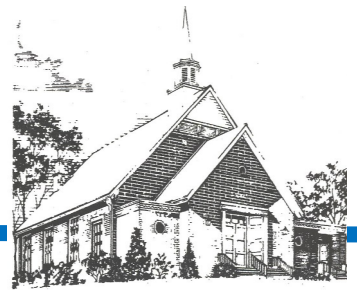


Poke Run Presbyterian Church

THE RANGER - AUGUST 2017



Poke Run continued in 2017 with it's pledge to send and support campers to Pine Springs Camp. This year that included 11 campers—kids and adults. Above is (left to right): **Adleigh Fulton, Lucas Weyel (Barnabas award winner), Austin Weyel, Zoe Holm (Delmont Presbyterian Church), Morgan McGarry, Max Holm (Delmont Presbyterian, Barnabas award), Nina Holm (Delmont Presbyterian), Peyton McGarry.** The *Barnabas award* was given to 2 kids from each camp (4 different camps total this week), and **Lucas** got it for his age group grade K-2. Max got it for his age group, grade 3-5. The Barnabas award (named after the Biblical character) is given to the kids that were the most encouraging to others during the week. **Congratulations Lucas!**

Poke Run also prayed for and cared about a Pine Springs Camp counselor this year:

"Hi my name is Chelsey Bickel and this is my first time as a camp counselor at Pine Springs Camp. I go to Penn State University and I'm studying Chemical Engineering. I've only been at Pine Springs Camp for three days now and I already feel at home. Simply being here for such a short time, I already fully understand why this camp is so important to a lot of people. It's a "thin place" where people of all backgrounds come to enjoy a close relationship with Jesus Christ. A place to build and strengthen a community where God is front and center. ... My hope is that all campers grow in their Christian faith and discipleship just like I have ... I want to thank you again for supporting me, because it really means a lot. I also hope everyone at Poke Run has a Blessed In Christ, Chelsey Bickel."



Inside this issue:

- 2 - Thank you's / Prayer concerns
- 3— 5 Youth Protection Update
- 5 - Important Information from the Office
- 6 - Mission Trip/ Redstone Presbytery

- 7 - Deacons
- 8 - Vacation Bible School Recap
- 9—Christian Ed/ Happenings
- 10—News from the Pews
- 11—Calendar

Thank you to our June & July Lectors: Summer Mazur, Nikki McQuaide, Shelly Chappell, Shyrl Stange, Ruth O'Connor, Becky Lange, Josh Porterfield and Walt Lange



Thank you to our June & July Greeters: Larry & Debbie Seighman, Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood, Jim & Carol Thompson, Amy Wilkinson, Ron & Carole Bowman, Irma McDivitt, Cindy Brooks, Tim & Laurie Martin, Cindy McQuaide, and Walt & Becky Lange



THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

Thank you to our Trustees and everyone who came out to help on the July "Work Day". There is always plenty to do and extra hands certainly make the work lighter. Thank you Trustees for all that you do— and thank you to everyone who sees things that need done and does them—much appreciated.



For our prayers: Ang, Ed Bahney, Abbey Ballas, Renee Bates, Kelly Bell, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Sarah Brank, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Carolyn Buckley, Irene Clark, Jim Dunmire, Shirley Elwood, Barbara Emmerling, Diana Emmerling, Jean Fanelli, Jan Fitzgerald, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Marnee Gormley, Sylvan Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Alex Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Iris Kiebler, Kim, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, John Mango, 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, Larry Seighman,

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.

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.

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.



The Poke Run Nominating Committee has begun their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2018 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers.



The Poke Run Session has approved the following revised “Youth Protection Policy.” The changes further clarify who must have clearances and make clear that those who are coordinating events are responsible for making sure that all volunteers have the required clearances. Because the changes are not specific to the types of required clearances nor change reporting obligations, those who have already signed the “Policy Acknowledgment” do NOT need to sign another. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office. Many of the Poke Run programs require that volunteers have their Child Protection Clearances on file with the office. If you need help obtaining these clearances, please contact Amy in the church office.

Policy to Safe Guard Children and Youth

April 2017 through March 2018

Any policy changes will be provided to Session

I. Philosophy

Poke Run Presbyterian Church is a congregation committed to ensuring the safety and protection of our children and youth from any physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Therefore, the Session has adopted this policy to provide direction for Poke Run Church employees and volunteers, parents, members and visitors to the church and how to seek to safeguard our children and youth and nurture them in Christian love.

The church is committed to maintaining a wholesome and safe environment for work, worship, study, and fellowship for all inspired by Christian love.

II. Guidelines

Age and Qualifications of Caregivers, Volunteers, Christian Educators: Must be 18 years or older or accompanied by a caregiver age 18 or older who has current required clearances.

During all functions that involve children such as Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, it is our policy that two adults with complete Pennsylvania Clearances be present and lead the organization of the program. When a group of minors being sponsored by Poke Run Presbyterian Church is on an overnight event, the adult leaders' gender(s) must include at least one of the gender corresponding to the gender(s) of the group. For example, if the youth group is of mixed gender, there would be at least one man and one woman chaperone present.

Any person wishing to be involved in any Christian Education program at Poke Run Presbyterian Church must read and acknowledge this policy by signing the form, “Acknowledgement and Understanding of Policy.”

Poke Run Presbyterian Church will strive to provide a physical environment that minimizes the risk of harm and supports the careful supervision and appropriate interactions with the leaders between children and youth. Physical surroundings and group size should allow adequate space and visibility for monitoring. All considerations need to be taken such as leaving doors open.

No ministry volunteer shall provide transportation for youth alone without written permission from the youth's parent.

Abuse shall be defined:

For purposes of this policy, child abuse is any action (or lack of action) that endangers or harms a child's physical, psychological or emotional health and development. Child abuse occurs in different ways and includes but is not limited to the following:

Physical Abuse – any physical injury to a child or youth that is not accidental, such as beating, shaking, burns, or biting.

Emotional Abuse – emotional injury when the child or youth is not nurtured or provided with love and security, such as an environment of constant criticism, belittling, persistent teasing.

Sexual Abuse – any sexual activity between child or youth and an adult including activities such as fondling, exhibitionism, intercourse, incest, and pornography.

Neglect – depriving a child or youth of his / her essential needs such as food, water, warmth, attention.

Non-church groups that are not directly sponsored by Poke Run Presbyterian Church will be expected to follow the policy of safeguarding children and youth.

III. Background Checks and Other Documentation

Poke Run Presbyterian Church requires the following for the staff and volunteers who have direct contact and / or who are working with children and youth. Both paid staff and volunteers will have updated documentation on file in the office. The Church Secretary will keep on file all of the documentation of both staff and volunteers. Clearances must be current within the past 60 months and be renewed at the beginning of the year of expiration.

The person who is coordinating the event is responsible for making sure every volunteer has the required clearances, and the clearances are current.

The paid Church Staff with direct contact with children will have:

Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance from the Childline and Abuse Registry.

<https://epatch.state.pa.us>

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse History Clearance Report

<http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Federal Criminal History Report; (fingerprint-based background check) - FBI

http://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpwnNew.htm

Volunteers that have direct contact with children will have:

Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance from the Childline and Abuse Registry.

<https://epatch.state.pa.us>

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Child Abuse History Clearance Report

<http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Either the Federal Criminal History Report; (fingerprint-based background check) - FBI

http://www.pa.cogentid.com/index_dpwnNew.htm or a notarized *Poke Run Presbyterian Church*

Affidavit/Volunteer Exemption for Federal Criminal History Report. The affidavit can only be used in lieu of the fingerprint-based background check if the individual can swear and affirm to the following:

He/she has been a resident of Pennsylvania for the entirety of the past 10 years.

He/she has not been convicted of, or participated in the attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit the noted offenses listed under Title 18 of the Pennsylvania crimes code as disqualifying of service on the affidavit; nor has there been any conviction of a similar offense in any other state or places listed on the affidavit.

He/she has not had a felony conviction for a violation of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act (35P.S. sec. 780-101 et. seq.) during the five (5) year period immediately preceding the date of the affidavit.

He/she has not been named as a perpetrator of a founded report in the Pennsylvania Statewide Database for an act of child abuse committed within the five (5) year period immediately preceding the date of the affidavit.

IV. Exceptions to Background Check Requirements:

Any volunteer under the age of 18 is exempt from the above mentioned background checks.

V. Procedures for Reporting and Handling Violations

It is the responsibility by law of an adult with clearances (mandated reporter) who has witnessed or suspects abuse to make an immediate and direct report of the suspected child abuse to ChildLine either electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis or by calling 1-800-932-0313.

After making the report to ChildLine, mandated reporters are required to immediately thereafter notify the Program Leader or Coordinator of the church program, who will report and alert the Church Pastor or Clerk of Session.

If an oral report was made to ChildLine, a "Report of Suspected Child Abuse" (CY 47) must also be completed and forwarded to the county children and youth agency within 48 hours after making the report. This form can be obtained at www.KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov or from the children and youth agency. If a report is made electronically, no CY-47 is required to be completed for the county children and youth agency.

A copy of the CY-47 report must be completed and submitted to the Clerk of Session regardless of the method of reporting to the state or county authorities.

If a volunteer observes behavior or overhears conversation that causes suspicion, it is not their role to further investigate or provide counseling. Because of the sensitive nature of such accusations and suspicions, volunteers should not share this information with others with the exceptions listed above in Section V, Item 1 and 2



Pastor Pete will be on vacation August 13th and August 20th

Please contact the office with any emergencies or pastoral needs.

Preaching for us will be:

August 13th—Executive Presbyter of Redstone Presbytery—Skip Noftzger

August 20th—Laypastor Robert Fleischman

Church Office Hours at the Church remain at 9:30am—2:30pm most days.
Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! The messages and emails will be checked.

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. The Office promise: you will NOT be inundated with emails!



shutterstock - 61426510



POKE RUN CHURCH will NOT be volunteering at the WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOODBANK in August as previously scheduled.



**Bring
a
Friend**
Share the Word!

Welcome back! Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Virginia Mission Trip and special thank you to all who prayed for and supported this group.

This year's group (pictured at right, represented the congregations of Poke Run, 1st Baptist Church of Apollo, New Beginnings Baptist, Park Baptist Church of McKeesport, 1st Baptist Church of Woodbridge, VA, Clarksburg Presbyterian Church and Slickville Evangelical Church.

Participating from the Poke Run congregation were: Linda Chicka, Bob Wilson, Freda Bowman and Edyth Elwood



Christ at work in our midst



At the end of this October, members of Protestant denominations, which includes the P.C.(USA), will commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his 95 theses to his church door in Wittenberg, an event commonly cited as the start of the Protestant Reformation. Looking for some ideas? Check out the resources below and share your celebrations on our Presbytery Facebook page!

*Presbyterian Historical Society (www.history.pcusa.org) – This site has bulletin inserts, loads of information on the history of the Reformation and specifically the Presbyterian Church.

*Theological Conversations Series (www.presbyterianmission.org search “theological conversations”) – A series of discussion papers written by leadership across the P.C.(USA) that explore what we have to offer the church and the world in the next 500 years.

*PC(USA) Store (www.pcusastore.org) – Want some great material for Sunday School or an Adult Ed class? Check out Donald McKim's new “Being Reformed” installment, *The Protestant Reformations*. Or the new “Growing in Grace & Gratitude” lesson, *Luther learns from Paul*.

**How are YOU celebrating 500 years of
‘the church reformed, always reforming?’**

Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Before Rev. Lee McDermott came to McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, he had never served a church with its own cemetery. The cemetery manager, Bo McCahill helped him think about the ministry opportunities, particularly as he described his own calling to serve God helping families as they lay their loved ones to rest.



“Many families come to visit the grave sites; they have stories & histories that began here. I get the honor to hear their stories and help make the connection between their history and faith. I often conduct graveside committal services for people who moved out-of-state and wished to be buried in the place where they first came to live. So many of these stories are connected to one another.

“We get to honor veterans buried in our cemetery. We have a Revolutionary War soldier who served as the personal secretary to George Washington. Each May, the local high school's JROTC helps us prepare the cemetery for Memorial Day weekend, placing American flags on each veteran's grave. Each Memorial Day weekend the church joins the local American Legion and VFW as they conduct a ceremony in honor of all those veterans buried here. We post both events on our Facebook page which gets more views than anything else.”

Visit redstonetogether.blogspot.com for an expanded version of this Redstone Story and to share your thoughts and ideas.

WILL YOU HELP?

*“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will obtain mercy.”*



The Synod of the Trinity has authorized a matching grant up to \$4,000 for Redstone Presbytery. This will be for humanitarian relief in South Sudan, where our Christian brothers and sisters are praying for deliverance from hunger, disease, violence, and injustice.

This is a great Mission “Project” that even a very small group in your church could do in support of God's children in Africa.

EVERY DOLLAR YOU COLLECT MATTERS

We pray for your participation so that we can match what the Synod is offering. An active witness from our saints here in Redstone Presbytery congregations illustrates one way that the Kingdom of God is built.

Please mail your offerings to:
Redstone Presbytery,
1004 Mt. Pleasant Road,
Greensburg, PA 15601

by World Communion Sunday, October 1st, and indicate that it is for the South Sudan Abundance grant in the memo line.



Deacon Ministry

The Poke Run Deacons - Our Deacons spend time caring for our own 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 your student's information to the Church office or call it in—the Poke Run Deacons have a special place in their hearts for these dear ones.



Thank you Deacons for all that you do.



The Poke Run Deacons would like to thank everyone who turned out for their annual Strawberry Festival fundraiser! It was a busy busy time with lots of good things to eat. Your support of the Mission of our Deacons is so important and so appreciated! Below is a photo of Mr. Elmer Foley whose mother, made and donated the "strawberry themed aprons," years ago.

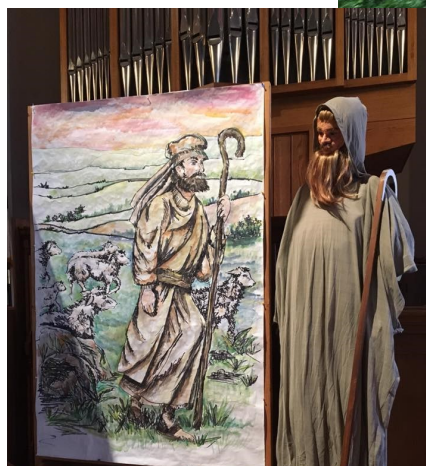




Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Vacation Bible School. It was a Great week filled with fun and worship.

"Thank you to Everyone who participated in, donated to, and prayed for Poke Run's Vacation Bible School program. A special thank you to Karen Goetschius for writing this year's curriculum and to Don and Pat Lengauer for the beautiful artwork! "..... VBS Leader Linda Chicka

A portion of this year's offering will be sent to *"The Heifer Project"*, an international organization whose "mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth....Heifer distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by sharing animal offspring, as well as the skills and knowledge of animal husbandry and agricultural training with other impoverished families." Through our giving, we were able to "give" a pig, goat, sheep, a share of a cow, flocks of geese, ducks, chickens, trees, bees, and seed gift baskets. Thank you for your generosity!



Special thanks to the North Apollo Salvation Army for loaning us a mannequin and to Pat Lengauer for transforming it into a special presence of "Jesus"



Sunday School at Poke Run Church

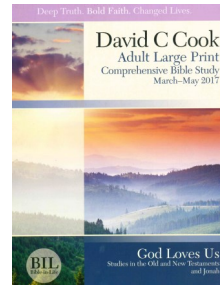
Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class will resume in September

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's Urgent Call"**

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



If there were cellphones at the Red Sea

HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

8/26 Peach Fest & Bake Sale, New Salem Presbyterian

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

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

August 13th—Festa Italiano—Kennedy Park, Vandergrift, PA

Farmer's Markets:

Tuesdays—4-7pm, Export—Kennedy Avenue

Wednesdays—White Valley Amvets 3-7pm

Thursdays—3-5:30pm, Vandergrift—Columbia Avenue

Thursdays—3-7pm, Murrysville—Sardis Road



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



GEARHARD FARMS



CORN MAZE



shutterstock - 70613347

Corn Maze opens on Sat, Sept 2nd and runs through Sunday, Oct 28th. Walk-ins: \$7.

Labor Day hours: Sat: 12-9pm, Sun: 12-9pm, Mon: 12-8pm.

Normal hours of operation: Fri: 5-9pm, Sat: 12-9pm, Sun: 12-7pm.



Congratulations to **Barbi Findley** on her retirement !

ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION for All Present

Date 6/25/17

Name	Address, Telephone, Zip Code	E-Mail Address	Member of This Church	Attend Here Regularly	Wish to Join This Church	Desire a Call	New Resident	Visitor
<i>Dave Thomas</i>			✓					
<i>Janet Thomas</i>			✓					
<i>Janet and I were married in this church June 25, 1955 by Rev Brice 62 years today</i>								



Happy Anniversary to **Dave & Janet Thomas!** (share your good news on the Attendance Pads!)



If you have appropriate News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next Ranger deadline is August 28th. The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions.

PHOTOS WANTED!!!!




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





August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm Mission & Stewardship	3	4	5
6  8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch 7pm Bible	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch 7pm Bible	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch 7pm Bible	21	22	23	24 7pm Trustees	25	26
27 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am Sun- Sch 7pm Bible	28 	29	30	31		



Pastor Pete will be on vacation August 13th and August 20th

Please contact the office with any emergencies or pastoral needs.

Preaching for us will be:

August 13th—Executive Presbyter of Redstone Presbytery—Skip Noftzger

August 20th—Laypastor Robert Fleischman

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



Please come
& worship
with us!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 & 11am Worship Services

10am Sunday School—for all ages

7pm Bible Study