



## JANUARY 2020

## Poke Run Presbyterian Church “The Ranger”

Among my vices is the reading of Karl Barth. I read him almost daily, usually right after my morning devotions. If not, I try to manage at least a page or two sometime during the day or evening, before my mind is too fuzzy to comprehend what he says. What makes this a vice – and I say this tongue in cheek – is that I read him for the pure enjoyment of the intellectual stimulation he provides. He never fails to challenge or provoke or send my thoughts in new directions. Barth has been demonized by both the so-called Christian right, and the self-named Christian left. I will simplify their arguments and concerns with his thought by saying that he disturbs because he calls us to live the Christian life, not give it lip service, study it, or reduce it to rules – this would be particularly distasteful to him.

It has been said, by others, not me, that one reads Barth best by beginning at the end of his massive work, *Church Dogmatics*, which sprawls unfinished through thirteen massive volumes, plus an index. And so we will begin in volume ten and take a peek at his thoughts. To summarize a quite complex and convoluted paragraph on page 586 we will put it this way. When one is called to discipleship, that is to follow Jesus, one is called to obey Jesus, which means that a complete break with all that one loved and admired must now be put in second place, if not completely abandoned. The first result of this is that “(one) is inevitably isolated in relation to those around (them).” The calls of the first disciples are examples of this break. This call does not limit or restrict but frees a person to live in what Jesus called the Kingdom of Heaven.

We must be careful not to place our own limits on how a person is to live. We want so quickly to turn to

rules or laws. Jesus calls us beyond laws and rules to a life of freedom, freedom to obey Him alone. Jesus calls us to “renounce (our) general attachment to the authority, validity, and confidence” in our possessions, particularly our relationship to money. Now we can quickly go to an example, the rich young ruler whom Jesus challenged to “sell all that you have and give the money to the poor” and then come and follow me. This can be turned into a command to all people. This has been done by various sects, societies, and monastic communities with varying degrees of success and failure.

To make the giving up of one’s possessions a universal act takes away the possibility of hearing Jesus call in each particular situation. Jesus calls people to a wide variety of responses to the needs of others throughout the Gospels. Not all are called to give up all possessions. Some are called to freely lend. Some are called to give up their coats. Some are called to lay up for themselves treasures in heaven. Some are called to go out with minimal resources. Some are called not to be anxious. These are specific directions given to specific (persons) at specific times to be concretely carried out. That is they are calls to action in particular ways. They form a pattern to be followed, not a set of rules. One is freed to their attachments so that they can act with love towards their neighbor. This is one principle Jesus drives at throughout the Gospels.

Jesus’ thought and teaching develops along several other lines, all of them meant as general principles which are to be developed into concrete actions. The second is to not seek the honor or fame of the secular world. “Blessed are you,” Jesus says when in fact the opposite happens, and you are dismissed as irrelevant, or worse. The third concerns the use of force. The disciples then, and you and I

now, are “Neither to fear force nor exercise it.” Not using force or coercion nor power over another may be the more difficult of the two. A fourth line of thought, for many of us the most difficult one, is to place one’s relationship with Jesus above one’s relationships with all other persons, including family. A fifth line of thought expressed by Jesus is that our righteousness be greater than all the strictest rule following of the religious people of our time. Finally, the sixth great line of thought is that a disciple, like Jesus, must take up her or his cross.

The life of the called Christian is not a new and better life along the lines of the life one has been living. “The life of the new creature (in Christ – the regenerated person) is something rather different from a healthy and worthy continuation of the old. It will always have to do with a radical and costly break with “the great self-evident factors of or (current) environment” and call us into the strange and wonderful world of the Kingdom of God.

From Pastor Pete

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Thank You/Prayers/
- 3 Celebrate
- 3 Session
- 4 Announcements/ Soup/ Mission
- 5 Deacons
- 5-6 Christian Ed/ Bible Study
- 7 Presbyterian Women PW
- 7-8 Office
- 8 Happenings/ News from the Pews
- 9 CALENDAR



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

**Our December Lectors:** Barbi Findley, Don Lengauer, Ruth O'Connor, Tim Martin, Heidi Hileman, Logan Hileman and Patrick Wilkinson

**Our December Greeters:** Jessica Slaughaupt, Karen Staymates, the Ankney Family, the McGarry Family, the Dupill Family, our Poke Run Deacons and the Wilkinson Family

**Our Advent Readers:** Ruth O'Connor and Cathy Bierer, the McGarry Family, Bill & Robin Berger, Barbi Findley and Grandchildren, the Hileman Family, Nicole and Meghan Goodiski, John & Sheree Wagner, Freda Bowman, Cindy McQuaide, Jamie, Monroe & Collins Wright, the Stevenson Family, Jessica and Jacob Slaughaupt

### Thank You For Your Prayers

#### *For our prayers:*

Georgia Alcorn, Ed Almes, Ali Ankney, Scott Ankney, Annette, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Matt Beacom, Meryl Berger, Ronda Bertelle, Jeannie Bowman, Lil Bowman, Ron & Carole Bowman, Bruce Bowser, Tammy Bracco, Skye Brewer, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Bill Caldwell, Nora Jane Caporali, Dave Carroll, Ben Chicka, Irene Clark, Gary Copeland, Marie D, Kelly Daugherty Farley, Tommie DeSantis,

Sharon DiBagno, Hannah Dixon, Dorothy Jean, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Barbi Findley, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Joel George, Lou Gromley, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Jennifer Hazlett, Betty Henry, Don Henry, Donald Hill, Ruth Hill, Brenda Hughes, Leland Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Rob Kemerer, Kim, Jim Kitch, Joann Kole, Steve Kosinski, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Don & Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Heather Lynn, Irma McDivitt, Ronnie McDivitt, Jesse McDonnell, Mary Lou McKay, Conrad McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Harry & Diane Notto, Leanne O'Connor, Thad Overly, Sandy Pajak, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Pam Poremski, Winifred Powers, Patricia Richman, Rafael Rincon, Jesse Riston, Steve Roman, Mary Ellen Ross, Debbie & Larry Seighman, Emma Shirey, Valerie Shondelmeyer, Joanne Smith, Dorothy Sottoriva, Carol Soule, Boyd "Buddy" Shupe, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Steve, Mildred Striner, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Tera, Jill Tocco, Larry Washabaugh, Sue Washburn, Friend Wayne, Linda Wengert, Jayne Wiester, Neale & June Wiester, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Bruce Wise, Kate Wolford, those gripped by addictions and those who serve in the military. Remember to Pray for Our country, and Our world.

*The Community of Poke Run Presbyterian Church is a community that knows and lives the POWER OF PRAYER. If you would like to be included on the Poke Run Prayer list, or just want to ask for prayer—contact the church office. If you want to be on the email Prayer Chain—also contact the office.*

*If you placed names on our "Prayer List," please contact the office to update us. Periodically names are removed from the list if the office has not been updated. Contact the office to update your prayer concern or to have a name added.*

**Thank You** "Poke Run Church, I want to thank all of you for thinking of me and my family during this difficult time. We really appreciated all of the thoughts, prayers and cards we have received. It is very full filling to belong to such a wonderful Church Family. Thanks again to all of you. In God's name, Love, Mary Ellen Ross and the Family of George Belan III"- George Belan III, Mary Ellen's son, passed away in November.



**Epiphany** :the celebration of God's manifestation 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 the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus.

**Celebrated 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 12th**

## From the approved minutes of the Poke Run Presbyterian Session meeting of November 12, 2019.

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 -Moderator, Nicole Goodiski, assistant clerk, Bob Wilson, Brett Stevenson, Valerie Hansen, Terry Wiester **Excused:** Connie Cauvel, Laurie Martin, Nikki McQuaide **Absent:** Tom Kimble

**MSC:** To approve the Session Minutes of October 8, 2019, the Congregational Meeting Minutes of October 20, Deacon Minutes of September 9, 2019, Trustee minutes of September 26, 2019 and the Treasurer Report of October 31, 2019

### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Finance:** Tom Kimble, Val Hansen- Did not meet in November.

**Christian Ed & Youth:** Laurie Martin- Did not meet in November.

**Mission and Stewardship:** Bob Wilson-Did not meet.

**Personnel:** Did not meet

**Congregational Life:** Connie Cauvel –

Committee prepared our Pastor Appreciation Dinner after Congregational Meeting on October 20. Special thanks to everyone for helping with clean -up!

**Technology:** Brett Stevenson – did not meet

**Nominating:** Will not meet until Spring

### **Ad Hoc Committee**

**Fishing Team –** Tom Kimble

The Fishing Team would like to send a postcard/invite to Poke Run members- for the season of advent and have a small cookie reception after the first Sunday, December 1 (This is an idea based on a suggestion by Pastor Pete, modeled after a "Welcome Back to Church" program that Reunion Presby holds in September.)

**MC:** To Approve the Fishing Team to send a postcard/invite to Poke Run members- for the season of advent and to have a small cookie reception after the first Sunday, December 1.

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business:**

**MSC:** Donate \$25 to Presbyterian Historical Society from the Session Discretion fund.

### **Women's Shelter in Greensburg:**

Nancy Dombroske is requesting to do a drive for the Women's Shelter in Greensburg (we gave them many items from our Rummage Sale)- hoping to do an ongoing collection of items until the end of the year(possibly longer)- they will be listed in the bulletin and Ranger, and a box will be set out in the Narthex. **MSC:** To approve a drive for the Women's Shelter in Greensburg.

### **Safety Plan**

It was discussed putting together a safety team.-Finding out where the main gas valve shut off is?-Floor plans for the Chief-Talk with the Chief

**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 14, 2020.**

Communion is shared during the Early 8:30am Worship service every Sunday. In addition, communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2020.

January 12th 11am

February 26th—Ash Wednesday

April 5th—Palm Sunday

April 9th—Maundy Thursday

April 12th—Easter

May 31st- Pentecost

June 14th 11am

July 12th 11am

August 2nd 11am

September 13th

October 4th-World Communion Sunday

November 29th—First Sunday of Advent

December 24th-Christmas Eve







► **THANK YOU** – to everyone who posted a Candlelight Service lawn sign. When you bring them back, you can place them at the door under the carport, in the Narthex, or inside the back door.



**Thank You** –to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas - Our congregation grows and changes over the years; it is always wonderful to see the amazing things happen, the traditions passed on and new ways inspired.

**HELP NEEDED: Monday January 6<sup>th</sup> 9am-** Extra hands needed to help take down the church decorations – thank you in advance for your help.



## We're placing another POKE RUN T-SHIRT ORDER!!!

More colors and more styles.

All T-Shirts are \$15.

ORDERS ARE DUE –January 26<sup>th</sup>-

Order forms, Color Guide and samples are available in the Narthex.

Order forms are available on the website and can be emailed to you- just call the office at 724-327-5563. See Bob Wilson with any questions.

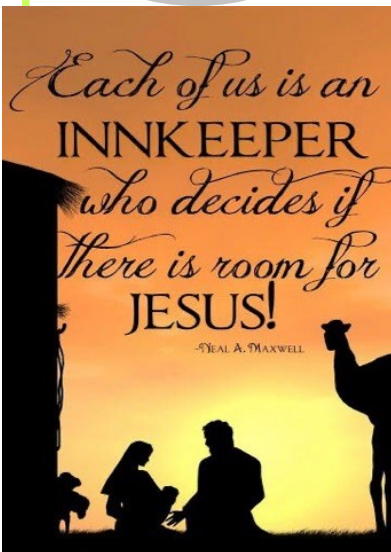


## The next “Soup for the Soul” will be Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

11:30am—doors open, Noon—”Soup’s On”

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday of the month October through May.

**DESSERTS NEEDED:** If you are able to provide a dessert, please contact the Poke Run Office. We could use a few more this month!



*Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, .....’ Matthew 25:31-46 NRSV*

Our church as a whole, responds to those in need. Consider your personal response to those who are hungry, both physically and spiritually.



**Tom Fitzsimmons** shared the photos at left. They are of a plate from the estate of **Edna Gill**. But he is hoping you might have information about where it came from. The print says “compliments of A.M. Shaw Mamont, PA.” which he believes was a shop in Mamont. The plate is dated 1910? Can anyone add anything about this?





## Deacon Ministry

**The Poke Run Deacons** continue their valuable ministry into 2020.

If you know of someone who would benefit by service from the Deacons, a visit, a card, assistance, prayer; please contact them.

Laurie Powers

Nancy Dombroske

Ruth O'Connor

Shyrl Stange

Nancy Kimble

Diane Scott

Meghan Goodiski

Sandy Ballas

Shelly Chappell-Vaia



Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2019 Deacon Ministry by contributing to the foodbasket program, buying gifts for the Salvation Army Tree (we gifted 40 Children this year!) 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.

**Watch for more ways you can help the Deacons in 2020.**



### From the Deacon Minutes of November 2019 as submitted by Sandy Ballas, Secretary

The Deacons discussed Old Business including boxes for college students and those away from Poke Run, the Thanksgiving Basket program and *Poke Run Friends*. Under New Business, they discussed Christmas Eve service activities as well as the Christmas basket program. Their minutes include thanks and appreciation to Jim & Linda Moorhead for continuing to handle the Salvation Army Tree.



### Sunday School at Poke Run Church

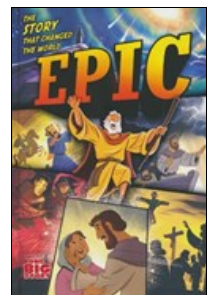
Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class! – music and FUN! -Come check out the new "EPIC Bible" full of stories that impress and amaze!

### **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 **"Covenant in God"**

The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is using the study **"Anxious for Nothing"** by Max Lucado



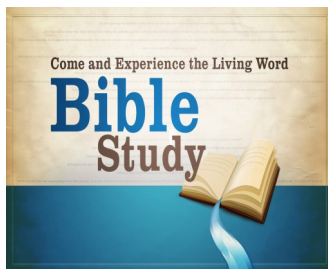
*Join in the fellowship area for refreshment between the early service and Sunday School.*

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

**TODAY'S  
Christian  
LIVING**



**THE UPPER ROOM**  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



### **Sunday evening Bible Study 7pm**

**Tuesday Women's Bible Study** All are welcome, the group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10am in the upstairs "Fellowship Area."

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study—@7pm**, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month—location varies, check the bulletin or call the office.







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. We were especially blessed again by the help of the Kiski Area High School Key Club .



### It's time to check your calendar for 2020 & choose your week at Pine Springs Camp!



With GREAT JOY the Christian Education Committee believes that we can again provide full financial support for all Poke Run Campers that meet the criterion for our campership fund. This is in large part due to the Ice Cream Social that was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. All families that were recipients of campership funds in 2019 helped to make the Social a successful evening both from a financial perspective and as a wonderful time of Christian fellowship. Special thanks to Nancy Dombroske for her tireless effort in organizing this event that raised more than \$2500.00; enough to send at least six campers to Pine Springs!

All children that consistently attend Poke Run programs or are associated with Poke Run Church through family membership are eligible to receive a campership. Please contact the office to get a campership application or review the campership policy. **The deadline to apply for a camp scholarship through Poke Run Church is March 1, 2020.** Camp dates/registration information for Pine Springs is available online, through the church office or by contacting Laurie Martin at [martinlk297@gmail.com](mailto:martinlk297@gmail.com) or 724-433-2404.

The Poke Run Campership Fund is sustained through individual donations and through the Mission and Stewardship budget. Poke Run member and friends are encouraged to support this ministry through direct offerings.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

**Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW Circle 2:** will meet on Thursday, January 16th - 7pm— at the Church— Hostess **Laurie Martin** and the leader will be **Amy Wilkinson**  
ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



The **Welcome Home** women's shelter of Greensburg is in desperate need of the following:

|            |              |            |                      |
|------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| Windex     | Bleach       | Lysol      | Disinfectant Wipes   |
| Tissues    | Brooms       | Mops       | All-Purpose Cleaners |
| Sponges    | Toilet Paper | Baby Wipes | Paper Towels         |
| Bedding    | Blankets     | Towels     | Laundry Detergent    |
| Washcloths |              |            |                      |

A bin has been placed in the Narthex- please donate if you can.

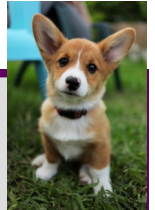


### From the Poke Run Office

**Office Hours at the Church** 9:30am—2:30pm most days.

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

**Next Ranger Deadline: January 24th**



► **A 2020 Phone Directory will be published in the First Quarter of 2020** – Please update the office of your contact information.

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE “RANGER”-JUST CONTACT THE OFFICE.

The “FIRST FRUITS” offering is Poke Run's commitment to the larger church. The 2020 suggested contribution remains \$42.50 per member.

**The Poke Run congregation MET and exceeded our 2019 pledge! Thank you for giving.**

**Legacy Giving:** Did you know you can help take care of your church after you die? Remember to give to Poke Run Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.

The 2020 Flower Calendar is available in the Narthex- Are you interested in providing or dedicating Sanctuary flowers for our Sunday Worship? You can provide your own, or order two altar arrangements at a total cost of \$44.00. Call the office if you have any questions. 724-327-5563



**Amy** would like to thank the “Secret Santa” who left the beautiful glasses (pictured left)- cardinals are a FAVORITE!



“GIVING ENVELOPES” for 2020 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. Using the envelopes is helpful to Shyrl and Amy . **The “FIRST FRUITS” offering is Poke Run's commitment to the larger church. Please consider an offering of \$42.50 per member.**

**2019 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 2019 Poke Run Financial Review. The Review will be on Saturday, January 18 beginning at 8:30am and will continue until every group has been reviewed.



You can find Poke Run Presbyterian Church on Facebook! - featuring the "Daily Verse"  
Find us on *Instagram* @poke\_run\_church



And on Twitter! @PokeRun1



Poke Run's email address: pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net  
Poke Run web site is [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE NUMBER: 724-327-5563  
PASTOR PETE'S PHONE NUMBER :724-454-2278



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.



### **HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY**

Regular Redstone Office hours are M-Th 9am-4pm  
Jan-25 Redstone Presbytery Meeting

### **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



**Lizzy Wilkinson** spoke as President of the class, at her graduation from Emory & Henry College in Marion VA. Lizzy received a Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy.



Congratulations to **Andy & Canise Caldwell** who were married at Poke Run Church on December 14th.



© 2010-2011 by Andy Caldwell

### **Hyde Park Boy Scout Troop 551**

### **35th Annual "ALL YOU CAN EAT" SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Sat. Feb. 1, 2020  
Cross Roads Community Presbyterian Church  
"Graystone Presbyterian Church"  
1st and Main St. Leechburg, PA.  
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$8.00 per adult ticket  
\$6.00 per child (up to 10 years old)

\* Includes Spaghetti, Salad, and Bread

\*Take out and limited delivery available upon request.  
Please call 724-845-9288 to place your order.



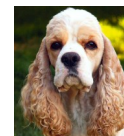
### **PHOTOS WANTED!!!!**

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





# January 2020



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

OFFICE  
CLOSED

2

3

4



5

8:30 & 11am  
Worship  
10am SunSch  
7pm Bible  
Study



6

9am Christmas  
Decorations  
Down  
**7pm**  
**Deacons**

7

10am Bible  
Study  
7pm Bible  
Study

8

**noon "Soup  
for the Soul"**

7pm Choir  
7pm Mission  
& Steward



10

11



12

8:30 & 11am  
Worship  
10am SunSch  
7pm Bible  
Study

13

14

10am Bible  
Study  
**7pm**  
**Session**

15

6pm Praise  
Team  
7pm Choir

16

Circle 2  
7pm  
At church



17

18

**8:30am PRPC**  
Financial  
Review  
  
REDSTONE  
Meeting

19

8:30 & 11am  
Worship  
10am SunSch  
7pm Bible  
Study

20

OFFICE  
CLOSED

21

10am Bible  
Study  
7pm Bible  
Study

22

6pm Praise  
Team  
7pm Choir

23

**7pm**  
**Trustees**

24

25



26

8:30 & 11am  
Worship  
10am SunSch  
7pm Bible  
Study

27

**7pm**  
**ChristianEd**

28

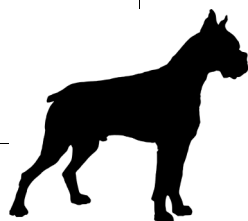
10am Bible  
Study

29

6:30pm  
Handbells  
7pm Choir

30

31



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**



**Pastor**  
Rev. Peter M. Goetschius

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Amy Wilkinson  
**Financial Administrator**  
Shyrl Stange  
**Choir & Musical Director**  
Sean O'Neil  
**Early Service Musical Director**  
Linda Moorhead  
**Cemetery Administrator**  
Tom Kimble

**Poke Run Board of Trustees, President**  
Doug Ross  
**Poke Run Board of Deacons, Moderator**  
Ruth O'Connor  
**Clerk Of Session**  
Connie Cauvel