



Tidings of Peace

February 2021



Worship in February

Online Worship at at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>

Sunday, February 7

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Jesus the Healer

Sunday, February 14

Transfiguration Sunday
Partnership Sunday
Jesus the Dazzler

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent
The Jar of Temptation

Sunday, February 28

Second Sunday in Lent
The Lost Jar

Also in February

February 9

Racial Justice Meeting

February 11

Book Group

Most Mondays

Stitchers

See page 4 for the schedule of
Lenten offerings.

Telling the Jesus Story

Outsiders might be confused about Jesus. *Jesus* signs were front and center at the capitol on January 6th. Yet, if you read the Bible, it's pretty clear that Jesus is about non-violence. Of course the insurrection was a blatant mischaracterization of Jesus. But what about more subtle misunderstandings? Maybe these are even more dangerous as we try to fit Jesus into our world view as opposed to Jesus shaping us into his.

Brian McLaren is a pastor, writer, and leading figure in the emerging church movement. In his book *The Seventh Story: Us, Them, and the End of Violence*, Brian McLaren sets the record straight about Jesus. He writes:

- Jesus came to subvert all stories of violence and harm, not repeat them.
- Instead of patriarchal stories of domination, Jesus taught and embodied service, reconciliation, and self-giving.
- Instead of stories of violent revolution or revenge on the one hand or compliant submission on the other, Jesus taught and modeled transformative nonviolent resistance.
- Instead of purification stories of scapegoating or ethnic cleansing, Jesus encountered and engaged the other with respect, welcome, neighborliness, and mutuality.
- Instead of inhabiting a competitive story of accumulation, Jesus advocated stewardship, generosity, sharing, and a vision of abundance for all.
- Instead of advocating escapist stories of isolation, Jesus sent his followers into the world to be agents of positive change, like salt, light, and yeast.
- Instead of leaving the oppressed in stories of victimization, Jesus empowered them with a vision of faith, hope, and love that could change the world.

McLaren concludes:

The hearts of more and more children, young people, adults, and senior citizens are yearning for a new story, a story of love rather than hate, of creativity rather than destruction, of win-win cooperation rather than win-lose competition, of peace-craft rather than war-craft.

People are searching for good news in our world. If the church doesn't tell the Jesus story, others just might hijack it. Instead of trying to save our institution, maybe the church should just tell this new story, which is actually quite old, of Jesus and his love.

— Pastor Froehlke

Racial Justice Team and Thrivent Team Up to Establish Prince of Peace Anti-Racism Library

Through a new Thrivent Action Team Project, the Racial Justice team has placed a bookshelf in the Narthex area for your convenience as we start building *POP READS (Prince of Peace Reads about Equity, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Systemic Racism)*.

This lending library will eventually include books for all ages — infants through seniors, fiction and nonfiction, — to give Prince of Peace members and friends easy access to high quality books as we continue to educate ourselves and others to be better prepared to fight racism as individuals and as a congregation.

So far, several members of the team have donated books, the first of which are briefly described in this newsletter. Hard copies of the ELCA Resolutions related to Racial Justice will also be available soon. More literature will be added each month from your donations and the \$250 seed money Thrivent provides, which will be spent at New Jersey bookstores owned by

people of color as we support their businesses and solicit their advice on what should be included.

As with the other lending library started last month, delivery will be arranged for those not able to get to the church when open. Safety procedures will be followed to keep from spreading COVID-19 through this library. Watch for an email in the near future explaining how to borrow.

If you have suggestions or appropriate books you'd like to donate related to the themes in the title above, please contact Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com so we don't purchase those same books unnecessarily.

Those borrowing books will also have the opportunity to share their recommendations and feedback about the books when they return them to church.

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to loismcase@gmail.com.

Deadline for the February issue is Sunday, February 21

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Vicar Kayla Hopgood
Field Ed Student Rebecca Laabs
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
Victoria Chow-Torres, Church Musician
Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Elizabeth Wagner (President)
Nancy Durie (Vice President)
Kim Contini
Charlie Frantz
Mary Ellen Glickson
David Jeedi
Martin Rexroad
Wendy Schutzer
Sabrina Teekah
David New, Secretary (non-voting)

Thank you, Wendy Schutzer ...



*... for all the beautiful settings you've
provided for the chancel,
including this one for
the Season of Epiphany*

February Events

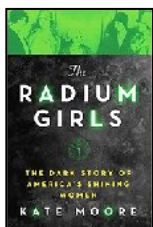
Book Group

If interested in receiving an invitation to our Zoom book club, please contact Phyllis Church at 609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com

February 11

Zoom Meeting at 7:30

Radium Girls by Kate Moore



In the 1920's and 30's young women, some only 14 or 15 years old, were hired to paint radium paint onto watch dials to make them glow in the dark. They were encouraged to twirl their brushes in their mouths in order to bring them to a fine point. The young women assumed there was no danger to their health, but the opposite was true as they were poisoned by the jobs they felt lucky to have. This is their story. Eventually publicity stemming from lawsuits filed by some of the victims led to set improved worker safety standards.

March 11

Zoom Meeting at 7:30

Lions of Fifth Avenue by Fiona Davis

Fiona Davis has written a book for book lovers, weaving her story around a historic city building – the New York Public Library. The novel follows two generations of women who are connected by a series of rare book thefts. In 1913 Laura Lyons is married to the library superintendent and lives in an apartment inside the library itself. Her husband's job is threatened when books are stolen. In 1993 her granddaughter is curator at the library when another series of book thefts occur.



Partnership Sunday

Besides Valentine's Day, and besides Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th is Partnership Sunday. St. Bartholomew's in Trenton has been in partnership both with Prince of Peace and Abiding Presence in Ewing, but this partnership is growing to include Redeemer Lutheran Church in Trenton as well.

To celebrate and promote this partnership, the four churches will be creating a recorded service on February 14th. Watch for it on our Facebook page at 9:30 on the 14th.

Pastor Class

Pastor Class continues on February 3rd as Pastor Froehle will lead a two-week zoom class looking at *Ecclesiastes* and *COVID-19*.

Class begins at 7:00 pm. Contact Pastor and he will send the zoom link.

Joyful Stitchers Meeting on Zoom

In December, the Joyful Stitchers sent two large bags full of beautiful, handmade knitted and crocheted items to St. Bart's for those who might need something cozy and warm this winter. Even though we are not meeting in person, we were able to send more than 40 items. Thanks to all who participated!

In the meantime, our meetings have, like so many these days, migrated to Zoom. We are currently working on our ongoing projects. Some of these include prayer shawls, pocket crosses, and cat/kitten mats. We can provide yarn and patterns for anyone who would like to try any of these easy projects.

The Joyful Stitchers meet on Zoom most Monday afternoons at 1:30 to catch up, share our current projects, and just to chat. If you'd like to join us, send an email to Kate Chen (kcmchen@comcast.net) to be added to the group and receive a Zoom invitation.



We Have This Treasure in Clay Jars

This Lent we will gather around the image of clay jars.
Join us throughout the season as we focus on these words from St. Paul:

*...we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear
that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

— 2 Corinthians 4:7

Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Please stop by church to receive a blessing for your Lenten journey,
and to pick up your Lenten packet,
which will include your ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 17

7:30 pm

Livestreamed on the Prince of Peace Facebook page

Lenten Retreat: Treasure in Clay Jars

Thursday, February 25

10:00 am to Noon

Led by Pastor Dale on Zoom

Please register at hnd@popnj.org

Midweek Worship

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Livestreamed on the PoP Facebook page

Service of the Word

Sundays at 9:30 am

Livestreamed on the PoP Facebook page

Sabbath Rest

Sundays at 11:00 am

Weekly reflections on our Lenten theme

Offered by Pastor Dale on Zoom

Outreach News

Lenten Offering to Go to ELCA World Hunger

As a part of our Lenten theme for 2021, *Treasures in Jars of Clay*, the Lenten offering has been designated for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. By using our treasures through our offerings, we will be helping our sisters and brothers all over the world who are in need of daily sustenance, as well as getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

The ELCA reports that more than 820 million people are hungry. That's about 11% of the world population. Not only will the funds provide food for the hungry, they will also connect these people to resources they need to produce their own food, gain access to clean water, provide education, health care, and sources of income for long-term sustainability. Working through congregations, Lutheran churches overseas, The Lutheran World Federation, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief, Bread for the World, and other partners, the ELCA is able to help provide such things as community meals, water wells, animal husbandry, microloans, and advocacy, to name a few. Through this comprehensive approach, the ELCA, using our gifts, works to address hunger and poverty from many angles, both domestically and globally.

Use the offering box (our symbolic 'clay jar') provided in the Lenten packet of resources that you will be receiving to provide your monetary gifts — coins, bills, and/or checks (made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked for ELCA World Hunger). One suggestion is to put something in the box each day, or each week, during Lent. The way the boxes will be gathered at the end of Lent is being determined and will be announced later.

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. As Jesus has said, 'As you have done it to one of the least of these ...' (Matthew 25:40)

— The Social Outreach Ministry Team

St. Bart's Feeding Ministry Still Needs Food

As we continue to support the Feeding Ministry at St. Bart's, grocery items are still very much needed, as are paper or plastic bags for distributing the food. The circle of recipients is still expanding and all donations are greatly appreciated. All kinds of foods are distributed and need to be in non-breakable containers. Some suggestions are cereal, rice, canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, beans (dried and canned), pasta, cooking oil, coffee, creamer, sugar, salt, and pepper.

There are many days that they give out 100 or more bags of food. Bins for the donations are located outside the white doors that lead into the Education Wing. Monetary gifts in the form of checks are always appreciated, too. Checks may be made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked for St. Bart's. Prince of Peace has been, and continues to be, most generous in supporting our sister congregation, St. Bart's, and we thank each of you for your part in that effort.

If you have any suggestions for additional outreach opportunities, please don't hesitate to offer them. They may be emailed to Berta Schott at rschott21@aol.com.

As always, thank you for your partnership in ministry, including your participation and your prayers.

Appreciatively, The Social Outreach Team



The February Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Canned Chicken or Beef Gravy*

*Please place donations in the
wooden box in the breezeway.*



The
House
Next Door

***A Safe Space — A Place of Grace
To Dwell in the Heart of God***

Weekly Opportunity for Healing Prayer

Every Friday at noon, Prince of Peace gathers with Charlie Frantz and Pastor Dale for Healing Prayer. It is a time to hear Scripture, share our concerns, hold one another's prayers, and witness to God's presence in our lives. Come once; come weekly. Watch for a weekly email with the Zoom invitation.

Group Direction: Listening Together for God at Work in our Lives

Group Direction is available for individuals who would like to experience direction in community. Groups gather once a month for two hours. Both afternoon and evening sessions are available. They will take place on Zoom. New groups will be forming in February. The cost is \$25/session. If interested, please email Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org.

Creating a Memorial Garden

In the coming year we will be creating a memorial garden for those in our community who have experienced a miscarriage or the loss of an infant. Our goal is to have the garden complete by October 15, which is *Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day*.

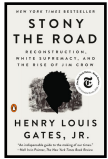
If you would like to learn more about this ministry or be a part of this process, please email Vicar Kayla at kayla.j.hopgood@gmail.com. The team will hold its first meeting in March.

Collecting Stones

Perhaps when you have been out and about you have come across a stone with an inspirational word on it. This spring we are going to create a prayer space on the Prince of Peace campus where people can create, take, or leave a prayer stone. While you are out walking this winter, please keep an eye out for flat, light-colored stones that we might write on. Please bring the stones to church and put them in the container outside of Community Hall. When it is safe and warm, we will have a gathering to create stones with inspirational words for our prayer space. Thank you for your help.

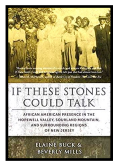
Seven Recent Books Initiate Prince of Peace's Racial Justice Lending Library

Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (2020)



A profound new rendering of the struggle by African-Americans for equality after the Civil War and the violent counter-revolution that resubjugated them, by the bestselling author of *The Black Church*.

If These Stones Could Talk: African-American Presence in the Hopewell Valley, Sourland Mountain and Surrounding Regions of New Jersey Elaine Buck, Beverly Mills, et al. (2018)



The work of Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills as board members of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association led them to write this book, which connects African-American history to local and national history and offers readers a unique window into this area's past. The stories they tell consecrate the collected lives of a minority Black community in a predominantly White region, a pattern of community that reflects a larger, deeply important, but typically overlooked national story in small towns all over the United States.

The Water Dancer: A Novel, Ta Nehisi Coates



This beautifully written novel by the author of *Between the World and Me* tells the story of Hiram Walker, an enslaved child whose mother is sold away. Years later he resolves to rescue his family. *The Water Dancer* is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen.

The Night Watchman, Louise Erdrich (2020)

Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.



The Yellow House: A Memoir, Sarah Broom

Sarah M. Broom's memoir tells the story of a hundred years of her family and their relationship to home in a neglected area of New Orleans, one of America's most mythologized cities. This is the story of the pull her home exerts, even after it was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. *The Yellow House* expands the map of New Orleans to include the stories of its lesser known natives, to demonstrate how enduring drives of clan, pride, and familial love resist and defy erasure. *The Yellow House* is a brilliant memoir of place, class, race, the seeping rot of inequality, and the internalized shame that often follows. It is a transformative, deeply moving story.



The Nickel Boys: A Novel, Colson Whitehead

In this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Colson Whitehead, author of *The Underground Railroad*, brilliantly dramatizes a strand of American history through the story of two boys unjustly sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.



Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S., Lenny Duncan



Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone — leaders and laity alike — to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

Duncan says It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges the church to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

The Work of the Racial Justice Team Continues

*Though the January newsletter came out just a few weeks ago,
the Racial Justice Team continues to work for racial justice
in our communities, in the ELCA, in New Jersey, and in our nation.*

Synod Anti-Racism Meeting

Several members attended the NJ Synod Anti-Racism Meeting on next steps, working toward a multi-year plan for congregations in the synod to work in partnership to have more of an impact on systemic racism and to support those congregations struggling to start this work. Team members have also been involved in other organizations, many led by people of color, to be sure that the new administration hears the voice of those marginalized in the past.

Adult Form

Pastor Froehlke has been leading a series of adult forums this past month through early February. The classes are based on *Troubling the Waters For the Healing of the Church*, a curriculum published by the ELCA to help participants recognize white privilege and move away from that toward a more just society.

The Long Shadow

The team co-sponsored *The Long Shadow*, a free movie and Q&A session provided to all who registered to learn how white privilege has overshadowed many of our lives from the start of our nation, teaching us a version that left out crucial events, decisions, and legislation.

Chinese New Year

As February approaches, join family, friends, and neighbors who will be celebrating Lunar or Chinese New year this coming month. Ask your friends or neighbors

about the *Year of the Rat*. Maybe you'll learn something interesting that helps you understand your neighbors better.

As we strive to celebrate the contributions of so many varied cultures to America, remember that for many of us, white privilege has taught us to assume what we know and the way we live is better than what 'others' celebrate. Make 2021 the year that you change that ingrained belief and be open to other practices which might enrich your life and even your worship.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month. Think about this: If American History were taught to include all cultures who have become part of America — perhaps using the 1619 curriculum instead of the Eurocentric perspective taught in most schools — would we need Black History Month, or any other month focused on a specific minority culture? Take advantage of the many offerings coming your way this month to learn about another culture or help others learn about yours. Look into the Sankofa Collaborative (<https://sankofacollaborative.org>) or the National African American Museum of the Smithsonian Institute (<https://nmaahc.si.edu>).

And if you are African American or a person of color, please help the Racial Justice Team by contacting us to suggest resources we can share with the congregation or to give us your personal feedback to help us be a more welcoming church. We are ready to listen.

— nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

Successful Thrivent Action Team Wreath Project Raises Over \$1,200 For St. Barts Food Pantry

Many thanks to all who bought wreaths from the fundraiser for St. Bartholomew's Food Pantry. Since we'd applied for a Thrivent Action Team Project, the Lutheran fraternal organization gave us \$250 as seed money for materials, but since wreath bases and other things were donated or collected by those making the wreaths, we were also able to donate over \$100 of groceries from that seed money for the pantry. In addition, \$1,130 was donated/ sent to St. Barts from your orders. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

About fifteen volunteers — either peace gardeners, master gardeners, or friends of Prince of Peace —

donated their time to make 32 wreaths over a three-day period from all-natural materials. Each was unique. Special thanks to Nancy Nicosia who coordinated and taught the volunteers and to Lois Case who helped create wreaths and collect materials. All involved enjoyed this project and hope to be able to offer some wreaths for sale as well as a family wreath-making workshop during the winter holidays 2021. Thanks to Thrivent for the seed money, to 15 volunteers for your work or materials, and to all who bought wreaths. The community surrounding St. Barts appreciated the benefits.

Parish Care — February 2021

Valentine Care Box and Bag Project

The Valentine Day Care Package and project is underway. Since around 1990 the church has been sending boxes filled with Prince of Peace care to young adults away at school or in the military. Around five years ago we started to include a Valentine Bag full of treats for our 'senior' students. A project that is a lot of fun for all – receivers and givers.

So now to this year...

Many thanks to those who have already made monetary contributions.

Parish Care feels that we need to make the effort to deliver some care and treats to our students. They have been attending school/learning in many very different ways.

We too need to fill our boxes and bags in different ways too.

It is not too late to help.

We have until February 7 to get the boxes filled with lots of treats.

This year we will be filling and sending 14 boxes to students — some at home some at school. And 12 small treat bags to our 'Senior Valentines.'

Bake: Baked goodies are always greatly enjoyed. If you are willing to bake a few cookies/brownies/treats, please let me know ASAP. 28 individual bags of treats will fill the boxes and bags. If we have four or five bakers, that would be great. Delivery options can be arranged. We have lots of room in the church freezers, so you can bake now and we will freeze until packing day.

Treats and Supplies: Snacks, school supplies, candy, gum, microwave popcorn are some of the goodies sent in the past. Any yummy treats that fits in an 8 x 12 x 8 box are welcome.

Any goodies/items purchased can be left at the church in the *Parish Care Val Project* bin outside of the double white doors. No later than February 6.

Being that we are still dealing with COVID, perhaps the easiest way to help this year is to donate \$\$s. We

will then shop for the items needed. Checks can be included with your offering; just mark *Val Boxes* in memo area.

We are packing the boxes on Monday, February 8th, starting promptly at 1:30 pm. We can have a total of six folks to pack the boxes and bags. If you would like to help, please let me know ASAP.

Some of the boxes and the Senior bags will be delivered in person. If you would like to help, please let me know.

The cost of shipping could be around \$18 to \$20/box. Contributions to help cover the cost of shipping can be made through Prince of Peace offering with a note in memo for *Val Care Boxes*.

Thank You for Supporting This Project

Throughout the years this project is always successful because of your donations of items, goodies and dollars. It sends a loving, caring message from our church to our young adults and their friends away at school.

Transportation

We do have the need for a few rides and help with grocery shopping. If you are able to take a few hours and help with transportation or pick up, please let me know.

Greeting Cards

We are gathering greeting cards, which we share with local senior residences. Help is needed with sorting, packing up the cards and delivering them. If you have some time to help with this project, please let me know.

Lenten Mailing

Parish Care is assisting with a Lenten mailing soon. If you would like to help, let me know.

There are lots of opportunities to help share the care.

All can be done in a safe and socially distanced way.

Martha Winder — 609-799-7280
maw14jpw@aol.com



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am (Livestream)

<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>
