

*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)

January

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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.*

**January 2023**

*Post-Scripts*  
a monthly publication

**Pastor's Corner** - Keeping the Essence of Christmas in our Observance of Epiphany

So, I have something to say ... **"It's still Christmas"** ... now I'm seeing the opposite of what I rolled my eyes at on November 1<sup>st</sup> (people decorating for Christmas well before Advent) ... but it's just January 1<sup>st</sup> and people seem to be "done with Christmas" – but it's too early to "take it down" because (to start) the Christmas season doesn't end until January 6<sup>th</sup>. But more than that, as the Church, our reason for being is to show the world around us, the gift that came at Christmas is still with us, and God isn't taking it back to the "Returns" Dept. like so many do in January.

Let me share something that *comes with Christmas* that shouldn't be 'put away' – the Gospels say that Christ's coming was '*good news to the poor.*' If you've received God's gift in Christ, how will you continue to share good news with the poor? This is about WAY more than donating the clothes you got at Christmas that don't fit to Goodwill, or the odd items you got from your eccentric relative (or the fruit cake) – "Fruit-caking" should be made a word, so we tell people not to do it. My point is: we have ministry partners – like AVAC (Allegheny Valley Association of Churches) and *TryLife* – that need regular support *through the year*

as they endeavor to give good news and grace to the poor. The Outreach Team continues to share some of these. In addition to things like the *Bottle Campaigns* and *Diaper Drives*, they need volunteers willing to give a more personal time investment. For example, *TryLife's* requesting different church groups to come and do a once-a-month sorting/cleaning of their toys and supplies – even if we had 4 groups from Puckety volunteer *once a quarter* (e.g., 2 small groups take two, and add two sign-up times, etc.), that would be a great blessing.

I read something recently that fits here: "Needs are all around us. But in the long term, people do not really give themselves to needs; they give themselves to visions – *particularly the ones with God behind them, like Moses' vision of liberation & freedom, Nehemiah's vision of rebuilding, or Isaiah's vision of peace.* People want to be part of something bigger than themselves." (O.S. Hawkins, *The Nehemiah Code*, italics mine).

But we become part of 'the something bigger' by starting with some specific 'small things.' There really are multiple things that so many our members could help with – to be clear: these opportunities aren't primarily for the people on the Church committees – the people on the committees sponsor these so that the *people of the church, all the members and friends* in our ranks can fulfill our Vision – "to be the heart, voice and hands of God, making a lasting difference in your life, the community and the world."

So, whether you sign up to be a driver to help the weekly Meals on Wheels ministry out of Faith Hall, or work with members from other local churches to help tutor students in our Burrell district schools, or help incorporate a broader service element into the annual Easter Egg hunt, there's so many ways for the various members of Christ's body to use their various gifts. So, sure, feel free to take the tree down, but put something else in its place ... As we move into Epiphany – which has to do with God being made manifest – essentially "*showing up in surprising ways*" – listen to how God's Spirit is moving you, so that God can use you to act in surprising ways for the benefit of others. God bless you. ~ 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 and Hands of Session**

We want to *thank the Personnel Hiring Subcommittee* of the Administration Team for their long and faithful work in seeking our next Church Musician (June to Dec. 2022). Some of you may know that the original intent to hire our first candidate became mired and stalled amidst great complexity (constantly interrupted move from CA, family emergencies and other crises). However, through the providential working of God – and several of us would be happy to share the specific ways we've seen His hand at work – the door was opened wide for a new candidate, and we are *full of praise and thanks to God*. It is our great joy to announce that we have hired someone from our own area – **Jesse Oddis**. Jesse received his Bachelor's in *Music Education (Organ/Piano)* at Seton Hill Univ. and then his Master of Music in *Pipe Organ Technology/Performance* from the University of Oklahoma (2017). Since then, he has been serving multiple churches as organist/accompanist/instructor from New Kensington to East Greenville to Greensburg. We have greatly enjoyed hearing the story of how God has worked in Jesse's life over the years, and we are confident the Lord will continue to work through him as we glorify and serve the Lord together: in song, in worship and whatever else God has in store. *Sola Deo Gloria!* Welcome, Jesse, and may God bless you! Jesse will be officially starting the first week of January with Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> as his first Sunday. We hope to have a *Welcome Reception* on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> after worship that day, which will also serve as a special and intentional time to thank Barb Sprinkle for the time she has filled in as organist – mark your calendars for this occasion of thanks & welcome!

The Puckety Youth Group is in need of a few more adult volunteers for their Sunday meetings. The responsibilities include (once every 5 to 6 weeks): \*arriving at 5:45 PM in advance of the kids, \*interacting and participating in games that Pastor Brian leads, \*helping the kids engage in activities and discussion, \*help monitor for safety. We need 2 or 3 more adults (with state clearances) so that present volunteers only need to serve once every 6 weeks.



The Puckety Church Members and Friends Directory has been updated. Please take a copy! They are on the shelf behind Kelly's desk. If there are none left and you would like one, she will be glad to print you a copy!



- 01 Sophia Earhart
- 08 Michelle Gordon
- 15 Chari Burtner
- 22 Mick Dober
- 29 Beth Dober

**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

PLEASE SEE THE YOUTH GROUP SNACK SCHEDULE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AND SIGN UP IF YOU CAN. THANK YOU.

**Your Session:**

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



**Offering counters:**

- 1/1: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart and Matt Wehrle
- 1/8: Helen Crissman & Marilyn Crumley
- 1/15: Deb Artman & Janet Karan
- 1/22: Chuck & Judy West
- 1/29: Jolene Kostelansky, Sophia Earhart and Matt Wehrle

**Pastor:**

Reverend Brian Kilbert

**Administrative Secretary:**

Kelly Kapelewski

**Bookkeeper:**

Debra Artman

**Choir Director:**

Lorraine Menk

**Organist/Pianist:**

Barb Sprinkle

**Housekeeper:**

Irene Nelson

**Financial Secretary:**

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.

**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"

**January 1:**

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

**January 8:**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

**January 15:**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Cor 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

**January 22:**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Cor 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

**January 29:**

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Cor 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

WE WILL BE RESUMING OUR MONTHLY PRAYER WALK ON JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> AFTER WORSHIP. PLEASE STAY AND JOIN IN ON PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY!



The 2023 Offering Envelopes are on the front pew of the Sanctuary in alphabetical order. Please take yours at your earliest convenience. Thank you!



- 1 Judy West
- 2 Tyler Schafer
- 3 Jennifer McKay
- 7 Owen Manges
- 9 Don Zellefrow
- 14 Wayne McAllister
- 15 Matt Wehrle
- Andrew Fisher
- Marie Hough
- Mallory Soulcheck
- 16 John Trey Sennett
- 17 John McAllister
- 18 Kenzie Girard
- 19 Michael McKown
- 23 Vi Adamsky
- 24 Tori Soulcheck
- 26 Sue Close
- Lois Barnett

Rusiewicz Funeral Home has once again supplied our congregation with beautiful FREE wall calendars. Please take one for yourself and anyone else you feel might like one! They are at each door.



Join us for a Thank you and Welcome Reception in Faith Hall on January 15th. We will thank Barb Sprinkle for filling in as organist and welcome Jesse Oddis as our new organist! Refreshments will be provided.

## **A Devotional For You** – Read Isaiah 63:7-9 & Matthew 2:13-23

Picture this *Peanuts* cartoon with me: Lucy walks up to Charlie Brown on Christmas Day and says to him, “Charlie Brown, since it’s Christmas, I suggest we lay aside our differences and be friends today.” Charlie says, “That’s a great idea, Lucy, but why does it have to be just at Christmas? Why can’t we be friends all year long?” Lucy looks at him with that look that only Lucy can give and says, “What are you, a fanatic or something?!”

I suppose many of us would like to hold on to Christmas a little longer, some might call us fanatics (and I’m not just talking about keeping the lights on the outside of the house up until St. Patrick’s Day). Though Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> has come and gone, I would like to see us hold on to the Christmas spirit just a bit longer. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we kept practicing the things we sing about at Christmastime? [Maybe that’s why we *practice* them] ... And the amazing thing is – in those songs, hard things like ‘darkness’ ... and ‘peril’ ... even ‘death’ are mentioned in those carols ... but for some reason, they’re better than the holiday songs, right? Because the holiday songs don’t help much when we’ve had multiple family members die in the month of December over the past few years ... The “Fa La La” songs don’t help a lot when the shopping bills come due, or the heating bill reminds us why there couldn’t be much of a shopping bill. The carols (and ‘Christmas practice’) are important because we’ve been touched by darkness and death ... “long lay the world in sin and error pining” – life has NOT been easy. *But* ... As Scripture says, “But at just the right time, God sent his Son, born of a virgin, born under the law, to rescue those under the burden of the law.” Jesus gives us the solid foundation to stand, the strength to endure, and even overcome.

Yes, it’s time to take down the tree and put the decorations back in storage for another year. But, please God, may the music linger. May the songs (the timeless and perennial songs) of hope, and peace and goodwill be forever in our hearts. May our homes be filled with the fragrances, sounds and promises of Christmas, forever. May we take its message with us (because we need it all the year through) and so we can share it with others so the world may be touched by it, as we have been touched by it. Howard Thurman wrote, “When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone from sight, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks, then the real work of Christmas begins ... to find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry, visit the lonely, to bring peace among brothers and sisters, to make music in the heart – the Music of the Master in our lives – that is the real work of Christmas!” Amen. So, all my fellow ‘Lucy’s’ and ‘Charlie Brown’s,’ let’s be the Christmas people all through 2023. ~ *Pastor Brian*



There will be a group taking down the greens and undecorating the church on January 8 @ 1:00pm. Come help if you are able!

**Our Congregational Annual Meeting to review the Annual Reports from our teams will be January 29 after Worship. Please plan to stay!**

The Sunday Morning Women's Bible Study will be kicking off the year on January 8th with our first discussion of The Chosen. We will be meeting in Faith Hall after worship to eat our brown bag lunches and then start our discussion. Please have the first episode watched and the introduction and the first lesson "You are Called" read and your responses marked in your workbook.

There are 4 ways to watch the episodes. Watching on line via a laptop/computer or tablet at <https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>, via Amazon streaming, it is included with Prime or streaming via Peacock which may be available via your cable provider. The fourth way would be to join the group of ladies meeting at the church to view the episode in the conference room. Please contact Marilyn Crumley for when the first meeting will be as it will most likely NOT be after church on January 1st. We will NOT be watching the episode when we gather together.



The saying goes winter is coming knit/crochet faster! This winter is off to a brutal start and I know I appreciated my handmade hats and scarves! The Crafternoon group has received thank you notes and photos of the lap blankets that have been distributed. Our first meeting of 2023 will be January 15th after the coffee hour. We want to invite all the Ninja crafters that helped us with the lap blanket project to join us. All experience levels are welcome! Any yarn

craft is welcome to join us. We will continue to make lap blankets in 2023 so if you are interested in helping with that project or have any other questions, please reach out to Wiebke.



A major and regular member of our AV Team is no longer able to help with this ministry. We have had two new volunteers come forth for the Zoom part of our ministry. We are however in desperate need to fill the gap that has been created for slide show creation, slide show presentation and sound. Learning these skills can be done in stages. We ask everyone in the congregation to prayerfully consider if God is challenging you in 2023 to learn new skills so we can continue to worship in house and care for our brothers and sisters who rely on remote worship to stay connected. Please contact Wiebke with any

questions or if you are interested in sitting with the team to see the different jobs while you seek God's direction.

### ***And the angels sang!...***

A most special thank you to the adult choir of Puckety Church for their dedication and prayerful singing during the Advent season and Christmas! I want to personally mention all of them by name; to thank them and acknowledge their commitment:

From left to right as they stand:

Top row: Irene Nelson, Sophia Earhart, Nita Serene, Marti Rugh, Chuck West, Bruce Sproull, Jennifer McKay, Sandra Ankney, Brandi Roland

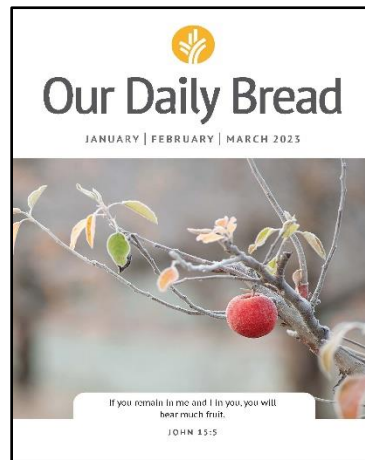
Front row: Beth Dober, Janet Karan, Mira Whalen, Violet Adamsky, Mick Dober, Cliff McKay, Rev. Brian Kilbert, Sue Close, Barb Sprinkle

A special thank you to Barb Sprinkle for her expertise at the piano and organ.

As we herald the new year we will be bringing back some of our favorites and adding new anthems too. We have extra chairs so please come join us on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm. Happy New Year, all!  
Lorraine Menk, Choir Director



Some photos from our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ladies Advent Tea. It was another huge success and the addition of our “White Elephant” ornament exchange was well received. Special thanks to the Men’s Bible Study Group who lent a hand in serving the ladies their delicious brunch.



**Our Daily Bread – Large Print**

January, February, March - 2023

The “Our Daily Bread” devotional is available for you, a friend, or relative at all entrances to the sanctuary and on the glass display case near the conference room. Please use the devotional as a way

of disciplining yourself to read the Bible every day and reflect on the words of scripture with receptive heart.





Pastor Brian attended a wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for our dear member Howard Newell at his Assisted Living Residence. It was a very good time!

Howard Newell is a wonderful, friendly and very humorous fellow who loves to be social as much as he loves his ice-cream. He was born December 6, 1932 in North Braddock. As a teenager, he had a paper route to pay for piano lessons. His life-long love of music was passed on to him by his mother. As a young man, he enjoyed boating with friends and flying in his friend's small plane. He also enjoyed exercising at the YMCA. He began working at Westinghouse (later named Powerex) in Youngwood as an Electronics Specialist until his retirement after 44 years. He served as a Corporal in the Army during the Korean War era and was stationed in France. He received both Good Conduct and National Defense Service Medals. During his time in the Army, he played piano for the officers' club in a band called The Manhattans. He met and married his wife, Jane, in July 1966. They lived in Irwin while he built their current home on family farm property in Leechburg. They have two daughters, Linda, and Debbie, three granddaughters, Melissa, Bridget, and Shannon, and one great grandson, Wyatt, with another great grandson on the way. He and Jane honeymooned in Niagara Falls and traveled to Paris, London, and Amsterdam when their daughters were very young. As the girls grew, he enjoyed traveling with his family to Williamsburg, Hershey, Niagara Falls, the zoo, Phipps Conservatory, Disney World and visiting family in Florida. They would also enjoy taking Sunday drives after church. After the children were grown, he and Jane traveled to Ireland, Switzerland, and Las Vegas. He and Jane participated in both square and round dancing with the Western Wheelers and Dealers of Lower Burrell and served as club presidents. With the group, they danced throughout the Pittsburgh area as well as Clarion, West Virginia, and Johnstown. He enjoyed having animals and there was always some type of animal around the house. Howard belongs to Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell and served as a deacon. He sung in the choir, was part of the upkeep committee and was involved in setting up the sound system. Howard is very friendly and easy going and enjoys talking with others. Helping others brings him great joy








Thanks for being so friendly and uplifting with your humor.



**OUR YOUTH GROUP along with SOME DEDICATED PUCKETY ADULT CHAPERONES WENT CHRISTMAS CAROLING at OUR LOCAL NURSING HOMES. THE RESIDENTS and STAFF ENJOYED THEM VERY MUCH! THE KIDS DISTRIBUTED HAND MADE WASHCLOTH ANGELS as they CAROLED.**



# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b>  New Year's Day WORSHIP SERVICE	<b>2</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 10:30am Card Ministry 6:00pm Upkeep Team Meeting	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 20130 Meeting 6:30pm Outreach Team Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>4</b> Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Deacons Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>  Epiphany Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>7</b> Black 50th Birthday Party??
<b>8</b>  JESUS BAPTISM <b>10:00am Worship</b> 11:30am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm Undecorating the Church 2:45pm Youth Group Outing	<b>9</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 5:30pm MS Group Meeting 6:30pm Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	<b>10</b> 1:00pm Bracken Small Group 6:30pm Session Meeting 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>11</b> Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Rev. Kilbert Small Group 6:45pm Girl Scouts 26605	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b> 11:00am Prayer Walk 12:00pm Crafternoon 6:00pm Youth Group  RECEPTION AFTER WORSHIP	<b>16</b>  "I Have a Dream" Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting 4:30pm Discipleship Team Meeting	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 20130 Meeting 7:00pm Sewing Guild 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>18</b> Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Rev. Kilbert Small Group	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Girl Scouts 26234 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>21</b> 11:00am Logan Birthday Party
<b>22</b> 12:00am Gantz Birthday Party <b>10:00am Worship</b> 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>23</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting	<b>24</b> 1:00pm Bracken Small Group 5:30pm Girl Scouts 46799 8:00pm N.A. meeting	<b>25</b> Meals on Wheels 6:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal 6:30pm Rev. Kilbert Small Group 6:45pm Girl Scouts 26605	<b>26</b> 5:30pm Girl Scouts 26234 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:00am Worship</b>  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6:00pm Youth Group	<b>30</b> Meals on Wheels 10:00am Men's Group Meeting	<b>31</b> 4:30pm Worship Team Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 20130 8:00pm N.A. meeting	1  FEBRUARY Meals on Wheels	2	3 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	4

