

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



Puckety Presbyterian Church

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

June 2022

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Pastor's Corner

Friends, I find my heart very full as we start the month of June and summer begins in earnest. My heart is *full of appreciation* as we just observed *Memorial Day*, summoning us to call to mind not only the individuals who sacrificed much (and sometimes all) for this nation and our liberties. My heart is *full of excitement* as our Vacation Bible School approaches (starting June 20th – please spread the word and encourage people to register now!) ... I would like to encourage you to share my excitement, by praying for the following:

**Lifting thanks* for the many people who have put significant time into planning the event, those who have volunteered for various roles and in different ways, for the generosity of others, and God's grace throughout the whole process.

**Praying for the children & families in our community* – for them to: become aware of our VBS event, be moved to register and attend it, and above all – to experience the living Jesus and the love of God through the experience, in such a way that it will spread to their family, and they be drawn to a deeper relationship with God and a fellowship with his people.

**Pray during the actual week of VBS*: for the safety of participants and volunteers, for the needed strength and energy of those serving, for the right conditions that will promote productive interaction and faith-building, for an atmosphere where families not only feel welcome, but one where they feel like they belong and can be part of something bigger.

**Pray after VBS is done*: for good follow-up with the children and their families, for encouragement of those who served, and for faithfulness in “next steps” as to how to continue to engage our community on a regular basis, including how you personally can do so.

Finally, I find my heart *full of gratitude* for a particular reason ... you may know that this month our Church Organist, Sue Close, will be retiring from that position. I know that she has served this congregation faithfully for many years (I have heard many testify to that with various stories and sentiments – all of which have brought a smile to my face). Of course, this is bittersweet news, as I and many others will miss hearing her play and singing to her music, but I'm sure I can speak for the congregation in saying, “Well done, Sue! You've earned it.” This month, I know I will find myself thinking of the times Sue has encouraged me, because she has used her gifts not only in the leading of Sunday worship, but in the edification of Christ's body in other ways. Personally, I've been very touched on a couple different occasions when she could perceive I was sad or troubled. She offered to pray for me, and the *sincerity and feeling* expressed in her intercession affected me (significantly). Sue, as I end this message, I want to ask you to keep praying for us *like that*, for the church – *personally and collectively*. Please don't stop. And, one more time, God bless you and may he continue to use you to bless others! 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 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!



- We extend congratulations and rejoice with Dustin Marshall and Karen Porter who became members of Puckety Church on 5/15/22 and are to be wed here June 4th.
- Congratulations to Brennan Sugajski who was baptized here on 5/15/22.
- We also would like to welcome Joyce Yurko who became a member of Puckety Church on 5/15/22.



Session & Deacons A reminder to all active Elders & Deacons that the annual **Joint Board Meeting** will be **Tuesday June 7th** - gathering at the Manse (yard inside fence) *promptly* at **6:00 PM** to get your food and settle in - Pastor Brian and Wiebke will grill/provide the meat & buns - *we ask that each Deacon bring a side dish to share and that Elders bring a dessert to share.* We encourage you to *bring your own chair* as we'll sit outside. We will then conduct some casual business starting by 6:15 PM. If there is a 'big picture' item you would like to comment on or discuss, feel free - but we recommend submitting it to Deb, Mick and I in advance if possible. *In case of rain*, we will meet in Faith Hall but leave before NA arrives. Please mark your calendars and remind your fellow board members to bring any matters that the collective group should discuss. Thank you.

On Sunday afternoon, July 10, we will gather with followers of Jesus from all over Western Pennsylvania at Heinz Field for **worship**, for **prayer**, and for **unity**. Doors will open at 1:00 and the event will be from 2:00 until 4:00 PM. Imagine tens of thousands of people from in and around Pittsburgh gathered to pray! I can't wait and **I hope you'll join me**. It's free but *be sure and register* at <https://pittsburghprays.com>. We will experience



live **WORSHIP** as churches from across our city unite to provide an incredible worship experience. We will join with others in **PRAYER** to give thanks to God for bringing us through trying times and to strengthen our relationships with one another. We will gather in **UNITY** with various churches and Christian organizations to see our city reconciled and united in Christ. **A few from Puckety have indicated they plan to attend - contact the church office so that arrangements might be made to sit together if possible.** We believe it will be worth your time. Let's pray for our city together.



- 05 Beth Dober
- 12 Vince Appleman
- 19 Jennifer McKay
- 26 Mira Whalen

Your Deacons:

- Sandra Ankney
- Pat Fish
- John McAllister
- Cecil McCutcheon
- Brandy Roland Mira Whalen
- Kim Soulcheck
- Jean Welte
- Fran Kapelewski
- Nita Serene
- Brenda McAllister
- Rodney Schafer

Corporate Officers:

- President:** Jennifer McKay
- Vice-Pres.:** Cliff McKay, Sr.
- Secretary:** Debra Artman
- Treasurer:** Chuck West

This is a reminder to NOT bring in perishable food, such as frozen items or meat for the Deacons' pantry, as we have no fridge or freezer space to hold it. We appreciate your donations but if it is left in the hall, it can be hours or days before the food is found and by then it has to be thrown out which is a waste.

Your Session:

- Deb Artman – Clerk
- Jolene Kostelansky
- Chari Burtner
- Donna Bracken
- Jennifer McKay
- Cliff McKay
- Chuck West
- Kelly Kapelewski
- Marilyn Crumley



Offering counters:

- 6/6: Janet Karan & Deb Artman
- 6/12: Chuck & Judy West
- 6/19: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart and Matt Wehrle
- 6/26: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley

Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

Organist/Pianist:

Sue Close

Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

Financial Secretary:

Judy West

Christian Ed:

Jamie Kmett

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.



Available to a good home. This home organ has been kept in good condition over the years, but its owners are ready to let someone else use it. If you, or someone you know would like it, please contact Andrea Lettrich at (412) 979-0139.



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! Donna Bracken, Cliff McKay, Sr., Jolene Kostelansky, Wiek and Marilyn Crumley have been recently added.



The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

June 5:

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17

June 12:

Prov 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 19:

1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a
Psalm 42, 43
Gal 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

June 26:

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Gal 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62



Graduate Sunday – on Sunday, June 12th, during morning worship, we will recognize our college graduates (Caroline & Julia McAllister). Please join us as we congratulate them on their accomplishment, hear of future plans, and pray God’s blessing upon them.

The Deacons announce that the latest edition of the Our Daily Bread devotionals have been placed in various places throughout the church. Please take one for yourself and anyone else you think might enjoy reading one!



- 1 Michelle Gordon
- 3 Ryan Smith
- 4 Lorraine Menk
- Alice Knopfel
- 5 Marti Rugh
- 13 Cliff McKay, Jr.
- Beverly Becker
- 14 Rebecca Fisher
- 16 Patty Jones
- 17 Janet Karan
- 19 Dessie Wetmore
- Jack Kirchartz
- 20 Dean Kunkle
- Ben Szich
- 21 Caryn Nelson
- 24 Margie Hazlett
- 25 Lisa Sennett
- Mike Zurenski, Jr.
- 27 Jenny Adams



Our Sunday Afternoon Crafternoon group is continuing to work on basic crochet stitches. We will be meeting on June 12th. We meet in the conference room and are open to all crocheters and knitters of any skill level. Join us to learn something new, brush up on a hobby you set aside or finish that project that has been sitting at the bottom of your closet for years. Questions can be directed to Wiebke.



Attention **ALL VBS Station Leaders & Crew Leaders** - the VBS **training/orientation** will be *Tuesday (May 31st)* - with everyone gathering first at **6:00 PM** in the Conference Room and then in break-outs. We ask that all VBS volunteers take advantage of this time to make the most of our week of ministry. We plan to finish by 8:00 PM.

Praying in the Middle of Senseless Tragedies

When we hear about yet another random act of violence, our first response is usually to pray away the pain or pray that this will never happen again. But how can we pray beyond the fear and shock, beyond the most obvious needs, for the issues of the Kingdom? Hopefully, some of the following points will be a springboard for your prayers in the wake of tragedies that defy human understanding and are becoming more and more frequent.

PRAISE

- Though it is difficult, start with praise. Focus on God's character. Praise God that He is sovereign, that He has ultimate control over it all, and that nothing takes Him by surprise (Isa. 45:5-7)

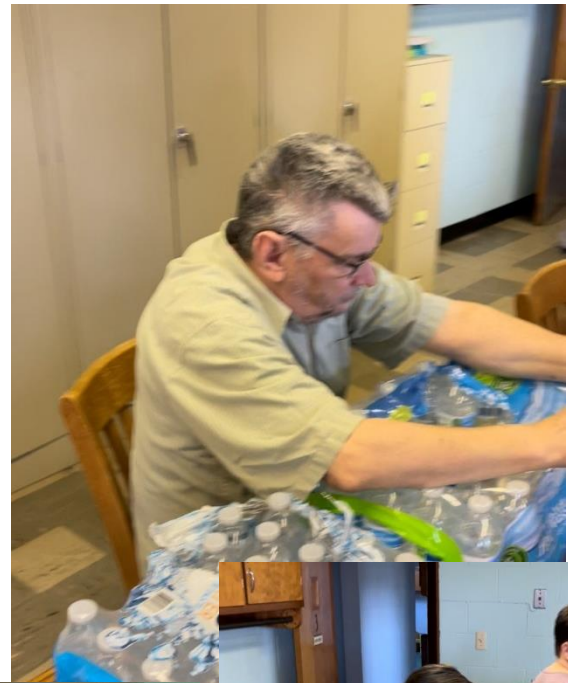
PETITION & INTERCESSION

- Ask God to use this situation to bring unprecedented spiritual openness to people affected by the tragedy, and ask Him to show His face to them.
- Ask God to bless the ministry that will be thrust upon the church(es) or community affected by the tragedy. Ask Him to empower them with a powerful witness when they are called upon to speak about or reflect on the situation.
- Ask God to stand against the enemy's attempts to make families experience unresolved anger or guilt over the loss of loved ones.
- Ask God to focus the minds of public officials on the need for prayer and to provide people who will continue to pray for the situation.
- Ask God to equip leaders who will be called upon to mentor and minister to people in the aftermath of tragedy (Heb. 13:20-21).
- Ask God – for yourself and for others – for a passion and love for Christ that drives out fear (1 Jn. 4:18).

THANKSGIVING

- Thank God that the enemy has made a tactical error since trials/persec. have always strengthened the church, and that God will use for good what Satan intends for harm.
- Thank God for the people who will be drawn to seek God's face because the overwhelming nature of the tragedy leaves them nowhere else to turn (Jon. 2:1-9).
- Thank God for a vivid reminder of your own mortality and vulnerability, asking Him to prepare your heart and spirit for a faithful response when you are faced with tragedy.
- In the case of martyrs: thank God for the blood of the martyrs (seed of the church), whose numbers will reveal God's ultimate glory (see Rev. 6:9).

By Sara Higley & Lani Hinkle. Used by permission. Originally in *Pray!* Magazine, Issue 15, 1999.



A very special Thank You to all the volunteers and donators for making our annual Appreciation Outreach to the Burrell School District employees another big success!



SOME OF THE MEN OF PUCKETY CHURCH TREATED US ALONG WITH CHOIR DIRECTOR, LORRAINE MENK, ASSISTED BY GEORGE DAVIS TO A WONDERFUL RENDITION OF "IN THE GARDEN" ON MOTHER'S DAY. WHAT A SWEET, SWEET SOUND THAT WAS! THANK YOU ALL!



This beautiful photo is courtesy of Matt Wehrle.

On June 19th, we will dedicate our Monumental VBS Team - *all* VBS volunteers are asked to come that morning (10 AM) so we can pray over you and dedicate the week of ministry.



June 19th is also *Father's Day*, so we invite you to join us (10 AM) in thanking God for our men of faith. We will also be acknowledging the retirement of our own *Sue Close* from Church Organist, so *please* join us as we thank God for her faithful years of ministry, show her our love, and pray God's blessing upon her.



A graphic for a church picnic. It features a dark blue, scalloped-edged banner with the word "Church" in white script at the top, "PICNIC" in large, bold, white capital letters in the center, and "You're Invited" in white script at the bottom. The banner is set against a background of a red and white checkered pattern.

Church PICNIC You're Invited

TWO PICNICS!

We have TWO (2) great Fellowship Events planned for the first half of the summer:
Sun. June 26th - VBS Picnic! After our VBS Sunday Worship (10:00 AM), everyone (members, friends, VBS participants, their families and the rest of the community) are invited to a simple

picnic lunch at Faith Hall (hot dogs, chips, etc.) - to afford us the opportunity to share what we've seen God do! Please spread the word and join us as it will be a great way to welcome and show hospitality to some "new folks" and to inspire some "old folks."

Sun. July 17th - Retirement Party for Sue Close! After our 10 AM worship, we will move over to the lawn outside Faith Hall to rejoice with her on her milestone and celebrate the service she has given to the Lord through her time at Puckety. You don't want to miss it! Please contact the Fellowship Team (e.g., Charlene McKay, Marilyn Crumley, Irene Nelson) to see what ways you can help out and make it a day for everyone to remember.

A Devotional for Pentecost – Read Acts 2:1-21

The Holy Spirit is an amazing (I was going to say 'thing' but that's dead wrong, isn't it?) ... Part of me wants to begin this devotional on the Holy Spirit by saying that he is "dangerous" ... to make you think about that – what do I mean by that? To what extent is it true? Well, if you read the rest of the book of Acts, it will be hard for you to deny the element of danger the Spirit brings to the contexts he moves in. I don't mean the usual definition of danger (Mr. Webster) about exposure to pain or harm. I mean the other definition: "*the likelihood of dramatic change/disturbance of safety or normalcy.*" Yep, that pretty much fits the bill, doesn't it?

I wonder if that has anything to do with why I so seldom hear people praying to the Holy Spirit. One concern I've heard (and sometimes felt) is, "What if I pray for the Holy Spirit and nothing happens? What is I ask for more of the Spirit's fruit in my life and don't see any 'results'?" It's scary to pray boldly for change or freedom from sin, because if nothing happens, then we start to think maybe God has failed. Francis Chan seems to back me up when he writes this in his book, *Forgotten God*: "I think the fear of God failing leads us to 'cover for God.' This means we ask for less, expect less, and are satisfied with less because we are afraid to ask for our expect more. We even convince ourselves that we don't *want* more – that we have all the 'God' we need or could want. I can't imagine how much it pains God to see His children hold back from relationship with the Holy Spirit out of fear that He won't come through ... Empowering His children with the strength of the Holy Spirit is something the Father wants to do. It's not something we have to talk him into" (*Forgotten God* – David C. Cook - p. 48)

Some of you are thinking, "I don't think I have a problem with that." Well, the flip side of fearing that God won't show up is fearing that God *will*. What if God does show up but then asks you to go somewhere or do something that's uncomfortable – the Spirit does have a history of this, you know (see Stephen in Acts 7, Saul/Paul in Acts 9, Peter in Acts 10, do I need to go on?). For many people, fearing that God will ask them to go in a difficult, undesirable direction outweighs the fear that God will ignore them.

Here's the "tough" part: the truth is that the Spirit of the living God is guaranteed to ask you to go somewhere or do something you wouldn't normally want or choose to do. The Spirit will lead you in the way of the cross, as He led Jesus to the cross (and *strengthened* him for it). And let's be honest; that's not a safe or pretty or comfortable place to be. The Holy Spirit will mold you into the person you were made to be – I'm reminded of the analogy Jesus used in John 15 right after telling his disciples about the Spirit – that God would "prune" us, like a Gardener, to make us more fruitful. Ya'll know what's involved with *pruning*, right? We're talking *bending* and *bracing* and *cutting* with some pretty sharp shears. This sometimes incredibly painful process strips you of selfishness, pride and fear.

One of the most powerful depictions of this I've ever read is in a children's book – C.S. Lewis' *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (Narnia). It's about a boy named Eustace who – because of foolishness, pride and greed – becomes a dragon. He tries to become a boy again by peeling off his dragon skin ... but there's always just another layer. He can't get deep enough. Enter *Aslan* the Lion – the Christ figure. He says, "You'll have to let me clean you." And the "pruning" time begins, except instead of shears, you have the sharp claws of a lion (I take those

claws to be the sanctifying work of the Spirit). Only after Eustace endures this painful process (that he *never* would have been able to accomplish himself) is he transformed back from a dragon into a boy. Yet, after it's done, and he washes himself joyfully in a nearby pool of water, he sees just how worth it the process was.

Sometimes the sin (or fear) we take on becomes such a part of us that it requires the same kind of (spiritual) ripping and tearing to free us. The Holy Spirit does not seek to hurt us – that was the *opposite* of Aslan's intention – but the Holy Spirit does seek to make us Christlike. Since *that* is His goal, not our comfort, this can be painful. So, if you say you want the Holy Spirit, you must first honestly ask yourself if you want to do His will. Because if you don't genuinely want to know and do His will, why should you ask for His presence at all? But if you decide you do want to know His will, there will be moments when you have to let go of the fear of what that might mean – when you have to release your grip of control on your life and decide to be led, come what may. But read the rest of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* – or better yet, the rest of Acts (e.g., Acts 19 & 20), and I believe you'll come to the same conclusion as Eustace, and Paul, did – it's better to be in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

~ Pastor Brian



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:00am Worship	30 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	31 6:30pm Christian Assembly of God 8:00pm N.A. meeting	1 Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Pastor Brian's Small Group 7:00pm Schafer Small Group	2	3 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Marshall/Porter Wedding Rehearsal	4 9:00am Brzozowski Graduation Party 4:00pm Marshall/Porter Wedding
5 Pentecost – wear red! 10:00am Worship	6 Meals on Wheels 10:30am Card Ministry 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	7 6:00pm Joint Board Meeting 6:30pm Christian Assembly of God 8:00pm N.A. meeting	8 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9	10 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Trinity Sunday Coffee Hour 10:00am Children's Church 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walk 11:30am Crafternoon	13 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	14 Flag Day 1:00pm Bracken Small Group 6:30pm Christian Assembly of God 8:00pm N.A. meeting	15 Meals on Wheels	16	17 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	18
19 Father's Day 10:00am Children's Church 10:00am Worship 11:15am Prayer Walk	20 Meals on Wheels 5:45pm VBS	21 First Day of Summer 6:00pm VBS	22 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm VBS	23 6:00pm VBS	24 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm VBS	25 8:00am Baker Family Reunion
26 10:00am Worship 11:00am Church/VBS Picnic	27 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Discipleship Team Meeting	28 1:00pm Bracken Small Group 6:30pm Christian Assembly of God 8:00pm N.A. meeting	29 Meals on Wheels	30	1 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	2