

Past – Present – Future, each exists in its own separate reality. If we are not careful the past and the future can capture us and limit the expressions of our lives. All of us know persons who are stuck in the past, ignore the present and fear the future. We each know people who ignore the past and its lessons, sidestep the present, and always live in anticipation of a fantasy future that will never arrive. Both tactics are methods of avoidance for the present is all we have. And yet, the past is real – it exists in memory, the future will come, and both play out in the present.

This is why I will take some time to see where we have been in Scripture and where we are going. Each of us then determines what this means for the living of our lives. We have been reading through Ephesians together in our Sunday morning services. Ephesians is a letter, not just to the Christian gathering at Ephesus, but to the church of all times and places. It is an anchor in the past that can guide us into God's future. In this letter God speaks through Paul to us. So when I say, or write, "Paul says," I am also saying that this is God's Word to us through Paul.

Paul's first big claim is that we are not members of Christ's church by accident or personal choice. God chooses us in eternity past. Another way to say this is that we have been, are now, and always will be members of the church of Jesus Christ. We are made righteous in Christ and adopted as God's children forever. This church includes members from all the nations of the world. This is "to make known to us the mystery of his will ... to unite all things together in Christ." (Ephesians 1:9-10) The task of the church is further expanded in chapter 3 when the church is challenged to present the gospel even to "the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places," that is angels and demons, the spiritual realities that are invisible to us, but very real.

I had planned to stop here but I realize that we might wonder, "How in the world can I accomplish such a cosmic task?" So we will go on in Ephesians for a sermon or two, perhaps three or four. God does not leave us without resources. The first is prayer. The next is gifts, and finally there is spiritual armor against these very same "rulers, ...authorities, ...cosmic powers, ... the present darkness, ... (and) the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." It is with these three, prayer, divine gifts, and spiritual armor that we walk into the future with confidence while living fully in the present time.

From mid or later September, we will go on to find what God reveals to us in Scripture about God Himself. Old Testament revelations, in history and prophecy will be our first glimpses. The arc of revelation is counterintuitive. The God who seems to be all-powerful, who sometimes manifests as a warrior, who sometimes comes in and with thunder and lightning, who causes earthquakes, now shows up as a helpless baby. Who would have ever thought? Not only is God born human, he is born to a couple nearly as helpless as he now is. God is a risk taker. He risks everything, not only for us but also as us.

Now a word about our next healing service. I am not sure that "healing service" is exactly what I want to say. God can and does heal miraculously and instantly. He also heals through time and doctors and medicine. I want to be more precise. God heals through his church. The healing that we are after and will find is the healing that comes as we gather to share our experiences, often the most powerful healing possible. It is the healing that comes through presence, through loving and caring for each other. It is the healing that comes from honesty and vulnerability and sharing. It is the healing that comes from knowing that God has been, still is, and always will be with us, as a warrior, as a baby. The vision of the church in the New Testament is a gathering together of Christians who love and care for each other and the world because the love of Christ is within them and among them. This is what we are after. This heals us.

Knowing that we are chosen by God to live together as a witness to the world and all its cosmic forces is a wonderful thing. Knowing that God is with us through all the events of our lives is humbling. Knowing that God heals us through love is irreplaceable, and miraculous.

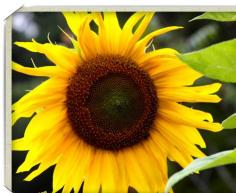
Blessings, Pastor Pete



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Thank you to our August Greeters: Eva & Andy Bantroch, Lizzy and Amy Wilkinson, Ruth O'Connor, Irma McDivitt, Cindy Brooks, and Brian & Nancy Dombroske

Thank you to our August Lectors: Jeff Wilkinson, Chad McCutcheon

Hope everyone had a good experience with the month of one 10am service.

If you have an opinion about this, good or bad, let someone from Session know.

If you are interested in helping with Sunday morning "Greeting" or serving as a Lector, please contact the Church office or Debbie Seighman (greeters) 724-733-1991 and Connie Cauvel (lectors) 724-733-2136.



Thank you to everyone who came to the Poke Run picnic in August. It was very well attended with lots of great food. A special thank you to Brian & Nancy Dombroske and their families for contributing and preparing the sandwich food, and to Laurie Martin for coordinating the rest of the table.

Don't miss it next year!

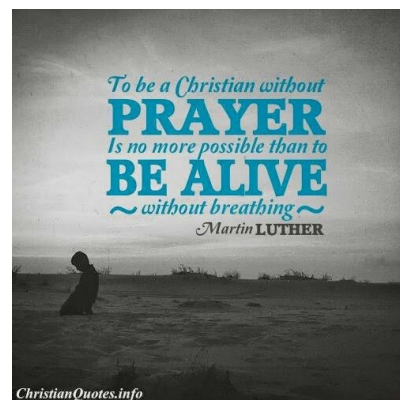
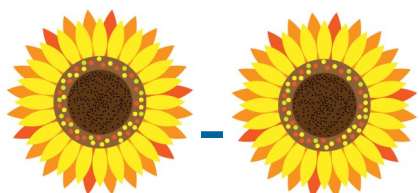
For our prayers

Anna, Ed Bahney, Renee Bates, Renee Beck, Bill Bert, Bob Bierer, Donna Blaser, Lil Bowman, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Anna Mae Chicka, Irene Clark, Jeffrey Clark, Lyndsey Coulter, Elvira, Skip Elwood, Joanne Fitzsimmons, Lee & Linda Gardener, Melissa Goetschius, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Caleb Hall, Leonard Hartman, Janine Hayle, Tiffany Jensen, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Pat Lengauer, Clifford & Karen Lightner, Norm Linhart, Bob McBride, Thelma McCutcheon, Irma McDivitt, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sandy Nemetz, Thad Overly, Wanda Petrilla, James & Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Ron Rubright, Terry Wiester, Peter Yurtin, Zachary Novickoff, Brian Billick, 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.

Please keep the family of Grace Young in your prayers.

Please keep the family of Carol Thompson, aunt of Bev Tagliati and Bob Thompson, in your prayers, Carol passed away on August 7th.



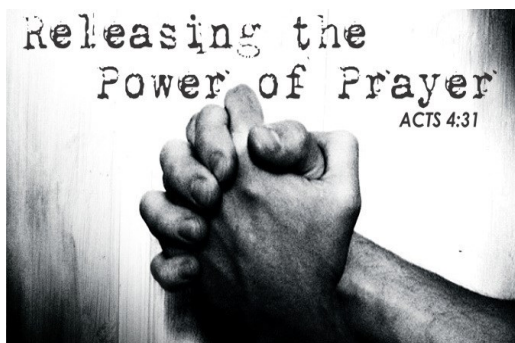


Grace M. (Yockey) Young was raised in the horse-and-buggy era and lived all of her 111 years in the Alle-Kiski Valley. Born in 1904, she died early Tuesday (August 4) in West Haven Manor, where she had lived about two years. She never drove a car but she still had a tremendous impact, said daughter Arline Bemis of Allegheny Township. "She was one of a kind," she said.

Young was raised on a farm in Washington Township. She was short and her brothers had to lift her up to get on a horse-drawn buggy to go to school, Bemis said. Grace, who was the middle child of seven and the last surviving member of the Yockey family, attended through about the seventh grade. In those days, there were other priorities for women. Working at home and then marrying, starting a family and staying home with the children were the norm. Young did just that and enjoyed the baking, cleaning, crocheting and all the things that make a home run smoothly, her family said. In the 1920s, she married Paul E. Young and the couple had three children, two of whom are alive, and settled in as a homemaker and active member of Poke Run Presbyterian Church, the church's Woman's Circle and the Woman's Club of Washington Township. "She taught dozens of women to bake and cook," Bemis said. Her niece, Sharon Roppolo, remembers that the best place to hang out in her childhood was her grandparents' farm. Roppolo lived a short distance away. "I enjoyed staying there in the summer, feeding the chickens and working in the garden," she said. Young made her granddaughter feel grown up even at an early age. "Even though it was only an eighth-of-a-mile away, Roppolo asked her grandmother to not fill in Roppolo's mother about how she was doing. Young had a gift to be kind to all people no matter how she was treated, Bemis said. Young and her husband were married about 70 years before his death in 1994. Grace moved into McMurtry Towers in Vandergrift, where she lived for 17 years before moving into West Haven Manor. "She was the oldest person there," Bemis said, "but she looked like the youngest." Young lived to enjoy Bemis, and her sister, Frieda Mahen, Roppolo, Kunkle, four great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Mahen wasn't available for comment Wednesday. Young was a "human history book" for many people who wanted to know what it was like before cars crowded the roads and the focus of some people shifted away from the family, Bemis said. Young particularly enjoyed her 100th birthday.

Then a couple of months ago, Young fell and fractured her hip, Bemis said. "Mother had congestive heart failure for years but it won in the end," she said. Young's sweet personality prompted her daughter to tell her something time after time. "I told her she was already an angel and only lacked angel wings," Bemis said. "Now, she has those." Visitation will be 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday in the Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home and Crematory Inc., Apollo. Services will be there Friday at 11 a.m. Burial services, in Greenwood Memorial Park, Lower Burrell will be private.

Chuck Biedka is a staff writer for Trib Total Media. He can be reached at 724-226-4711 or cbiedka@tribweb.com.



THANK-YOU FOR THE BEAUTIFUL
FLOWER ARRANGMENT FOR
GRACE YOUNG'S FUNERAL.
IT IS STILL BEAUTIFUL
TODAY!

Grace's Family



Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am. There are age specific classes for Children and youth. (Children's classes will resume on September 13)

POKE RUN HAS A GREAT NEED!!!!!! Laurie Martin has agreed to share children's Sunday School duties with someone, alternating Sundays perhaps? Are you that person? Please contact Laurie, Sandy Chappell who is the chairman of the Christian Ed committee, or the office if you think this could be YOU!

FOR BIG KIDS

We have two adult Sunday School classes.

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 "The Christian Community Comes Alive—A study in Acts"

The class meeting in the Session Room (on the right at the end of the hall) is working through a study guide from Max Lucado's Life Lessons series. "Galatians, Free in Christ"



Photos from VBS 2015



**PW News**

Remember: Tuesday, September 1st is the next Quarterly Presbyterian Women's meeting. The program will be Ms. Jenna

Pounds who will share her experiences of a yearlong mission trip in the Dominican Republic. All women (and men) of the church are welcome to join in this mission and fellowship.

Circle 2 will meet on Thursday September 18th. Barbi Findley and Nancy Dombroske will be the Hostess and Leader, watch for details.



WHAT: MEAL PACKAGING EVENT

WHEN: OCTOBER 17, 2015 9AM-1PM

WHERE: COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

1640 KEYSTONE PARK ROAD

NEW ALEXANDRIA, PA 15670

WHO: INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, YOUTH GROUPS

WHY: TO PACK 20,000 MEALS to FIGHT HUNGER

HOW: SIGN-UP TO WORK AN HOUR OR TWO

call 724-668-7752 or e-mail judykoontz@windstream.net to register

Thank you to everyone who helped with the kitchen cleaning. Please remember to "Clean up after yourself" when using the church facilities. DO NOT leave leftovers in the refrigerators and take home what you bring. Thank you!



And remember that Circle 2 will be holding their annual "Rummage Sale" on October 17th—don't throw anything GOOD away! :)

Dish: _____ **Recipe** Serves: _____

ROUND-UP GREEN BEANS from the kitchen of Tammy Kelley

1 C Ketchup 1 C Brown Sugar 1 T Worcestershire Sauce

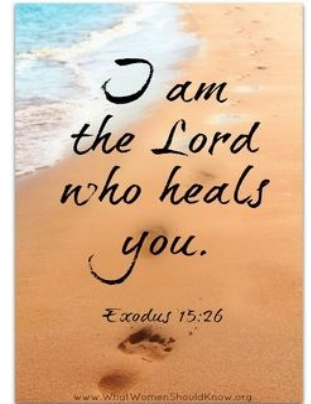
1 Onion chopped 4 cans green beans—14 1/2 oz each—drained

6 slices of bacon—diced

Combine Ketchup, Brown Sugar and sauce. Saute bacon and onion until bacon is crisp. Combine with Beans—Add salt & pepper to taste. Bake at 325 uncovered for one hour.

Pastor Pete will be providing a series of “Healing Services,” with the purpose of drawing God’s people near, to hear the Word and lead to the understanding of God’s healing grace in all situations.

Three services have been scheduled. Pray about who you can invite or bring. Consider that even if you feel you or someone is not directly affected; healing is needed in ever widening circles around those we love.



September 26th = for those affected by Cancer

November 28th = for unbelievers & those who experience doubt

January 30th = Veterans

If you have questions or ideas on how to spread the word about these services, contact Pastor Pete.

Laurie Martin hopes to reach and call people to this service through Poke Run’s Facebook page. Please submit words, stories, pictures that have inspired you or loved ones as you have battled cancer for her to share. You can email them to her at martinstlc3@verizon.net or contact the Church office.

Pastor Pete, acting as Moderator of Redstone Presbytery installed Rev. Caroline Vickery at Delmont Presbyterian Church on August 9th .



From the Poke Run Session

Below is an excerpt from the June Session meeting. The minutes will not be approved until the September meeting.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin

Tim reported that we are \$10,000 in the red, for several reasons including: the road fund, bad winter weather, and directed giving in the Spring to One Great Hour of Sharing and the Mission Trip.

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell & Erin Bruce

Special thanks to Erin Bruce for all of her Sunday School teaching and work, we wish her great success in the fall as she continues her college education at Penn State Main Campus.

Nominating -Meri Slaughaupt & Chad McCutcheon

Met with Pete twice and are progressing on the nominations

New Business:

MSC: To have additional healing services on Saturday evenings at 6:00 PM as requested: -

September 26 Service for those affected by Cancer

November 28 - Service for unbelievers & those who experience doubt.

January 30 - Service for Veterans

MSC: To worship together as a congregation during 4 services in August at 10 AM. Alternate early and late format August 9,16,23,30. Late format on August 9 and 23, and 16, 30 Early Service Format. Communion will be served on August 9 as scheduled

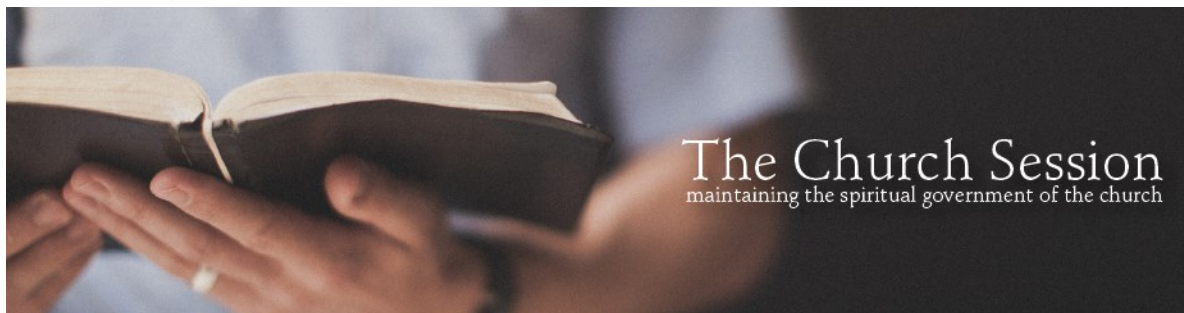
MSC: To accept Aubrey McCutcheon as Poke Run member on June 21 at the Early Service

MSC: That our Music Director join the American Guild of Organist at an annual cost of \$97. As recommended by the Personnel Committee

The next Session Meeting will be held September 8 at 7:00 PM .

Session Meetings are open and everyone is invited.

Complete Session minutes are on file in the Poke Run Church office and are available for viewing to all Poke Run members upon request.





THE DEACONS are collecting names and address of our college students, service men and women, and others who are far from us at this time.

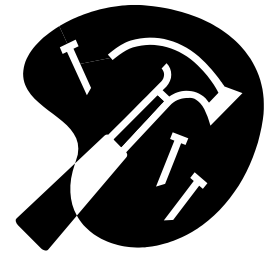
Please contact a Deacon or the church office with your information.



Thank you to everyone who helped at Trustee Work Day on August 1. The next scheduled work day is Saturday September 19th.

Can you dust, weed, sweep ? There are jobs for all ages and all abilities. Please consider coming out on September 19th , 8:30am—noon.

Thank you to everyone who participates. If you ever need something added to the job list—contact the church office.



Some of the things that the Trustees are working on:

Replacing dehumidifiers in the Fellowship Hall and church kitchen.

Working through a project list to take care of the church manse.

Evaluating insurance and contracted service arrangements for the church facility.



A special thank you to the Poke Run Trustees and all who see things that need done and do them. We are truly a working and giving community.

The Poke Run Nominating Committee has begun their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2016 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers.

Called 2 Serve



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED WITH POKE RUN CHURCH AT THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK!

The Congregational Life Committee is gearing up for a busy fall—They could sure use your help as they make preparations for serving refreshments at the Healing Services and for the Congregational Meeting luncheon in October. Please contact Connie Cauvel or the office if you are willing to help with one of these events. Thank You

Office Hours at the Church remain at 9am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! The office will be closed on September 7th and Amy will be away September 12-17th. The messages and emails will be checked.

As always—please share any contact information updates with the Church Office so that you do not miss out on any information. If you have an email address to share, you can start receiving informational emails as well as the Poke Run “Ranger” online—**IN COLOR.** Office promise: you will NOT be inundated with emails!

Next Ranger Deadline: September 22nd



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Saying “Hello or Goodbye”

Pastoral leadership changes around the presbytery

Hello..... Rev. Caroline Vickery will become the newest Teaching Elder (August 9) of the Delmont congregation and of Redstone Presbytery. Caroline comes to us from most recently serving a congregation in Central Nebraska. Please welcome her to western PA and to Redstone.

Best Wishes!..... Although neither is leaving the area (or the presbytery), there are two other retirements that will begin in September.

Rev. Chuck MacPherson will be retiring from his service as the Teaching Elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville. Additionally, **Rev. Gary Close** will be retiring from the position of Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery. Both men have served faithfully and (hopefully) will continue to serve in other roles within the Presbytery.

Goodbye.....At the end of August, **Rev. Keith Conover** will be retiring from Pleasant View Presbyterian Church in Smock. Having served the congregation as their faithful pastor for 21 years, Keith and Lee Ann will be moving to Winchester, VA to be closer to family members. A faithful colleague in ministry, Keith has served countless leadership roles in our life as a community together.

Additionally, **Rev. Chris Derricks** has taken a new position as pastor of Riverdale United Presbyterian Church.



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



Choir practice is in session. Wednesdays: Bell Choir at 6:30pm and Chancel Choir at 7pm. Please give this ministry your consideration – we’ve lost a few choir members lately and we could really use your support! No musical training required – even if you can only help occasionally or seasonally, we’d love to have you! See Sean or a choir member for more information.

“Soup for the Soul” will resume in October. 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.



Continuing down the Education Annex Hallway.

In addition to “artwork” old and new – there is a bulletin board about half way past Pastor Pete’s office that features good information and contact information for various resources.



The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services administers Subsidized Child Day Care Services. For low income families and makes resource and referral services available to all citizens of Pennsylvania.

See the flyer hanging on the bulletin board for more information.



MISSING SOMETHING FROM YOUR KITCHEN?!?!?!?!?!?

A collection of dishes and bakeware that has accumulated at Poke Run Church over this past year is on display in the Narthex.

Please check and see if anything belongs TO YOU! After Aug 31st – they will be added to the “Rummage Sale” stash.

These glasses were left in the office during Vacation Bible School. If they are yours, they are on the desk—unlike Amy’s which were lost during the same time but are on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean!



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Sept 7—Poke Run and Redstone offices will be closed
 Sept 9—Friendship Dinner—2nd Wed of every month 5-6pm, United Presb. New Kensington
 Sept 19—Ham Loaf Dinner—Community Presbyterian—New Alexandria
 Sept 28-Nov 18—After school QUEST—Newlonsburg Presbyterian, Murrysville
 Sept 15— 1pm—Redstone Presbytery meeting—Laurel Hill Presbyterian, Dunbar
 Sept 18-19—Pine Springs Camp—"Women in the Woods" - women's retreat
 Sept 25 - Pine Springs Camp—"The Big One" - youth retreat

Coming in October:

Oct 3-4 —Pine Springs Camp—"Fall Fusion Retreat " 4th—6th grade retreat
 Oct 4-6—Redstone PW New Windsor Trip—FULL

>**Stated Clerk Open House** - As most of you already know, Gary Close, our current Stated Clerk is retiring from that position effective August 31, 2015. If you have a wish or story about Gary that you would wish to share, please contact Amy at the Poke Run office, the Redstone office is compiling a collection to present to Gary.

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sept 6-7—Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park, 11am-7pm FREE
 Sept 28th—Vandergrift Arts Festival

Coming in October:

Oct 3—"Star Party" at Kunkle Park

Tuesdays 4-7pm Export Farmer's Market—located near Kennedy Ave.

2nd Wednesday of the month at the Wash. Twp. Firehall 11:30—noon Blood Pressure Clinic for Seniors— Bring your table service and a covered dish.

Thursdays 3-5:30pm Vandergrift Farmer's Market—located along Columbia Ave.

Thursdays—3-7pm Murrysville Farmers Market—Murrysville VFC



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Brenden and Corey Kelley displaying their Myrtle Beach , SC catch—both are Redfish.



Poke Run's Boy Scout Troop 552 added two more Eagle Scouts in August. Jared Burke and Evan McWilliams.



The McCutcheon family will be participating in the JDRF1 "Walk to Cure Diabetes" at the Pitt Greensburg campus on Saturday, September 26th .



PHOTOS WANTED!!!!

The Office can
use emailed
photos from
cameras or cell



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE CAREFUL AS THE ROAD
CONSTRUCTION IN THE VICINITY OF POKE RUN
CHURCH CONTINUES.**

Hey History Buffs—the September 1975, 1976 and 1977 "Rangers" have been added to the Poke Run Website—Check them out!



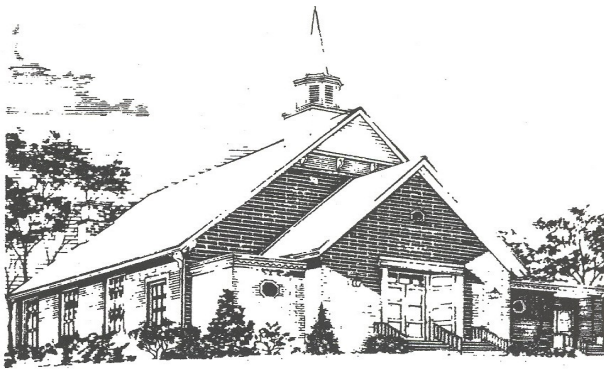
September 2015

Offering: Deacons



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7pm PW Mtg	2 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	3 7pm Budget & Finance	4	5
6 Communion 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	7 <i>Labor Day</i> POKE RUN OFFICE CLOSED	8 7pm Session	9 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	10	11	12
13 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School	14 7pm Deacons	15	16 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	17 <i>Circle 2</i> 6:30pm Scouts	18	19 Trustee Work Day 8:30am
20 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School 7pm Bible Study	21	22	23 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	24 7pm Trustees Circle 2	25	26 <i>Service of Healing 6pm</i>
27 8:30 & 11 Worship 10am Sunday School	28	29	30 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir		<div data-bbox="1045 1566 1511 1942" data-label="Text"> <p>The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.</p> <p>Amy will be out of the office Sept. 12-17, but will be checking phone messages and emails.</p> </div>	





Our Mission

Poke Run Presbyterian Church is a family oriented church which has had a long and rich heritage. God has called us to be a people of prayer who are deeply committed to serving Jesus Christ. Our mission is to call the people of Washington Township and surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ. We seek to fulfill this mission by providing programs of worship, Christian education, family nurture and support, and community outreach which help people to grow spiritually and to express their faith with confidence. We also seek, through our programs, to provide people with practical assistance in Jesus' name. Our mission is extended beyond our local region through our support and participation in the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and ecumenical mission agencies.

Adopted by Session October 5, 1993

Poke Run Presbyterian Church

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