

*Puckety Presbyterian Church*  
1009 Puckety Church Road  
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

*(Return Service Requested)*

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**REMINDER:**

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Zoom/video at [pucketychurch.org](http://pucketychurch.org)



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# *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.*

**February 2024**

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication

### Pastor's Corner

It's February, the month of snow in our driveway and ashes on our foreheads, of valentines in the mailbox and stovepipe hats (*President's Day* ;). But my friends, amidst all that there is something else very important on my mind. Perhaps by now you have heard some initial details about Puckety's 2024 Capital Campaign. Much more will be communicated, of course, but I am appealing to you – every one of you AND others that you can share this news with – we need your support. The projects the campaign is for (the parking lot, church roof, and new sign) are all things the leaders of the church have deemed current needs. The Lord blessed Puckety with the improvements in 2023 (Faith Hall floor, etc.), but now these imminent expenses go beyond what can be done with our normal giving and memorial fund. We need your help. We have a goal to raise \$125,000. It's a large and daunting amount, but we also: 1) have a faithful congregation with a history of rising to the challenge, 2) committed leaders to help lead the way, and most importantly, 3) a huge God who can do amazing things with a little bit of faith put in the right place.

I'd like to clarify two things at this point. First, please don't think of this campaign just as a "necessary maintenance" project. This endeavor affects people, and will have an impact on engaging people. Don't just think about parking surfaces and rooftops, think about the faces and lives of those who will be benefited. Second, it's important to realize that we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider giving beyond (in addition) to their regular giving; because if we simply "take a little from our monthly giving and put it in the capital campaign," we won't be able to meet our general operating budget. Doing things that way will make the situation worse.

Yes, this is a challenge – a hefty one – but I'm encouraged by what I know God can do through his faithful people. At other times of my life, I'd be anxious about this kind of thing (I don't like talking about money), but over the time of seeing what God does, especially the last several years at Puckety, I'm more excited than anxious. So please be in prayer, seeking God's Spirit and following his leading, and join us in this united endeavor.

Pastor Brian

### **Remember to check Puckety's website and social media!**

Website: [www.pucketychurch.org](http://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](http://pucketychurch.org). Thank you for your generosity!

## From the Hearts & Hands of Session

The Session has been praying about and discussing many upcoming things in the life of Puckety Church (working with TryLife – now named Family Life Network, the Lenten season, and even initial plans for summer VBS). But perhaps the matter most at hand is that of the Capital Campaign. It was our strong consensus that as the active Elders of the church, we as the Session need to be committed ourselves to the cause. We want to be in prayer (listening to God), and we want to *listen to you*. In addition to the financial support we will dedicate, we want to work for clarity and transparency with the congregation as well – in other words, communication at every stage, including exactly what will the money be spent on, the amount to be raised, and how we’re going to do it.

\*The monies raised will be for 3 specific needs: a) repairing the parking lot (the priority), b) getting a new roof for the church building – it can be patched for a few more years but needs a full replacement and consensus is to get a metal roof not only to match the manse but because a metal roof would be both more durable/longer-lasting and more cost effective, and c) a new Church Sign by the road (2-sided LED electronic sign)

\*How much will these cost (separately and in total)?

With the accumulated research, bids and information gathered by the Upkeep Team, the costs (though varying by bid) are approximately:

- Roughly \$70,000 for the parking lot (with 15% reduced size) – first priority
- Roughly \$45,000 for a metal roof for the Church to match the manse.
- Between \$16,000 & \$20,000 for a 2-sided LED electronic sign.

= an approximate \$135,000 (*we have about \$6,300 in the Memorial Fund, so the Session has approved a goal of: \$125,000 over the course of the campaign*)

\*How will this all be raised?

In a “three-fold” manner:

- 1) With the cooperation and permission of Redstone Presbytery, we will seek a **loan** of about 50% of the amount (\$65K) – to be paid back in a projected 5 years.
- 2) Congregation-wide appeal (large **initial gifts** and increased annual **giving pledges**) and **community solicitation** (e.g., appeals to active groups who use our facilities, etc.). Members & other giving units are asked to increase their monthly giving in support of this need.
- 3) **Fundraising Events** to help bridge the gap between amount needed (including loan) and the amount raised/collected (e.g., dinners with basket raffle, rummage sale, etc.).

We will need your help in all three of the above ways – as co-planners, volunteers, and patrons. This is a large undertaking, but if all the members, regular attenders, friends, and partnering groups of Puckety Church join together, it is something we can joyfully accomplish, by God’s grace.

The members of the main Campaign Committee (happy to discuss more with you) are:

*Chuck West*  
*Tim Eckman*  
*Jolene Kostelansky*  
*Jenn McKay*  
*Rev. Brian Kilbert*  
*Deb Artman*  
*Charlene McKay*

Throughout the Scriptures, including much of Christ’s teaching, there are stories and lessons about God’s people accessing their generosity in ways that honor the Lord. As Christians, we trust in a loving God who has been generous to us in our lives. This opportunity for sacrificial giving is also an opportunity to trust and worship the Lord, as we work to provide better tools and means to serve him. We thank you for prayerfully considering the ways you can support this work over the long haul. Peace to you.

The Session of Puckety Church

## Devotional for you - Read *Philippians 3:10-15*

My brother Chris recently included an article in their church newsletter on the “positive side” of ambition. It fits well with our focus on the current projects at Puckety, so let me share an excerpt: “Early in a year, it’s good to set goals, make commitments, and embrace challenges. It is a season marked by ambition ... But is that necessarily a bad thing? *Ambition* is one of those words that is often preceded by a negative adjective. We may talk about “bad ambition” like the greed of a CEO or a celebrity starving for greater fame. We may also speak of “blind ambition,” like when someone sees the goal but not the people around her. For some, the characteristic has become a dirty word—synonymous with being dog-eat-dog, ladder-climbing, or self-promoting. But it doesn’t have to be disastrous or destructive.

Never satisfied, but always content is the posture of a properly ambitious person.” This describes the Apostle Paul very well when he wrote to the Philippians, “I have not yet obtained the goal, but I press on to make it my own ... forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead.” Yes, he was talking specifically about an eternal crown, but Paul expressed this same kind of drive and motivation when it came to raising material support for Christians in need (see 2 Cor. 8 & 9). The balance is to stay hungry and motivated, not arrogant and entitled. I think of ambition as I do *technology* – morally neutral but susceptible to manipulation. Politicians have ambition, sure. But so did *Mother Teresa!* Ambition isn’t inherently evil, but we must learn to *channel it*. Some people are born with an extra helping of it, and they run the risk of developing a self-serving default setting. Others have to work to *nurture* ambition in their lives and fight the temptation to become too comfortable wherever they find themselves. No matter which end of the spectrum you find yourself on, Christ calls us in his parables to work for bigger things than ourselves. But once ambition it is unearthed, you must *bridle it* to keep it in healthy balance.

My brother continued, “As a twin, comparison and competition came naturally to me. Brian and I always strived to outdo each other. (*It’s true*). We always felt the pull to challenge each other. Whether it was the Cub Scout *Pinewood Derby* or the elementary school spelling bee or the high school *Physics Olympics*, we wanted to win first place. (It should be obvious by now, yes, we were geeks ... okay, still are). But as both Brian and I can attest, we are not the math and science wizzes we used to be. (*Also true*). But a habit of ambition is more than this. In its purest form, ***ambition is a knowledge of and appetite for what’s next.***” When your ambition is *properly fed*, it will yield a desire to achieve, to grow, and to do one’s best, to *glorify God* (Col. 3:23). The Scriptures warn us to flee *selfish* ambition. So, what should we pursue instead? To whom can we look as a model on how to live with the kind of ambition that honors God and benefits those around us?

Paul is a very good example, but we all know a *better One*. Remember that between the time Jesus was a child to when he hung on that cross (*between the manger & the myrrh*), he lived the life we have been called to imitate. As we read the Gospels, we encounter a Jesus full of grace, love, wisdom and power ... reaching out to the sick, the lame, the outcast, the child, the foreigner, the sinner - providing hope & healing, truth & forgiveness. Think about all that ... His life and ministry, ushering in the Kingdom of His Father, setting his gaze to the agony and humiliation of the cross ... that took great ambition – the right kind of ambition. At one point in the Gospels, it says that “from that point, Jesus set his face like flint toward Jerusalem.” That’s an idiom for determined ambition, ambition *driven by humility and love*. And He has called His disciples to carry on this work ... that includes you and me. So, the question becomes ... *what is driving your ambition* ... or should I say, *Whom?*

Compelled by the relentless love of Christ,  
*Pastor Brian*



## Your Deacons:

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

## Corporate Officers:

**President:** Jennifer McKay  
**Vice-Pres.:** Maria Schafer  
**Secretary:** Debra Artman  
**Treasurer:** Jolene Kostelansky

04 Beth Dober  
11 Vince Appleman  
14 Jennifer McKay  
18 Mira Whalen  
25 Maria Schafer



## Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk  
Jolene Kostelansky  
Jennifer McKay  
Kelly Kapelewski  
Marilyn Crumley  
Helen Crissman  
Maria Schafer  
Sandy Schafer



### Pastor:

Reverend Brian Kilbert

### Administrative Secretary:

Kelly Kapelewski

### Bookkeeper:

Debra Artman

### Choir Director:

Lorraine Menk

### Organist/Pianist:

Jesse Oddis

### Housekeeper:

Irene Nelson

### Financial Secretary:

Judy West

## Offering counters:

04: Deb Artman, Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky  
11: Chuck & Judy West  
18: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart & 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.

## 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!



The Deacons are accepting donations of any non-perishable food items for the Deacon's Pantry. Place your items outside the metal cabinet beside the library door. THANK YOU!





The Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

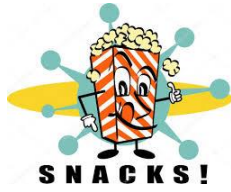
**February 4:**  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Cor 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

**February 11:**  
2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Cor 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

**February 18:**  
Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**February 25:**  
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

Crafternoon: Our next meeting will be on February 11th after the Soup & Sandwich lunch. We will meet in the conference room. Please see Wiebke if you have any questions



Please help provide youth group snacks!! There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.

### Soup & Sandwich Gathering

Rev. Brian Kilbert and Puckety's Fellowship Team invite you to our Soup & Sandwich Lunch which will include a time to celebrate our faith and share Puckety's vision for the future and our plan to get there together. **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024** after 10:00 morning Worship in Faith Hall. There will also be delicious soups for sale and a Chinese Auction!! **Please call 724-339-1323 or email [kelly@pucketychurch.org](mailto:kelly@pucketychurch.org) to RSVP.**



- 2 Angela Goodwin
- Karen Marshall
- 3 Dylan Meyer
- 5 Wiebke Kilbert
- 7 Joshua Dober
- Kirk Orr
- 9 Jodi Piernik
- Darlene Miller
- 10 Rodney Schafer
- 15 Mark Nelson
- 18 Joshua Johnston
- 19 Karen David
- 24 Vicky Baker
- 26 James Heasley
- 27 Christina Logan
- 28 Kristine Schafer



### Let's Be Healthy Together!



Life Line Screening will be offering preventive health screenings on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Puckety Presbyterian Church is pleased to make these important screenings available by hosting Life Line

Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings. Screenings are fast, painless and affordable. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call **1-844-591-7160** or go to <https://llsa.social/HC> or text the word **circle** to **216-279-1607**. Pre-registration is required. More information to come! Watch your Post Scripts and bulletins.



## Youth Group

Another great month at youth group. We started the month with an outing to *Las Hachas Axe Throwing* (10 was a great number to maximize both safety and fun). The following week (1/14) we had 17 students for youth group (including 2 new ones). We even had 3 of our students help at the TryLife work date in January. Though it looks like we may not have enough interest in the Pine Springs Remix retreat, we think we can pivot with an excursion to Boyce Park for snowtubing in early February, and we're considering a Super Bowl Party in Faith Hall on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> (with pizza and table games). We are now halfway through Francis Chan's *Heart of God* (RightNow Media) video Bible study, learning about how God's heart is: holy, merciful, gracious, and loving. We recently changed our leadership model from 2 adults per Sunday to 3 adults per Sunday because of the larger avg. of kids (14). So ... we need more volunteers. It's rewarding work, and it's making a difference. Please contact Pastor Brian to see how you can help on a rotation (monthly basis) – 724-678-6976.





Our **Ash Wednesday** worship will be **Feb. 14th at 7:00 PM**, and will include imposition of ashes. Please NOTE that this service has a simpler and more austere tone intentionally. There will be no slideshow. There will be a Zoom option for remote attendees, but again, it will be simpler. This service is an important way for us to begin our Lenten journey, so please invite a friend, and join us as we begin our path to the cross.



Several students from our Youth Group along with 4 adults from Puckety sorted clothing and helped put away TryLife's Christmas decorations. Puckety will be continuing the monthly volunteer evenings at the TryLife center (now known as FamilyLife Network). This is an amazing hands-on way to be the hands and feet of Christ to those that are most vulnerable in our community. We encourage every member to sign up. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The group volunteers at FamilyLife from 5 PM to 8 PM. IF you have previously volunteered we have signed you up for dates further into the year. If the date does not work for you, please let Wiebke know or find someone on the list to trade with and mark up the list as needed.










Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased. In their account of this event, the synoptic gospels offer an enlightening *tableau vivant*, with Christ flanked by Moses, representing the law, and Elijah, representing the prophetic tradition.

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus' ministry in which he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), where he would die. In Jesus' transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest. In celebrating this event, we rejoice in the divine majesty of Christ, whose glory shone even when confronted with the cross. It is given us for our journey through Lent toward the agony of the cross and the victory of the empty tomb. We celebrate this mystery in order that our faith may be renewed. We are transformed into the new being in Christ as we join Christ in his death and resurrection in Lent and Easter.





# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting 11:30am Ladies Lunch 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>29</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry	<b>30</b> 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>31</b> Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Capital Campaign Team Meeting 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 23087	<b>1</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED 	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00am Worship  11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>5</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting 8:00pm Scouts God and Country	<b>6</b> 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>7</b> Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>10</b> Hotala Birthday Party??? Soup and Sandwich Prep
<b>11</b> 10:00am Worship  11:30am Soup and Sandwich Lunch 12:30pm Crafternoon 3:00pm Youth Group Outing 	<b>12</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	<b>13</b> 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:00pm Outreach Family Life Network 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Scout Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>14</b>  Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 23087 7:00pm Worship Service 	<b>15</b> 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00am Worship  11:30am Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>19</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 1:00pm Sewing Guild 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting 8:00pm Scouts God and Country 	<b>20</b> 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>21</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>22</b> 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Girl Scout Thinking Day
<b>25</b> 10:00am Worship  6:00pm Youth Group	<b>26</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry	<b>27</b> 1:00pm Ladies Bible Study 5:00pm Worship Team Meeting 6:15pm Daisy Scout Troop 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>28</b> Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop 23087	<b>29</b> 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 26234 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>2</b>

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