesn't mean you can't connect somebody to them. But don't count yourself out – what would have happened if Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah, Peter (all people who told God, "you got the wrong guy; you don't want me for that"), what would have happened if they insisted someone

else do it?

Anyway, as many of you know I wear Puckety's "youth director" hat for about 18 students who we've been investing in for the last couple years. This coming February I would like to take them to the **Pine Springs Winter Retreat**. What we need are *three* (3) adult chaperones who can spend the weekend with them: 1) drive a car of kids (and their bags) to the camp, 2) join me as a chaperone for the weekend – the camp provides the program but we will need to help monitor and engage – fair warning the cabins have heat and bathrooms, but the sleeping quarters are modest – and 3) help transport the kids back on Sunday. The caravan would leave around 5:30 PM on Friday Feb. 6th, and return Sunday (8th) in the afternoon. The Church would pay your registration as our thanks to you for being a chaperone. There have been years we haven't been able to go, even though we had 6-7 kids interested, because there weren't enough adult chaperones.

Yes, excursions for laser tag and mall scavenger hunts are great, but it's events like weekend retreats at Pine Springs where kids, who have been inching little by little closer to Christ, have a special encounter with the gospel, which can lead to a more vital relationship to Christ, which can lead to a whole different kind of life, which glorifies God. I don't want our kids – especially ones just a year or two away from graduating and entering the secular/college world – to miss opportunities where their spiritual roots can grow deeper, so they can face those times, and beyond, with a better foundation; with the *sure foundation*, of Christ.

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.



LADIES!! PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL ADVENT TEA! THIS YEAR'S THEME IS:

CHRISTMAS PAJAMA PAR"TEA"

DECEMBER 7 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS JAMMIES, FLANNEL PAJAMA PANTS, NIGHTSHIRT WITH LEGGINGS, OR EVEN FESTIVE SWEATSHIRT IF YOU HAVE NONE OF THOSE! AS AN OPTION YOU CAN SLIP INTO YOUR PAJAMAS AFTER WORSHIP IN THE FAITH HALL RESTROOM IF YOU WOULD RATHER NOT WEAR THEM TO CHURCH!

BRING A FRIEND, DAUGHTER, GRANDDAUGHTER, MOM, GRANDMA – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

EVERYONE - PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED PAIR OF FUZZY SOCKS FOR A GIFT EXCHANGE GAME.

PIZZA, REINDEER SNACKS, PUNCH, ICED TEA, AND WATER WILL BE SERVED.

WE WILL HAVE A GAME FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE CENTERPIECE ON EACH TABLE.

THERE WILL BE A DECORATED WRAPPED SUGAR COOKIE TO TAKE HOME!

SIGN UP ON THE HALLWAY BULLETIN
BOARD OF CALL THE CHURCH TO PSVP BY
NOVEMBER 30TH!





- 02 Alice Knopfel
- 09 Michelle Gordon
- 16 Mira Whalen
- 23 Mick Dober
- 30 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



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

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!

Offering Counters:

- 02: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
- 09: Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
- 16: Chuck & Judy West
- 23: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart or Matt Wehrle
- 30: 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: December 7:

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7 Romans 15:4-13 Matt 3:1-12

December 14:

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

December 21:

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

December 24:

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

December 28:

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matt 2:13-23



<u>Please consider joining any of our Ministry</u> <u>Teams here at Puckety Church!</u>

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

Would you like to be a 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. Thank you.



8 Mark Benish
9 Debbie Fotheringham
10 Nita Serene
13 Karen Tkach
14 Jeffrey Burtner
17 Pastor Brian Kilbert
21 Julia McAllister
23 Bill Dailey
24 Amanda Schirato
27 Linda Zurenski
29 Joyce Ewing
Tim Fritz
30 George Tkach
31 Jack Guyer



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.

Sunday Women's Bible Study: We will be starting our study of Season 5 of the Chosen on Sunday January 18th after church. We will be watching the episode together as we eat our brown bag lunches and then having discussion time afterwards. We meet in the conference room. This group is open to anyone who would like to join us. Having watched the previous seasons is helpful but not a requirement to join in. If you have any questions please let Wiebke Kilbert know.

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 Origins schedule it being worked on right now. If you are looking for a simple way to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community this is a fantastic way to do it. A team from our church meets at Origins on the second Tuesday of every month to sort and organize clothing. There are ways to accommodate any physical challenges. We start at 5 and generally leave before 8 pm. If you have volunteered in the past I'm putting you on the list so if there are dates you already know you will not be available please let me know. If you would like to give this a try please let me know as well and we can team you up with a seasoned group of volunteers. Rides can be arranged for anyone local so if if driving at night is keeping you from doing this, again please reach out. -Wiebke Kilbert

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 \mathfrak{S} ! 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.



Once again, the Deacons are working with Origins (formerly Tri-City Life) to provide Christmas gifts for local children in need. This year, the Deacons requested 30 names for the Angel Tree. Beginning November 15, 2025, through December 7, 2025 the Angel Tree will be in the hallway near the library. Please take an angel from the tree and sign the list by the corresponding name/number. All gifts must be returned by December 7, 2025. The gifts will then be delivered to Origins. The Deacons thank you and truly appreciate your support.

(Christmas
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The Deacons will be collecting names of local families in need of a
Food Basket for Thanksgiving until December 19, 2025. Pick-up will be on
December 220th from 9:30 - 10:30am or after church on the 21st. Please email or
call the church office or drop the following in the offering plate:
Sponsor's Name/Number:
Family Receiving Food:

Name/Number/Address:______Number of Children (& ages, if known):______



The Fellowship and Care Team will be hosting **Puckety's Annual Christmas Dinner**

after worship on 12/14.
The menu consists of:
Stuffed Cabbage Mashed Potatoes
Galad Italian Bread/Butter
Please join us!

Once again, the Discipleship Team is going to display a *Christmas Card Box* (outside sanctuary on little table by office), where anyone can put in Christmas cards for members and friends of the congregation! Simply write the recipient's name on the card and put it in the slot *between November 30th and December 21st* (note: any cards submitted on 12/21 will be delivered the next Sunday on Dec. 28th since the children will be getting ready for their play on the 21st) If you or your child would like to help sort or deliver the cards before Worship, please meet in the library between 9:30 and 9:50am each Sunday.





The Children's Church (kids & teachers) will be presenting a <u>Christmas Play</u> during the 10 AM Worship on December 21st – please invite a friend to worship the Lord that Sunday.

Christmas Play Practice for the kids participating – Sunday mornings after church Practice on November 23rd will be downstairs due to the sanctuary being decorated otherwise in the Sanctuary – November 30th and December 14th. Practice location for December 7th is TBD due to the Ladies Advent Tea after church. If you have any questions, ask your Children's Church teacher.

There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday **December 21, 2025**, immediately after the 10 AM Worship service for the purpose of reviewing/approving the 2026 *Pastoral Terms of Call* and receiving the 2026 Annual Budget. All members of Puckety are asked to attend.



As an added note, **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!

<u>From the Hearts & Hands of Puckety's Elders, Deacons, and Leaders</u> [Some highlights of the November Session meeting]

*Natural Gas Lease – Through the hard work – mostly of Chuck West ("Thank you, Chuck!"), Puckety has formally entered into the lease. The signing amount will be at \$3,000/acre, which will come to approximately \$19,000 and thereafter a 17% net royalty on extraction returns. Please note a result of this will involve a change to the official documentation of our name to "Puckety Presbyterian Church" as some older legal documents do not reflect the same name. Please look for the date of the Congregational + Corporation Meeting where we will vote to make that official

*The Upkeep Team — You probably have noticed that we have a completely new roof on Faith Hall and adjacent sheds! All our buildings now match! In addition the Upkeep Team will oversee the demolition of the old sidewalk to Faith Hall (Scheftic Construction) so that a new ramp and railing can be constructed and installed — within the first week or two of December.

There are many other tasks on the "project list" of the Upkeep Team (such as a subcommittee working with the Fellowship Team to research and buy new chairs for Faith Hall) – over a dozen. They have developed a prioritization system. Some of the projects near the 'top' of the list include the electric lights in the chancel area and the Faith Hall kitchen countertops. Of course, they would welcome others to join the team – more "heads and hands" will be of great benefit – particularly if there is someone who may be able to help with cemetery administration.

**Budget* – the Session reviewed and approved the finalized 2026 Budget, which will be presented to the congregation on Sunday December 21st at the Annual Cong. Meeting

*Outreach – <u>Locally</u>, we continue to provide weekend meals to students in our district (increased from 23 to 29 because of the effects of the gov't shutdown). Puckety was responsible for the distributions in November, and we want to thank Matt and Denise Wehrle for their extra efforts – Matt went shopping 3 different times to make sure we had sufficient inventory for our packing and drop-offs! We also thank our packing crew (including Margie Hazlett, Vicky Eckman, and a mystery helper!)



Christmas in the Woods On Saturday Dec. 13th – from 1 to 4 PM at Kotecki Park – join us for a special community event - Puckety is one of the main participants. We already have a choir of over a dozen carolers (1:00 to 1:45), and we will have a Craft Table for the entire time – the crafts are simple to construct; but we need a couple more volunteers to help with the table so each shift is only 1 hour and no team gets too cold! Come help the children and families create something they can take home to remember the reason for the season – contact Wiebke at 724-799-3323 to see which shift you can help with. This event will also be an excellent opportunity to do the following: 1) make and donate some baked goods that can bless attenders, 2) connect and invite attendees to our Advent and Christmas Eve

services, 3) tie in the Christian faith aspect of the season with the community that may not see it as much.
Globally – Please start planning for the upcoming collection for MUST which will be over multiple Sundays from mid-January to early February. Note: by action of the Session, whatever donation is made to MUST during the collection from January 18th through February 8th, it will be matched from the Reserve Fund, so we can maximize the impact of our gift to our missionary partners. Please make a note on the "Memo" line of your checks – "MUST collection." You can also designate your giving on Puckety Church's Vanco giving page – there is a clearly marked category for MUST - which can be accessed from our website's giving page or the QR code in the pews.
*Puckety's Deacons We want to thank the Deacons for collecting 27 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We also want to thank them for all the Thanksgiving food baskets they put together and delivered! All 30 "Angel Tree" tags were taken the first Sunday the tree was up – thank you for everyone's generosity. Please keep your eye out for the Christmas Food Basket order forms (packing will be on Dec. 19th, with pickup on Dec. 20th)

- The "Clean Water Project" (bring clean water to a community)
- The "Farm & Garden Project" (helping poor farming family to be sustainable)
- "New Missionary Doctor Project" (send desperately needed medical skills & expertise)

A Devotional for You - **Exodus 12:5** – "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old, and you shall keep it and care for it until the appointed time" Luke 2:12 -"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths

(the wrappings for a sacrificial lamb) and lying in a manger.

Probably for the rest of my life, I will remember my trip to Israel in April of 2023 (not the year I went, I'll forget that by next year). No, I mean the places I went with fellow pilgrims. For example, a small cathedral in Bethlehem marks the traditional birthplace of Jesus. Behind a high altar there is marble stairway (see picture) descending into a cave, a little cavern lit by silver lamps. For some reason, this hushed and intimate place impacted me more powerfully than the mighty Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem with its extremely ornate stations and tomb of Jesus. In the *Church of the Nativity*, you can enter the main edifice and admire the ancient church. You can also descend into the cave grotto, where a star embedded on the floor recognizes the birth of the King. There is one stipulation, however. You have to **stoop**. For both the traditional entrance of the church – the door is so low you can't go in standing up (yes, even

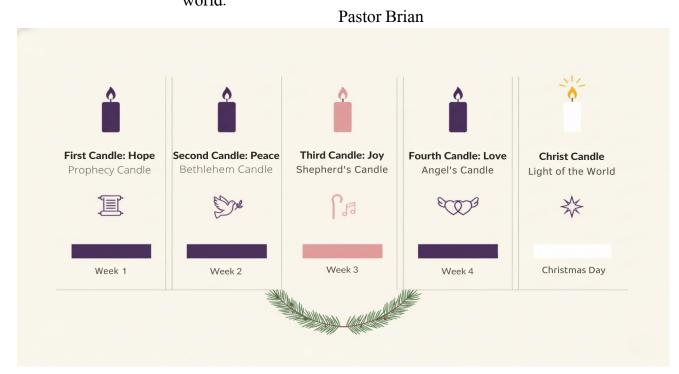
for me!) - as well as the entrance to the cave where Jesus was traditionally put in the manger, you must lower yourself. And isn't the same true of the Christ? You can see the world standing tall, but to witness the

> begin (and I mean *just begin*) to glimpse the glory of God in Christ. There is no way our little minds can comprehend the love of God, but that didn't keep

> Savior, you have to get on your knees. It is only through humility that we can

him from coming. Max Lucado writes, "From the cradle in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem we've pondered the love of our Father. What can you say to that kind of emotion? Upon learning that God would rather die than live without you, how do you react? How can you begin to explain such passion?" You start with what the shepherds did after they saw that baby wrapped in the tools of their trade – by telling the wonderful story to any who would listen, and trust in God to change the world.







Youth Group Mall Scavenger Hunt:











Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FIRST SUNDAY Advent 10:00am Worship	6:00pm Schafer Small Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team	2 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	3 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It! 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 52527		5 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 5:00pm Seneca SU Holiday Service Project	6 2:00pm Snow Family Reunion
SECOND SUNDAY Advent 10:00am Worship Cachies TEA 6:00pm Youth Group	5:30pm MS Group Meeting	9 5:00pm Origins Outreach 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20834 6:00pm Session Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	10 Meals on Wheels 1:00pm Move It!	11 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	13 Christmas Luncheon Prep
14 THEO SMOAY Advent 10:00am Worship 3:00pm Youth Group Caroling	10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting	16 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 8:00pm N.A. meeting		18 1:00pm Meals 4 Children Food Packing 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	20 12:00pm Scholl Family Christmas Party
FORTH SMORY Advent 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting 11:30am Prayer Walking 6:00pm Youth Group Christmas Party First Day of Winter	Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:30pm McCann Small Group	23 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Christmas Eve WORSHIP	25 Christmos Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 Meals on Wheels Miller Christmas Party OFFICE CLOSED	27 10:00am Wach Birthday Party
28 Marney Birthday Party 10:00am Worship	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	Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm Move It!	New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	3

AV Team: As we start putting together the 2026 AV Volunteer schedule it would be fantastic to have some new names to add to the mix. We are always looking for new people to run Zoom, create or present slide and most especially run the sound board. All equipment is provided and we will work with all skill levels. Please see Wiebke Kilbert if you are interested in investigating any of these volunteer positions. Serving in December:

Date	Presentation Creation	Presenter	Sound	Zoom host
12/7/25	Wiebke	Wiebke	Nate	Beth
12/14/25	Denise	Joyce	Rodney	Beth
12/21/25	Brian	Joyce	Zach	Beth
12/24/25	Wiebke	Wiebke	TBD!!	Deb
12/28/25	Matt	Matt	Nate	Wiebke
1/4/26	Sandra	Sandra	Rodney	Wiebke



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ANGEL ANIMALS BABY BETHLEHEM DONKEY FRANKINCENSE GIFTS GOLD JESUS JOSEPH MANGER MARY MYRRH PEACE SAVIOR SHEPHERD STAR WISE MEN

