

# Poke Run Presbyterian Church "The Ranger" JANUARY 2018

D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, perhaps our last great English-speaking preacher in the line of the Puritans began a series of sermons on the Gospel of John on October 7, 1962. As he began he was clear that this was not a verse-by-verse trip through the gospel, but a teaching of the doctrines that he felt were most needed in his time. He makes two startling claims in his first sermon on John. The first one is this, "Do you know what is the matter with us. I will tell you. *We none of us really believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.*" I am not going to deal with this first claim in this essay. It is the second remarkable statement that claims my attention. Here it is. "The Gospels, like everything else in the New Testament, were not written for the world; they were written for believers."

The times ahead are not clear. We may not know exactly what, but we do know that we will see changes due to technological advance. Hyundai and VW are in talks with an AI – artificial intelligence – firm so that they can produce self-driving cars. Their target date to have them on the market is 2021. Perhaps they will and perhaps they will not. The reality is that massive transportation changes driven by very sophisticated computers are on the way. Robots may – or may not – soon be serving us at fast food restaurants. Either way, hidden or visible, robotics is rapidly changing our world from the service industry to manufacturing. We have not touched on technologies you may not have heard of like nano-tech, which could change medicine and everything else forever. All of this will create huge social upheavals that we are not ready for at this time.

Speaking of social changes who would have believed even twenty years ago that laws would change as they have? I can remember sitting in a high school auditorium in Cumberland MD

at a town hall type meeting where we were told that marijuana would never be legalized in any form. Today as you drive into Cumberland on Interstate 68 you are met with the wonderful news that Medical Marijuana is available. It's a very large sign. You can hardly miss it. Dare I mention marriage, gender, or any number of other hot button items.

One more social change that has and will continue to have known and unknown effects on our thinking and ability to think: social media. Social media seems so friendly. We have hundreds and thousands of friends, a constant flow of texts to tell us how nice we are, and numerous other inducements to feel good about ourselves. Until recently, no one was willing to tell us about the dark side of all this. Every time we get a response on our phone or tablet something happens in our brain. It says, "Oh, somebody wants me!" It perceives this as a good thing, and, watch out now, turns on the same chemical receptors that are turned on by alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, cocaine, and a host of other drugs. In other words, social media has been designed to be addictive. So has just about everything else we watch along with games but that lets the topic get out of hand. We have laws controlling or prohibiting other dangerous substances but we let our young children have free access to iPhones and tablets. As the corner man said to the boxer who refused to take his advice, "Good luck!"

So what does D. Martyn Lloyd Jones and his sermons on John have to do with all this. Well, he preaches in the 1960's, also times of rapid change, but it wasn't the changes that he addressed. He addresses humanity at its most basic unchanging level. Every human being is captive to sin. His words were "the biblical view of man is that he is dead in his sins." No one wants to hear that anymore so I softened it a bit. Every

human being is captive to sin and we are all of us, everyone, blind to this. (See here 2 Cor. 4:3-4, Eph 4:17 and what follows) It is only through the salvation offered by and in the gospel that we are brought into the light of God in Christ. In John's words we are brought from darkness to light.

To bring people, all people, to this light is the primary task of the church through the preaching of the Word of God and it is only the church who can do this. Our task lies ahead of us.

It does not matter if we continue to come to church in our cars and trucks and SUVs with their internal combustion engines, or whether we switch to nice clean burning electric cars or are brought by little tin box robot cars or if Uber takes over the transportation tasks of the nation. What matters is that those who do not know hear the gospel. That will never change. Yes, the gospels are written for us, so that we may witness their message to the world.

From  
Pastor Pete

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***Thank you to everyone who participated in our Advent and Christmas worship services.***

**Our December Lectors:** Cindy McQuaide, Shelly Chappell-Vaia, Ruth O'Connor, Karen Goetschius, Heidi Hileman, Walt Lange, and Becky Lange

**Our December Greeters:** Cindy Brooks, Irma McDivitt, Brian & Nancy Dombroske, Walt Lange, Ron Hileman, Tim Martin, Debbie Seighman and Tim & Barbi Findley

**Our Advent Readers:** Ruth O'Connor, Freda Bowman, Cindy McQuaide, Jamie and Monroe Wright, Connie Cauvel, Jim Moorhead, Shelly, Caileigh & Frankie Chappell-Vaiai, John & Sheree Wagner, Mike, Tricia, Logan, Morgan & Peyton McGarry, the McCutcheon family, Rick, Meri, Jacob & Jessica Slaughaupt

**Advent Accolytes:** Peyton and Morgan McGarry, Frankie Vaia, Jessica Staymates. Austin Weyel, Lucas Weyel, and Adleigh Fulton



***Doug and Deb Ross*** polish the silver in preparation for Advent Worship services. The candlesticks were purchased in memory of Alta Jean Ross by her husband Glenn.



Thank you to ***Jessica Slaughaupt, Karen Staymates and Tammy Kelley*** who made and shared the Holiday greetings at left. The jingle Bells and verse helped us celebrate the meaning for the Season.



**Epiphany** is the celebration of God’s manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God’s promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God’s covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God’s self-revelation in Christ. **January 6th**

**Baptism of the Lord** At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (see Psalm 2:7). At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus’ baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. Accordingly, this Sunday is an appropriate time to celebrate the sacrament of baptism or the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism. **Sunday, January 7th**

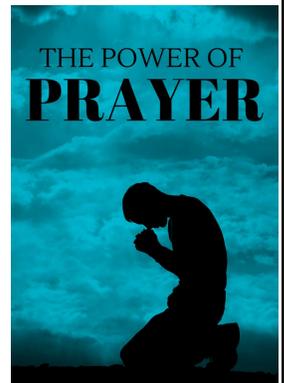


From Presbyterian Mission.org



*For our prayers:* Scott Ankney, BABY, Renee Bates, Kelly Bell, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Sarah Brank, John Britz, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Dave Carroll, Irene Clark, Collin, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Jean Fanelli, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Frank Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Brenda Hughes, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Kim, Rhett LaRue and the LaRue family, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Tammy Libengood, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, John Mango, Irma McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Carol O’Malley, Thad Overly, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Glenn Ross, Larry Seighman, Joanne Smith, JD Staite, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Jennifer Steiner, Mildred Striner, Ken Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Kate Wolford, 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.*



A Poke Run “FISHING TEAM” has been meeting to discuss the best ways to spread the word that Poke Run is HERE, worshipping as a community of believers, a place where “the Word of God is truly preached and heard,” serving where and when we can, and ever striving to “live the Christian Life.” A short survey was placed with the 2018 Offering envelopes, please take time to complete this and place in the office or offering plate. Keep this group in your prayers and prayerfully consider how YOU can be a part of it all.

**From the approved minutes of the Poke Run Presbyterian Session meeting of November 14, 2017.**

The stated meeting of the Session met in the Sunday school rooms. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius, Connie Cauvel -Moderator, Assistant Clerk – Chad McCutcheon, Tim Martin, Sandy Chappell, Meri Slaughaupt

Excused: Linda Moorhead, Nikki McQuaide, Ron Hileman, Logan Hileman, Tom Kimble

Guests: Bob Wilson

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of: October 10 & October 15, 2017

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of: October 2, 2017

MSC: To accept the Trustee minutes of: September 21, 2017

MSC: To: accept Treasurer's Report – October 31, 2017

**Committee Reports:**

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin Received almost 83% of our First Fruits - Giving very generous after Congregational meeting our deficit is down to \$1,300

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell Help needed for Santa's Breakfast

Mission and Stewardship: Meri Slaughaupt Adelphoi will be asked to help with Santa's Breakfast

Personnel: Linda Moorhead - Did not meet Doug Ross is stepping down from Chair of Personnel Committee

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel Need to meet to review the Roll and set the 2018 Communion and Offering Schedule

Fishing Team – Tom Kimble Chad reported that the Team is focusing on Poke Run's strengths.

Kitchen Committee – Sandy Chappell The committee is looking into replacing the stove and dishwasher -

**Old Business:**

Cemetery protocol – Bob Wilson Tom Kimble are in the process of developing a handbook

**New Business:**

MSC: To have a drive for laundry supplies for the "KA Closet" in January.

Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)



**Session meetings are open to all members of the church. Complete Session Minutes are available in the office for Church member review.**

**The next Session meeting will be held at 7pm on January 9, 2018.**

Communion is shared during the Early 8:30am Worship service every Sunday.

Communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2018.

January 7th

June 3rd

February 14th –Ash Wednesday

July 1st

March 25th—Palm Sunday

August 5th

March 29th—Maundy Thursday

September 9th

April 1st—Easter

October 7th

May 20th—Pentecost

December 2nd—1st Sunday of Advent

December 24th—Christmas Eve



**The Poke Run Deacons** continue their valuable ministry in 2018. If you know of someone who would benefit by service from the Deacons, please contact them.

<b>Cindy Brooks</b>	<b>Barbi Findley</b>	<b>Nancy Dombroske</b>	<b>Debora Ross</b>
<b>Ruth O'Connor</b>	<b>Deb Seighman</b>	<b>Shyrl Stange</b>	<b>Nancy Kimble</b>
<b>Diane Scott</b>	<b>Tammy Kelley</b>	<b>Sandy Ballas</b>	<b>Shelly Chappell-Vaia</b>

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 Deacon Ministry by contributing to the foodbasket, buying gifts for the Salvation Army Tree and decorating the church narthex and sanctuary by contributing to the Westmoreland County Foodbank or purchasing a seasonal poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one.



## DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

11/6/17



Present: Barbi Findley, Nancy Kimble, Ruth O'Connor, Tammy Kelley, Cindy Brooks, and Debbie Seighman

Absent: Nancy Dombroske, Carol Thompson, Deb Ross, Diane Scott, Bev Tagliati, and Mario Tagliati

Pastor Pete opened with prayer.

The minutes for October were MSC.  
The treasure's report for October was MSC.

### Old Business

Names and addresses for the student study/care packages were reviewed. Carol Thompson and Nancy Kimble will purchase items, pack, and mail the packages the first week of December.

The prayer list, and Poke Run Friends list, were reviewed for specific needs. Pastor Pete shared a recent contact from a member that we should reconnect with.

### New Business

Shopping for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets was organized and Tammy Kelley is the head of this committee. Shoppers will meet at Walmart at 6:00 PM on Nov. 16 to buy the food items. The person requesting the food basket will be responsible for picking up and delivering to the recipient. Pick up will take place at 7:30 PM Poke Run Church on Nov. 16.

Diane Scott and Deb Ross are in charge of the poinsettias for Christmas. Announcements regarding the flower order and donations to the Westmoreland County Food Bank in honor of/in memory of individuals will be in the Ranger and Sunday bulletins.

Deacons are responsible for ushers during the month of December. Carol Thompson is the Deacon in charge of communion setup on Dec. 3.

The next Board of Deacons meeting will be held on Dec. 4, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Seighman, Secretary





### Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class! – music and FUN!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** 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 **"Faith in Action"**

*Join in the fellowship area for refreshment between the early service and Sunday School.*



**Karen Goestchius and Ruth O'Connor** led the Sunday School children for a Christmas music presentation. It was a joyous addition to Advent Worship. (picture at left)



Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the ever popular "Breakfast with Santa!" The proceeds from this event benefit the Poke Run Christian Ed program and Mission Work. Special thank you to **Linda Chicka**, coordinator.



As many of you know, a very large group of those attending our annual "Breakfast with Santa" come via **Becky Lange's** "Come 'n Play" Daycare. Becky reports that she has been gifting her kids with an invitation for Breakfast with Santa for almost 20 years ever since **Karen Staymates** suggested it. What a blessing!



FREE—in the Narthex: copies of the two publications, **The Upper Room** - daily devotional, and **Today's Christian Living** - magazine

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



**Women of the Church** will be meeting on Thursday, January 18th, at 7pm at the church. The hostess will be Laurie Martin and the leader will be Amy Wilkinson. They will be planning some of their annual events including the "Friendship Brunch" coming up in February. If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out for a soup dinner on the 18th and find out what it is all about.



The Annual Virginia Mission Trip in conjunction with *ProjectCrossroads* is scheduled for June 24th through 29th. Linda Chicka plans to have applications ready soon, so see her or call the office if you are interested in attending. 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.

## Kiski Area Cavalier Closet

*"The High School Cavalier Closet, located in the Guidance Office suite has been open since April, 2016 and offers clothing items ranging from shirts and sweaters to formal wear. There's also makeup, jewelry, and sometimes even microwavable mac and cheese. In addition, it offers laundry facilities for student use.. An English teacher and the in-school police officer oversee the closet. The women came up with the idea for the Cavalier Closet while gathering clothes for students whose garments looked dirty or worn. They first collected items for each student, but ended up overwhelmed. They eventually decided to put everything in one room. The KISKI AREA CAVALIER CLOSET provides an opportunity for high school students to utilize laundry equipment that might not be available to them at home, as well as "shop for" free hygiene products and other items. "*

Last year, Circle 2 was able to donate underwear, coats and laundry items. **Poke Run will be collecting laundry supplies and undergarments for the "CLOSET" in the month of January. Watch for the collection box in the Narthex, January 7<sup>th</sup> through January 28<sup>th</sup>. Consider what you can donate!**



### NEEDED:

Detergent

new men's socks- all sizes

new women's socks – all sizes

Fabric Softener

new men's boxer briefs – all sizes

new sports bras – all sizes





**The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, January 10th.**

11:30am—doors open, Noon—"Soup's On"

**Soup this month is "Wedding Soup."**

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month October through May. If you would like flyers to distribute, please contact the Church office. Remember to invite a friend.

**DESSERTS NEEDED:** If you are able to provide a dessert, please contact the Poke Run Office.

*Last month, the kids from Come 'n Play Daycare made Christmas ornaments for everyone who came—see the picture at right.*



**Office Hours at the Church** 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure

Amy is there! The office will be closed on **January 15th.**

**Never hesitate to contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.**

**Please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information.**

**Next Ranger Deadline: January 22nd**

**"GIVING ENVELOPES"** for 2018 are available in the Narthex. If you do not find one labeled for you, please feel free to take a blank box to use. If you need help getting your box of envelopes, please contact the Church Office. **The "FIRST FRUITS" offering is Poke Run's commitment to the larger church. Please consider an offering of \$35 per member.**



**2017 Giving Statements will be mailed before January 31st—thank you for your patience.**

### **The Poke Run Church Annual Financial Review**

All Auditors and Treasurers should come prepared for the 2017 Poke Run Financial Review. The audit is on Saturday, January 20 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been reviewed.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



# SCIENCE!

*Conversations and Community Series*  
**October 2017 - April 2018**

Science and faith have something in common – the capacity to invoke a sense of wonder by engaging the world around us! Engage in this series of conversations led by scientists working in some of the fascinating areas that affect our daily lives. No science background necessary!

Each session will include content provided by the presenter and discussion. On most dates, participants are invited to chapel and to have lunch together as a group so the conversation can continue. Come to one, two, or all dates!



This series is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is strongly recommended for the series and required for the Feb. and March events.



This series is underwritten by a generous grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

More information at  
412-924-1345 or  
ConEd@pts.edu



**Feb. 21, 2018, 9:30-1:00 p.m.**  
*Teaching a Machine to Learn*  
Tim Howe, Google, Bakery Square

**March 21, 2018, 9:30-1:30 p.m.**  
*Creation, Intelligent Design, and the Evolutionary Process*  
Stephen J. Tonsor, Director of Science and Research,  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Associate  
Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

**April 18, 2018, 9:30-1:30 p.m.**  
*Genetic Engineering*  
Lisa Parker, Professor of Human Genetics and Director of  
Graduate Education, Center for Bioethics and Health Law,  
Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh



**\$76,000 scholarship per student at Westminster College.**

**Pastor Nominations due:**

**Feb. 1**

**Student Applications due:**

**Feb 5**

**CONTACT  
THE OFFICE FOR  
MORE  
INFORMATION.**



**WESTMINSTER  
COLLEGE**

## HOLY CURIOSITY! Science, Wonder, and the Desire to Know

**Edward (Ted) B. Davis and  
Jennifer J. Wiseman**

**Sat., Feb. 3, 2018**



Einstein once said, "Never lose a holy curiosity." Join us on Feb. 3 to learn about the origins of the science/faith schism and explore the universe through the eye of the Hubble Space Telescope!

**Edward (Ted) B. Davis** is professor of the history of science at Messiah College. He has edited 16 books and written dozens of articles about historical and contemporary aspects of Christianity and science.

**Jennifer J. Wiseman** is a senior astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she serves as the senior project scientist for the Hubble Space Telescope.

### Schedule

1:00-2:00 p.m. Presentation by Ted Davis  
2:30-3:45 p.m. Workshops  
4:00-5:00 p.m. Presentation by Jennifer Wiseman

**Youth leaders are encouraged to bring groups.**

*This event is free thanks to the generous underwriting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.*



Questions: ConEd@pts.edu or 412-924-1345

Online registration:  
[www.pts.edu/Holy-Curiosity-2018](http://www.pts.edu/Holy-Curiosity-2018)



## **HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY**

Jan-20 Redstone Presbytery Meeting, First Presbyterian Church,  
Greensburg 1-4pm

2ND WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH—"FRIENDSHIP DINNER" FREE—  
UNITED PRESB, NEW KENSINGTON

**THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN 15TH.  
THE REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.**

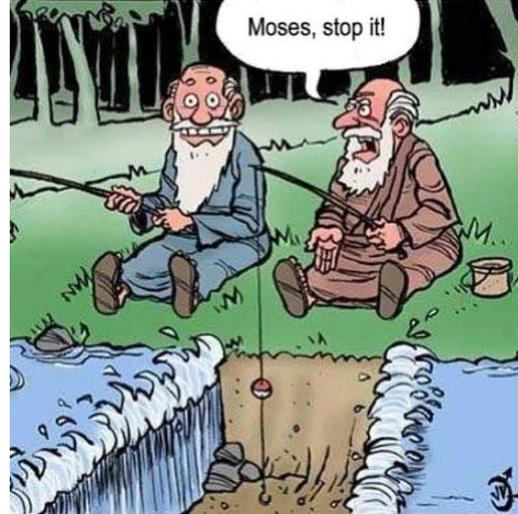




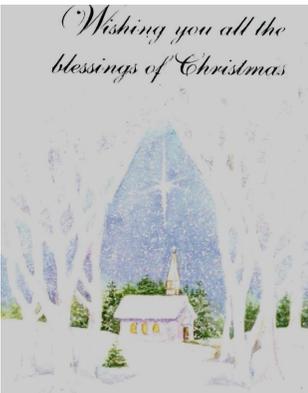
Please use your best judgement for coming out to church events. And remember, there is no "winter maintenance" in the Poke Run cemetery. The Trustees report that the pavement makes things exceptionally slick up there, so please please use extreme caution when driving through the cemetery.



Call the Office if these belong to you!



## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



Thank you for  
Everything—  
Everybody  
Merry Christmas &  
New Year  
Sky, Mike Brewer

*Wanted to Thank You for the Church newsletters. Drawing up in Poke Run Church, I do appreciate receiving the newsletters and hearing about the work the Church continues to do and remember quite a few of the members still attending the church!*

*Wishing you a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year.*

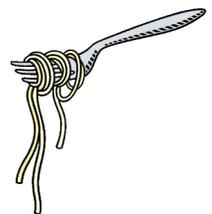
*Have a Blessed Holiday*  
*Doris*  
*(Maarhead)*  
*Sacade*



**PHOTOS WANTED!!!!**  
The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pics from church functions.



**Boy Scout Troop 551—Spaghetti Dinner**  
**33rd Annual "All you can eat" Spaghetti Dinner**  
**When: Saturday January 13th 3-7pm**  
**Where: Cross Road Community Presbyterian, Leechburg PA**  
**Tickets: \$8 adult \$6 children 10 and under**  
**Order Tickets by calling 724-571-7633 Ethan Woodhall or Amy Heinlein Blair**



# 2018



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	4 9am Christmas Decorations Down	5	6
7  8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	8 7pm Deacons	9 10am Women's Bible Study  7pm Session	10 <b>11:30am "Soup for the Soul"</b>  7pm Choir	11	12	13
14 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10am Women's Bible Study	17 7pm Choir	18 <u>Circle 2</u>	19	20 8:30am Poke Run Financial Review
21 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	22	23 10am Women's Bible Study  7pm Budget & Finance	24 7pm Choir	25 7pm Trustees	26	27
28 8:30 & 11 am Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	29	30 10am Women's Bible Study	31 7pm Choir	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>THE POKE RUN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN 15TH</b>  <b>Call Pastor Pete in case of an emergency</b>  <b>724-454-2278</b></p> </div> 		

Poke Run Presbyterian Church  
1091 Poke Run Church Road  
Apollo, PA 15613  
724-327-5563



Worship Services every Sunday at 8:30am and 11am.

**Sunday Worship: 8:30am and 11am**

**Sundays 7pm Bible Study**

**Sunday School: 10am adults & kids**

**Tuesdays 10am Women's Bible Study**

**PHONE: 724-327-5563    EMAIL: [pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net)**



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