

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 2025

Post-Scripts

a monthly publication

Pastor's Corner

So, guess what came to mind for me today? I realized that it has been (almost) exactly 5 years since I started at Puckety as the pastor here. The PNC extended the call in the early months of 2020 (pending congregational vote – which was accompanied by delays because COVID hit at the start of March that year). So, my first “official” Sunday wasn’t until the middle of June. But as a point of reference, I’ve used *June 1st* as the starting point, so it will be 5 years by the time most of you are reading this. How grateful I am. What a blessing this time has been to Wiebke and me. As each year passes, we feel more at home, and I continue to see God’s goodness all around me, including through the work and actions of so many of you. We, as a nation, just observed *Memorial Day* a week ago. It’s a kind of “turning point,” isn’t it? It has a distinctive combination of “looking back” (remembering those who have gone before and sacrificed for us to be where we are) along with a “looking forward” (because Memorial Day is considered the “unofficial” start of summer). I find myself resonating with that tension, in a good and positive way. I

look back and remember the things God has done, the people he’s worked through, the sacrifices made, the distance we’ve covered, and the struggle involved. At the same time, taking that all in, it gives hope and anticipation for the “light” and “warmth” and “growth” that is ahead. I pray that you are also ready to welcome it – just like the garden work of the summer – even if it means “sharpening our tools,” “bending down” (to serve), and “getting our hands dirty” (in the good way) with ministry, both within and beyond the walls of our congregation. I know that summer is often a time when we slow down – there’s definitely a place for that – I often long for some of the popular activities to “take a break.” That’s good. But I certainly hope, as the author of Hebrews says near the end of his letter, that we don’t neglect our community faith life: “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another on as we see the day (of the Lord’s return) approaching” – instead, “let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

A happy and love-filled summer to you all,

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 FOR A DRUMMER TO PLAY FOR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES AND THURSDAY EVENING REHEARSALS! WE ALSO ARE WANTING TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ANY GUITARISTS, VOCALISTS, OR OTHER MUSICIANS WHO WANT TO DEDICATE THEIR TALENTS TO THE LORD. 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.

**Because of you,
life doesn't stop!**



Puckety Presbyterian Church is interested in hosting a blood drive with Vitalant Blood Bank. For Vitalant to come out with a bloodmobile we need to identify 20 people to pledge to donate blood.

A pledge to donate would mean that you would try to donate during the blood drive if the date and time works for you. We are hoping to host the blood drive on a Thursday in July - more than likely 1-6pm. We will contact you back with how to make an appointment.

If you think you may possibly be able to donate please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or call/email the church office.

Kelly Kapelewski kelly@pucketychurch.org 724 339-1323
Eligibility questions? Please contact Vitalant at 1-847-260-2647

Are you or someone in your family currently a caregiver to someone with dementia/Alzheimer's? Do you know someone looking for help?

Presbyterian Senior Care (Oakmont) is offering to send an educator to give a special presentation to help with such care! This one-hour presentation would be held at Puckety (with a little extra time for any Q&A), and would be free to all. But we need YOUR help in: 1) *spreading the word* to those who would be interested and 2) helping us *narrow down good times* (July 28 or July 30th) for such a presentation. Please contact Pastor Brian if you're willing to help us promote this offering for our community – 724-678-6976. Look for coming info. and handouts.

The Meals 4 Children program will complete its last distribution of the school year on May 30th (Puckety did 3 distributions in May before the break). We now are assisting 20 different children (all 4 district schools are included). Please pray for the children who continue to need food over the summer. We will be canvassing and appealing to area businesses this summer to increase partnership and financial support in hope to double the number of children served in the Fall. We would like help in personally approaching the list of businesses we have created. If you're willing to be part of that team in requesting help – come see if there's a business you are a patron for or know – and use your familiarity in service to the cause. All help is appreciated.



Important Reminder that if you are going Whitewater Rafting at Ohiopyle with us on Sat. August 9th (leaving at 7AM), the cost is due NO LATER than **June 15th** – *Deadline*. By that date the cost is **\$60/person** (church pays the other half) – students need to be going into 6th grade and have basic swimming ability. BOTH the **waiver** for

Wilderness Voyageurs (online) and **Puckety's waiver** need to be completed and submitted by July 31st. Contact Pastor Brian with questions and to sign up/get details. 724-678-6976. We encourage all our youth students to choose either a *Gospel* (e.g. Matthew, John), the book of *Acts*, or *3 New Testament Epistles* (e.g., Romans, Philippians, Hebrews) and read that portion over the months of June and July. In August (first half) we encourage you to pray about sharing your faith in Christ with 3 people and then in the second half of the month to do just that – somehow share with them how Christ makes a difference in your life, and try to use the opportunity to invite them to youth group in September.



Hey, Ladies, we decided to go to Denny's on Tarentum Bridge Road for our June 29rd lunch, where you can enjoy a variety of diner favorites, new big skillet, value menu, kid's meals and more at Denny's. (I'm a breakfast person myself.) We will gather after the service in Hope Hall and head over [more or less] together. Our luncheon allows us, as Women of Faith, to gather, to chat, and to appreciate a break from cooking! Contact Denise Wehrle for any questions or if you need a ride.

On June 8, the Fellowship & Care Team will host a Strawberry Shortcake coffee hour after service, and we can't wait. Fresh strawberries with luscious creamy topping. So refreshing! As with all our events, we encourage you to take this time to greet fellow church members and guests.





01 Jennifer McKay
08 Beth Dober
15 Maria Schafer
22 Sophia Earhart
29 Alice Knopfel

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



Your Session:

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



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

Offering Counters:

01: Chuck & Judy West
08: Jolene Kostelansky & Sophia Earhart
or Matt Wehrle
15: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
22: Janet Karan & Jolene Kostelansky
29: Chuck & Judy West

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.

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 Bible readings are from "Book of Common Worship"

June 1:

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
2 Kings 2:1-15
Rev 22:12-14,16-17

June 8:

Acts 2:1-21
Gen 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34
Rom 8:14-17

June 15:

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

June 22:

1 Kings 19:1-4
Psalm 42 & 43
Isa 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28

June 29:

2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14
Psalm 77:1-2,11-20
1 Kings 19:15-16
Psalm 16

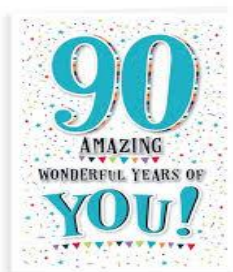


Please consider joining any of our Ministry Teams here at Puckety Church in 2025!

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



- 1 Michelle Gordon
- 4 Lorraine Menk
- Alice Knopf
- 5 Marti Rugh
- 6 Phyllis Burkot
- 13 Cliff McKay Jr
- Vicky Eckman
- 16 Patty Jones
- Jesse Oddis
- 17 Janet Karan
- 19 Jack Kirchartz
- 20 Dean Kunkle
- 24 Margie Hazlett
- 25 Lisa Sennett
- 29 Chuck Mann



JANET KARAN IS TURNING 90 YEARS YOUNG ON JUNE 17! LET'S SHOWER HER WITH CARDS, OUR BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING THIS MILESTONE!!

A Devotional for You – Read **Hebrews 8:7-10** + **Hebrews 9:21-24**

This devotional serves as a tie-in to the sermon series (between the June 1st & June 8th messages)

To understand the difference between an original and a copy, consider trying to photograph the largest animal – a whale. Roy Chapman Andrews describes it (this is from the *NIV Student Bible* my mother gave me as a graduation present – which served me well in college): “Once in Alaska, we raised a humpback’s spout and ran up close before the animal submerged. Ten minutes later, without warning, the floor of the ocean seemed to rise and a mountainous black body, dripping with foam, heaved upward, almost over our heads. It paused an instant, then fell sideways to be swallowed up by a vortex of green water. With the camera ready in my hands I stared at the thing. If it had fallen the other way, the vessel would have been crushed beneath its 40 tons.”

How can you adequately communicate the impact of something that immense? Photographers have recorded humpback whales bursting from the water (I was fortunate enough to see some breach in *Kenai Fjords National Park*). I took about 50 photos with my special lens, but no photograph can capture the sheer bigness of such an animal. A baby blue whale gains a ton of weight a month. An adult blue whale’s heart weighs 1,000 pounds. How can any 2-dimensional photo convey such “bigness”?

Even the best photograph is just a copy, a representation of the subject’s reality. No 8x10 rectangle can contain a whale. Not photo sequence of the Grand Canyon is as grand as the canyon itself. The photo simply preserves a two-dimensional copy of reality. Hebrews uses that word “copy” to describe the devices and rituals of the Old Testament: Passover feasts, Tabernacle vessels, sacrifices and priestly duties. They were *shadows*, expressing the reality to come in Jesus Christ. No ceremony alone, however elaborate, can adequately express the experience of God himself, any more than a photo of a whale or a mountain can adequately represent a whale or a mountain. The OT rituals were a copy ... Christ is the original.

It may seem foreign to our experience, but take the time to appreciate what the author is doing by pulling up hallowed images of the faith heritage to explain how Christ revealed once and for all the meaning of these images only hinted at. As always, Hebrews stresses the advantages of living now – in other words, of genuinely living under the New Covenant instead of trying to return to the Old Covenant. *[Did you know that the divisions of the Bible called “Testaments” literally mean “Covenants”? OT = old covenant and NT = new covenant. Think on that.]*

Because of Christ, sacrifices (along with human attempts at self-justification) are no longer necessary, and God’s laws are now written in our minds and on our hearts, not in a formal code (8:10). “It is finished,” the High Priest cried out from his Altar on the cross. Hebrews 10:12 makes special mention that Christ “sat down” after finishing his priestly duties. That imagery is lost on us because we don’t realize that Jewish priests never sat down; the tabernacle and the temple (intentionally) did *not have seats*! It symbolized their work was never done, never finished. But Christ finished it. Copies have some value – my photo albums are priceless to me because of my poor memory. And a photograph of a humpback conveys much to those who will never encounter one. But as the author of Hebrews asks, who would prefer a copy to the real thing?

Inviting you to follow our *True North*,
Pastor Brian

Thank you to all the many volunteers who came out to support our Spring Fling! We didn't have a great turn out but the kids that came had a great time because of you!

Mick Brennen Karen Dustin Keira Lacey
Pamela Debbi Sarah Donna Danyka Amy
Emma Brenda Lisa De'Var Maria Beth John
Wiebke Owen Pat Marilyn Helen Jean Brian
Bridget Deb and to Jennifer for the "Pucko" game!

If I forgot to mention you, please forgive me and know that I appreciate you!  Kelly



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteer Training Day – Sunday June 1st – in Faith Hall from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Volunteers who will be working during the 5 nights of VBS are asked to attend this training – **especially crew leaders (all crew leaders are asked to attend)**

VBS Decorating will be held – **Sunday June 8th** After grabbing a bite at the coffee hour (20-30 minutes) join us as we decorate the main set construction on the stage and the rest of the church building. Please lend a hand in helping us get our facilities ready for the children and families. See Chari Burtner for more information.

VBS Dedication Sunday – Sunday June 15th – 10:00 AM - the whole VBS team (all volunteers for any part of the process) will be dedicated this Sunday during worship – please plan to attend as we consecrate our service to the Lord

VBS Donations - The camp supply list is up! Have you followed the Northern Lights to base camp in the hallway to see what you can help us with? If you need your item/items back please mark it with your name so we know who to return it to. Please be aware VBS is a ministry for children so there is always a risk your item may get stained, torn or broken. All donations unless otherwise noted need to be in the big box by June 1st which will be here in the same amount of time a marshmallow goes from golden to burnt. If there are any questions, please see Wiebke or Jolene.



As Puckety Church, we collectively improve our community and world

MUST Partnership (Myanmar)

Here is a recent report from the MUST Earthquake Relief Team. David Lian's school shows how they are sharing God's love with many who are so desperately in need due to the recent earthquake. It should remind us how blessed we were to be able to send over \$3,000 to MUST to help them resolve other internal needs, so that they can focus on God's plan to use them to spread the gospel!

Team Members:

Khin Moe Khine (Leader, and David's wife; she's wearing the white and orange dress)
Sui Rem Par (Treasurer) Lian Dun (Adviser) Hlaing Myo Tun (Cameraman)
Ngun Lian Peng Run Rem Thang (Driver)



On April 19, 2025, the MUST Relief Team embarked to provide aid to earthquake victims. They carried with them \$12,000 (50,000,000 Kyats) to support their efforts. The team arrived in Naypyidaw, where they visited the Shwe Kyarpyin

Temporary Hospital. They provided financial assistance to 62 hospitalized victims who were in dire need due to their severe injuries and loss. The following day, on April 20, the team departed for Mandalay. The local pastor there provided training and guidance on how to initiate relief efforts for the victims in Mandalay. They distributed essential items, including toiletries, food, drinking water, and cash to 70 households. The team also visited two temporary camps for victims who had lost their homes and family members.



They provided assistance to those in need. It was disheartening to observe that some affluent individuals were reluctant to engage with the impoverished residents, many living on the streets. One camp housed approximately 3,000 victims. Among the displaced were refugees from war zones. The team provided some of them with cash assistance as well. Some camps posed significant risks, as desperate individuals rushed to the relief team, creating chaotic situations. On April 22, the team set off for Sagaing City, one of the most vulnerable areas affected by the earthquake. Many residents were homeless and injured.



Due to the political situation, the team could only reach those living on the outskirts of the city. At the Kuatkayee Camp the team provided mattresses, blankets, food, various beverages, and drinking water. They also assisted another

camp near a monastery that had suffered severe damage by providing cash support.



The team then traveled to Yaykhaein Village, the *epicenter of the earthquake*, to assist the victims. They focused their efforts on those whose homes had been completely destroyed. After a long day, the team departed for Pyinoolwin. The next morning, on April 23, they left for Tataoo City, where they continued their relief efforts. They purchased additional supplies and aided in Einwa City. The situation was dire, with corpses still present due to the lack of rescue efforts in smaller towns.

Most rescuers were concentrated in larger cities like Mandalay, Sagaing, and Naypyidaw, leaving smaller communities in desperate need of help. Visiting these areas was a harrowing experience, filled with discomfort and the weight of the tragedy that had unfolded. The MUST Relief Team remains committed to providing support and assistance to those affected by this disaster, recognizing the urgent need for continued efforts in the face of overwhelming challenges. Thank you for your ongoing prayers.



Myanmar Mission Report

Despite the ongoing challenges in Myanmar, we are doing well in our ministries, and I thank you for your prayers and support. The political situation is marked by civil war and military repression. The junta has intensified its violent tactics ... leading to a humanitarian crisis. Even though the military's grip on power is weakening, they have enacted a new conscription law, requiring all able-bodied individuals to join the military, even children.

1. The Myanmar Undergraduate School of Theology (MUST) is thriving. Students are preparing for final exams. MUST is providing the best theological education for ministries in Myanmar. We are also supporting students financially, allowing them to continue their studies safely. It is expected that three students will graduate in July, ten in January, and ten more next July. Many upcoming graduates have committed to serving the Lord in their respective communities.
2. The children at Agape House are also doing well but anxious; their main prayer request is for peace in Myanmar. Some will learn computer skills, guitar, piano, English, mathematics, and sewing during March to May.
3. In 2024, we held intensive Bible training sessions at the Bible Center, reaching many non-believers.

Three high school students have accepted Christ and been baptized, and we are nurturing their faith.
4. Our daughter churches are growing in the hands of the Lord, multiplying members year by year and becoming more spiritually mature.

5. Prayer Topics:

- Peace for Myanmar
- Our campus is currently home to over 40 students and 45 orphans, along with staff family members. Unfortunately, our facilities are severely overcrowded, making it increasingly difficult to provide the environment these children deserve. Many of our children are living in cramped conditions, lacking the necessary room to study and live.

As we reflect on our mission to serve God's children, we are reminded of the biblical call to care for the least among us. The need for expansion is urgent; without it, we risk compromising the quality of care and support we provide.

By expanding our campus, we can create a more conducive environment for learning and personal development.

Your fervent prayers and generous support are crucial in making this vision a reality. This is an investment in the lives of children eager to learn and grow in the love of Christ. We pray that through this initiative, we can share the love of Christ and invite many to become members of our church.



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. Also, if you have any desire to have a fun

and faith-filled week this summer at Pine Springs Camp - we can help you with that! Call the church office or read the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. We have scholarship money available!

Presbytery Senior Care's Dementia 360 team is offering an information session to Puckety late this July. If the statistics are true, everyone reading this knows someone with dementia. Dad, John, and I could not have cared for Mom at home without the education and support we got from Pam and Stacy at Dementia 360. It's not a disease you can rationally understand, and it affects the body in ways we didn't know about. Learning about what was actually happening to Mom helped us prepare, be less frustrated, and have ever expanding compassion for what she was experiencing. It made space for so much more love. Dad, Jack Guyer, 734-337-7904, or I, Jane Guyer, 801-232-0883 would be honored to share more about our experience with Dementia 360 and we really encourage you to learn about their program in the upcoming presentation.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship 11:30am VBS Volunteer Training	2 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	3 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 20130 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	4 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	5 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	6 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	7 12:00pm Youst Birthday Party
8 PENTECOST 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Hour 11:30am VBS Decorating	9 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 7:00pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	10 5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 46799 6:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm Brownie Troop 20834 8:00pm N.A. meeting	11 Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Pastor Brian Small Group	12 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	13 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	14 FLAG DAY 12:00pm Kuhel Graduation Party
15 TRINITY SUNDAY AND FATHERS DAY 10:00am Worship 11:00am Prayer Walking	16 VBS Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting	17 VBS	18 VBS Meals on Wheels	19 VBS	20 VBS Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	21
22 10:00am Worship 11:30am VBS Picnic 12:00pm VBS Takedown	23 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 12:00pm AA Meeting	24 8:00pm N.A. meeting	25 Meals on Wheels	26 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	27 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 10:00am Worship 11:00am Ladies Lunch 12:00pm Mator Graduation Party	30 Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group 10:30am Card Ministry 12:00pm AA Meeting	1 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	2 Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Deacons Meeting	3 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal	4 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	5

