

Puckety Presbyterian Church

1009 Puckety Church Road
Lower Burrell, PA 15068

(Return Service Requested)

Last Day For:

Post Scripts Information:

Third Friday of the month.

Bulletin Information:

The Tuesday before the Sunday the
article is to be announced

REMINDER:

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.*

July 2021

Pastor's Corner

Post-Scripts
a monthly publication

Many churches commonly call the summertime (after Pentecost), “Ordinary Time.” Well, I like to call it *Post-Pentecost* – because that way there’s always a reference to what happened with the giving of the Spirit, and what’s *supposed to KEEP* happening. We often attempt to capture this kind of Spirit-filled experience by trying various ways of “doing church” together. And I think this is a healthy pursuit if done with reliance on God (keeping in mind that no methodology has the power to produce what only the Holy Spirit can do). But there was a *factor* at play in the early church’s vital life that we tend to overlook. It’s a factor we might not think to pray for, but one that helped provide the fertile environment in which the first-generation church flourished. That factor was a hostile culture and the desperate situations of many believers.

When we pray for robust churches, we may expect God to give us answers that look like Acts 2. But we become discouraged when we experience difficulties, not recognizing these as *important parts of a spiritually fertile environment*. When we take a more careful look at the account of these seemingly “sublime” early church days, a more complex picture emerges. We begin to see it in this description of sacrifice, faith and trust: “All the believers were together and had all things in common. They sold possessions and belongings to give to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:44-45)

What was happening that prompted this outbreak of possession-sharing? A significant number of Christians were experiencing significant material needs. Why? Because not everybody was looking upon them with favor. The remarkable generosity of Christians was drawn out because of necessity. It’s likely that most, if not all, of the new converts, were being kicked out of their synagogues — the hub of spiritual and social life in Jewish communities – for becoming followers of Jesus.

It’s easy to have *uninvested* favor toward a group until your child or your sibling or your spouse joins, and the social & economic costs become personal. Then painful disruptions begin. In other words, the wonderful generosity did not happen in a vacuum. It was a response to sudden, painful, and deep needs. Christians possessing this world’s goods saw their brothers and sisters in need and could not close their hearts against them because they were filled with God’s love. This desperate need and acute suffering contributed to the remarkable fellowship the believers experienced. Think of the times you’ve experienced the most intense and precious fellowship with others. How many of those occurred in difficult times in your or someone else’s life?

Yes, the Holy Spirit was moving powerfully in the early church. But like the Spirit often does, he was moving in response to people’s faith, which was ***heightened because of the overwhelming needs and adversity they were facing.***

Throughout biblical and church history, we find a consistent pattern: “glad and generous hearts” (v. 46) tend to grow best when adversity is part of the church’s life. Affliction provides sanctifying opportunities for us to experience the love of Christ in very personal ways, and opportunities to demonstrate the gospel visibly to a watching world. In other words: the gospel becomes more real to us, the more we feel our need of it. So, let’s keep longing to be like that radically loving, generously giving, boldly witnessing community of first-generation saints! But let’s also remember the hostile, painful, desperate context in which the church was born.

~ Pastor Brian

Puckety's current *Life Groups* include:

**Ministering through Spiritual Gifts* - led by Rev. Brian Kilbert (will start late Aug./early Sept. - please inquire as to topic & time – 724-678-6976)

* *Bad Girls of the Bible* – led by Wiebke Kilbert. This group meets every other Wednesday at 6:00 PM in Faith Hall. 724-799-3323

**Bracken Bible Study on Romans* – led by Donna Bracken (every 2nd and 4th Tuesday @1:00pm).

**Men's Group* - led by Matt Wehrle and Mick Dober every Monday at 10:00am.

**Daniel Plan* (Fitness & Faith - movement based) led by Alice Knopfel (every other Tuesday at 2:15 pm)

Please call the church office or Pastor Brian (724-678-6976) to inquire about availability, and other upcoming groups etc.

Remember to check Puckety's website and social media for information on upcoming events and encouragement!

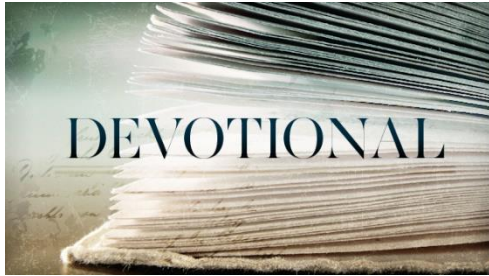
Website: www.pucketychurch.org

Like and Follow on Facebook: Puckety Presbyterian Church

Follow us on Instagram: Puckety Church

Follow us on Twitter: @churchpuckety

Grow In Faith Get-Together – Saturday, July 31st at 2:00 PM at the Dober’s home (*if there’s rain – Faith Hall*). Please bring a lawn chair to the Dober’s. This will be a meeting of Puckety’s **Discipleship Team** + *all our* **Small Group Leaders** – both those who facilitated groups this past year, and any who are planning to help facilitate a group in the next year. Please be ready to participate – reviewing what worked well and what didn’t and sharing with the group best practices and plans for the future. We ask all members to pray for this important get-together.



Devotional for You

Read Matthew 20:1-16 and then Romans 12:1-3

So, I've been reading articles and books about how we now live in a new era. Here are a couple of quotes: "We are in new waters ... the whole of our social imagination (more or less what we can think, believe, and do) has shifted ... We have not just lost our earlier world but have constructed an entirely new one." Here's another: "Many people have constructed their lives in such a way that they feel no need for God. They have no sense of a gaping loss ... in their lives. Instead, they have added new narratives, moral codes, and identities beyond God to direct their lives." The quotes are from Andrew Root - *Faith Formation in a Secular Age*. I have some colleagues in ministry who are equally concerned and challenged by this reality. This is our age with its many possibilities and God has little space in it. A fellow pastor recently said, "The church is an age behind. We still attempt to call people from a 'secular' life into a Spirit-led life as if nothing has changed. But it *has* changed, and we must learn to speak to this age."

There is a place where we can speak. For these people who have constructed "new narratives, moral codes, and identities beyond God" have found that there are cracks and crevices of discontent. They know, consciously or unconsciously, that their lives are incomplete or lack meaning or are unfulfilled. It is into these cracks and crevices that we can speak the only words that make a person whole, the Gospel. Addendum: Surprise, these times are not new. In the early 400's the Roman Empire collapsed. The Christians caught the blame. Augustine who had risen to meet all his ambitions found himself depressed and lost. Then he met Christ. His life changed. He wrote thousands of pages from which we can learn how, once again, to speak to a culture with no room for God.

I was speaking to my dad last night on the phone, talking about Christ's *Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard* (Matthew 20:1-16). At one point, I was talking about how we live in a culture where there's increasing independence and decreasing commitment to community life, and how I face constant challenges trying to reach segments of the community who "want 12 hour pay for one hour's worth of work" and how to inspire the ones who have "worked 12 hours" and so feel like they have "no time for those self-entitled newcomers." He asked, "What do you do?" I said, "I don't quit." He replied, "What do you mean?" And I answered, "There are people out there, in our neighborhood and community, that God wants to bring into his kingdom just like the employer with the workers in the marketplace ... We could come up with all kinds of reasons not to work with them or meet them on their level, that's easy to do; but God clearly calls us to go the extra mile, to reach those who are very different from us, to not begrudge God's grace or the way he does things that bug us. God calls us to look beyond the apparent 'inequity' and spread his generosity and grace, even if that means apparent great sacrifice." So, I ask you to read Matthew 20:1-16 and Romans 12:1-3 again, and then FIND WAYS to get 'into the cracks' of unbelievers' discontent, with the gospel and grace of Jesus, so their story doesn't leave out God anymore. God be with you.

~ Pastor Brian



THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE BULLETIN BOARD! JUST CHOOSE A SUNDAY TO OFFER AN INSTRUMENTAL, VOCAL, OR EVEN POETRY READING TO MUSIC. ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO THE CONGREGATION!

From the hearts of the Session

The decision has been made and communicated that masks are no longer required in either the main building or Faith Hall for those who have been fully vaccinated OR have recovered from the COVID virus and thus have an equivalent immunity. If neither of the foregoing apply to you, you are asked to continue to wear a mask inside our facilities, and practice social distancing. If you prefer to continue to wear a mask, you are welcome to do so. We continue to observe safe procedures for practices such as the collection of offerings, the administration of the Sacrament, etc. We will address these and other practices again near the end of summer.

We had a good joint meeting with the Deacons on Tuesday June 8th, in the backyard of the manse – with thanks that God held off the rain as the thunderclouds moved in! We looked back on a year of God's work, seeing places where Puckety's Mission is being lived out, and other places where God may be calling us to adjust our plans in line with his.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who helped with Donna Bracken's retirement party: Charlene and the Fellowship Team, organizers in the church office, other planners on Session, and of course, all the members who contributed and participated in the wonderful day. May we continue to be grateful for God's servants and the Spirit's gifts that have been given to us as one Body – all to the glory of God.



AS THE HEAT TURNS UP SOME OF US ARE ALREADY THINKING OF THE COOLER NIGHTS OF FALL. THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO START THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU MIGHT DECORATE YOUR CAR FOR TRUNK OF TREAT. WE WILL BE HOSTING THIS EVENT ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH FROM 2-4 PM. WHAT IS TRUNK OF TREAT YOU ASK? WE KNOW THAT SOME OF US LIVE IN HOMES THAT KIDS DO NOT VISIT TO TRICK OR TREAT. WE ALSO KNOW THERE ARE KIDS THAT LIVE IN PLACES WHERE THEY CANNOT GO OUT TRICK OR TREATING. TRUNK OF TREAT BRINGS EVERYONE TOGETHER FOR SOME HALLOWEEN FUN. YOU BRING YOUR CAR, A BUNCH OF CANDY, A COMFY CHAIR AND WE SHOW YOU WHERE TO PARK IN THE PARKING LOT. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO COME IN COSTUME AND EVEN DECORATE YOUR CAR. THEN WE INVITE THE KIDS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO COME AND WALK FROM CAR TO CAR IN COSTUME AND TRICK OR TREAT IN A SAFE PLACE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS. PLEASE SEE WIEBKE OR KELLY WITH QUESTIONS OR IF YOU WANT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT FOR THIS EVENT.

Second Annual Ladies Advent Brunch: Mark your calendars ladies, the Second Annual Ladies Advent Brunch will be held on Sunday December 5th from 11:30 to 2 PM. The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study will be hosting this even and we will be adding a few more elements this year. Please prayerfully consider a friend or family member to invite. We will be focusing on finding some Quiet Moments at Christmas.



- 04 Sue Close
- 11 Sophia Earhart
- 18 Michelle Gordon
- 25 Chari Burtner

Your Deacons:

Mick Dober
 Pat Fish
 Traci Kirchartz
 Cecil McCutcheon
 Brandy Roland
 Maria Schafer
 Kim Soulcheck
 Jean Welte
 Fran Kapelewski
 Nita Serene
 Brenda McAllister
 Rodney Schafer

Corporate Officers:

President: Matt Wehrle
Vice-Pres.: Jennifer McKay
Secretary: Debra Artman
Treasurer: Chuck West



Your Session:

Deb Artman – Clerk
 Chari Burtner
 Charlene McKay
 Jennifer McKay
 Matt Wehrle
 Chuck West
 Kelly Kapelewski
 Irene Nelson



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

Media Specialist:

Chris Mason

Offering counters:

7/4: Janet Karan &
 Deb Artman
 7/11: Chuck & Judy West
 7/18: Jolene Kostelansky,
 Sophia Earhart and Matt Wehrle
 7/25: 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.

MUSICAL NOTES:

Although it's only July, researching and purchasing choir music for fall has begun! We have a fantastic southern gospel style anthem on it's way, along with faith-based rehearsal warm ups via CD! And Advent/Christmas research is soon to come. We look forward to digging back in the file cabinet for those much-loved anthems to take out, dust off, and breathe new life into with the help of the Holy Spirit! Our plan is to go back to our rehearsal time on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Chancel. This would be an excellent time to join us as we regroup and reboot our adult choir music program. Call 724-339-9531 or email me at kirbie1@comcast.net if interested.



Please take advantage of our weekly online Facebook Live offerings (Puckety's Page):

- o Monday at Noon - Children's Book Reading
- o Wednesday at Noon - Adult Devotional Study



The Bible readings are from
"Book of Common Worship"

For the week of:

July 4:

2 Sam 5:1-5:9-10
Psalm 48
Ezek 2:1-5
2 Cor 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 11:

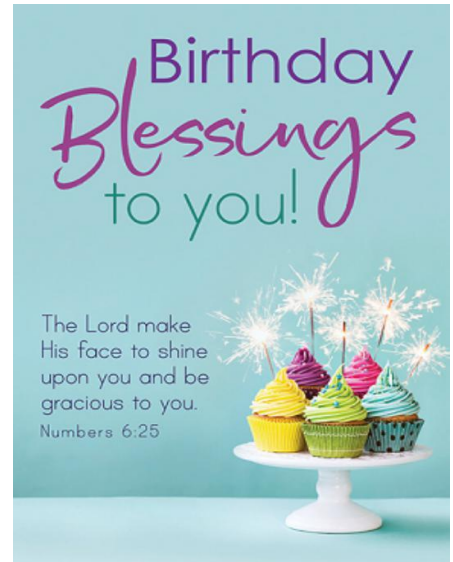
2 Sam 6:1-5;12b-19
Psalm 24
Amos 7:7-15
Eph 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 18:

2 Sam 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Jer 23:1-6
Eph 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25:

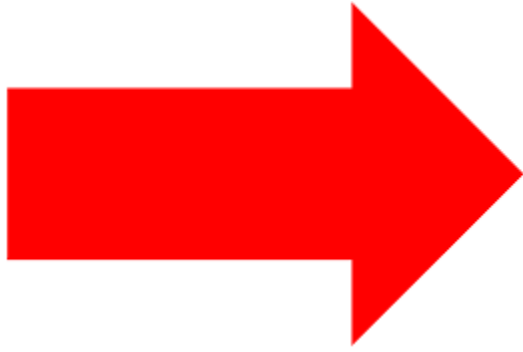
2 Sam 11:1-15
Psalm 14
2 Kings 4:42-44
Eph 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



- 2 Jackson Aungst
- 4 Bob Bargerstock
Jonathan Szish
- 7 Matthew Pranievicz
Beth Dober
- 9 Georgianne Bargerstock
- 10 Keira Manges
Ruth Foley
Lauren Benish
- 11 Cathy Yohe
Ralph Baker
Ellen Fisher
- 13 Matthew Burtner
- 15 Abby Fisher
Garrett Baker
- 18 Brandy Roland
- 21 Jim Johnston
- 24 Tynia Girard
- 28 Kevin Blandford
Talor Kapelewski
Gianna Smith
- 31 Clayton Jones
Ken Bush

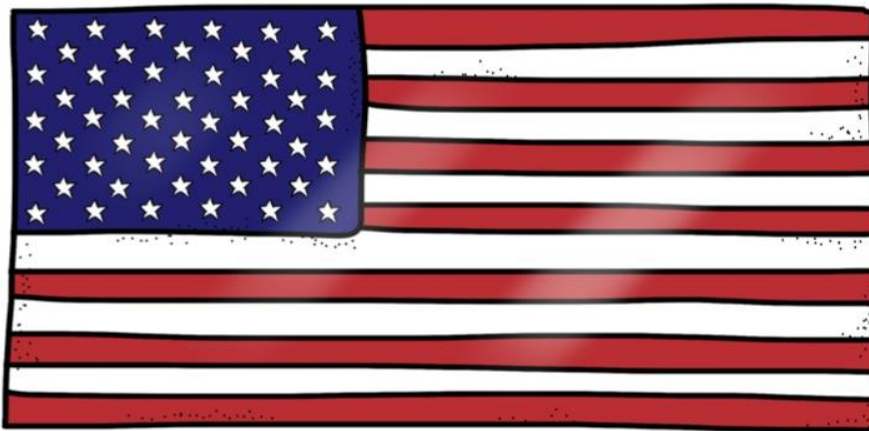


Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of John Matisko who passed away on May 31 and Chuck Fisher who passed away on June 10.



To help the office and the AV Team with knowing which details of an announcement need to go in the bulletin or the slide we have created a new Announcement Request Form. The form will be available via the church website and available from the office to be emailed to you to be filled out. There will be hard copies in the office as well to be filled out and returned. We request that announcement forms be submitted to the office by the Tuesday of the week you want the announcement to run in the bulletin or on the slides.

The Outreach Team conducted our first *Prayer-walk* for our schools on Wednesday June 2nd. Starting at 6:30 AM, a group of 4 of us prayed for just over an hour as we walked first around Burrell High School and then Huston Middle School (each a couple times). It was a powerful time as we lifted up prayers of *worship*, *spiritual warfare* and, *way-making* for God's blessings for the staff, students, their families, Young Life and more. Please join us for future prayer-walks as a vital part of depending on God for what he will do through us as his church. All glory to God.



The Star Spangled Banner



Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight;
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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Puckety Presbyterian Church

JOB OPENING

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: Part-time Christian Education Coordinator

Time: 12 – 15 hours/week (Overall goal is to encourage and develop the discipleship of Puckety’s members and broader faith family in order to fulfill our Vision and goals).

Accountable to: The Pastor as Head of Staff and the Session through the Administration Team.

Requirements: Current Criminal Checks and Clearances to work with Children and Youth (Federal & State).

Primary Responsibilities:

A. Recruit, provide training, confer with and support volunteers for the Small Group, Children’s Church, Women’s and VBS Ministries. Be personally involved in program activities as necessary within the limits of personal schedule, and as important for the success of those activities.

B. Work closely with the Discipleship Team to investigate and acquire materials for Small Groups, Children’s Church, Women’s and VBS ministries. (i.e., finding the best place to purchase materials and making copies for the leaders as this option may be needed)

C. Maintain a list of all children and families from birth – high school with their parents /guardians and connection to Puckety.

D. Contact and develop relationships with children and families that are connected to Puckety at least quarterly.

E. Connect with and develop strong working relationship with our local *Young Life* Director (Abby Harris) as a bridge for local high school students, as well as develop relationships with other community Christian Educators.

F. Plan with the Discipleship Team a yearly social type get-together with all the relevant volunteers. At this event you and the team will affirm them for their service, evaluate the ministries, and encourage the implementation of the next year’s goals.

G. Accept other responsibilities as assigned by the pastor or the Discipleship Team.





H. Attend Discipleship Meetings and submit monthly reports that will get passed on to the Session.

Compensation: \$7,800/year.

The Christian Education Coordinator will be supervised by the pastor and will be responsible to the Session through its Administration Team, while maintaining a working relationship with the Discipleship, Outreach, Worship, Fellowship and Upkeep Teams. The CE Coordinator will be asked to give a quarterly report to Session – to be present at that meeting for their report then excused. The position will be reviewed after 6 months to gauge and evaluate.

Email application *and* resume to pastor@pucketychurch.org. Please be ready to include 2 references – name, contact information, and in what capacity you worked with said party.

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Retirement Party	28 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group	29 6:00 PM Power Point Class 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	30 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	1	2 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	3 8:00 AM Myers Bridal Shower
4 10:00 AM Worship 	5  Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 10:30 AM Card Ministry 6:30 PM Upkeep Meeting???	6 1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 2:15 PM Daniel Plan Group 6:30 PM Outreach Team Meeting 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	7 Meals on Wheels	8	9 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	10 
11 10:00 AM Worship	12 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 6:30 PM Seneca Service Unit Leader Meeting	13 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	14 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	15	16 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 10:00 AM Worship	19 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group 4:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting	20 1:00 PM Bracken Bible Study 2:15 PM Daniel Plan Group 7:00 PM Sewing Guild 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	21 Meals on Wheels	22 	23 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	24 Awes Graduation Party
25 10:00 AM Worship	26 Meals on Wheels 10:00 AM Men's Group	27 8:00 PM N.A. meeting	28 Meals on Wheels 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	29	30 Meals on Wheels OFFICE CLOSED	31 2:00 PM Grow In Faith Gathering

