



I continue to be amazed at how people, almost everyone, limit their thinking to the literal. Conservatives do this, liberals do this, and everyone in between does this. It is why we are stuck, in our lives and in the church, and just about everywhere else. It is why the answer to “How are you doing?” is “Hanging in there.” Life unfolds in wonder all around us and most people miss it. We are on a journey going through a beautiful country and we miss it because we have the blinds pulled down over the windows. We limit ourselves to what we believe to be possible and to disbelieve what we believe to be impossible. The reality is, the possible is what is here right now but rapidly receding into the inaccessible past while the impossible beckons us to a fantastic future, if we listen to its call.

Let us consider a birthday party. The fact that it is a birthday party tells us that at least a year has passed in the life of the person whose birthday we celebrate. We may be at the party of a child whose is only one year old. The past year brings memories. The child may have been born prematurely and struggled through its first year of life. We are happy and thankful for this year and the child’s coming to be a healthy one year old. Many other challenges may have occurred and so we celebrate. Or, the child may have been born in robust health and we anticipate a bright future. Then again, we may be at the party of someone who is 99, and looking for another year to make it to 100. This too brings memories and hope. Ah, here we have it, memories and hope. In each event, and events happen and continue to happen in the present, there is memory, there is the present moment, and there is hope. We can name this a birthday party but much more goes on within this party. We bring memories, we enjoy the cake and ice cream, or pretzels and beer, and we look forward with hope.

Now I want to take this idea, that each moment carries within it a past and a future and apply it to the reading of the Bible – you knew I was going there didn’t you? We will look at the words we just read this past Sunday. If you were not with us they are here, Matthew 17:1-9. Read literally, Jesus goes up on a mountain, Jesus shines like the Sun, Two dead people, Elijah and Moses show up, Peter wants to build tabernacles, God says, His voice booming out of a cloud, “... Listen to Jesus.” Everything settles down and Jesus and three of his disciples go back down the mountain; fantastic, or fantasy. We will let the liberals and the conservatives argue about this as they do, getting nowhere, and irritating the rest of us.

Instead, think about it this way. This event, we name it the “transfiguration,” carries memory and hope. The memory comes through Moses and Elijah. We might pause to think through what this tells us. At the same time God opens a new future for us. And we do well to consider what this might be. In a sense, the entire history of the Jewish people is present here. Yet, Jesus is here and Jesus carries a new future. And, this is a future not possible before. The “transfiguration” – by the way now an event in the past, can only present itself to us through the text of the Bible – opens to us possibilities not previously available to us. When we add crucifixion and resurrection, well, what could possibly be impossible. With God, there is no impossible and it is fruitless to argue about what may or may not be, and especially what may or may not have been. So let’s get on with living. The future, as they say, “is wide open.”

One closing thought. So many seem to think that the church, our church, their church, the mainline church, the evangelical church, pick a church, thrashes about in its death throes. For one thing this is simply not true. In some places the church is growing, in some places the church languishes. Some churches thrive; some churches close their doors. Christ’s church – the people God has called through Christ – is exactly where God wants it. Let’s be content with that. The church has a past, we exist in the present, and we have a glorious future. God calls us into God’s future. Our task, if we can call it that, is to listen and respond. Show up, live faithfully, seek justice, give and receive gifts, offer and receive forgiveness, practice hospitality, be open to the impossible, that’s enough.

by Pastor Pete

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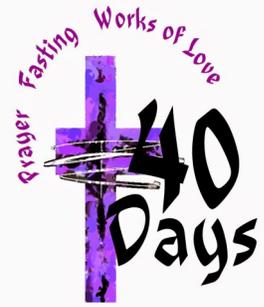
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THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MARCH 2-6.



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever.

The Poke Run Church community will mark this day with a **Worship Service**. Wednesday, March 1st, 7:30pm— Plan on attending.



Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness.

Information provided above is from the website of:



BREAKING THE CHAINS OF

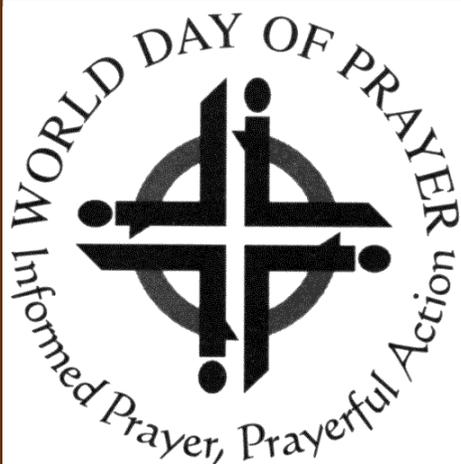


Daily Lenten Devotionals The "Addiction Ministry Network"

group invites you to join us during the season of Lent to learn more about alcohol and other drug addictions and what God is

calling us to do as the church and disciples of Jesus Christ. We have created daily devotionals during Lent beginning with an introduction to the devotionals on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. We will post each daily devotional on a blog titled "**Redstone Together**". Each devotional will have a link to a PDF file which you can use to print the devotional. We invite you to join us in a conversation about the epidemic of alcohol and other drug dependencies impacting our communities and leave your feedback, questions, and prayers in the comments section.

The link to "**Redstone Together**" redstonetogether.blogspot.com



Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate the "World Day of Prayer." on Friday, March 3rd.

The Presbyterian Women of Delmont Presbyterian Church are inviting everyone in the area to attend a "World Day of Prayer" event on Friday, March 3rd, 10:30-11:30am. A continental brunch will be served from 10:30-11am, with information and resources about this year's focus, the Philippines. There will be a worship service with a brief time of reflection from 11-11:30am. All are welcome! For more information - contact Jill Ledger at 724-468-1012 or mjlrhd@hotmail.com

Thank you to everyone who participated in our February worship services.

Our February Lectors: Summer Mazur, Heidi Hileman, Connor Martin, and Ethan Woodhall
Our February Greeters: The Cub Scouts, Doug & Deb Ross, Ron & Carole Bowman, Andy & Eva Bantoch

A special thank you to the Poke Run Cub Scouts for serving as greeters and ushers on "Scout Sunday", February 5th. The Poke Run community is blessed to have two Cub Scout dens meeting at our church facility. The Scout leaders are Dan Grossheim on the left and Dan Keuhn on the right. (photo on right) Please keep these men and their scouts in your prayers. It is a privilege to provide these men and boys with a safe meeting place.

Scouts: RJ Rice Aiden Varhola
 Ryder Flick Tyler Patterson
 Nathan Powers Sean Riley
 Jaymesin Bruns Luke Schultheis
 Cody Kuehn Noah Attinger



Poke Run's Scout Coordinator is Chad McCutcheon



"To The Adelphi young people and Linda Chicka and especially to Barb Findley for delivering the pretzels they made. Most importantly the visit to Deb Zerbini. We are so thankful for all of you."

From Alan, Debbie and Eleanor Zerbini

For our prayers: Alex, Ang, Ed Bahney, Renee Bates, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Kim Boylestein, Sarah Brank, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Stephanie Bruce, Carolyn Buckley, Roxy Chickar, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Shirley Elwood, Barbara Emmerling, Jean Fanelli, Elmer Foley, Lee & Linda Gardener, Marnee Gormley, Sylvan Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Iris Kiebler, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Ed Luther, Irma McDivitt, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Carol O'Malley, Sandy Nemetz, Thad Overly, Sarah Parrish, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Joanne Smith, Callie Spaulding, Dave Speer, Dinah Staymates, JD Stait, Kenny Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Peter Yurtin, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.

Occasionally names are removed from the prayer list when the office has not been updated, if you see one removed that should remain, please contact the office. It is a privilege to lift up those we care about in continued prayer and Poke Run Church rejoices that many of those included on our "Prayer List" are healing and strengthening.

If you placed names on our "Prayer List," please contact the office to update us.



"Our prayers are extremely important to God.

God waits patiently every single day to hear from each of us.

God never sleeps. God is never too busy. God is available 24/7 to hear from His children. Sometimes with our busy lives we can forget those who we need to talk with God about. By simply having a prayer list, we are able to remind ourselves, who we need to include in our daily prayers."

From lovinggodtoday.com

New Members Class—Pastor Pete is putting together a class for anyone interested in joining the Poke Run congregation. If you would like to join or want more information, see Pastor Pete or contact the Church Office.

724-327-5563

New
Member
Class



Church Office

From the Poke Run Office

The Poke Run Annual Report for 2016 is complete. Copies are available in the Narthex or you can request an electronic copy by email. Just call the office.

In preparation for the 2017 Directory, Information Needed Please notify the church office if you have had any name changes, address changes, a change in your phone number or a change in your email address. You may call the office at 724-327-5563 or email your information to pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net

Thank you.



From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes January 10th
Joint meeting of the Boards—December. meetings rescheduled & combined because of bad weather

The re-scheduled meeting of the Joint Boards met @ 7:00 pm. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Clerk – Connie Cauvel. Assistant Clerk – Chad McCutcheon, Sandy Chappell, Ron Hileman, Tom Kimble, Nikki McQuaide, Logan Hileman, Cindy McQuaide, Linda Chicka, Jeffrey Wilkinson, **Excused:** Tim Martin, Meri Slaughaupt, Linda Moorhead.

Deacons Present: Ruthie O'Connor, Diane Scott, Jan Fitzgerald, Cindy Brooks, Barbie Findley, Tammy Kelley, Debora Ross, Deb Seighman, Bev Tagliati, Mario Tagliati, Nancy Kimble, Carol Thompson.

Trustees Present: Ron Bowman, Brian Dombroske, Doug Ross, Al Moorhead, Barry Kelley, Mike Goetschius, Walt Lange, Andy Bantroch, Bill Fazi, Corey Kelley

2017 Officers:

MSC: Connie Cauvel- Clerk of Session

MSC: Chad McCutcheon Assistant Clerk of Session

MSC: Amy Wilkinson to continue as Church Treasurer and Shyrl Stange Financial Administrator

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of: November 8, 2016

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of: November 7, 2016 and January 4, 2017

MSC: To accept the Trustee minutes of: October 27, 2016 and November 17, 2016

MSC: To: accept Treasurer's Report – November 30

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin Amy reviewed the Budget and financials.

Mission and Stewardship: Linda Chicka, Meri Slaughaupt

Pretzel decorating with Pretzels January 27 with the Adelphoi Kids. The Deacons will take the Pretzels to our shut-ins. Food Bank will be February 18, 2017.

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel A sub committee met January 9, and scheduled the 2017 Communion and offering participants

Technology: Chad McCutcheon – Chad reported that new connectors were installed and that we have Wi-Fi through most of the Church

Nominating - Pete will meet with the Committee after Easter.

Old Business:

Special thanks to everyone for your help and support with the Presbytery meeting @ Poke Run.

Clearances – on -going

MSC: To award the bid of \$3,500 to Vermin Control to get rid the snakes in the Manse. Trustees only received one bid but because of this dire situation they wanted to move forward ASAP. (Electronic vote on November 21, 2016 with 100% approval)

New Business:

MSC: To approve 2017 Communion Schedule from Congregational Life Committee

MSC: To appoint Connie Cauvel as Representative to Presbytery meetings (Unless another Session member wishes to attend)

Tasks for 2017 volunteers needed

Review Church By-laws

Review Church Mission Statement

Special thank you and blessings to Linda Chicka, Cindy McQuaide and Jeff Wilkinson for their service on Session.

Close with prayer: Connie Cauvel

Adjourn: 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: February 14, 2017

Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)



The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, March 8th.

Bean Soup – doors open at 11:30am, soup is served at noon. Come and bring a friend, help extend a Christian welcome and presence to those God brings to Poke Run!



If you care to contribute a dessert—please call Amy in the office.



Special Thanks to Becky Lange and her "Come n Play" crew and kids. They provided beautiful cupcakes for Wednesday's "Soup for the Soul" as well as individual valentines for the folks who came. You can see examples displayed around the church office and fellowship area. It was wonderful to have so many Poke Run people gather with the folks who came for soup. What a great way to let people know about the great things happening at Poke Run and to hear the word spoken by Pastor Pete. This outreach continues to reach our community.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Women of the Church will be meeting on Thursday, March 16th, at 7pm. The hostess will be Barbi Findley and the leader will be Valerie Hansen.

If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out and join in. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.

HELP NEEDED! On occasion, there is a need for covered dishes or desserts for events at the church including funeral dinners, "Soup for the Soul," etc. If this is something you can help with, please contact the office and we will put you on the list. Thank you in advance for your help.

Many women in our congregation have experienced Pine Springs Camp programs—if you are interested in the upcoming 2017 "Women in the Woods" - Mar 31-Apr 2—check out the Pine Springs website or grab a brochure from the Narthex.



Dear Fellow Workers for Christ, 2/10/2017
Thank you so much for your participation in Operation Christmas Child. We are so pleased to report that our new Butler/Armstrong area collected **13,477** GO (gospel opportunity) boxes. The USA total was **9,121,799** and the world total was **11,485,662** - all record breaking! We are praising GOD and asking for prayers now for safe delivery to 100 countries as the children hear about The Greatest Gift (Jesus!) and do a follow up 12 lesson discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. More info is available at samaritanaspurse.org/occ Thank you again and GOD'S Blessings, Jane





Thank you to the Poke Run PW for providing a fun morning of brunch and fellowship and fun. Almost 100 people gathered together, ate together, sang together and had fun together. What a wonderful time!





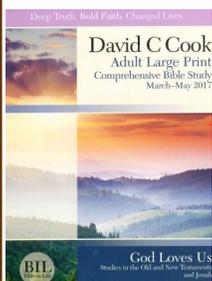
Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class! – Check the bulletin board in the hall as the kids map the life of Jesus to the Cross!

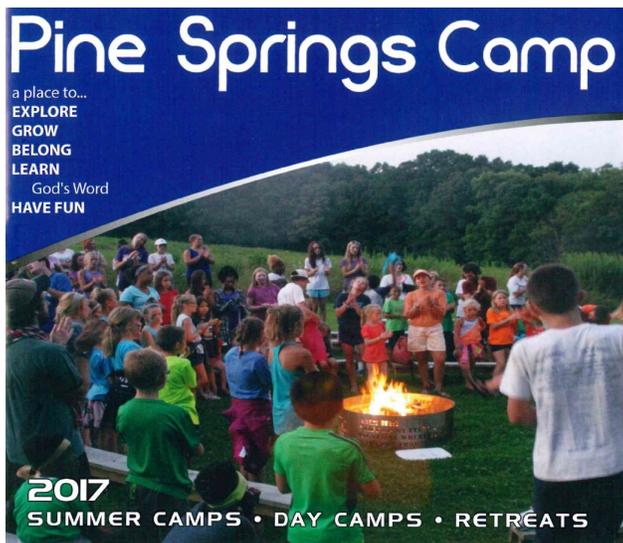
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are currently two active Adult Sunday School classes each Sunday morning.



The class meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall) is using the David C. Cook series titled **“God Loves Us”**

The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is using the study series, **“God's At War – Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart”** by Kyle Idelman.



Pine Springs Information pamphlets are available in the church office. Poke Run continues its pledge to send all campers to Pine Springs at no cost—call the office if you are interested.



Graduate Sunday:

May 14, 2017

Please contact the office if you have a 2016 graduate in your life. We would like to recognize Poke Run's graduates, high school, college, etc. and certainly share good news of those you love. Please submit your grad information by April 15th.

RETURNING FOR 2017!

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 14th - “TGIF” Good Friday program! See Laurie Martin if you will be able to help with this ever popular Children's event. Think how you can be involved, and who you can invite! Pray that the Lord leads Poke Run in the planning and leads children to Poke Run! Get excited!



NEEDED: dice, sponges, tiny plates that would fit in a plastic egg, tiny loaves of bread, several rolls of dimes, perfume, small round stones.

There will be a Vacation Bible School workshop on Tuesday, March 14th at 7pm at the Family Christian Bookstore in Monroeville. This workshop is an “expo” for 2017 VBS programs. If you would like to help pick out this year's program, please contact Linda Chicka.



From the Poke Run Board of Deacons

EASTER FLOWERS: The Deacons will be taking orders for Easter flowers, watch the bulletin for an order form.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS: Contact a Deacon or the Church office if you would like to order an Easter “Food Basket” for someone in need. You will need to pick up the basket and deliver it.

Deadline is April 2nd , Pick-up is THURSDAY evening, April 6th.

Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia in 2017

Poke Run will once again be heading to Marion, Virginia to join hands with Project Crossroads for a week of mission work this summer. Scheduled for the week of June 25 through 30. Applications are now available for anyone interested in attending the mission trip. please see or call Linda Chicka at 724-422-3688 or the Church office. **The first Trip meeting will be Monday, May8th at 7:30pm.** Also, please remember that you must have current Youth Protection clearances on file in the office to participate in this and many of our outreaches.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

March 3—*“World Day of Prayer”* Delmont Presbyterian Church, see page 2 of *Ranger*

March 5—*PSC JUMPS*— Flight Trampoline Park, Bridgeville PA 6-8pm, \$10

March 21—Redstone Presbytery Meeting, 6pm Ft. Burd Presbyterian Brownsville, PA

March 25—*“Craft Show”*, Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville 9am-4pm

Friendship Dinner—2nd Wednesday of every month, 5-6pm New Kensington United Presbyterian

Poke Run Offices will be closed on Friday, March 25th.

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 12th!

March 19-22 Spiritual Formation workshop Pittsburgh Theological Seminary *“In God's Image: An Old Testament View of Dust and Clay.”*

April 1—Redstone PW “Spring Gathering” call the office for more information or see the newsletter on the Redstone Website

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

March 29– April 1—Kiski Area High School musical production *“The Little Mermaid”*

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pics from church functions. And we'd love to share YOUR NEWS.



The Brooks Family welcomed a new addition . Pictured is mother Elizabeth with baby Gregory Brooks Vickers. Proud Grandma is Cindy Brooks. Congratulations!

ChoirPlay

HELLO TO ALL MY FELLOW MUSIC LOVERS.

CHOIRPLAY IS A NEW POP, ROCK, COUNTRY AND GOSPEL CHOIR CONCEPT FOR ANYONE OVER 21 WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN SONGS IN THREE PART HARMONY; SOPRANOS, ALTOS AND MEN, BACKED BY TOP CLASS ORCHESTRAL ARRANGEMENTS, IN A FUN RELAXED SOCIAL SETTING.

IF YOU LIKE TO SING AND CAN CARRY A TUNE, PLEASE CHECK US OUT. THERE WILL BE NO SOLO AUDITIONS, SO NO PRESSURE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ MUSIC EITHER AS YOU WILL HAVE YOUR OWN PRACTISE CD TO LEARN THE SONGS IN YOUR OWN TIME. THAT'S THE KEY TO IT ALL. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COME TO EACH REHEARSAL KNOWING YOUR PART. THUS, I HOPE TO DO A SONG A WEEK. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THE SHEET MUSIC.

WE'LL HAVE EIGHT NINETY- MINUTE REHEARSALS, AND ONE CONCERT AT THE FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN APOLLO IN THE SUMMER. AS WE'LL ONLY HAVE SEVEN SONGS, I'LL SING A FEW TO PAD THE CONCERT, TIL WE'VE GOT A BIGGER REPERTOIRE, AS I HOPE TO CONTINUE THE CHOIR INTO THE FUTURE.

GROUP SINGING HAS BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN TO LOWER STRESS, RELIEVE ANXIETY, SO COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN. IF YOU LIKE IT, THEN YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN.

THE FEE [TO COVER ARRANGEMENTS, SHEET MUSIC, CHOIR DIRECTOR'S TIME, MUSIC AND PRACTICE CD'S IS ONLY \$100 PP PER SEASON.] THE MUSIC AND CD WILL BE RETURNED AT THE END OF THE SEASON.

WE WILL HAVE OUR FIRST REHEARSAL AT 7PM ON APRIL 10TH AT THE FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH, 214 N. PENNSYLVANIA AVE. APOLLO ON APRIL 10 2017

HERE ARE THE FIRST SEASON'S SONGS;

- AN EAGLES MEDLEY
- YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE - FROM CAMELOT
- SWEET CHILD O' MINE - GUNS 'N ROSES
- A MOTOWN MEDLEY
- BLUE EYES CRYIN' IN THE RAIN - COUNTRY
- AND SO IT GOES - BILLY JOEL
- DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME - MAMMAS AND POPPAS.

ENJOY A FUN TIME WITH FELLOW MINDED MUSICAL PEOPLE.

CAHAL DUNNE cahald@aol.com cahaldunne.com

See Don Lengauer for information about "Choir Play"



Jeff Wilkinson (right) recently appeared on KDKA "Hometown High Q" representing Kiski Area High School.



Presents an Evening with:

Eddie and the Rollers

Benefiting:



BYOB & BYOF
Bring your own
beer/booze/food/
Ice, etc.

\$10.00/person
Tickets available at the
door or in advance. See a
band member or call 724-
568-3623 ext. 137

**Laube Hall
At Freeport
Community Park
Freeport, PA
March 25, 2017
Doors Open 6 pm
Concert 6:30-11 pm**



KA Senior Connor Martin (pictured with proud parents Laurie & Tim Martin) capped an exciting Senior season of Kiski Area basketball. Connor will be attending Grove City College where he will continue his basketball career.

March

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>APRIL RANGER DEADLINE: April 20, 2017</p>			<p>1 <u>Ash</u> <u>Wednesday</u> 7:30pm <u>worship</u></p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>LENT</p>	<p>6 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Deacons</p>	<p>7 7pm Budget & Finance</p>	<p>8  11:30am "Soup for the Soul" 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> 
<p>12  8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>LENT</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 7pm Session</p> 	<p>15 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>16 <u>Circle 2</u></p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>LENT</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 REDSTONE Meeting</p>	<p>22 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>23 7pm Trustees</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 8:30am Trustee Work Day</p>
<p>26 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p> <p>LENT</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

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