



"THE RANGER" Poke Run Presbyterian Church 2019



This month I am going to reflect in two directions, into the past and then into the very near past. Some of this comes from memory that I believe is well riveted in fact, simply because I love the story. I have kept it alive in memory. The other, the near past, is still fresh enough to be accurate reporting. Both of these events are connected by a similar

thread of thought, the mental state of those who call themselves Christians, or as we would say today, self-identify as "Christian."

Just after World War 2 a man named Gordon Cosby, who had spent the war as a paratrooper chaplain, preached at an evangelistic service. He must have preached a long time because it was late at night when he started home and being too tired to drive he and his wife found a room over a bar in which they could stay for the night. The problem was, although he was exhausted, he could not sleep, it was too noisy. Loud music, loud voices, and laughter filled the room. Other people might have been angry. Other people might have gone downstairs and raised a ruckus, but not Gordon. He thought about what was happening and like all creative persons, asked questions, one in particular. "Why is it that these people below me are so happy when the people I preached to earlier were so solemn, sad even, dour and inanimate?"

Karen and I just returned from a music conference in Nashville. It was a gathering of some 6000 persons who would call themselves "evangelical Christians." Some of the big names of the fundamental side of evangelical Christianity were there including John Piper and John MacArthur. The Gettys, modern hymn writers with a huge following – in the evangelical world – were there. I am not sure that I saw even a single smile among this group over the entire three days we were at the conference. I did hear a lot of bragging though, about how big, how many, etc.

Now in contrast in the same hotel complex – the complex was huge – was a group of firemen also attending their conference. They were having a great time. Lots of spirited conversation; lots of laughter. The question is obvious, "Why the difference?"

Gordon Cosby did not answer that question directly. However, after a period of thought and prayer he answered it by starting a church, or maybe not a church as most of us would understand "church." The following is a quote from Religion and Ethics Weekly, October 31, 1997.

"Fifty years ago this month, an ex-paratroop chaplain helped found a small, nondenominational church in Washington, DC. It's never had more than 130 members, but many church historians say it's become one of the most admired places of worship in the country. Its name is the Church of the Savior. At its retreat center near Washington, the Church of the Savior's 50th birthday reunion was so characteristically low key, you might not have realized looking on that these few people all but reinvented what it means to be a church. (underline is mine)

The Church of the Savior was founded in 1947 by a former paratroop chaplain, Gordon Cosby, his wife Mary, and five others. Its home became a large house, not a church building, and **its members' first priority was total commitment to Christian life**. (bold is mine)"

"To be a member requires silent retreats, two years of study, an hour a day of prayer and meditation, and tithing at least 10 percent of income.

... Then out of that, we feel, comes the capacity to do that which is important to be done in the society."

This new "church" as it formed and grew would always then divide itself into smaller units. They did not form Bible studies or prayer groups, although they did study the Bible to find its truth for them and they prayed to be in God's will. They formed into units that met a particular need of the city. One began a coffee shop. One created a ten bed dispensary that met the needs of the poor. Each little group, 6-8 persons, found a need and met it in Christ.

The needs of our society are nearly infinite. How will we meet them?

Pastor Pete

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Thank you to our August Lectors:

Brett Stevenson, Valerie Hansen, Connie Cuavel and Tom Kimble

Thank you to our August Greeters:

Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood, Nikki and Cindy McQuaide, Bill & Robin Berger, and Brian & Nancy Dombroske

VOLUNTEER—SCHEDULING NOW: for October, November and December, Greeters for the 11am service, please give Amy a call in the office (724-327-5563) and Lectors for the 11am service, give Connie Cauvel a call (412-480-7451) - MUCH APPRECIATED!



For our prayers:

Georgia Alcorn, Ali Ankney, Scott Ankney, Annette, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Matt Beacom, Ronda Bertelle, Jeannie Bowman, Lil Bowman, Rick Bowman, Ron & Carole Bowman, Mike Brewer, Skye Brewer, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Bill Caldwell, Nora Jane Caporali, Dave Carroll, the family of Bob Cauvel, Ben Chicka, Irene Clark, Robin Coldren, Collin, Carol Croff & family, Marie D, Kelly Daugherty Farley, Tommie DeSantis, Sharon DiBagno, Hannah Dixon, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey,

Lee & Linda Gardener, Dolly George, Marnee Gormley, Joel George, the family of Paul Goetschius, Don & Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Betty Henry, Don Henry, Ruth Hill, Brenda Hughes, Leland Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Rob Kemerer, Kim, Nancy Kimble and family, Joann Kole, Steve Kosinski, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Heather Lynn, the McCutcheon family, Irma McDivitt, the family of Blanche Metzgar, Ronnie McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Amy McQuaide, Conrad McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Harry & Diane Notto, Leanne O'Connor, Ray O'Neil, Thad Overly, Sandy Pajak, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Pam Poremski, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Debbie & Larry Seighman, Emma Shirey, Valerie Shondelmeyer, Linda Shoop, Joanne Smith, Dorothy Sottoriva, Carol Soule, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Steve, Sam Stormer, Mildred Striner, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, the Thompson family, Jill Tocco, Sue Washburn, Linda Wengert, Jayne Wiester, John Wildi, 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.

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.



Thank you **Edyth Elwod, Freda Bowman, Deb Delfavero, and Linda Chicka** (photographer) for making our communion wafers.





The next Poke Run Session Meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th, 7pm.

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



The Poke Run Nominating Committee continues their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2020 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers. And thank you for your continued prayers for the current Boards and Committees.

They resume their meeting schedules this month; watch for ways you can actively support these volunteers .



COMMUNION
SCHEDULE

Communion is shared during the 8:30am Early Worship service every Sunday morning. Additionally, Communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2019:
September 8th 11am December 1st—Advent
October 6th World Communion 11am December 24th—Christmas Eve



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: *There will be one worship service at 10am on Sunday, October 20th – The annual Poke Run Congregational meeting will follow the service and plan to stay for a luncheon provided by the “Congregational Life Committee.”*



Last month we were able to celebrate with our Pine Springs campers. Always prayerfully grateful that we, as a congregation, can help and encourage young people to have a meaningful experience with

Christ Jesus! Here are photos of them sharing about that experience!





Poke Run Sunday School!!

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class! **WILL RESUME ON SEPTEMBER 8th!**

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL - 2 classes

- Meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall)
 - using the David C. Cook series titled "**Covenant in God**"
- Meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall)
 - new material starting in September

Join in the fellowship area for refreshment and conversation 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



Poke Run Fall Fun Day at Gearhard Farms!

Don't miss another opportunity for Fun and be sure to invite Friends!

Ready for some fun? Let's go to the 20th Annual **Gearhard Farms Corn Maze** on **Saturday, September 28** for food, fellowship and maze solving! Start with a hayride to a picnic site for a campfire and enjoy hotdogs (provided) and picnic food (provided by you!) Then load back onto the hay wagon for transport to the maze. Spend as much time as you want in the maze. The challenge is two-fold: 1) Find your way in the entrance and out the exit, and/or 2) Solve the maze puzzle! Clues will be given at the start and in the maze too!

Reservations are helpful: Call, email, or see **Linda Chicka**, 724-422-3688, lgchicka@gmail.com

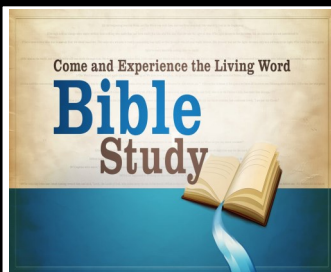
Special cost for Poke Run members: \$8 (under age 4 FREE!)

Arrive between noon and 12:30pm. The hayride to our picnic site loads at 12:30 pm sharp!

Bring: A picnic dish to share, hot dogs sticks if you have them, bag chair if you want (bench seating provided), your walking shoes.



Directions: 2 miles west of Mamont on Route 286, just past Mamont Rd and before the Western Pennsylvania Sportsman's Club. Google address is Gearhard Farms, 5909 Saltsburg Road, Murrysburg, PA. See www.gearhardfarms.com for previous maze pictures and "Like Us" on Facebook!



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

Sunday evening Bible Study will resume later in September - watch the Bulletin.

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



Deacon Ministry

The Poke Run Deacons - Our Deacons spend time caring for our Poke Run Community and beyond. Please keep the Board of Deacons in your prayers as they minister God's love. If you are aware of someone who might benefit from the care of our Deacons, or a visit or call from Pastor Pete, do not hesitate to contact the Church Office.

Have a student going back to College or someone separated from us for a time?

The Deacons would love to keep in touch. Send information to the Church office or call it in (724-327-5563)—the Poke Run Deacons have a special place in their hearts for these dear ones.

Thank you Deacons for all that you do.



Is this YOUR year to join in the celebration of praising God through Music?

There are so many ways to do this at Poke Run.

The **Poke Run Chancel Choir** meets Wednesdays at 7pm—come when you can and join them on Sunday mornings when you can. If you can only donate time for the holidays, watch for those opportunities.

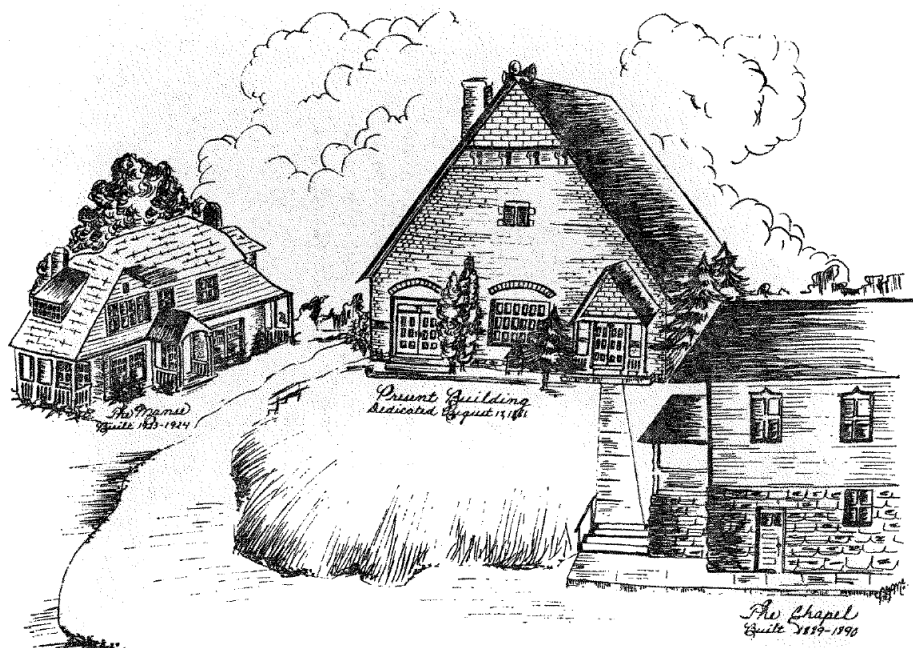
The Poke Run **"Praise Team"** occasionally helps lead Sunday Worship music (usually the last Sunday of the month). They practice on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6pm.—see **Sean** or "show-up" and join the fun. **(Practice begins on September 4th)**



Do you **play a musical instrument** and can occasionally support Worship music with that talent? See **Sean or Pastor Pete**—it would be GLORIOUS to have you!

Handbell Choir!!!! No musical experience required! Regular rehearsal will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm. **(Practice begins on September 11th)**

Be a part of Poke Run's Musical Ministry – no musical training required! You DO NOT need to know how to read music—just come with an enthusiasm for praise!



"Throwback Art"
from the files.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

Circle 2: will meet on September 19th - 7pm— at the home of the hostess **Valerie Hansen (4738 Route 66, Washington Twp)** and the leader will be **Barbi Findley**. ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



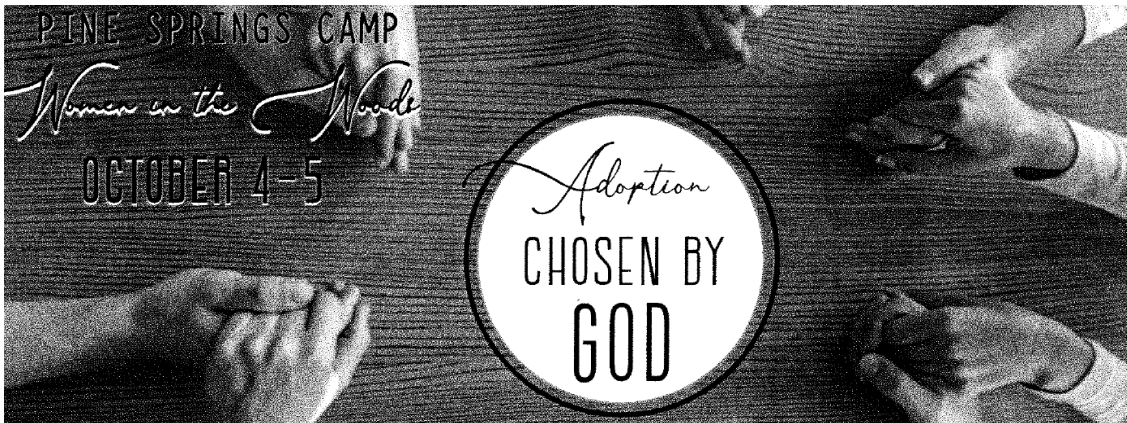
OCTOBER 19th—Annual Rummage Sale!

MISSING SOMETHING?!?!?!?!?!?

Watch for a lost & found item collection in the Sunday School room marked "Grades 1 and 2" (first room past the Lounge.) after September 20th. Please check and see if anything belongs TO YOU!
After September 30th – EVERYTHING will be added to the "Rummage Sale" stash.



"Rummage" will be accepted the week prior to the sale. REMEMBER: - **ABSOLUTELY NO televisions, electronics, exercise equipment, computers, etc. —these items do not sell and we are unable to get rid of them without a cost.**
THANK YOU



Pine Springs
"Women in the
Woods"

October 4-5,
brochures available
in the Narthex.



Redstone Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 19, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence





From the Poke Run Office

Office Hours at the Church 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! 724-327-5563.

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

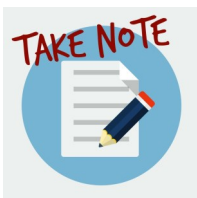
Next Ranger Deadline: September 24th

► **Copies of the Poke Run 2018 Annual Report (green cover) and a 2019 Phone Directory (yellow cover) are available in the Narthex** – please let the office know of any corrections or updates to your contact information.



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. Less than \$400 more to reach our pledge.

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 Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2nd in honor of Labor Day. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.



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



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

And we are in the process of updating our Website

—PUTTING OUR BEST ELECTRONIC PRESENCE OUT THERE!

If you have ideas about our website—contact someone on our “Technology Committee”

Brett Stevenson
Amy Wilkinson

Doug Ross
Laurie Martin

Connie Cauvel
Pastor Pete

Linda Chicka
Bob Willson



Mission Challenge

James 2:26 "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

"Soup for the Soul" resumes in October. Every second Wednesday of the month, October through May—plan to come this season and certainly plan to bring a friend!

October 9th

January 8th

April 8th

November 13th

February 12th

May 13th

December 11th

March 11th



This ministry, started by Ron & Carole Bowman has grown in leaps and bounds. While not a "charitable meal" in its intent—it is a FREE lunch with a SOULFUL message. Many people in our surrounding community come for the fellowship, good food and Pastor Pete's message. Please consider coming out this year, either as a volunteer or just for lunch—YOU will be an example of the Poke Run congregation to all who God leads here.

"Meeting YOU" might just be the reason someone decides to come to Sunday worship.

Help is needed and ALWAYS appreciated—come help chop vegetables, make soup or sandwich fillings, donate ingredients, help with set-up or clean-up—contact **Laurie Martin or Sheree Wagner** if you can help. And if you are ever able to donate a dessert—just contact **Amy in the office.**—Much appreciated!

THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

The Trustees have scheduled a "Work Day" for Saturday, September 21st, 8:30am—noon. As always, lots of jobs for lots of abilities. Please consider coming out to the church and helping where you can. (Check out the photos below from the last work day—thanks to everyone who came out to help.)

CURRENT TRUSTEE PROJECTS—church flat roof and chimney repairs, grounds clean-up from all of the storms this summer, new fire detection system, and other ongoing issues.

The Trustees are always looking for help and support. Talk to one of our Trustees to see how YOU can help.

CURRENT POKE RUN TRUSTEES:

Bill Craig

Sheree Wagner

Tom Fitzsimmons

Andy Bantroch

Linda Chicka

Bob Thompson

Ron Bowman

Brian Dombroske

Doug Ross





HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Sept 2—Poke Run and Redstone Offices will be closed for Labor Day Holiday.
 Sept 24—Redstone Presbytery Meeting—Pine Springs Camp 10am
 September 28-29 —Pine Springs Camp— “Fall Fusion ” grades 4-6

Coming in October:

Oct 4-5 —Pine Springs Camp—”Women in the Woods ”
 Oct 19—Redstone PW Fall Gathering—Bethel Presbyterian, New Florence
 Oct 25-27—Pine Springs Camp—”The Big One’ grades 6-12

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 1-2 Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park, 11am-7pm FREE
 Sept 14-15—Ligonier Highland Games—Idlewild Park

Farmer’s Markets:

Tuesdays—3-6pm, Greensburg—Lynch Field April—November
 Thursdays—3-5pm , Vandergrift—Columbia Avenue June—October
 Thursdays—3-7pm, Murrysville—Sardis Road June—September
 Saturdays—8-noon, Ligonier May—October
 Saturdays—9-noon, Monroeville—Community Park March—November
 Saturdays—9am –1pm Delmont PA
 Saturdays—10am-2pm Lower Burrell City Hall



GEARHARD FARMS



CORN MAZE



**Corn Maze opens on August 31st,
 Website: www.gearhardfarms.com**

2019-2020 Spiritual Formation Event Schedule AT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

AUG. 5-10 AND AUG. 22-SEPT. 20, 2019 (ONLINE); AUG. 18-21 AND SEPT. 21, 2019 (FACE-TO-FACE)
 Immersion: Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life
 Mary Lynn Callahan and B.J. Woodworth www.pts.edu/Immersion-2019

SEPT. 22-25, 2019
 O Taste and See! The Spirituality of Food
 Dan Frayer-Griggs www.pts.edu/Food-2019

JAN. 6-FEB. 9, 2020
 Spiritual Writing: An Online Class
 Jonathan Callard www.pts.edu/Spiritual-Writing-1920

MARCH 29-APRIL 1, 2020
 The Four Women Doctors: Teresa of Ávila, Catherine of Siena, Thérèse of Lisieux, and Hildegard de Bingen; Sr. Kathleen Flood www.pts.edu/Women-Doctors-1920

MAY 15-17, 2020
 The Contemplative Practice of Motherhood: A Retreat
 Lauren Burdette and Renée Prymus www.pts.edu/Motherhood-Retreat-1920

JUNE 14-17, 2020
 All for the Glory of God: An Ignatian Retreat
 Jeff Eddings www.pts.edu/ignatian-1920

JULY 19-22, 2020
 Walking in the Footsteps of Henri Nouwen
 B.J. Woodworth www.pts.edu/Nouwen-Retreat-1920

CONTACT

412-924-1345 | ConEd@pts.edu | [www.pts.edu/Spiritual Formation Certificate](http://www.pts.edu/Spiritual%20Formation%20Certificate)



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



TRIBLIVE.COM

'God's blessing': Murrysville family farm pre-dates America

"It doesn't matter where I live right now — this is home," Chicka said. "There's a lot of pride, knowing our family roots."

In the farm's earliest days, Robert Hays would host the occasional church service for a congregation that still exists today, at Poke Run Presbyterian Church in Washington Township.

"A lot of the church family names are part of our genealogy," Gearhard said.

The upper branches of the Gearhard family tree include plenty of names familiar to longtime residents: Hays, Gillespie, Elwood, Rubright, Steele.

"It's mind-boggling when you start to think about all the connections," Gearhard said.



Noah's Ark Complaints Department



**YOU ONLY
BROUGHT
TWO ANTS?**










If you have appropriate News and pictures to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office. The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions. OCTOBER RANGER DEADLINE: September 24th

September 2019

Ushers in September: Mission & Stewardship

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch	2 OFFICE CLOSED 	3 10am Bible Study 7pm Bible Study 7pm Budget & Finance	4 7pm Mission & Stewardship Choirs	5	6	7
8  8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch	9 7pm Deacons	10 10am Bible Study 7pm Session	11 Choirs	12	13	14
15 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	16	17 10am Bible Study 7pm Bible Study	18 NO Choirs	19 Circle 2 	20	21 Trustee Work Day 8:30am-noon 
22 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch 7pm Bible Study	23	24 10am Bible Study REDSTONE Meeting 	25 Choirs	26 7pm Trustees	27	28 Corn Maze noon 
29 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	30					

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

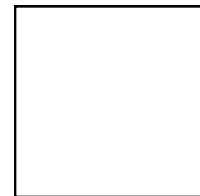
1091 Poke Run Church Road

Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: 724-327-5563

E-mail:

pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net



Worship SCHEDULE

**Sundays: 8:30am Worship Service,
11am Worship Service**

Sunday School at 10am Kids & Adults

WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS—9:30am-2:30pm



Invite someone this week.



It could change their life forever.

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