

A great battle lies hidden beneath the headlines of our news media. This battle continues unnoticed beneath the MOAB – the mother of all bombs – the incursions in Syria and the scuffles occurring on our college campuses. I write of a battle among theologians where spiritual blood flows out in the ink splashed across page after page of book after book. No one can read all of the words carefully and carelessly thrown about. The battle of which I speak can turn eternal destinies whichever side wins, and likely, neither side will. This war's duration approaches 2000 years now and will rage on until Christ returns. It spins around the question, "How do we read the letters of St. Paul today?"

Over the summer months the lectionary readings will take us through three of Paul's letters and touch briefly on a couple more. The primary letter will be Romans, then brief tours through Philippians and 1 Thessalonians. It is in Romans that Paul lays out the heart of his arguments.

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Here he interprets, through the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures of Israel, what we now call the Old Testament. Here he works out the meaning of the life of Jesus, claiming it fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament. Here he makes radical claims. Not the least of which is this: "... (ultimately) creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21) This last sentence bears reading through a time or two and then some meditation upon it. In fact, it would help to read the verses before and after it and give them some thought.

On this verse, Romans 8:21, N. T. Wright stakes his claim. It is this: "In the Bible, salvation is not God's rescue of people *from* the world but the rescue of the world itself. The whole creation is to be liberated from slavery to decay." He has a whole book on this, Surprised by Hope, which is worth exploring as well.

Now it is not difficult to see why there swirls a verbal storm surrounding Bishop Wright as the whirling dervishes of fundamentalism attack him from all sides. Nonetheless his work is well reasoned and above all grounded in careful biblical interpretation of the Scriptures.

So this summer we will trek through parts of Romans and see what Paul has to say to us. We will explore his ideas for ourselves and discover what he has to say about two important terms, salvation and justification. Remember as we go that Paul writes under inspiration and through the power and insight of the Holy Spirit. We will find that the same spirit works in our own lives to produce faith that becomes "active in love." And, quoting N. T. Wright once more, "



... the way in which that Spirit-driven active faith, at work through love and all that flows from it, explains how God's final rescue of his people from death itself has been accomplished (Romans 8:1-11)."

And then, justification, -- all too briefly: accomplished through Jesus Christ, based on the covenants God made with Israel, declaring us free of sin through faith in Jesus Christ, and displaying a new vision for all of God's creation.

Peter Leithart, who found himself recently evicted from one of the more conservative sectors of the so-called neo-reformed movement, calls N. T. Wright's thought a "Copernican Revolution." Copernicus you might remember discovered or rediscovered the model of the Universe that puts the Sun at the center of our solar system. The church, or at least the Pope and his henchmen supposedly said "NO!" - and were wrong.

I am not so sure what we have here is a Copernican revolution. I think that what we have here is a careful and accurate reading of Scripture. This puts us exactly where we wish to be, in God's world with a greater understanding of God's thought and intent for us, Christ's church, and all Creation.

by Pastor Pete





ASCENSION OF THE LORD Forty days after the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday), we remember and celebrate the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven. On this day, the church gives thanks for Christ's sovereign rule over all the earth, as well as his priestly intercession for us at the throne of mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Ascension of the Lord is remembered on May 25th.



PENTECOST On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world.

Pentecost is celebrated on Sunday, June 4th.

Information provided here is from the website of:



The Palm Sunday congregation was blessed with great shouts of Hosanna from our youngest Sunday School Class. Thanks to Karen Goetschius and Ruth O'Connor for leading the children . What a joy filled worship!



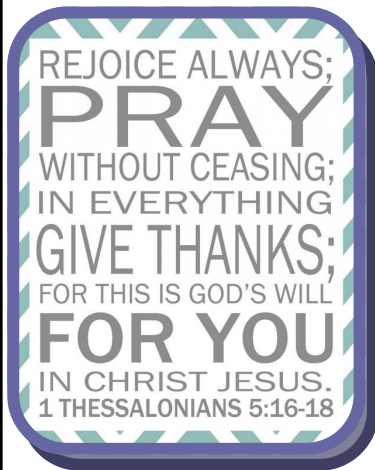
Thank you to our April Greeters: Larry & Debbie Seighman, Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood, Walt & Becky Lange, John & Sheree Wagner, and Mario & Bev Tagliati

Thank you to our April Lectors: Valerie Hansen, Tom Kimble, Jeff Wilkinson, Amy Wilkinson, Doug Ross, and Jodi Dupill

For our prayers: Alex, Ang, Ed Bahney, Abbey Ballas, Renee Bates, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Kim Boylestein, Sarah Brank, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Roxy Chickar, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Shirley Elwood, Barbara Emmerling, Jean Fanelli, Jan Fitzgerald, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Marnee Gormley, Sylvan Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Alex Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Iris Kiebler, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, the family of Dolly Maze, Irma McDivitt, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Carol O'Malley, Thad Overly, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Joanne Smith, Dave Speer, JD Stait, Mary Jane Stait, Dinah Staymates, Steiner, Mildred Striner, Kenny Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jill Tocco, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Wolford, Peter Yurtin, those gripped by addictions, and those who serve in the military.

*Please keep **Eva Bantroch** in your prayers, Eva's brother Robert Watt passed away in April.*

*Please also keep the **Ballas** family in your prayers as Tim's sister, Dolly Maze passed away this week.*



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. 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.



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NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

May 4, 2017—an annual day of observance held on the first Thursday of May, designated by the [United States Congress](#), when people are asked "to turn to God in [prayer](#) and [meditation](#)".

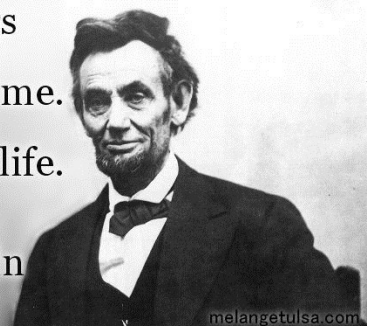
Each year since its inception, the [president](#) has signed a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 

MOM
Mother's Day
Sunday May 14, 2017

I remember my mother's prayers
and they have always followed me.
They have clung to me all my life.

Abraham Lincoln



melangetulsa.com

From the Session Minutes of March 14 & 19, 2017.

NOTE: Session meetings are open to all members of the church.

Complete Session Minutes are available in the office for Church member review.

March 14 - Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Clerk – Connie Cauvel.
Assistant Clerk – Chad McCutcheon, Ron Hileman, Tom Kimble, Nikki McQuaide,
Sandy Chappell, Linda Moorhead Logan Hileman

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of: February 14, 2017

MSC: To accept the Deacon Minutes of: February 6, 2017

MSC: To: accept Treasurer's Report – February 28, 2017

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tim Martin - Annual Report – all Session members should have received email copy

Christian Ed - Sandy Chappell -TGIF on April 14 - contact Laurie Martin

Nominating - Pete will meet with the Committee after Easter.

Old Business:

By-Laws update: Connie and Amy will update and review the By-laws and then share with others for additional input.

Mission Statement - Chad is reviewing with Pete

Cemetery Protocol & update: Linda Moorhead

March 19 – Session Members present: Linda Moorhead, Ron Hileman, Logan Hileman, Tim Martin, Connie Cauvel, Nikki McQuaide, Tom Kimble, Meri Slaughaupt

Business:

From the Trustees: Request to discuss the bid from Barkley Construction for repairs and plaster work in both the Church and Manse. The Trustees were unable to obtain more than one bid. Because it is a large job totaling over \$8,000 Barkley broke it up into several jobs making it affordable. A copy of the bid is available in the Church Office or from the Trustees.

MSC: To award the plaster repairs to Barkley Construction

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: April 11, 2017



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

As always, thank you for the support that you give all of Poke Run's Boards and Committees. Please keep these men and women in your prayers, and consider where YOU can help fulfill the mission of our church.

The Board of Deacons would like to thank all who were involved with the Palm Sunday luncheon. They were especially thankful for all the help at "clean-up" time. There was much food and good fellowship. *"It is truly wonderful when all the people of our church come together and help each other."*



Thank you to the Poke Run Deacons for conducting their annual Easter flower sale and for everyone who decorated our sanctuary on Easter Sunday with your dedications.

FROM THE MARCH 2017 DEACON MINUTES:

Present: All present.

March Minutes and Treasurer's report MSC



Deacon Ministry

Old Business

There were 6 food baskets distributed for Easter.

New Business

Palm Sunday lunch—invitations were sent to Deacon friends and others. Flowers used as centerpieces were distributed to friends.

Strawberry Festival will be advertised in the Ranger and upcoming bulletins. Planning at May meeting.

College student boxes will be packed and sent.

Nicole Goodiski has made, and will continue to make prayers shawls that are available to the Deacons and anyone in the Poke Run congregation to take to individuals in need of comfort and prayers.

POKE RUN CHURCH DEACON'S ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, JUNE 3, 2017 3-6pm



"All-you-can-eat!" Ham BBQ, Hot Dogs, a variety of salads, and of course.....*Strawberry Desserts!!!!!!*

Adults \$8.00 Children \$4.00 Tickets at the Door

Poke Run Presbyterian Women PW

Circle 2: will meet on May 18th AT THE CHURCH - 7pm—

Heidi Hileman will be the Hostess and **Laurie Martin** will be the Leader



ALL ARE WELCOME—
COME AND BRING A FRIEND!





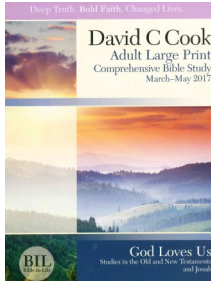
Poke Run Graduation Sunday, May 14, 2017—please make sure the office has your information !



Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

Join a **Sunday School** *Class* **FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class!

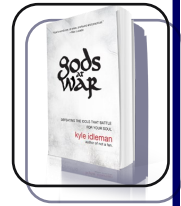


ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL There are currently two active Adult Sunday School classes each Sunday morning.

► 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 **"God Loves Us"**

► The class meeting in the Session room (on the right at the end of the hall) is using the study series, **"God's At War – Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart"** by Kyle Idelman.

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



Many thanks to everyone who attended or helped at the "TGIF" Good Friday program. Special thanks to coordinator **Laurie Martin** and her helpers who planned the day. It was a wonderful outreach for all. This year's theme was "Jesus: King, God and Sacrifice"

Each participant "Heard" the story and left equipped to "Tell" the story with their own set of Resurrection Eggs.





Look for more pictures in the church Narthex and on the bulletin board at the back entrance!

Pine Springs Camp

a place to...
EXPLORE
GROW
BELONG
LEARN
God's Word
HAVE FUN



2017
SUMMER CAMPS • DAY CAMPS • RETREATS



Pine Springs Information pamphlets are available in the church office. Poke Run continues its pledge to send all campers to Pine Springs at no cost—call the office if you are interested. We have 7 campers signed up already.



Mark your calendar
for Vacation Bible
School (VBS) and
watch for details!
JULY 23-27, 2017

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Not all pastors serve in congregations... and not all congregations meet in a church building! Three Redstone pastors serving in validated ministry teach us about the depth and breadth of the Church:

Rev. Lisa Dormire, VP for Mission Support at Redstone Highlands, says "Where do I see Jesus? I see Jesus in the resident, who herself is wheelchair bound due to disease, make it her ministry to visit hospice residents and pray with them. I see Jesus in the tireless efforts of our hospice team members who are so dedicated to 'gentling the journey' for their patients. Obviously, Jesus is just all over the place here at Redstone!"

Rev. Becca Siddle, Chaplain at Redstone Highlands, says "I am inspired by their journeys every day, and witness the Love of Christ in how I hear them tenderly encourage one another, sharing their mutual stories of both loss and hope with one another." There are many similarities to church congregations, but Becca points to one difference: "It's pretty special to be able to hear the Proclamation of the Gospel in our chapel, for example, and then need to take mere footsteps to see and hear and FEEL that Gospel being lived out in real time. Christ is alive, and his Love triumphs every day at Redstone Highlands."

Rev. Susan Blank, Director of Pastoral Care at Presbyterian Senior Care at Oakmont, says "Here I am responsible to ensure that residents of all faith traditions have their spiritual and religious needs met. What a blessing to serve and love all of my neighbors. I learn daily from people who have walked in faith over ninety or a hundred years -- through thick and thin, joy and sorrow, blessings and woes. Here, the words that we pray and sing seem to take on a deeper truth and more urgency: 'Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!'"

Pictured: (Top) A cross Rev. Siddle used in Easter worship, sharing signs of the Resurrection.

(Bottom) Rev. Blank with Sister Dolorita, a Senior Care resident



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



Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia in 2017 June 25-30th

Poke Run will once again be heading to Marion, Virginia to join with Project Crossroads for a week of mission work this summer. Applications are now available. See or call **Linda Chicka** at 724-422-3688 or the Church office.

Mission Trip Meetings - For anyone interested in attending this year's mission trip to Marion, Virginia on June 25-30, there will be an informational meeting on Monday, May 8 at 7:30 in the Sanctuary of Poke Run Presbyterian Church. All participants aged 18 years and older are required to have clearances for this trip. A second meeting will be held Monday, June 12, also at 7:30 at Poke Run. For more information and question, please see **Linda Chicka** or call her at 724-422-3688, or email her at lqchicka@gmail.com.

Please remember that you must have current Youth Protection clearances on file in the office to participate in this and many of our outreaches. Call the office if you ever have any questions.



THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

The next "Work Day" is scheduled for Saturday May 20th—9am at the church. There is always plenty to do. If you were unable to come out in March—this is your chance! Lots of jobs for lots of skill levels,

Lots of projects going on: Plaster work is wrapped up for now. The manse air conditioning is underway.

Our congregation is blessed with knowledge and a desire for service – the dedication of so many certainly helps Poke Run to be prepared and focused on opportunities to call people "...of surrounding communities to respond to the Good News of God's saving love in Jesus Christ."
(Poke Run Mission, October 5, 1993.)

Recognizing our Service Men and Women In Memory of Our Veterans

On Thursday, May 25, members from the Poke Run Cub Scout Troops, the Board of Trustees, and congregation members will be planting flowers on the graves of the veterans who are buried in Poke Run Cemetery. A single red geranium will be placed to recognize the sacrifice and service these veterans gave to help our country stay free.



If you would like to assist in planting, please arrive in the upper cemetery area by 6:00pm. on May 25.

HELP NEEDED: With the good weather comes the growing green of "weeds." If you have any spare time, feel free to ATTACK a flower bed around the church. And watch for opportunities to join others – Thank you in advance for all your help.



REMEMBER:

Poke Run is the local polling place known as Oakland Crossings. Fellowship Hall will be **OFF LIMITS** unless you are voting on Election Day, Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

THANK YOU



A REMINDER:

When using the Poke Run Kitchen facilities either downstairs, upstairs or in the lounge, please do not leave any food items on the counter or in the refrigerators. It is kind

to think that someone else might use it –but it is **SAFER** and **MORE CONSIDERATE** to take it with you.



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

May 13—Redd-Up Camp Day—PSC Work Day—see poster outside office
May 16—Presbytery Meeting—West Hempfield Presbyterian
May 21-24—"Immersion Experience: An invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life" -
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
May 22—Pine Springs Camp Scholarship Golf Outing (see brochures in Narthex)
May 24—Redstone PW Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp
May 25—Union Presbyterian Church Craft Show 9am-4pm



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

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

May 6—7am-5pm—Annual "Spring Dumpster Day" at the Washington Twp
maintenance bldg. on Rt. 66 - restrictions apply.
May 21—8am-1pm "Fishing Derby" Northmoreland Park

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE POKE RUN AND REDSTONE PRESBYTERY OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 29TH, and AMY WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE MAY 22-25TH.**

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



First there were "Snakes in the Manse" - now a HAIL STORM. Amy reports that it sounded like the church was getting bombed—and as you can see, some of the hail stones approached tennis ball size. Both **Amy's and Mike Goetschius'** cars had broken windshields and LOTS of dings.



Congratulations to **Tom Kimble** on his recent retirement !
38 years!










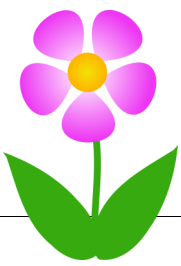
Congratulations to **Caileigh Chappell** as she celebrates induction to the National Honor Society at Greensburg Salem High School with her family.



Share your news—contact the church office!
JUNE RANGER DEADLINE—May 29
PICTURES—can be texted to the church email address!

May



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7pm Deacons	2	3 7pm Choir	4	5	6
7 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	8 9am Congregational Life 7:30pm Mission Trip Meeting	9 7pm Session	10 11:30am "Soup for the Soul" 7pm Choir	11 	12	13
14 <u>Graduate</u> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study 	15	16 	17 7pm Choir	18 Circle 2 	19	20
21 <u>Music App</u> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study 	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 7pm Trustees CEMETERY PLANTING 	26	27
28 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun-Sch 7pm Bible Study	29 OFFICE CLOSED  MEMORIAL DAY Poke Run and Redstone offices closed	30	31 	<div> Note – Spring and Summer hours for the church office can change daily – please call ahead if you are planning to come up to the church for something to make sure Amy is there. 724-327-5563 </div>		

Celebrate in May

May 14— We will celebrate our Graduates during the 11am Worship Service.

May 21— We will celebrate all who have leant their musical talents

Poke Run Presbyterian Church
1091 Poke Run Church Road
Apollo, PA 15613
724-327-5563
pokerun@graced.comcsatbiz.net

“Soup for the Soul” will be Wednesday, May10th.

Cabbage Soup – 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!

This will be the last soup of the season—see you in October!

NEEDED: If you are able to contribute a dessert—please call Amy in the office.

