

Of course over the summer I read books. I would like to share all of what I read with you. However, much is already forgotten, or, will surface at a later date when needed. Much more is not relevant to you or perhaps anyone. Reading however, or at least non-fiction reading, to quote D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, "should make one think." If a book does this it has done its job, even if it is not particularly well written or organized. If you the reader can pick up the thread of the author's argument, and are compelled to think, or even to change your mind, or to be challenged to defend your ideas, opinions, and beliefs, it is a good book.

With that in mind I am going to share two quotes with you that made me think. Both of them come from the book, Theologies of the Gospel in Context: The Crux of Homiletical Theology, edited by David Schnasa Jacobson. My suspicion is that few people would pick up this book, much less read it. In fact, I would bet on it. To be honest, I skimmed a good bit of a couple of the essays. To my point, at places it made me think.

So let's just jump to the first quote:

At the heart of the Universe lies a mysterious, hidden Being whose very self is moved by love for all that he has created. In the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the being has been revealed as one who is perpetually turning toward us as if to welcome us as if to welcome us home, ...

I love this quote. It is the way I want things to be. I even bought the book it came from, which I will probably never read. Problem is, it is wrong on so many levels. First of all the comma placement is wrong, it is British, not American. But that is a minor quibble – and – my arrogance/sarcasm showing through. I will not go through and deconstruct all that ultimately baffles me. I will only note that wherever the "heart of the Universe" may be, God does not rest there. The Universe is a creation of God's, read Genesis 1:1, and what follows. God is outside the Universe, if we can even say that. God is creator and I disagree completely with those theologians who claim that God somehow made space within himself for our species to dwell. I could go on, but I won't. I only wish to point out that poetic discourse can lead us far astray; no matter how much we like it. People who know me will also know that I will claim that we must read the Bible as poetry, constrained by reality.

This reality is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ in Scripture. The reality is not that God welcomes us home, but that in Jesus Christ God has paid the price for our sins in order to bring us back to Him, and that is a minimalist statement itself. It is not as if we have joyfully gone on a journey and now are asking for return fare home. We have rebelled against our creator and our creator out of love has determined the way "home," a very costly way at that. There is much more to deconstruct here but to go further is not my intent.

I want to share another quote now:

We proclaim God as the one who listens to desolate questions, embraces lament, comforts the broken-hearted.

With a little thought, this made perfect sense. This is the God we all meet. This is the God who comes to us. This is the God who watched his only son die. God suffers! This is a God I can love. This is the God whom we discover in the cracks and crevices of our lives and in the cracks and crevices of Scripture, read well. If God lies hidden somewhere, it is not in the "heart of the Universe" it is behind and under the stories and words of Scripture. In Scripture, God is crucified for us. In our deep sorrow and pain we want, even more than comfort, someone who understands. God understands.

The first quote is nice and very unrealistic. The second quote forces us into the depths of our lives where we meet the God who fully loves us.

And how does this play out? It plays out in Jesus' words, "And this is love, that you love one another just as I have loved you." (John 13:34) Or, "Love one another deeply from the heart." It plays out in the love we show, to the deserving and undeserving in our lives.

**Pastor Pete**



### Inside this issue:

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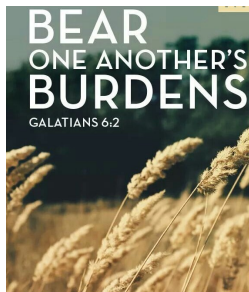


### Thank you to our August Lectors:

Shelly Chappell, Connie Cauvel, Tom Kimble and Laurie Martin

### Thank you to our August Greeters:

Andy & Eva Bantroch, Freda Bowman, Edyth Elwood, Tim & Barbi Findley, and Brian & Nancy Dombroske



#### *For our prayers:*

Scott Ankney, baby Noah, Carol Bartachellei, Renee Bates, Matt Beacom, Ronda Bertelle, Lil Bowman, Cindy Brooks, 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, Elmer Foley, Laurel Frey, Lee & Linda Gardener, Nancy Gearhard, Karen Goetschius, Marnee Gormley, Helen Grayem, Allison Grundy, Trevor Hawk, Janine Hayle, Betty Henry, Don Henry, Brenda Hughes, Leland & Berenice Jones, Marjorie Kaiser, Rob Kemerer, Kim, Steve Kosinski, Joel Ladik and wife Katie, Bill Lange, Rhett LaRue and family, Dana, Allison Lengauer Jordan, Pat Lengauer, Tammy Libengood, Cliff Lightner, Norm Linhart, Heather Lynn, John Mango, the McCutcheon family, Irma McDivitt, Mary Lou McKay, Amy McQuaide, Conrad McQuaide, JoAnn Miller, 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, family of Colin Saracco, Bob Scott, Debbie & Larry Seighman, Valerie Shondelmyer, Joanne Smith, Dorothy Sottoriva, Carol Soule, Mary Jane Staite, Dinah Staymates, Jennifer Steiner, Mildred Striner, the family of Ken Swank, Arlene Switzer, Bev & Mario Tagliati, Amy Teele, Craig Thompson, Jim Thompson, Jill Tocco, Adam Weaver, Linda Wengert, June Wiester, Terry Wiester, Clay Wilabee, Bruce Wise, Kate Wolford, Peter Yurtin, Those gripped by addictions and Those who serve in the military, Pray for Our country, and Our world.



*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.*



**The Community of Poke Run Presbyterian Church is a community that knows and lives the POWER OF PRAYER. If you are in need of prayer—contact the church office. Occasionally prayer requests come into the office as an immediate need—and we call on our prayer warriors by email. If you would like to be included in this Prayer Team ministry, call or email the office to add your contact information.**

*"Our sincere thanks to our Poke Run friends for their thoughts and prayers on the passing of my father. We truly appreciate the expressions of sympathy received during this difficult time." Tom & Nancy Kimble*





The Poke Run Nominating Committee continues their work to prepare the slate of Elders, Trustees and Deacons for the 2019 year. Please keep this group and those who are called to serve the Poke Run Congregation in your prayers. And thank you for your continued prayers for the current Boards and Committees. They resume their meeting schedules this month; watch for ways you can actively support these volunteers.



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.

August 5th(11am)

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

September 9th(11am)

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

October 7th(11am)



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:** *There will be one worship service at 10am on Sunday, October 21st – The annual Poke Run Congregational meeting will follow the service and plan to stay for a luncheon provided by the “Congregational Life Committee.”*



## Deacon Ministry

**The Poke Run Deacons** - Our Deacons spend time caring for our

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 (724-327-5563)—the Poke Run Deacons have a special place in their hearts for these dear ones.



**Is this YOUR year to join in the celebration of praising God through Music?**

There are so many ways to do this at Poke Run.

The **Poke Run Chancel Choir** meets Wednesdays at 7pm—come when you can and join them on Sunday mornings when you can. If you can only donate time for the holidays, watch for those opportunities.

Poke Run has started a small **“Praise Team”** to occasionally help lead Sunday Worship music. They practice on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 6pm.—see **Sean** or “show-up” and join the fun.

Do you **play a musical instrument** and can occasionally support Worship music with that talent? See **Sean or Pastor Pete**—it would be GLORIOUS to have you!

**Handbell Choir!!!!** This group will begin practices on September 12th. Regular rehearsal will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 6:30pm.

**Be a part of Poke Run’s Musical Ministry – no musical training required! You DO NOT need to know how to read music—just come with an enthusiasm for praise!**



*Praise*





### Did you miss movie night at Poke Run!!!!????

Over 40 people gathered last month to watch the 2017 movie "I Can Only Imagine," - we even had someone UBER to the church for the showing—now THAT might be a Poke Run "First." **Cindy McQuaide and Linda Chicka** handled the tech and **The Dombroske's, Brian, Nancy, Meghan and Nicole** provided a POPCORN bar!!! We'll definitely do this again in the future—what FUN!! Current plans include a replaying of the movie as a matinee sometime in the fall . Keep your eyes open for details..



### **Poke Run Fall Fun Day at Gearhard Farms!**

**Don't miss another opportunity for Fun and be sure to invite Friends!**

Ready for some fun? Let's go to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual **Gearhard Farms Corn Maze** on **Saturday, September 29** for food, fellowship and maze solving! Start with a hayride to a picnic site for a campfire and enjoy hotdogs (provided) and picnic food (provided by you!) Then load back onto the hay wagon for transport to the maze. Spend as much time as you want in the maze. The challenge is two-fold: 1) Find your way in the entrance and out the exit, and/or 2) Solve the maze puzzle! Clues will be given at the start and in the maze too!

Reservations are helpful: Call, email, or see **Linda Chicka**, 724-422-3688, [lgchicka@gmail.com](mailto:lgchicka@gmail.com)

**Special cost for Poke Run members, friends and families: \$7 (under age 4 FREE!)**

**Arrive** between 4 and 4:30p,m, on Saturday, September 29. The hayride to our picnic site loads at 4:30 sharp!

**Bring:** A picnic dish to share, hot dogs sticks if you have them, bag chair if you want (bench seating provided), your walking shoes.

**Directions:** 2 miles west of Mamont on Route 286, just past Mamont Rd and before the Western Pennsylvania Sportsman's Club. Google address is Gearhard Farms, 5909 Saltsburg Road, Murrysburg, PA. See [www.gearhardfarms.com](http://www.gearhardfarms.com) for previous maze pictures and "Like Us" on Facebook!





## Poke Run Sunday School!!

Classes meet each Sunday at 10am.

**FOR THE KIDS** Children's Class! **WILL RESUME SOON**—watch the bulletin!

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** Continues meeting through the summer. Meeting in the West Wayside room (on the left at the end of the hall) - using the David C. Cook series titled "Justice in the New Testament"

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



**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* - magazine

**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 will resume on September 9th.**



The church is in need of Notary services for new volunteers. If you are able to donate these services or have suggestions, please see Linda Chicka or contact the office.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

"Soup for the Soul" resumes in October. Every second Wednesday of the month, October through May—plan to come this season and certainly plan to bring a friend!

October 10th

January 9th

April 10th

November 14th

February 13th

May 8th

December 12th

March 13th



## THE POKE RUN TRUSTEES

The Trustees have scheduled a "Work Day" for Saturday, September 29th, 8:30am—noon. As always, lots of jobs for lots of abilities. Please consider coming out to the church and helping where you can. And check out the new kitchen stove! Thank you to **Bob Wilson** for handling all the details and the installation.





**Circle 2:** will meet on September 20th - 7pm— the hostess will be **Heidi Hileman** and the leader will be **Barbi Findley**. ALL ARE WELCOME—COME AND BRING A FRIEND!



Watch for a lost & found item collection in the Sunday School room marked "Grades 1 and 2" (first room past the Lounge.) after September 20th.

After September 30th – EVERYTHING will be added to the "Rummage Sale" stash.

# THANK YOU



Lost  
and  
Found

*In co-operation with the First Presbyterian Church and Murrysville Export Rotary*







### 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: September.24th**

A Directory update is Happening! I PROMISE—wanting to be as accurate and inclusive as possible.- Check with the office to verify and update your information.

724-327-5563 or email your information to [pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net) Hoping to publish soon.

Thank you.



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. We have collected about 70% to date.

**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.

**A great  
PLACE TO LEAVE  
A legacy**



The Redstone and Poke Run Office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3rd in honor of Labor Day.

In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pete at 724-454-2278.

Amy will be out of the office Sept. 7-18, phone messages and emails will be checked.

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



**Monroe Wright**, daughter of Will & Jamie (McQuaide) Wright, showed her calf at the Western PA Championship in Lawrence County, taking 2nd place, then proceeded to win a trophy BIGGER THAN SHE IS—as she was declared the 2018 Junior Supreme Champion at the Westmoreland Country Fair. Congratulations!!!



*Congratulations to  
**Jack & Eleanor Zerbini** on the  
birth of their new great-  
grandson Gunnar Bradley  
Zerbini. Proud parents are  
John & Molly Zerbini, proud  
grandparents Ed & Mardi  
Zerbini.*





### **HAPPENING IN OUR PRESBYTERY**

Sept 3—Poke Run and Redstone Offices will be closed for Labor Day Holiday.  
 Sept 18—Redstone Presbytery Meeting—Redstone Highlands Greensburg 6pm  
 September 29-30 —Pine Springs Camp— "Fall Fusion " grades 4-6

**Friendship Dinner**—2nd Wed of every month 5-6pm, United Presb. New Kensington

### **Coming in October:**

Oct 5-6 —Pine Springs Camp—"Women in the Woods "  
 Oct. 19-21—Pine Springs Camp—"The Big One' grades 6-12  
 October 13—Redstone PW Fall Gathering—First Presbyterian Irwin



### **HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Sept 2-3 Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park, 11am-7pm FREE  
 Sept 22-23—Ligonier Highland Games—Idlewild Park

### **Farmer's Markets:**

Tuesdays—4-7pm, Export— Kennedy Avenue June—September  
 Tuesdays—3-6pm, Greensburg—Lynch Field April—November  
 Wednesday 3-5:30pm & Saturdays 9-noon, Indiana—Church St June—October  
 Thursdays—3-6:30pm , Vandergrift—Columbia Avenue June—October  
 Thursdays—3-7pm, Murrysville—Sardis Road June—September  
 Saturdays—9-noon, Monroeville—Community Park March—November  
 Saturdays—8-noon, Ligonier May—October



## **The Great Coat Giveaway**

Murrysville and Plaza Cleaners are having their  
**SECOND ANNUAL COAT COLLECTION AND GIVEAWAY**  
 In co-operation with the First Presbyterian Church and Murrysville Export Rotary



**PLEASE Tell  
 Your  
 Families,  
 Friends  
 & Neighbors to  
 GIVE A COAT**

We collect, clean and remove stains. We will sort all sizes of coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and boots to distribute to anyone who would like to come and choose them. This is for adults, children, seniors or whoever would like them.

Collecting coats August till September 30th

**Giveaway on October 12-14th, 2018**



**at Laird Hall, 3202 N Hills Rd  
 Murrysville, Pa 15668**

**Now Offering! Wash & Fold Laundry Service  
 Free Pickup & Delivery**



**Franklin Plaza Shopping Ctr.  
 Murrysville, PA  
 724-625-6989**

**f murrysvillecleaners.com • plazacleanersmurrysville.com  
 Accept No Less - Come Clean with Us!**



## **We Serve**

Sunday September 30th, the Delmont Lions will host a Reception with wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres starting at 5 PM, followed by a play A COMEDY OF TENORS at 7 PM. The location will be at Apple Hill Playhouse, 275 Manor Road, Delmont, PA. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket. All profits go to various blind charities.

For tickets, contact  
**Ron Bowman 724- 327- 4052**



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

***The next Ranger deadline is September 24th. The Office can use emailed photos from cameras or cell phones. We'd love to include more pictures from church functions.***





# September 2018



Ushers in September: Session

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

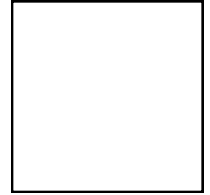
						1
2 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch <b>NO Bible Study</b>	3  <b>LABOR DAY</b> Office Closed	4 10am BibleStudy <b>7pm Budget &amp; Finance</b>	5 6pm PraiseTeam 7pm Choir <b>7pm Mission &amp; Stewardship</b>	6	7 Office Closed	8
9  8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	10 <b>7pm Deacons</b> Office Closed	11 10am BibleStudy <b>7pm Session</b> Office Closed	12 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir  Office Closed	13 Office Closed	14 Office Closed	15
16 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	17 Office Closed	18 10am BibleStudy REDSTONE Meeting Office Closed	19 6pm PraiseTeam 7pm Choir	20  <u>Circle 2</u>	21	22
23/30 8:30 & 11am Worship 10am SunSch 7pm Bible Study	24	25 10am BibleStudy	26 6:30pm Bells 7pm Choir	27 <b>7pm Trustees</b>  Come Along For The Ride	28	29 <b>8:30am-Noon Trustee Workday</b> <b>4:30pm CORNMAZE</b>

## Poke Run Presbyterian Church

1091 Poke Run Church Road  
Apollo, PA 15613

Phone: 724-327-5563

E-mail: [pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pokerun@graced.comcastbiz.net)



### *Worship* SCHEDULE

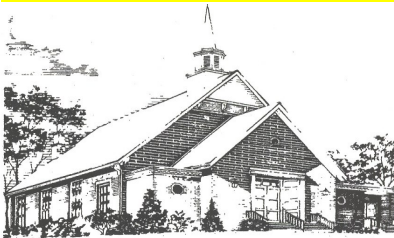
**Sundays: 8:30am Worship Service,**

**11am Worship Service**

**Sunday School at 10am**

**Bible Study: Sunday 7pm Tuesday/Women 10am**

**WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS—9:30am-2:30pm**



**Invite someone this week.**



*It could change their life forever.*

**Rev. Peter M. Goetschius**

**Pastor**

**Amy Wilkinson**

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Shyrl Stange**

**Financial Administrator**

**Sean O'Neil**

**Choir & Musical Director**

**Linda Moorhead**

**Early Service Musical Director**

**Tom Kimble**

**Cemetery Administrator**

