

I am not at all concerned about, how shall I say this, an argument I once had about an alligator that was believed to be Big Foot. The discussion emerged in a small establishment in Tampa, Florida that served both beer and sandwiches. I am very interested in things that go bump in the night and upset our normal and safe belief patterns, and so I was intrigued. There is much more to the world than we believe, and probably much more going on than we can believe. Now I definitely believe in alligators and once very nearly stepped on one, a good 10-12 footer, or so it seemed at the time, exaggeration is possible in stressed situations. I really did not stay around to measure. Fortunately this alligator was either deep into sleep, lazy, or not hungry. But Big Foot, that is an open question. Show me evidence.

The claim was made by another young man, and I too was quite young at the time, although I would have told you I was quite mature, that he had seen "Big-Foot" while canoeing at night on the Hillsborough River, just to the north of Tampa. He knew this, he claimed, because his headlamp had picked up the glow of Big Foot's eyes. Well, I don't know if you have ever been in a swampy area in Florida at night with only a headlamp, but in the surrounding darkness and with the mists that rise off the water and the night sounds, it can be a very spooky place, and very nearly anything can be "seen." Add to this that this same young gentleman, who occasionally drank a bit, gave me expert advice on canoes. Aluminum canoes he claimed, were much better than fiberglass canoes. The reason: he had once backed his fiberglass canoe into his garage and it fractured so that it was unfixable. His aluminum canoe, suffering the same indignity, was easily pounded back into shape.

And so, the argument did not distress me or cause me to change my beliefs or even come to mind except at odd times like this one. But then there are times when arguments do have force and we often react to them, sometimes violently. When this happens we need to take a step back and examine what we truly believe, because we do not get excited about challenges to the truths that we hold firmly. These truths are almost unshakeable. When, as occasionally happens, I read a book or essay the ends up in the shredder I find that inevitably I need to reorder the book and read it carefully to discover which beliefs have been challenged and about which I am certainly uncertain. Guaranteed I will find a belief that I hold with no strong conviction and that needs to be tossed into the dustbin of oblivion.

Sometimes God confronts us directly as Jesus so often did with the ubiquitous Scribes and Pharisees who held many beliefs with no biblical support and often with no support at all. It is easy to see why the religious authorities felt so threatened by Jesus. However there is another kind of change that comes upon us gently and more powerfully that the change evoked by logic and argument, if logic and argument ever provoked anything other than more argument and less logic. Over the years I watched my mother change. She changed from a child with a hyper fundamentalist – at one time called fighting fundamentalists – background to an aged and graceful Episcopalian who received the sacraments and prayed out of the prayer book, that is "The Book of Common Prayer." Her copy of this book is well used, well worn, and precious. I use it for the collects, ancient and contemporary, well, sort of contemporary. It reminds me, as some of its pages are falling out, of my grandmother's Bible, which I also have with its New Testament read to shreds.

This brings me to my main point, our own, PC(USA) Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer. I have given away many copies of this little book and if you do not have one I will gladly give you one, free of charge, whether you are a church member or not, and even whether you are a Christian or not, and even if you are an atheist and hate Christianity and think it the scourge of the earth. I will gladly give you a copy. If you use it properly it will change your life, even if you hate change and fear to have your ultimate beliefs shattered and torn to shreds. I will not try to convince you that alligators are a stand in for Big Foot. I will simply let the Holy Spirit do its work as I am convinced is happening both inside and outside the church. Hang on for the ride, God is moving!

If you have a copy of this book read through today's morning prayer, if not, just follow along. The "argument" is the same. In today's prayer the pronouns are collective. The word "I" is not used. The prayers are not about me. In the collective wisdom of the church – and the PC(USA) - we wisely used much from the "Book of Common Prayer." Prayer is about calling God into our world, or, recognizing God here and now. Read on, I pray. We can conclude with this little collect. "Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

Who among us is brave enough to pray that prayer? May God strengthen us through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** from Pastor Pete

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Communion is shared during the 8:30am Early Worship service every Sunday morning. Additionally, Communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2018.

May 20th—Pentecost(11am)	August 5th(11am)
June 3rd(11am)	September 9th(11am)
July 1st (11am)	October 7th(11am)
	December 2nd—1st Sunday of Advent(11am)



Thank you to everyone who served during the Worship Services in March.

Our March Greeters: Dave & Janet Thomas, Bob & Darlene Thompson, Edyth Elwood, Freda Bowman, Ron & Carole Bowman, and Walt & Becky Lange

Our March Lectors: Cindy McQuaide, Shyrl Stange, Cliff Dupill and Patrick Wilkinson

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. Thank you too, to the TGIF youth who prepared the sanctuary for Easter worship.

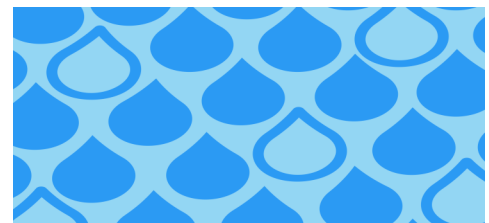


Maundy Thursday

*Thank you **Circle 2** for providing dinner before Maundy Thursday worship. This tradition of sharing a meal together before this time of Worship has been a great blessing to the congregation, plan on attending next year.*



On Palm Sunday, we celebrated the gift of baptism and we celebrated a new member. *Leila Stormer and Joe Dulude* were baptized at the early Worship service where Leila then joined the Poke Run congregation. At the late Worship service, Pastor Pete baptized *Aria Vogel*, great granddaughter of *Jane and Jack Blair*.



Thankful for the Poke Run Handbell choir, who shared their musical gifts . If you are interested in participating in this musical ministry see Sean or a choir member. NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!! Join them!



For our prayers:

Scott Ankney, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Nancy Bruner, Carolyn Buckley, William Caldwell, Dave Carroll, Irene Clark, Collin, Kelly Daugherty Farley, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Jean Fanelli, Barbi Findley, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Marnee Gormley, Sally Graham, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Frank Hansen, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Joyce Hodges, Brenda Hughes, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Kim, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Pat Lengauer, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Tammy Libengood, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Heather Lynn, John Mango, Irma McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Conrad McQuaide, Amy McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Thad Overly, Sandy Pajak, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Mufalda Pisone, Winifred Powers, Rafael Rincon, Reno, Steve Roman, Mary Ellen Ross and all of the family of Glenn Ross, the family of Bill Schmidt, Larry Seighman, Valerie Shondelmyer, Joanne Smith, Carol Soule, JD Staite, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Jennifer Steiner, Mildred Striner, Ken Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Adam Weaver, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Kate Wolford, Peter Yurtin, those involved in the recent shootings, those gripped by addictions, those who serve in the military, our country, and our world.



Poke Run member *Glenn Ross* passed away on March 30th. Glenn joined the Poke Run congregation on September 27, 1964. Glenn raised his family in the communion of Poke Run, served as the Treasurer for Poke Run, an Elder, further as Clerk of Session, was a long faithful member of the Poke Run Chancel Choir, Poke Run Sunday School, on numerous committees, and wherever and whenever needed. *Please keep Glenn's family in your thoughts and prayers.*

Please also keep in prayer, the family of *Bill Schmidt* (son of *Ed & Betty Schmidt* who passed last year.) *Bill* died on April 4th.

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.



Teaching Artwork Featured at "TGIF" Kid's Program—Thank you to *Don & Pat Lengauer* for sharing their gifts of artistry!

SESSION MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH. COMPLETE SESSION MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR CHURCH MEMBER REVIEW. THE NEXT SESSION MEETING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 10TH AT 7PM.

From the Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session Minutes for February 13, 2018

The stated meeting of the Session met in the Sunday school rooms. A quorum was present and, Rev. Peter Goetschius, Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and devotions. **2018 Theme: "How to bring God's Word to all people in this place and time"**

Session Members present: Rev. Peter Goetschius -Moderator, Clerk – Connie Cauvel. Assistant Clerk – Chad McCutcheon, Sandy Chappell, Tom Kimble, Bob Wilson, Brett Stevenson, Laurie Martin, Caileigh Chappell **Excused:** Nikki McQuaide
Guests: Karen Goetschius - Welcome!

MSC: To approve the Session Minutes of: January 9, 2018, Deacon Minutes of: December 4, 2017 (did not meet in January), Trustee minutes of: November 11, 2017, Treasurer's Report – 1/31/18

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: Tom Kimble

Christian Ed & Youth: Sandy Chappell –

Discussed Pine Springs Camperships and the concern as to how to continue to fund them. Laurie Martin stated that to get the discount for registering early applications had to be

submitted by March 15. In order to expedite this, and save the church money the following motion was passed – which will require approval by both the Christian Ed and Mission & Stewardship committees.

MSC: If the way be clear – take money from the dividends of unrestricted Mission and Stewardship funds & available funds from Christian Ed to create a fund for Pine Springs Camperships.

Nominating: Brett Stevenson & Chad McCutcheon - Pete will meet with the Committee after Easter.

Ad Hoc Committees

Kitchen Committee – Sandy Chappell Secured used dishwasher sinks from an online auction also shelving - they had to go to the restaurant and tear it out. Committee would like to paint kitchen before going forward with changes.

Fishing Team – Tom Kimble Team is considering the following: Twitter account to communicate information about Poke Run, Develop information packets for distribution to local communities, primarily to new residents Prepare/generate a map that shows the location of Poke Run in relation to local landmarks, businesses and communities Attend Sunday services at various local churches that are known to have large memberships and strong attendance, for the purpose of understanding the main elements of their services. Look into setting-up more Sunday services geared for youth

Old Business:

MSC: To approve the 2018 Calendar

Laurie Martin presented the changes and updates to the Child Protection Policy for a first read, with goal of a Session vote at our March meeting.

"Hope in a Bag" starts February 25

Reminder contact – Jeremy Kowalczyk (former Adelphoi employee) if we have work or projects they can help us with.

New Business:

Karen Goetschius met with Session to discuss her Children's Sunday School Class and to give us the opportunity to thank her for all she does for our children at Poke Run Karen shared with us that teaching Sunday School is "Truly is the delight of my week!" She patterns her class after VBS because the children like to keep moving; She starts worship or praise songs because music is a great gift from God. Then they go down hall for their lesson which makes relate to school and their siblings because that is their lives She has a new Bulletin Board in the hallway with the theme: Follow Christ to the Cross. The children will sing two Sundays before Easter, which is March 18. She is also developing the curriculum for our Vacation Bible School. The theme this year is Miracles. She cannot say enough about how much she and the children appreciate Miss Ruthie.

TGIF Laurie Martin reported that the Theme for this year's Good Friday program is Feed My Sheep. Children will make Operation Christmas Child Boxes. The collection dates are February 25 – March 18, which coincides with Hope in a Bag.

MSC: Collect items for Operation Christmas Child Boxes and money for inflatable soccer ball and pump in each box

MSC: To approve Clerk of Session Annual Report Statistical Report for Presbytery

MSC: To approve Sunday, March 11 - Jeff's Wilkinson Eagle Ceremony in Poke Run Sanctuary with dinner in Fellowship Hall afterward. Pastor Pete will be taking part.

MSC: To approve the Baptism of Aria Vogel (Jane Blair's great grand-daughter) – Palm Sunday March 25,

MSC: Approval of 2018 Calendar

MSC: To Approve First Aid/AED Class

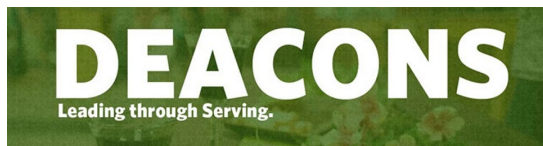
Close with prayer: Ron Hileman

Adjourn: 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)





**POKE RUN CHURCH
DEACON'S
ANNUAL STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL
JUNE 2, 2018
Mark Your Calendars!!!**



DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

FEB 5, 2018

Present: Nancy Kimble, Shelly Chappell-Vaia, Sandy Ballas, Shyrl Stange, and Ruth O'Connor

Absent: Tammy Kelly, Debra Ross, Debbie Seighman, Barbi Findley, Nancy Dombroske, Diane Scott, and Cindy Brooks

Pastor Pete opened with prayer and a Ted Talk Video on drug addiction.

The minutes for Dec were MSC.

The treasurer's report for Dec was MSC

12/4/17	Balance	\$3807.56
	Deposits	\$1140.00
	Debits	\$1464.07

2/5/18	Balance	\$3483.79
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Old Business: 9 Christmas Food baskets were purchased. Presents from the Giving Tree were collected by Linda Moorhead. Christmas presents were also purchased by Cindy and Ruthie for a family, whose mother was incarcerated. They were delivered to the family by Linda Chicka and Pastor Pete.

New Business: The contact list was updated with new Deacons' information. The Poke Run Friend list was updated and new Deacons paired with a Friend on the list. Shelly Chappell-Vaia is going to be the Budget and Finance Committee Representative, with Ruthie as the backup person.

We need to appoint a Deacon to the nominating committee. We also need to decide on dates for The Strawberry Festival, and other functions, for the church calendar. The committee list will be updated at the next meeting, along with any changes to who will serve as this year's Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The next meeting will be held March 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Seighman, Secretary



More "TGIF" art!





From the Poke Run Office

Office Hours at the Church 9:30am—2:30pm most days. Call ahead to be sure Amy is there! **Never hesitate to contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.**

Next Ranger Deadline: April 25th

Directory

A 2018 Directory update is Happening! - Check with the office to verify and update your information. 724-327-5563 or email your information to pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net Hoping to publish soon. Thank you.



From the Poke Run Budget & Finance Committee

The Poke Run Annual Report for 2017 is complete. Copies are available in the Narthex or you can request an electronic copy by email. Just call the office. **If you would like to receive a statement of your first quarter giving, contact the office.**

The “FIRST FRUITS” offering is Poke Run’s commitment to the larger church. Please consider an offering beyond your local giving, of \$35 per member.



TAKE NOTE: FROM Tim Martin, Chairman Budget & Finance Committee

“We’ve recently been asked what affect the new tax laws will have on giving to Poke Run Church. Frankly speaking, there are concerns that the new bill could negatively affect giving. Nationwide, many tax attorneys and universities that study these issues are publicly stating that “the potential negative impact on charitable giving estimated to be \$13 Billion in a recent study means churches and charities are a loser from this legislation”. Other tax experts are saying the opposite that the bill “might actually increase giving because of the economic growth and tax reductions”.

As a congregation, Poke Run has weathered some economic struggles over the course of history. This congregation has continually shown it is very committed to supporting its Mission & and Benevolence programs externally, as well as its internal budget needs. The last 15 months have been remarkable. The Current Fund started 2017 underfunded by almost \$10,000. The situation was bleak, and got worse through the summer. There was actually some talk about cutting some of our budget line items during the summer months. The giving was slow at first, but then it stepped up and the last quarter was extra-ordinarily strong. We finished the year with an excess of over \$20,000.

We, as the Budget & Finance Committee will continue to look at our program offerings, insuring we are good stewards of the gifts we receive. We will continue to work with the Mission and Stewardship Committee in supporting programs outside our church –what makes sense to fund and how to support the programs. Furthermore, we meet on a consistent basis with our financial consultants to maximize our returns on our investment portfolio, in a conservative growth risk managed process. We have found that our endowment fund alternatives are a good option for those who want to give money to Poke Run in non-traditional way. We continue to be blessed and amazed at the generosity of our members.

Things are cyclical in culture and there will always be some tough economic times, but we think Poke Run is poised to weather those “storms”. Thanks to all who support the programs at Poke Run Presbyterian Church. Giving of your time, talents and offerings do make a difference!

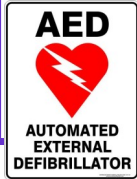
The Budget & Finance committee is looking for an additional member representing the congregation. Please contact Tim Martin if you are interested.



THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

Thank you to everyone who came out to help on the March "Trustee Work Day" - many hands made for lighter work. Take note of all the new space in front of the sanctuary, this was especially appreciated on Palm Sunday, to accommodate the baptisms, and also as the grand piano is used. **Watch for the next opportunity to help out our Trustees and if you see something that needs their attention, please notify the office.**

THANK YOU TRUSTEES AND HELPERS!!!!



Thank you too, to **Valerie Hansen** for arranging for the recent AED/CPR training. The AED is located in the Narthex of Poke Run Church—the Trustees will be adding signage for direction to this device.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



Women of the Church/Circle 2 will be meeting on Thursday, April 19th, at 7pm at the church. The hostess will be Valerie Hansen and the leader will be Ruth O'Connor. If this is a group you might be interested in getting involved with, come out and join in. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!.



**Redstone Presbyterian Women
Spring Retreat**
Tuesday, May 29, 2018
Pine Springs Camp, Jennerstown PA
Just north of Route 30 off Route 985



9:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30-2:30 Program for the day and a satisfying lunch

Your Prayer Personality with Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro

Colleen has held two Interim Ministry positions in The Presbytery of Redstone. Colleen currently serves at Third Presbyterian Church in Uniontown and was previously at Fort Burd Presbyterian Church in Brownsville. She first pastored a church in Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery in West Virginia for 8 years. Colleen earned her Community Ministry degree from Geneva College. She studied at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary earning a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry in Reformed Christian Spirituality. Before being called to the ministry Colleen managed several medical practices and taught Medical Assisting. Colleen has lived most of her life in Washington, PA. She is married to Steven and they have an English Springer Spaniel, Nick. Colleen loves to spend time with their two-year-old grandson.

The mission project will be to, again, supply the makings of S'mores, marshmallows, chocolate bars, & graham crackers, for campers as they enjoy evenings around the campfire.



Contact the Church Office for more information about any of the programs for Presbyterian Women.

Stay Connected to PW

- PW on Facebook: www.facebook.com
Search for "Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA)"
- PW on Twitter: www.twitter.com
- PW on Pinterest: www.pinterest.com Sign up then search for Presbyterian Women
- Direct calls to the PW office can be made by calling 844-797-2872



Thank you to the Poke Run Presbyterian Women for their continued support of our Embrace Grace program! Embrace Grace recently hosted a baby shower for the Moms in our group. One of the women was especially touched when she received her Bible. Thank you for continuing to support our ministry in this way!

Pictures Ellie, Dan, Callie, and Miles playing games at the Shower





Sunday School at Poke Run Church

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

FOR THE KIDS Children's Class! – for all ages

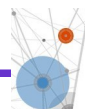
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall) - using the David C. Cook series titled **"Acknowledging God"**

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



**ABOVE: The week before Easter, Poke Run's kids shared the music they 've learned and loved—
Thank you Miss Karen and Miss Ruthie for all that you do for Poke Run's KIDS!!!**



Pine Springs 2018 Information is available! Poke Run continues its desire to see all who wish to attend Pine Springs Camp—call the office if you are interested.

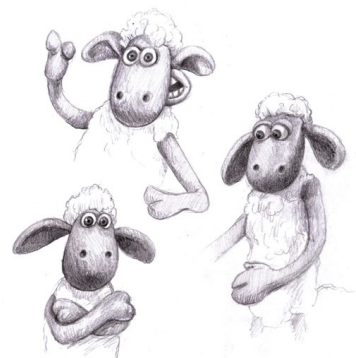
We have 5 campers signed up already.



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.

Laurie reported that there were about 40 children in attendance and probably the same in helpers.

This year's theme was "Feed My Sheep!" Each participant, "fed sheep". The kids made gifts and filled "Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes with donated soccer balls & pumps, and other items generously donated by the Poke Run Congregation and community. Everyone learned about Jesus' new covenant "LOVE ONE ANOTHER" through hearing the Word, experiencing the Word, through art and play-acting, through serving together. And through meeting "Mercy" the miniature pony. Enjoy the following pictures of the day.





Mercy is a thoroughbred Miniature Horse born in Colorado in 2013. Her father (sire) was a show champion.

She was sold, with her mom, to a PA farm, which really wanted only her mom. Mercy was about to go to auction when our friend, Joy, rescued her. After a time at Victory Stables, Mercy came to us and her "forever home".

Her name reminds us of the mercy God has for us. HE told us to pass it on. (Matt 25:32-40; Ephesians 4:32)

There are Acts of Mercy we ALL can do every day:

"We are to act in love toward all God's Children.

"We are to forgive others, as God forgives us.

"We are to help others in need.

Jesus said, "Whatever you do for one another, you do unto me."

We hope you will share God's mercy with others as we have shared with you.

Hopeful Hearts MINI-stories



**VBS
2018**

**Mark your calendar for
Vacation Bible School
(VBS) JULY 22-26, 2018
Watch for more details!
And get ready to learn
more about the Miracles of Jesus!**

Graduate Sunday:

May 13, 2018

Please contact the office if you have a graduate in your life. We would like to recognize Poke Run's graduates, high school, college, etc. and certainly share good news of those you love. Please submit your grad information by April 15th.



Poke Run Mission Team Returns to Marion, Virginia in 2018 June 24-29th

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. **The first Trip meeting will be Monday, May 14th at 7:30pm.** Please remember that you must have current Youth Protection clearances on file in the office to participate in this and many of our outreaches.

**WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS**

ALL VOLUNTEERS: The Poke Run Session recently passed a new version of the Poke Run "Child Safeguard Policy." All volunteers must receive the new policy and sign an acknowledgment to that effect. Many of the church activities require that you be aware of Poke Run's "Policy to Safeguard Children" and have proper clearances. If you need help obtaining these, call Amy in the office.

"Soup for the Soul" will be Wednesday, April 11th. Ham and Bean 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!



Stories of Redstone

Christ at work in our midst

Preschool has become a great way for kids to prepare for kindergarten and beyond. Some of the churches in our presbytery have fantastic preschools that have helped children learn in an environment that emphasizes God's love for all of creation and its creatures. Our preschools can be a great outreach to families in the community, and even provide a safe space for families to explore their faith with the church community. Here are two great preschools in our Presbyterian churches:



**Newlonsburg
Church
Preschool**



Started in 1978 as a "Parents' Day Out," Newlonsburg Church Preschool in Murrysville operates from Labor Day to Memorial Day, with options 3 days a week that include full day and half day class times. Their goals are to nurture a strong self-image, to provide a happy and positive introduction to school, and to help each child develop the skills, attitude and knowledge that will serve as the foundation for future learning. You can learn more by visiting newlonsburgchurch.org.

First Presbyterian Preschool, Greensburg

Since it's start over fifty years ago, the preschool has grown in its offerings, with classes for 3, 4, & 5 year olds. The overall program is designed to foster an atmosphere of Christian values in which the children will learn to work, play and share with others while being conducive to creative play and exploration of the social world. Parent involvement is encouraged too! You can learn more about their multiple offerings by visiting fpcgpreschool.weebly.com.

SCIENCE!

Conversations and Community Series

October 2017 - April 2018

Science and faith have something in common – the capacity to invoke a sense of wonder by engaging the world around us! Engage in this series of conversations led by scientists working in some of the fascinating areas that affect our daily lives. No science background necessary!

Each session will include content provided by the presenter and discussion. On most dates, participants are invited to chapel and to have lunch together as a group so the conversation can continue. Come to one, two, or all dates!

This series is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is strongly recommended for the series and required for the Feb. and March events.

This series is underwritten by a generous grant from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



April 18, 2018, 9:30-1:30 p.m.

Genetic Engineering

Lisa Parker, Professor of Human Genetics and Director of Graduate Education, Center for Bioethics and Health Law, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

More information at

412-924-1345 or ConEd@pts.edu

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SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING**
GOLF AT THE HISTORIC AND BEAUTIFUL



Arnold Palmer's
LATROBE COUNTRY CLUB

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018

WWW.PINESPRNGS.ORG

Redstone

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Laundry

Caregivers

Certified Nursing Assistant

Licensed Nurses

Nurse Aid Training

724-972-4788

www.redstonehighlands.org



HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

April 14—Presbyterian Women PW Spring Gathering , Johnstown

April 21—Community Roast Beef Dinner 4-7pm, Delmont Presbyterian

April 23—"Road to Hope", Opioid Addiction Forum, Newlonsburg Presbyterian,
Murrysville 7pm

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

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

COMING IN MAY

May 5—Washington Township Dumpster Days 7am-5pm some restrictions apply

Opioid Addiction:

Road to Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
—Jeremiah 29

Opioid Informational Forum

April 23 at 7:00 pm

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
4600 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville, PA 15668

Panel of Speakers:

Tim Phillips - Westmoreland Co. Drug Overdose Task Force
Elizabeth Comer - Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Comm
Greenbriar Treatment Center - Kira Lopresto B.A.
Sage's Army - "Christine" sharing recovery
Dawn Hennessey - Dir. Faith Forward and Angel Arms
Open Discussion
Prayer



Congratulations to Jeff Wilkinson who received his Eagle Scout rank at Poke Run last month. Jeff installed a 30 foot flag pole at the Kiski Area High School soccer field as part his Eagle Project.



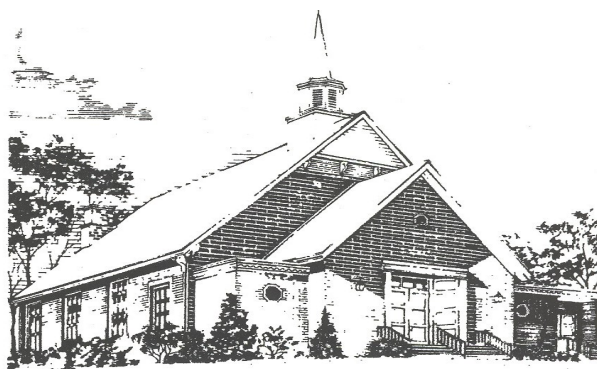
PHOTOS WANTED!!!! The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pics from church functions. Share your good news—contact the church office!

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>1 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3 7pm Budget & Finance</p>	<p>4 7pm Mission & Stewardship</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>9 7pm Deacons</p>	<p>10 7pm Session</p>	<p>11 <u>noon "Soup for the Soul"</u> 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>19 <u>Circle 2</u></p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir</p>	<p>26 7pm Trustees</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<div> <p>If you have appropriate News to share in the Poke Run Ranger—please submit it to the office. The next Ranger deadline is April 25, 2018.</p> </div>				



**Poke Run Presbyterian Church
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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