

"Bringing God's Word to all people in this place and time."



Looking forward to Easter and the Resurrection I would like to introduce you to James Bond Stockdale. Stockdale was a Navy vice admiral during the Viet Nam War. He was shot down and held captive in Hanoi for seven years. I do not know of his personal faith but I would like to share with you a part of his story that illuminates what the Christian faith is.

James Stockdale, after his release from captivity continued to serve his country. Stockdale was a candidate for Vice President of the United States in the 1992 presidential election, on Ross Perot's independent ticket.

Late in his life he was asked about his experience as a POW:

When (his interviewer) asked who didn't make it out of Vietnam. Stockdale replied:

Oh, that's easy, the optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart.

(James)Stockdale then added:

This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be

(the above from a Wikipedia article)

This seems to me to be a fine model for the Christian life. First of all, we are involved in a war with the forces of evil all around us. It is all too easy to be "shot down" and captured by sin, to be held hostage by addictions, or to be kept from the full enjoyment of life that God intends by our own selfishness, pride, anger, vindictiveness, or a host of other human afflictions. In these dark times we hope for release, "sometime" in the future.

There is a brand of hype calling itself "Christianity" telling us that once a person becomes a "Christian" all will be well. Life will take on a rosy hue. God will solve all your problems. Not only that but God will supply not only all your needs but all your wants with a few bonuses. Often in times of trial people will turn to this easy grace hoping for a guick fix. These are the optimists who if they do not die of a broken heart will surely fall by the wayside and give up their faith as a lost cause at the first real sign of trouble. Nonsense! – to paraphrase Calvin on Lent, I see no Cross here.

Let us then look at the life of Jesus, hardly a model of success. Herod the King tried to murder him shortly after his birth – a story we often leave out because it offends us. This sent him into exile as an infant. He never owned a home, perhaps never had a stable home environment as an adult. He traveled from place to place, occasionally being listened to but often as not rejected. Angry crowds again and again tried to kill him. The same crowds screamed for his death by crucifixion. On the cross he felt the rejection of God his father. He died. He was alone, spurned and rejected by his closest associates and friends. As we say in the creed, "He descended into Hell."

It is only then that we discover Resurrection. Note Jesus' primary response to all of this, forgiveness. Jesus' faith was that through His faith and obedience he would "prevail in the end." And he did.

And that is our story of faith. We will prevail in the end, despite what life throws at us. The Christian faith is a Way, a Journey, a narrow path to follow. It will have its ups and downs, its regressions and successes, its pain and its sorrow. None of these can separate us from God - "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38

In the end, Resurrection. by Pastor Pete

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

**Our February Lectors:** Diane Scott, Brian Dombroske, Bob Fitzgerald, and Heidi Hileman

Our February Greeters: Doug & Deb Ross, Dave & Janet Thomas,

Bob & Darlene Thompson, and Brian & Nancy Dombroske

For our prayers: Ali Ankney, Scott Ankney, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Matt Beacom, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Rick Bowman, Ron & Carol Bowman, Mike Brewer, Skye Brewer, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, William Caldwell, Nora Jane Caporali, Dave Carroll, Irene Clark, Collin, Carol Croff & family, Marie D, Tommie DeSantis, Hannah Dixon, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Lorraine Engle, Terry Fairbanks, Kelly Daugherty Farley, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Gerry and Family, Meghan Goodiski, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Betty Henry, Don Henry, Brenda Hughes, Leland Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Rob Kemerer, Kim, Joann Kole, Steve Kosinski, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Walt Lange, Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Heather Lynn, Freda Mahen, the McCutcheon family, Irma McDivitt, Ronnie McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Amy McQuaide, Conrad McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, Lori Moneymaker, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Leanne O'Connor, Thad Overly, Sandy Pajak, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Debbie & Larry Seighman, Valerie Shondelmeyer, Linda Shoop, Joanne Smith, Dorothy Sottoriva, Carol Soule, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Mildred Striner, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, the family of Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Sue Washburn, Linda Wengert, Neale & June Weister,

Clay Wilabee, Bruce Wise, Kate Wolford. Those gripped by addictions, Those who have faced devastation by weather events and Those who serve in the military, Pray for Our country, and Our world.

It is a privilege and blessing to lift each other up in prayer as surely our heavenly Father rejoices as we come to Him with all of our needs. Thank you for praying for those listed above. If you placed a name on our prayer list, please update the office occasionally so that we can more fully include them in our prayers and petitions. Thank you.

If you would like to be on the Poke Run Prayer email list, please contact the office. In addition, knowing that there are many who do not have access to the internet, if you would like to be part of a "phone" prayer list, contact the office as well.

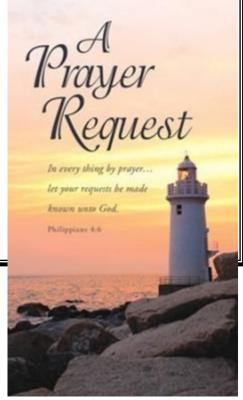
# Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate the "World Day of Prayer.(WDP)" on Friday, March 1st.

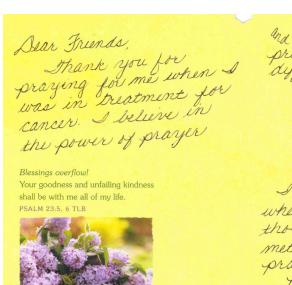
WDP has grown from small seeds into a global ecumenical movement, a tree that grows every year. "The trust that we have is in God who gives the seeds the strength to grow and the tree to bear fruit."

From wdp-usa.org



The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.



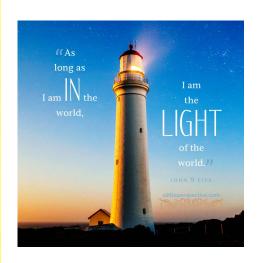


Today I'm grateful
because that reminder
was meant just for me.

Thank you!

I felt a gift of grace
when many, even
those that I hadn't
met, held me in
prayer

May Jod bless you
all for the love that
you show to others,
Caurel Trey





"Walt Lange (and Becky too) would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts and support—the Poke Run community is a family of prayer warriors and angels. Walt is joyful to be among us again!"

The Poke Run Handbell and Chancel choirs and Poke Run Praise Team will be working on their Easter music.
Consider joining them for this celebration! Both choirs meet on Wednesday evenings.
See Sean for details.

Old red hymnals (previously stored in Fellowship Hall) are available—stop in the Narthex for a copy... or two.









#### From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes January 8, 2019

The stated meeting met in the Sunday school rooms. A quorum was present, Pastor Pete, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

**Members present**: Pastor Pete -Moderator, Connie Cauvel - Clerk, Nicole Goodiski - Asst Clerk, Tom Kimble, Nikki McQuaide, Bob Wilson, Brett Stevenson, Laurie Martin, Terry Wiester, Nicole Goodiski, Valerie Hansen. **Absent**: None

**2019 Officers: MSC:** Connie Cauvel- Clerk of Session **MSC:** Assistant Clerk of Session: Nicole Goodiski **Approve:** Amy Wilkinson to continue as Church Treasurer, Shyrl Stange as Financial Administrator

MSC: To approve 12/11/2018 Session Minutes, 12/3/2018 Deacon minutes and 11/29/2018 Trustee minutes

#### **Committee Reports:**

Budget & Finance: Tom Kimble, Val Hansen -did not meet

Christian Ed: Session Member to be determined in February How do we want to structure Christian Ed going forward? Mission and Stewardship: Bob Wilson- Food Bank will be May 18, August 17. Committee is asking Congregation to reach out to someone you know and offer help & support. Also considering other possibilities.

**Personnel:** Laurie Martin – did not meet

Congregational Life: Connie Cauvel- prepared 2019 Communion and Offering participants schedule

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

Nominating: Nicole Goodiski, Nikki McQuaide - Pete will meet with Committee after Easter.

**Trustee Rep:** Bob Wilson **Ad Hoc Committees** 

**Kitchen Committee** – Bob Wilson, Tim Martin, Ron Hileman -Workers encountered problems with water and drain pipes that needed to be moved. It took Rusmur 7 bags of cement weighing 50 pounds each to level the kitchen floor. AC is done - everything to be installed final plumbing and electrical will follow. Committee is requesting \$5,000 for more lighting in Fellowship Hall so it will match the kitchen lighting.

Fishing Team – Tom Kimble - 50 yard signs were distributed advertising our Christmas Eve Services.

Old Business: None New Business:

**MSC:** To approve an additional \$5,000 for lighting in Fellowship Hall

**MSC:** To approve the 2019 Communion (Book of Order) & Offering Schedule including Communion at Early Service. A copy of Communion procedure was prepared for each Session & Deacon member

**MSC:** To Approve the 2019 Church Calendar - Calendar dates were approved with the understanding "if the way be clear" until all dates are submitted.

Presbytery Meeting January 26 – from 1 -4 pm @ New Hope Presbyterian Church Irwin. The 2018 Necrology was submitted to Presbytery which includes any Pastors, or Elders who passed away this year. Glenn Ross and Chad McCutcheon were included in our report and their names will be read at the meeting. (I contacted both families)

**Church Inventory** - Suggestion from Tim Martin Consider doing our inventory in a digital format including pictures - as suggested in: "Church Finance Today" Bob Wilson will take the information to the Trustees.

Adjourn: 8:30 PM

Approved: 2/12/2019

Close with prayer: Tom Kimble Respectfully Submitted:

Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

Comie Canoel

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 March 12, 2019.





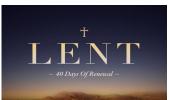
# **TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY** March 3rd, 2019

Transfiguration Sunday celebrates the glorious revelation of God in Jesus Christ and Christ's manifestation as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Jesus' radiant appearance on the mountaintop evokes the devouring fire of the glory of the LORD at Mount Sinai (Exodus 24.17). Here, as at Jesus' baptism, God claims him as a beloved child, in whom God is well pleased.



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 Ash Wednesday with a Worship Service. Wednesday, March 6th 7:30pm— Plan on attending.



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.

The first Sunday of Lent will be celebrated on March 10th.

Information provided above is from the website of:





Communion is shared during the Early 8:30am Worship service every Sunday. In addition, communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2019.

March 6th—Ash Wednesday April14th—Palm Sunday April 18th—Maundy Thursday April 21st—Easter June 9th– Pentecost July 7th 11am August 4th 11am
September 8th 11am
October 6th—World Communion Sunday
December 1st-1st Sunday of Advent
December 24th—Christmas Eve



#### 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



**Office Hours at the Church** 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! Amy will be out of the office on March 15th, 19th and 20th.

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: March 25th



The "FIRST FRUITS" offering is Poke Run's commitment to the larger church. Please consider an offering beyond your local giving, of \$42.50 per member. To date, Poke Run members have donated almost 50% of our 2019 commitment. Thank You!!



**Deacon Ministry** 

# **The Poke Run Deacons** continue their valuable ministry into 2019. If you know of someone who would benefit by service from the Deacons, a visit, a card, assistance, prayer; please contact the Deacons or the Poke Run Office.

# From the Deacon Minutes of January 7, 2019

Present: Pastor Pete, Ruth O'Connor, Deb Ross, Cindy Brooks, Nancy Dombroske, Sandy Ballas,

Barbi Findley, Shelly Chappell-Vaia, Nancy Kimble, Diane Scott, Shyrl Stange

Absent: Tammy Kelley and Meghan Goodiski

December meeting minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved.

Old Business: 11 Food Baskets were distributed in December. The Giving tree continues to be a success.

Jim & Linda Moorhead will continue to coordinate this project. Thank you!

New Business: Set calendar for 2019 and reviewed Finances.

2019 Deacon Officers;

Moderator: Ruth O'Connor, Vice Moderator: Diane Scott, Secretary: Sandy Ballas, Treasurer: Cindy Brooks

Subcommittees were set:

Flowers—Diane & Bob Scott Foodbank Tree & Giving—Ruth O'Connor

Food Baskets—Tammy Kelley Palm Sunday Luncheon—Ruth O'Connor and Nancy Dombroske
College Boxes—Nancy Kimble Strawberry Fest—Nancy Dombroske, Barbi Findley, Meghan Goodiski

Deacon Rep on Budget & Finance—Shelly Chappell-Vaia

Deacon Rep on Nominating - Nancy Dombroske

as submitted by Shyrl Stange, Secretary

#### FROM THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

Please use your best judgement for coming out to church events. And remember, there is no "winter maintenance" in the Poke Run cemetery. Please use extreme caution when driving through the cemetery.





And the Trustees would like to remind you to use the Elevator! Poke Run is a completely accessible building thatnks to our elevator—and it runs better when it is used OFTEN!

# The next "Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, March 13th. (*Broccoli Cheese Soup*) Bring a friend!

- If you are able to donate a dessert this month, please contact the office.
- 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!







## Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School
Class

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 "Discipleship and Mission"

The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is using the study "When God Doesn't Fix It" by Laura Story

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







**THINKING AHEAD:** As you are receiving mailed packages, please save any bubble wrap (little bubbles or pillow type) and turn it into the office – it will be used for TGIF Good Friday program 2019! **TGIF 2019**, **Friday April 19th** 



Although it is past the due date for Poke Run Campership applications, it is not too late to register for Pine Springs Summer Camp. If anyone would like more information about Pine Springs Camp, **contact Laurie Martin** (martinlk297@gmail.com).



See "Happenings" Page for more Pine Springs Opportunities!

# An Incredibly Sweet Way to Help Campers Come to Pine Springs

Laurie and Tim Martin decided to take up a hobby in their retirement. They became beekeepers! All proceeds from the sale of their honey goes toward the camp scholarship fund at Poke Run Presbyterian Church. The Martin Family has been involved with Pine Springs for generations.

Laurie's mother was a counselor, Laurie was a camper, Laurie's children were campers and now her grandchildren are campers! What a wonderful testimony to a ministry that has reached out to generations. Yes, it is something to be A BUZZ about!



A BEE-U-TIFUL WAY TO HELP FUND CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS!

There are many churches and individuals who are strong

believers in the ministry of Pine Springs Camp. We are grateful to the multitude of ways churches help families afforc camp. Special thanks to Martins and Poke Run for this creative way of helping kids experience a week of Camp!

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS





Thank you to everyone who came out for the annual "Friendship Brunch" A very special thank you to **Barbi Findley, Nancy Dombroske, Meghan Goodiski, and Nicole Goodiski**— who TRULY made it a festive and beautiful event.









# Women of the Church ...

will be meeting on Thursday, March 21st, at 7pm at the church. The hostess is TBD and the leader will be Heidi Hileman. If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out and join in.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.



# Redstone Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 27, 2019 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Fort Burd United Presbyterian Church 200 Thornton Road Brownsville, PA 15417





# Mission Challenge:

Pray daily for someone in your family or close to you who has perhaps offended or hurt you in some way.



**Buccaneer Boutique -** If you care to donate, there is a collection box located in the Narthex. Thank you!



# Redstone Stories



# "Networking Across the Laurel Highlands"

Next time you come to Redstone Presbytery's office in Greensburg, you may notice a weird little "statue" in the conference room, like the one pictured here. That's no statue, but an OWL camera! After applying for an Innovation Grant from Synod of the Trinity for \$5,500, we were able to make some major upgrades to our networking and meeting capabilities. So what did we get?

- An OWL Camera that allows for 360\* listening and viewing for video conferencing
- Mobile Cart complete with 70" TouchIt Board w/interactive display
- License to use Zoom for unlimited video conferencing capabilities.

What does this mean for our presbytery?

- Easier method for PNCs interviewing ministry candidates
- Multiple class sites for CRE training
- Video Chats with ministry partners around the country (and the world!)
- Ability to participate in committee & board meetings, no matter the weather outside
- Ministry training opportunities
- "Insert your ideas here!"

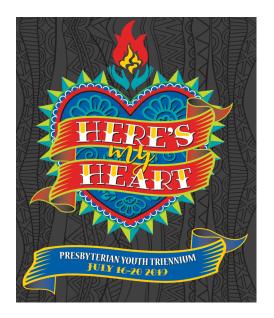
Talk to Skip or a member of your Communications Team to learn more!

Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World...

Together!



More information available on-line—and outside the Poke Run office.



Get ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth **Triennium** – a gathering held every three years for high school age students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth from all churches (across the sponsoring denominations) come together for this life changing, life giving, faith growing gathering! Five days that help form a younger generation of active Presbyterians. Five days that shape the leadership gifts and deepen the discipleship awareness for a generation who are already achieving a strong presence in this church and this world!

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 16 – Saturday, July 20, 2019

**LOCATION:** Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

**AUDIENCE:** High School Age youth and accompanying adult advisors (entering freshmen through graduated seniors: adult advisors must be 21 years+)

Poke Run has had recent participants at Triennium—if you are interested, please contact the Church Office or see Pastor Pete!

### HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

March 3—PSC JUMPS— Flight Trampoline Park, Bridgeville PA 6-8pm, \$10

March 5 - "Pancake Dinner—Congruity Presbyterian Church

March 16—PSC SKATES— Center Ice, Delmont PA 3:30-5:30pm, FREE (\$1.50 skate rental)

March 24— "Open Mic Night" - Delmont Presby

March 26—Redstone Presbytery Meeting, 6pm First Presbyterian, Irwin

March 29-31—"Women in the Woods" Pine Springs Camp

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

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 10th!

### HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

March 16—Kiski Area Track & Field Shamrock Run—Kunkle Park

March 19, 20 & 21 Kiski Area School District Kindergarten Registration

March 27-30—Kiski Area High School musical production "The Sound of Music"





Contemporary Christian and Old Time Gospel
Sponsored by The Delmont Presbyterian Church

101 Church Street, Delmont, PA

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Last Sunday of each Month, February and March 2019

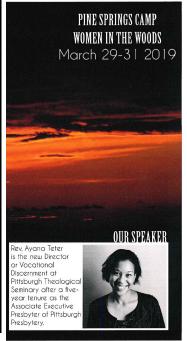
Just Come, Plug and Play

Free to All performers and audience

First Come, First Sing

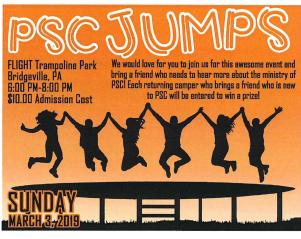
Questions, Call the DPC Office at 724-468-5804

Leave a name and contact number or email address.





Poke Run's Vinnie Goodiski recently shared that he has been contacted by a group attempting to repatriate remains of WWII soldiers. Vinnie's uncle Everett Alexander Goodiski, was an Army WWII Japanese POW who perished when the Japanese ship he was being held on was sunk in a Taiwanese harbor. Vinnie was contacted to provide DNA samples to help identify his Uncle's remains, which he was happy to do. Vinnie is very impressed that there is such a group making these efforts. Please pray for all US military, our veterans, and certainly their families.





#### 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.



# **March 2019**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	4 7pm Deacons	5 10am Bible Study	6 Ash Wednesday 7:30pm	7	8	9 Time to Spring Ahead
10 LEN- 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	11	12 10am Bible Study 7pm Session	Noon "Soup for the Soul" Choirs 7pm Mission & Steward- ship	14	15	16
8:30 & ITAIII Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	18	19 10am Bible Study	20 Choirs	21 Circle 2	22	23
24/31 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	25	26 10am Bible Study REDSTONE Meeting	27 Choirs	28 7pm Trustees	29	30
LENT MEETING					APRIL RANGER DI	EADLINE:

hutterslock - 161128198

RANGER DEADLINE: March 25, 2019

# **Poke Run Presbyterian Church**

1091 Poke Run Church Rd. Apollo, PA 15613 724-327-5563





March 6th Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30pm

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

Like us on Facebook featuring the Daily Verse



Want to save the church a stamp—AND see the "Ranger" IN COLOR!?!?! Contact the Church office and get added to the "Ranger" email list—it is that simple—