

Last year, Shawnee Presbyterian Church participated in a fund raising opportunity provided by Pocono Raceway whereby we provided volunteers for various tasks. We worked as ticket scanners and ushers at the NASCAR and INDY Car and Air Show events. In return, the church received a donation for each day worked.

We had twelve volunteers in 2019... Steve Clemmons, Vince Della Fera, Maggie Della Fera, Barb Dickinson, Bill Dolph, Patti Jo Dolph, Kevin Mays, Debbie Mays, Sharon Murphy, Pat Neer, Gail Scott, and Michelle Siptroth... who put in a total of seventeen volunteer days. The days were long, anywhere from eight to twelve hours. But, it was an opportunity to meet new and interesting people, both fellow volunteers as well as patrons, and let them all know a little about Shawnee Presbyterian Church.

Last year we realized a donation of \$1530.00 with out of pocket cost to the church of \$0.00. This year, the daily volunteer donation rate will be \$95, a raise of \$5 from last year. If we have the same number of volunteer "days" as last year, we will receive donation of \$1615.00, if we can increase the number of volunteer "days" by five, we could increase the anticipated donation to over \$2000.00.

In early April, I was contacted by Pocono Raceway and asked if we wanted to return as volunteers. Not all groups are invited back after their first year! Thanks to all of our volunteers from last year who were dependable, on time and worked their full shift which led to our being invited back! In preparation for the possibility that the event will occur this year, I have already completed and returned our Pocono International Raceway Volunteer Program Agreement. We are currently awaiting the return of the agreement completed and signed by the track with an anticipated response during the month of May.

Clearly, daily life and all that surrounds it is obviously very different than what we are used to. Changes are happening every week, every day, with respect to what we can or cannot do, where we can or cannot go, etc. But, where possible we need to continue to do what we can for each other, our community and our church. That is why this event, if it occurs, and preparing to be part of it will be extremely important to our church and our community.

So, now we need to see some show of hands! Who will sign up as a potential volunteer?

**WHEN:** The event will take place Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>; Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> will be rain date if needed.

**WHAT:** NASCAR has typically held two races, on separate weekends, at Pocono Raceway each season. Typically, a NASCAR race weekend is Friday to Sunday; they practice on Fridays, qualify and practice and have undercard races on Saturday, and then have the major race event on Sunday. Unlike previous NASCAR weekends, this event is planned as a “Double Header”. My understanding of this year’s tentative schedule for Pocono is that practice and qualifying sessions will be held on Thursday and Saturday. The two major race events, one on Friday and one on Sunday. Essentially, they are combining the traditional two weekends into one long weekend.

**SCHEDULE:** Each day’s shift starts at promptly at 7:00am and may run as long as 12 hours, or more.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** Just how the Pocono Raceway event will be run with respect to the social distancing requirements, etc., is unclear at the moment.

For the most recent and available detailed information about the volunteer program, open the attached document “2020 Volunteer

Program 2 pager.pdf”, the official “Pocono Raceway Volunteer Program” information sheet.

To sign up as a volunteer, open the attached document “track volunteers signup 2020.docx” to download the SPC Track Volunteer 2020 signup sheet. You can email your completed sheet to me ([wkdpps@ptd.net](mailto:wkdpps@ptd.net)) or fax it to me (570-426-7554), or call/text me (570-807-6969).

Many of our church fund raising projects have, of necessity, been cancelled or indefinitely postponed. Currently, this particular opportunity still exists and, provided that it too is not cancelled, we should utilize it to its full potential.

Thank you very much to all of last year’s volunteers! I hope you can find time for this year and I am looking forward to hearing from many new volunteers.

Bill Dolph