



## ***Poke Run Presbyterian Church— “The Ranger” December 2018***

Someone, I believe it was Mark Twain, or perhaps someone like Mark Twin, quipped that Christianity requires one to believe ten, more or less, impossible things before breakfast. This person was, if we can peer into their brain, most likely thinking about miracles and the fantastic events surrounding Jesus' life. Now I admit that miracles and such are challenging to the modern mind. I also realize that a knee jerk answer explaining them will not satisfy a skeptical or inquiring mind. When we are honest we do not always believe our own answers to the tough questions of faith. And so, as we come into the season of Advent we will do some deep thinking about the birth of Jesus, after all, it was miraculous.

Faith today is a struggle. Simple faith is a thing of the past, whatever we may say, unless we are in deep denial. Truth be told, most people who will tell you that they have a simple faith simply have an unexamined faith that will crumble at the first crisis. I am not going to try to prove to you today that Jesus was born of a virgin, although I believe he was. I am going to begin to give you the tools you will need to continue to develop your own robust faith that you will need to guide you through the sea changes of life and culture that surges around us.

Tim Keller, whose thought informs much of this essay, identifies three barriers to faith. They are intellectual, personal, and social. I would add a fourth that I have already mentioned, the rapidly shifting culture that makes it feel like we are roller-skating downhill on marbles. It is a culture that has decided that faith as well as truth is irrelevant, or at least flexible.

Intellectual doubts begin to assault us as we engage the world around us, as we perceive suffering and injustice, as the discoveries of Science seem to contradict everything we have been taught, and as the unfairness of the world overwhelms us.

Personal doubts often follow. Nothing fits and nothing makes sense. This leads to the third barrier, the social one. Everyone needs a group of people with whom to continue the life of faith. People who get their answers from the nature of God as revealed in the Bible. We need to struggle together to live Christian lives, not in a hostile world, so much as an apathetic one, which may be the more difficult. We require fresh insights, challenging questions, and the give and take of loving community to see the richness and fullness of the life of faith.

You must struggle long and hard with your doubts, and with the doubts of your friends, family and neighbors. When you work through them you will have developed a deep and

abiding faith that is life sustaining. You will be able to give real answers to the questions of skeptics and unbelievers, and this includes, sometimes, you yourself. There is nothing quite like having wrestled with a question for a long time and come to a rock solid answer that is both spiritually and intellectually satisfying. It is the examination of our doubts that ultimately leads to unshakable beliefs and a lived faith.

Here is something that is often missed. We must ask the same honesty of our skeptical or apathetic friends. When they say blithely, “Oh, God wouldn’t do that – or – a loving God would never ... ” ask them on what grounds they believe that. Not to trap them but to open them to the reality that they have not really challenged their own assumptions. This takes both care and caring. We really do want people to know the truth for Jesus is the way the truth and the life and the truth shall set you free.

To give a very picky example, we don’t really know that the “Big Bang” occurred. We only know what happened after the Big Bang, if it occurred at all. No, we don’t really know that, we only know that we can explain what we see, to a limited degree, by claiming that an event like the Big Bang must have or could have occurred. We don’t really know. We weren’t there. No one living was. And, to be truly scientific, it is not a repeatable event, we cannot test it by experiment, and it is not falsifiable. This makes it pretty much speculation and those who hold to a Big Bang theory hold it in, guess what, faith.

I am going to close with a direct quote from Tim Keller that I believe sums this up. I also believe that you and I need to think long and hard about all this because the consequences are eternal.

“Some will respond to all this, “My doubts are not based on a leap of faith. I have no beliefs about God one way or another. I simply feel no need for God and I am not interested in thinking about it.” But hidden beneath this feeling is the very modern American belief that the existence of God is a matter of indifference unless it intersects with my emotional needs. The speaker is betting his or her life that no God exists who would hold you accountable for your beliefs or behavior if you didn’t feel the need for him. That may be true or again it may not be true, but, again, it is quite a leap of faith.”

I am not willing to live my life on such a bet and I hope you are not either.

**From Pastor Pete**

**2—Thanks/Prayers**

**3-4—Session**

**4—The Church/ Advent**

**5—Deacons/ Soup**

**6—Presbyterian Women/ Kitchen Update**

**7— Christian Ed/ Office**

**8—Happenings/ Redstone**

**9-10 “News from the Pews”**

**11— Calendar**



*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light Service*

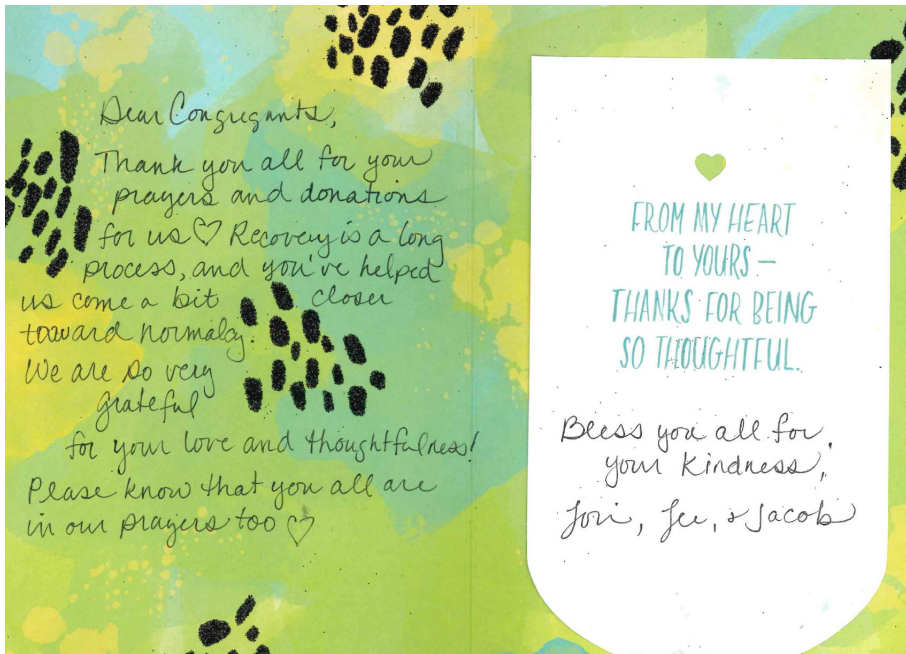
**Christmas Eve Worship  
5pm & 7:30PM**

## Thank you to our November Greeters:

*Meri and Jessica Slaughaupt, Connie Cauvel, Tom & Nancy Kimble, Shelly Chappell Vaia, Caileigh and Frankie*

## Thank you to our November Lectors:

*Tim Martin, Becky Lange, Nikki McQuaide and Shelly Chappell*



*Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the sanctuary for the Christmas season.*

*The Trustees appreciate the help cleaning the bulbs and helping at their workday. And much thanks to the group who decorated the church. Mark your calendars for Monday, January 7th when we'll gather to take everything down. ALL help is ALWAYS appreciated.*



**For our prayers:** Scott Ankney, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Matt Beacom, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Max Brooks, Ralph Brown, Nancy Bruner, Carolyn Buckley, William Caldwell, Nora Jane Caporali, Dave Carroll, Irene Clark, Collin, Carol Croff & family, Kelly Daugherty Farley, Jim Dunmire, Sara Dyer, Shirley Elwood, Terry Fairbanks, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Karen Goetschius, Meghan Goodiski, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Betty Henry, Don Henry, Brenda Hughes, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Rob Kemerer, Kim, Joann Kole, Steve Kosinski, Joel Ladik and wife Katie,

Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Heather Lynn, John Mango, the McCutcheon family, Irma McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Amy McQuaide, Conrad McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, Lori Moneymaker, June & Roy Moorhead, Steve Morcheid, Sam Musmanno, Sandy Nemetz, Leanne O'Connor, Thad Overly, Sandy Pajak, Sarah Parrish, Evelyn Pfeffer, Randy Pfeffer, Winifred Powers, Reno, Rafael Rincon, Steve Roman, Mary Ellen Ross, Debbie & Larry Seighman, Valerie Shondelmeyer, Joanne Smith, Dorothy Sottoriva, Carol Soule, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, the family of Jennifer Steiner, Mildred Striner, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, the family of Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Sue Washburn, Adam Weaver, Linda Wengert, Neale & June Wiester, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Bruce Wise, Kate Wolford. Those gripped by addictions, Those who have faced devastation by weather events and Those who serve in the military, Pray for Our country, and Our world.



*Please keep Carol, Thomapson, Andy, Heather and their family in prayer. Their husband and father, Poke Run member Jim Thompson passed on November 27th. Jim joined the Poke Run congregation in 1974, and served faithfully on the Board of Trustees.*

It is a privilege and blessing to lift each other up in prayer as surely our heavenly Father rejoices as we come to Him with all of our needs. Thank you for praying for those listed above. If you placed a name on our prayer list, please update the office occasionally so that we can more fully include them in our prayers and petitions. Thank you.

## **From the approved October 9, 2018 minutes of Poke Run Presbyterian Church Session**

A quorum was present and, Rev. Pete, 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, Connie Cauvel – Clerk, Sandy Chappell, Bob Wilson, Brett Stevenson, Laurie Martin **Excused:** Caileigh Chappell, Tom Kimble

**MSC:** To approve the Session Minutes of: September 11, 2018

**MSC:** To accept the Deacon Minutes of: September 10, 2018

**MSC:** To accept the Trustee minutes of: August 23, 2018

**MSC:** To: accept Treasurer's Report – September 30, 2018(Amy Wilkinson)

### **Committee Reports:**

**Budget & Finance** – Tom Kimble - Tim Martin reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Tim also reviewed the 2019 Budget. 3% increase for Staff as recommended by Presbytery **MC:** To approve the 2019 Budget  
**Christian Ed & Youth:** Sandy Chappell - Special thanks to Sandy and Ruthie for helping out with Sunday school while Karen is sick

**Mission and Stewardship:** Bob Wilson – Continuing to reach out locally to help.

**Personnel:** Laurie Martin – **MP:** to accept the job descriptions as presented

**Congregational Life:** Connie Cauvel

**Nominating:** Sandy Chappell & Brett Stevenson **MP:** To approve the slate below with gratitude

Session: Connie Cauvel, Terry Weister, Valerie Hanson (1 yr. Term), Nicole Goodiski

Deacons: Diane Scott (current), Ruth O'Connor (current). Nancy Dombroske (current) Meghan Goodiski

Trustees: Bill Craig, Sheree Wagner, Tom Fitzsimmons

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

**Kitchen** - Sandy Chappell, Laurie Martin, Bob Wilson - Tim Martin presented suggestions for completing the kitchen project from the Committee and Trustees. Cost: \$135,000 which will include: Air conditioning Fellowship Hall. A pass-through window, new floor. Beverage station, kitchen equipment and labor. (The new stove is already here and installed)

**Fishing Team:** - Tom Kimble - Trunk-or-Treat, October 27 – UPDATE – 6 confirmed cars – hoping for 10 cars, immediate need: someone to coordinate "photo spot", traffic cones, and candy donations,

**Presbytery COM Liaison Report** – Connie Cauvel - Committee on Ministry met October 4. We prayed for Church Leaders and Congregations. We also prayed for Karen Goetschius & Sue Washburn. I attended a Session Meeting at Reunion Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant. Next Presbytery meeting is November 17 @Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **Old Business:**

**MP:** To accept Cemetery Administration and Rules and Regulations policies as presented by the Trustees and the Cemetery Administrators.

### **New Business:**

**MP:** To accept the proposal to remodel the kitchen and put AC in Fellowship Hall presented by Tim Martin the Kitchen Committee, and Trustees for \$135,000. This will help to bring the kitchen closer to code.

**MSP:** To send \$ to Laurie Moneymaker who lost their home in Wilmington North Carolina during Hurricane Florence. They lost everything.

Close with prayer: Connie Cauvel

Respectfully Submitted:

Adjourn: 8:45 PM

Approved: November 13, 2018



Connie Cauvel (Clerk of Session)

**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 at 7pm on December 11, 2018. The December meeting will be the JOINT meeting including all Poke Run Boards.**







**Sunday, December 2nd will be "Ordination Sunday,"**

Please plan on attending the 11am service as those who have been called to serve on the Poke Run Boards for 2019 will be ordained and commissioned. Please continue to keep all of Poke Run's volunteers in your prayers.

**ATTENTION ALL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES!**

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 11 at 7pm. We would like to have all the Committee and Board members gather together at this joint meeting to connect with the Session and each other to provide a brief review of your past year and look to the future. Everyone present will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas. It is our hope current members as well as those who have been elected to serve for 2019 will attend this meeting.

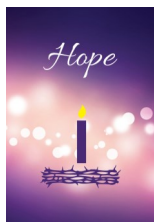


Communion is shared during the 8:30am Early Worship service every Sunday morning.

Additionally, Communion will be celebrated during the following Worship services in 2018.

December 2nd—1st Sunday of Advent(11am)

December 24th—Christmas Eve (5pm & 7:30pm)



***The season of Advent begins next Sunday, December 2nd***

"In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land. Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. ..— placing us between memory and hope, past and future ..."

from [PrebyterianMission.org](http://PrebyterianMission.org)

***Invite family and friends to worship at Poke Run – to hear the preached Word of hope and joy.***



PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE  
ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

**Redstone Presbytery has prepared an Advent Devotional**— created by the Communications Team of Redstone Presbytery.

*We are grateful to all who participated in making this Advent devotional possible as reflections of our own colleagues and presbyters. Our prayer is that during this Advent season you will once more encounter Jesus the Christ who is, who was, and who is to come our HOPE...PEACE...JOY...LOVE.*

*Presbytery of Redstone  
Communications Team*

**Copies of the Devotional are available in the church Narthex—should you like an electronic copy—contact the church office and Amy will email you one!**



**The Deacon's Giving Tree** can be found in the Narthex, the gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 9th. Please stop by and pick up a name or a couple of name tags to help needy families have a wonderful Christmas. (Watch for boy tags—blue and girl tags—pink.)

*All loose offerings on Christmas Eve will go to the work of the Poke Run Deacons.*

### From the **BOARD OF DEACONS MINUTES 10/1/18**

Present: Pastor Pete, Nancy Kimble, Tammy Kelley, Sandy Ballas, Nancy Dombroske, Shyrl Stange, Ruth O'Connor, Shelly Chappel Vaiai, Diane Scott, Deb Ross, Cindy Brooks

Pastor Pete opened with prayer

Treasurer's Report MSC

Old Business: Reviewed results of the Strawberry Festival

New Business:

MSC minutes for September

1. October Communion
2. Reviewed Friends List
3. Discussed Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets
4. Discussed College Kits

Respectfully Submitted, Shyrl Stange



**Christmas Poinsettias** The Poke Run Deacons are taking orders for Christmas poinsettias and Foodbank Donations— Forms can be found in the bulletin, in the Narthex and in the office. Orders will be taken until December 16th.

**Sunday, Dec. 9**—is the deadline to order Christmas Food Baskets. If you know of someone who would benefit by receiving a basket, please contact a Deacon or call the Poke Run Office. You will need to provide the name and phone number of the person who will be picking up the basket.

**Thursday, Dec. 13**—Christmas Basket pick-up. 7:30pm



### **"Soup for the Soul"**

**DATE CHANGES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY—Due to Kitchen Project plans**

**Next Soup is December 5th , doors open at 11:30am. January Soup is January 23rd—**

**The regular schedule will resume in February.**— second Wednesday of the month October through May.

If you would like flyers to distribute or can help or donate a dessert please contact the Church office..

We're still looking for a couple for December.

**DECEMBER SOUP: "Beef Barley" Remember to invite a friend.**

Circle 2 will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 7pm at the home of **Nancy Dombroske, Nancy & Barbi Findley will be hostesses.** All are welcome—call the office for directions. **Laurie Martin** will be the leader.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the "Thank Offering" in November. The generosity of our congregation is most appreciated.



Thank you too, for the many donations for "Operation Christmas Child." Poke Run doubled our number of last year and contributed 56 boxes this year!



**Thank You to everyone who prayed for, contributed to or ATE at Circle 2's Annual Spaghetti Dinner. 200 people were served in only 2 hours. This event continues to provide a wonderful opportunity to gather in Christ centered community. DON'T MISS IT NEXT YEAR!!!!**



***Buccaneer Boutique*** – recognizing a need - Burrell High School has started a program to provide students with hygiene products, school supplies and clothing all seasons, new & gently used, all sizes). **Nicole Goodiski** who recently took a teaching position with the District is coordinating a collection of these items. If you care to donate, there is a collection box located in the Narthex. Thank you!



**KITCHEN UPDATE – 11/15/2018:** The kitchen remodel project is underway. Session has approved new dates of Soup for the Soul of December 5 and January 23. This will allow a longer period of time for Guardian to do their work. Guardian wanted 6 weeks for the project but the Holidays are in that period. Important dates for all to recognize are "Breakfast with Santa" on December 1 and "Soup for the Soul" on December 5. Immediately following the December Soup, we will be required to move all pots, pans, dishes etc from the Kitchen. In addition, everything from the Storage Room shelves will need to come out Guardian will be responsible for moving the present kitchen equipment and for moving the Storage Room racks. This would be a good time to assess what will be needed in the future and discard what will not be used. Guardian will have a dumpster on site if we need it. Room to store things in the Storage Room will be smaller as the freezer, refrigerator, a table, and a kitchen rack will be in the storage room. **Help is needed to move all these items. Guardian will commence with the physical work of utility construction on Monday December 10. If you have any personal items in the kitchen or Storage Room, now would be a good time to remove them.** Look for updates as we proceed with the kitchen remodel project.

Kitchen Remodel Committee: **Bob Wilson, Tim Martin and Ron Hileman**





**Sunday School at Poke Run Church** Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class! – music and FUN!

*The Children will be sharing Christmas music at the December 16th 11am Worship Service.—Don't miss it!*

Join a  
Sunday School  
Class

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 World and God's People"**

**NEW CLASS: meeting in the Session room at the end of the hall on the right— "When God Doesn't Fix It"**

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



**TODAY'S  
Christian  
LIVING**



**THE UPPER ROOM**  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

FREE—in the Narthex: copies of the two publications,  
*The Upper Room* - daily devotional, and *Today's Christian Living* -

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

**Sunday evening Bible Study with Pastor Pete. 7pm**

**Santa's Coming For Breakfast** The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring their annual "Breakfast With Santa" on **Saturday, December 1**, from 8am. to 11 am. NEW HOURS

Get a great breakfast at a great price and get that special picture on Santa's knee.

Tickets are available at the door. Adults and children ages 11 and over: \$5.00 children ages 3 to 10: \$3.00, and children ages 2 and under eat free!

*Breakfast includes pancakes and syrup, sausages, and your choice of beverages. Each digital photo with Santa costs only \$2.00 and is mounted for you in a specially designed card by one of Santa's elves. Picture processing takes about 30 minutes so plan to get your pictures taken with Santa prior to eating or shopping at Santa's Store. You'll find some great Christmas decorating ideas and gift giving items at this year's store. Proceeds benefit the Christian Education Programs.*



### **From the Poke Run Office**

**Office Hours at the Church** 9:30am—2:30pm most days.

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

**Next Ranger Deadline: December 21st**

**2019 Offering Envelopes will be located in the Narthex—if you don't see one with your name on it—feel free to take a blank box—Shyrl and Amy thank you!**

**Legacy Giving:** Did you know you can help take care of your church after you die? Remember to give to Poke Run Presbyterian Church in your estate planning.

Recommended 2019 First Fruits are \$42.50 per member.



**A great  
PLACE TO LEAVE  
A legacy**

## HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY

Nov. 30, Dec. 1 & 2—Salem Crossroads, Christmas, Delmont PA—reservations required  
Dec. 5—7pm “Riverside Players” Dulcimer music—Community United Presbyterian, New Alexandria -FREE  
Dec. 9—“Blue Christmas Worship Service” Union Presbyterian, Rt. 380, 6pm  
*Friendship Dinner*—2nd Wed of every month 5-6pm, United Presb. New Kensington

**Redstone Offices will be closed Dec. 20– Jan 1.,**  
**The Poke Run Offices will be closed Dec. 24-26. and Jan. 1. for the holiday.**

## Presbytery of Redstone

**Communicate the Word...**

**Carry on the Work...**

**Change the World.....Together!**

### November Gathering Highlights

- Making its way to one of the oldest and most historic congregations of Redstone Presbytery, presbyters were warmly received by the members of the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church.
- Rev. Noftzger announced that Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly would be speaking at the September 2019 joint gathering at Pine Springs Camp.
- Pine Springs Camp celebrated completion of the “Faith for the Future” capital campaign, noting the support of many individuals and congregations within Redstone. A “Thank You” video was shared and is available for your viewing.
- Gathered in worship, Moderator Joshua Scully offered reflections upon Jesus’ exhortation that we cannot serve two masters. Later, Josh was commissioned to serve in pastoral leadership for the Little Redstone Church.
- A time of thanksgiving and celebration took place as colleagues offered tributes to the Revs. Cynthia Cadenhead, Suzanne Currie and Aleda Menchuk upon their designation as “Honorably Retired.”
- Ruling Elder Chuck West, Puckety Presbyterian Church, was elected to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Redstone in 2019. Members of various congregations were elected to roles on standing committees of the Presbytery.
- The Addictions Ministry Network, in planning a new curriculum on “Theology and Addiction,” distributed a questionnaire to solicit both input and involvement. To participate, contact the Presbytery office.



Sunday December 9, 6pm Union Presbyterian Church  
“...for those who might need extra uplifting due to sadness, loss, worry and concerns during this Christmas season.



## HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Nov. 16– Jan 1—Overly Country Christmas—Greensburg PA  
Dec 2—2pm—Vandergrift Hometown Christmas





## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

### **Hillbilly Fundraiser Concert**

#### **for Shriner's Hospital for Children**

Come join us on Friday, December 14, 2018 to celebrate the holidays

at the Westmoreland Country Club Ballroom

7100 Mellon Road, Export, PA 15632

Cost \$20.00 per person

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Happy Hour 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cash Bar

Food available but not included in ticket price.

Entertainment will be

**WILLIAM DELL AND THE WEE JAMS**

*with Frankie Day as the M.C.*

For tickets please contact Tony at 724-327-2345



## **Country Christmas at Kunkle Park**

285 Pine Run Church Road, Apollo, PA 15613

**December 8, 2018 - 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Help us "Load the Truck" with toys to benefit  
the "Alle-Kiski Kids Toy Drive"



Join us for a family fun celebration including:

- Bonfire
- Christmas caroling
- Wagon rides
- Meeting local Emergency Responders
- Lighting of township Christmas tree
- Vote on best light display in the park
- Crafts for kids
- Scavenger Hunt
- Visit from Santa

Create your own light display & WIN a free park rental in 2019!  
(See township office for official registration for light display - Set up beginning 12/1)

Letters to Santa  
in the "Magical Mailbox"



Please call township office at 724-727-3515 or email  
[www.washingtontownship.com](http://www.washingtontownship.com) for additional information.

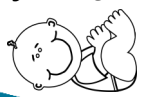
Hot Chocolate &  
other treats!!!



Welcome **Hendrix!**

Beautiful baby boy born on  
November 26th—proud parents

**Matt & Liz (McQuaide) -**  
proud grandparents, **Jim &**  
**Cindy McQuaide!**



shutterstock - 471926241

Poke Run's **Ethan Woodhall** (son of Amy  
and **Chuck Blair**) is a member of Troop #551

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 551 CHRISTMAS TREE SALE**

Stanford Home  
Center

Near  
Leechburg

Concolor Fir

November 23—  
December 22 or  
Until Trees  
Sellout

Canaan Fir

Blue Spruce

Frasier Fir

White Pine

Scotch Pine

Norway Spruce

November 23—Black Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Friday: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Prices Start @ \$25 / Tree

***If you have News to share in the Ranger—please submit it to the office.***

***The next Ranger deadline is December 21st. PHOTOS WANTED!!!! The Office can use  
emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pics from church  
functions and from YOU!***





Poke Run had another good showing at the annual Kiski Area Youth Network (KAYN) Turkey Trot. **Jeff Wilkinson** finished 2nd in his age group and 7th overall, **Lizzy Wilkinson** finished 5th in her age group. **Callie Spaulding (Martin)** finished 2nd in her age group and **Amy Wilkinson** finished 9th in her age group. This year's ICY COLD event had almost 500 participants. Poke Run is a supporter of KAYN.



4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KISKI VALLEY TURKEY TROT

**What is a "Narthex" anyway?** We say very often, "More information can be found in the Narthex of the church." But what and where is the Narthex anyway? Well, the Wikipedia definition is: "**narthex** (Medieval Latin from Classical Greek **narthex** νάρθηξ "giant fennel, scourge") and was the place for penitents. In Modern Greek *nartheas* (νάρθηκας) no longer has this meaning and is either the porch of a church, as English, or the brace of a sprained wrist or sling of a broken arm. " Interesting, especially that sprained arm part, don't you think? Here at Poke Run, the *Narthex* is the room or area just inside the front door of the church before you enter the sanctuary. Poke Run's *Narthex* was part of building improvements made in 1971—see the below excerpt from our "History Book": **History Books are still available—contact the office if you would like to purchase one. \$5.00**

...one side to another. A large section of seating was located in the center of the nave. A big pew section flanked these center seats on both the left and right. This arrangement necessitated two middle aisles and two side aisles. Front corners on the first few pews were mitered. These old seats had remained in service for over ninety years.

A roomy exterior narthex was constructed on the front of the church. It added convenient coat rack areas, and places to distribute envelopes, bulletins, and church materials. Also the narthex with a large exterior door prevented outside doors from opening directly into the Sanctuary. Heat conservation during winter resulted, and cold blasts of air did not strike worshippers already seated. The narthex was faced with brick matching as closely as possible the brick of the original structure.

The chancel area was enlarged and rearranged with new furnish-



Sunday Worship: 8:30am and 11am  
Sunday School: 10am adults & kids

Sundays 7pm Bible Study  
Tuesdays 10am Women's Bible Study

Like us on Facebook featuring the Daily Verse  
Check out our website: [www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)  
Email: [pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net)



# December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>2</b> Advent <b>Ordination</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7pm <b>Deacons</b>	<b>4</b> 10am Women's Bible Study	 <b>5</b> <u>noon "Soup for the Soul"</u> 6pm Praise Team 7pm Choir 7pm Mission & Stewardship	<b>6</b> 7pm <b>Fishing Team</b>	 <b>1</b> <u>Breakfast w Santa 8-11am</u>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Advent 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am Women's Bible Study  <b>7pm Session</b> JOINT MTG	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	<b>13</b> <b>2</b> <u>Circle 2</u> 7pm Deacon Basket Pick-up	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Advent 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 6pm Praise Team 7pm Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Advent 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	<b>24</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Christmas Eve Worship 5pm & 7:30pm	<b>25</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>7pm Trustees</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch	<b>31</b> 	<b>1</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>				



## **Poke Run Presbyterian**

1091 Poke Run Church Rd.  
Apollo, PA 15613



[www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)

### **In December:**

**December 1st, 8am to 11am**

**Breakfast with Santa**

**Adults & Children ages 11 years and over \$5.00**

**Children 3 years to 10 years \$3.00**

**Children 2 years and under eat Free!**



**December 24th Christmas Eve Candle**

**Light Service 5:00pm Informal Worship**

**7:30pm Formal Worship**