



Tidings of Peace

July 2020



The Truth That Sets Us Free

Worship in July

Worship will be streamed online

Sunday mornings at 9:30

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

Sunday, July 5

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

My Yoke is Easy, My Burden Light

NewJersey Synod Worship

Bishop Bartholomew Preaching

Sunday, July 12

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

A Sower Went Out to Sow

*Confirmation for Confirmands
and their Families Only*

Sunday, July 19

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Wheat Among the Weeds

Sunday, July 26

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Dr. Paul Rorem Preaching

Also in July

July 9, 1:30 pm

Book Group

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

Fridays at Noon

Healing Circle

Outdoor Worship Begins

July 19, 8:30 am

*Streaming Service Continues
at 9:30 am*

See page 2 for more details

I read recently that conspiracy theories flourish when there is a loss of trust. When people lose trust in the government, when people lose trust in institutions, when people lose trust in everything they used to trust in; they start believing wildly made up stories that counter the truth. I remember as a child the conspiracy theory that the Apollo moon landing was a hoax to convince the world that America could do the impossible. I've heard that 9-11 was a plot conceived by the American government to sow anti-Islamic fears. Most recently — in fact I read it in the paper just this week — one American claiming that the Covid-19 pandemic is not real, it is a liberal made up story to make the president look bad.

Surprisingly, well-informed and educated people believe these stories. When you lose belief in what you thought held things together, you start believing anything you read on your social media feed. And we all suffer.

I think most people believe that Covid-19 is real, but many choose not to believe the recommended guidelines to mask up to control the spread. And the result? The curve of infections is rising to where this country was back in early April.

The truth sometimes is not easy to accept, but as I preached last week, the truth triumphs. Jesus says in John 8, 'You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.' In John 14 Jesus tells us that he is the truth. 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me.'

John's gospel is a call to trust in Jesus. The last verse of the traditional ending to the gospel says: 'But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.' The key words here are *believe* and *life*. Through believing, or trusting, in Jesus; you have life in his name.

Conspiracy theories only lead down deep dark holes that are hard to escape. I don't think they are ever life-giving. A lot of truths are hard truths, but when we begin to trust the people who actually know what they are talking about, the truth will begin to set us free. And that freedom is when we realize life in Jesus' name.

— Pastor Froehlke

Worship News

Holy Communion in a Pandemic

Discussion on Zoom, July 14

With the beginning of in-person worship, the worship task force will address the safe offering of Holy Communion. For those not attending the outdoor worship, pastor has been fielding inquiries of celebrating communion virtually on the live stream.

There are many complications with virtual communion, which is why communion has not been celebrated since we've gone online. As the pandemic continues, however, and with many choosing to continue online worship, there is interest in reviewing this practice. With this in mind Pastor Froehlke is offering a zoom discussion on celebrating Holy Communion in a pandemic, on Tuesday, July 14th, at 4:00 pm. The congregation is invited to be a part of this discussion. Pastor also plans to record the zoom meeting if you are unable to join live.

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 August issue is Sunday, July 26

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor

Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door

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)

New Jersey Synod Worship July 5

On Sunday July 5th, Bishop Bartholomew and the New Jersey Synod staff will lead worship for all New Jersey churches.

The worship service will be available via the Prince of Peace FaceBook Page for live interactive virtual worship at 9:30am on July 5.

In-Person Worship

July 19th Prince of Peace will return to in-person worship. Our worship task force believes we can safely offer an outdoor worship at this time. We plan to hold the service outside the community room where there is ample space for social distancing and shade from the trees next to the parking lot. The service will begin at 8:30 am to avoid the anticipated July heat and humidity. Specific instructions will be given before the 19th so that the congregation will know what to expect.

Please note that the 9:30 live stream will continue from the sanctuary with no worshippers present. The feedback we've received is that many are pleased with the live stream and will continue to worship through this medium even with the outdoor offering.

This schedule will continue through the warmer weather. The task force will address changes as we continue through this pandemic.

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

To keep connected while apart, the pastors and Doug will offer *Holden Evening Prayer* on the Facebook live stream every Wednesday at 7:30. Let Kathy know if you'd like a copy of the service to participate at home. Holden Evening Prayer will begin on July 1 and continue indefinitely.

July Events

Joyful Stitchers in July

As we all continue to minimize our contact with others and work from home, there are no scheduled meetings for the Joyful Stitchers in July, but we are all working on our ongoing projects at home.

Fortunately for many of us, we've accumulated yarn and fabric stashes over our years of crafting, so we can continue our work at home on our prayer shawls, cat mats, knitted knockers, hats and scarves for TASK, and some of us are sewing masks as well.

We're always looking for new ways to help others with our stitching skills, so if you know of a service project that the Joyful Stitchers could help out with, please let us know. If you have your own yarn stash and are looking for a pattern or have any questions, contact Kate Chen at kcmchen@comcast.net.



Summer 2020 Day Camp at Home from Crossroads

July 13 – 17, 10 am – 12 pm

Cross Roads is offering a week-long virtual day camp program for youth (completed Kindergarten through 5th grades) from Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17. Counselors will gather with campers on Zoom from 10 am to 12 noon on each day. Those two hours will be packed with songs, games, arts & crafts, and Bible study. It is expected that campers attend all sessions of the program.

The theme for Day Camp at Home is *From Generation to Generation*. Each day, campers will learn new stories from the Bible, showing how God's love endures from generation to generation.

There is a suggested registration fee of \$25. Contact Pastor if you are interested.

Book Group

Please Note

*During June, July and August,
the book group will be meeting via Zoom.
on the second Thursday of the month as before. The
meeting time will be at*

1:30 pm in July and 7:30 pm in August.

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

July 9

Zoom, 1:30 pm

***Flight of the Sparrow* by Amy Belding Brown**

Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1676.

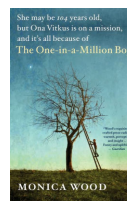
When Mary Rowlandson is captured by Indians on a bitter winter day, she little expects to be drawn to her captors' way of life and attracted to a generous English-speaking native known as James Pinter. As a captive she is sold into the service of a woman tribal leader and becomes a pawn in the bloody conflict between the Puritan settlers and the native people. This compelling story is based on actual historical events and the true narrative of Mary Rowlandson.



August 13

Zoom, 7:30 pm

***The One-in-a Million Boy* by Monica Wood**



A lonely 11-year-old-boy is sent to help out an elderly Lithuanian woman, 104-year-old Ona Vitkus. As the boy refills the bird feeders and tidies the garden shed, Ona tells him about her long life, from first love to second chances. Soon she's confessing secrets she has kept hidden for decades. The two conspire to get into the Guinness Book of World Records, but then one Saturday, the boy fails to show up. A charming story that is both sweet and sad.

Virtual Vacation Bible School

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor has invited Prince of Peace to participate in their Virtual Vacation Bible School this summer. All participants, family included, will gather on Tuesday, July 14th, 21st, and 28th at 7:00 pm via Zoom. You'll see skits, sing songs, and hear stories. The Tuesday session will be live and also recorded for use at a later time.

VVBS will also have at-home activities that are age-appropriate and that you can do at your own pace. The VVBS team will prepare the packets with the necessary materials and instructions. We are also planning on recording videos to explain some of the activities or provide additional sessions/lessons. When we come together on Tuesday evenings, we'll talk about the activities.

In order to prepare the material, the VVBS team will need to know how many children and families want to participate. Contact Pastor Froehlke if you are interested and he will provide you with a registration form.

News from The Peace Garden



Master Gardener Nancy Nicosia and Bente Ott (above) hold one of the fabulous cabbages this year's Peace Garden has produced.

This year's produce is being delivered to St. Bartholomew's Lutheran, Trenton.

Gardeners meet on Wednesdays (to harvest) and Saturdays (to tend) from 9 to 11 am. Newbies always welcome. For more information email loismcase@gmail.com or talk with Bente Ott, Nancy Reyes, or Berta Schott.

Confirmation

We celebrate our confirmation class on Sunday July 12th with a confirmation service for the students and their parents outside and in-person. Confirmation will take place at 10:30. We congratulate this year's class:

Ben Druckenbrod
Clara Jorgensen
Ashley Rohloff
Rebecca Nagin
Sarah Glickson
Ava Sawada
Julia Luczak
Max Peterson
Lily Giasi
Lexi Russo



The July Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Men's Deodorant*

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

St. Bartholomew's Continues To Collect Food Contributions



Vicar Erich Kussman of St Bartholomew's continues to send thanks to Prince of Peace for its generous offerings to St Bart's food bank.

Contribution boxes are outside the white double doors at Prince of Peace. Vicar Erich picks them up regularly and loads them in the back of his van. When the church bell rings in Trenton, the neighborhood knows food is available.

Two Thrivent Action Projects Completed

Three grateful gardeners (Nancy Reyes, Lois Case, and Nancy Nicosia) stand in front of the shed made possible through a Thrivent Action Team project.



Just as our church never closed, Thrivent's work continued during the pandemic, and both Action Team projects are now completed. As a result of many financial donations as well as the time and talent of Prince of Peace member families who split up the work while social distancing, there is a new 7'x 7' shed by the Peace Garden (foundation painted, ramp added, border completed and already put to good use over the past month); and the property enhancements for the House Next Door have arrived.

After paying for the shed kit and building materials for the foundation for the shed, the rest of the donations were used to enhance our property and add flexibility for those using our outdoor space. As in-person events start up again, retreats and meetings can now be held outside under a new EZ-Up 12' x 12' blue canopy shading four tan convertible resin benches, used as is or as writing tables or set up in pairs as two picnic tables depending on the nature of the gathering. Two of the tan benches are currently situated behind the garage (combined as a picnic table) while two others are set up as park benches near the labyrinth for now. Have trouble sitting without a back? These benches can easily be moved to the outer edges of the outdoor worship space for those needing some support when that area is in use. Plan ahead and the canopy will be set up to add comfort for retreats, meetings, or displays.

Thanks again to Thrivent for the seed money and to all who contributed ideas, Choice Dollars, or donations of cash, time, or talent. Enjoy the benches when you visit the labyrinth, find your needed tools in the shed on Wednesday or Saturday mornings while gardening, and when we are back together in person, look for the comfy gray Thrivent shirts worn by some who *Live Generously* and supported these projects.



Racial Justice Committee Meets with NJ Synod's Rev. Kimberly Vaughn ... And More

Early in June the committee and other interested Prince of Peace members met virtually with Kimberly Vaughn, the Assistant to the Bishop for ELCA's anti racism work, hoping for guidance on how our committee and congregation might continue that work. While this meeting was planned months ago and then rescheduled, no one could have predicted that we would be meeting during a time when racism had become recognized by many as another long-standing virus America has been suffering from for over 400 years, even while we fight COVID-19 which has only exacerbated the original epidemic.

Considering the circumstances under which we were meeting, Rev. Vaughn expressed her frustration and exhaustion because in the Kerner Report, which former President Johnson had commissioned 52 years ago, strong recommendations were made after racial unrest, but the government did not to make any of those changes, which could have prevented the police brutality and other systemic issues still existing in 2020. She was impressed to see we had not just organized but recognized our own complicity and also acted (in prayer, in worship, with our public statement, outreach to other local organizations, education efforts including the 21 Day Challenge), saying that very few ELCA congregations (we're one of three she knew) have such committees. As she led our discussion, responded to our questions, and shared resources, we shared our confusion and the struggles of our committee and Prince of Peace members in accepting and addressing the racism in our church. Rev. Vaughn reminded us that admitting to racism in our church and our lives can cause shock, grieving, and anger. Discussions about racism are probably some of the most difficult, so educating ourselves and our members to help us all through those emotions takes time and understanding.

As we thanked her for graciously giving us her time even while she, as a woman of color, was so deeply affected with the reality of these times, she urged us to choose just a few areas of focus for now (which the committee will try to do at the next meeting as this newsletter goes to press), recognizing we can't do it all.

Since That Meeting ...

- Many POP members (not just from the committee) have participated in peaceful protests which remind us that we can't say *All Lives Matter* unless *Black Lives truly Matter*.
- Lawn signs have been posted in front of Prince of Peace and The House Next Door showing we

welcome everyone and will stand up against hatred.

- Prince of Peace worship services included the NJ Synod Healing Service and ELCA *National Day of Remembrance Service for the Emanuel 9* and our own Juneteenth Worship. (Find them on Facebook if you missed any of those and check our <https://elca.org/EmanuelNine> for other ELCA resources).
- Nancy Reyes met with Council who voiced support and shared suggestions as to how we can continue to educate and involve members of all ages about racism so we can grow to be an antiracist congregation.

Meanwhile, there are many ways Prince of Peace members can work toward true equity:

- Continue to educate ourselves on race and racism (stay tuned for future opportunities, but meanwhile PBS published a new list of resources in early June entitled *What to Read, Listen to, and Watch to learn about Institutional Racism*, now available at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-to-read-listen-to-and-watch-to-learn-about-institutional-racism>).
- Speak Up for equitable treatment of people of all colors in America. New Jersey Attorney General Grewal is asking for input on how to reform policing. Investigate issues and support legislation and candidates who will work against systemic racism. At <https://www.njisj.org/10-things-where-youll-find-suggestions-and-links-to-explore-issues>. Another faith-based website is <https://sandsj.org/> where you can scroll down to hear *From Protest to Policy, A Black Prophetic Response to NJ Policing* (as well as recorded programs on other systemic issues. Send your opinions by August 1 to <https://www.nj.gov/oag/force/> Attending a protest is not enough. Act against racism.

Continued on next page

Thank You, Prince of Peace

rise

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2500 for the COVID-19 Emergency Reponse. Rise has put your recent gift to work for the more than 300 families that we are serving every week. Monetary and food donations from individuals, community groups, and local businesses are crucial to enable Rise to help local families in crisis.

We have seen record demand at the Rise Pantry and have held seven emergency food drive-thru distributions. With your help, Rise has been able to provide critical aid to over 4,000 families during these events.

Leslie Koppel, Executive Director



Womanspace would like to thank you for your donation of \$682. Your generous donation will help Womanspace continue to provide programs to the thousands of women, children, and men we serve each year, victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Thanks to your unstinting support, Womanspace will continue its mission to prevent abuse, protect families, and change lives through empowerment and a safety net of supportive services.

Patricia M Hart, Executive Director



The Win family, refugees from Myanmar living in Hamilton, would like to pass along their deepest appreciation for all the support they have received from Prince of Peace the past few months. The kindness and generosity shown to the family has been enormously helpful as they seek to settle in the US.

Racial Justice, continued from page 6

Stay tuned for opportunities to join continuing discussions about racism. If you'd like to get related email, access other resources, or join Prince of Peace's Racial Justice Committee, please write

nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

We pray that this time that the movement against racial injustice won't be short-lived, that people of all colors will work together so real changes will be made and that all races will soon be working and living together in equity as God's beloved children.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER



CAMP AT CAMP

ON-SITE CABIN RENTALS FOR FAMILIES

Due to COVID-19, Cross Roads has cancelled our residential summer camp. However, our facilities are open and available for families to rent! Come for an overnight or stay up to a week in God's creation. Details on amenities available on the website.



EVERGREEN
\$35/night



OAKWOOD
\$40/night



CHRIST CENTER
\$50/night



LOG CABIN
\$75/night



BEISLER CENTER
\$90/night

**EACH RENTAL
INCLUDES ACCESS TO A
FIRE RING, FIRE WOOD,
AND A PICNIC TABLE**

**RESTROOM FACILITIES
VARY PER BUILDING**

**MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM**



Parish Care — July 2020

*As we enjoy the summer, we continue to share our care with others.
If you know of someone that would enjoy some POP care please let us know.*

2020 High School Graduates and others hopefully off to school this fall

Congratulations to our 2020 High School graduates. We are very proud of your accomplishment and look forward to your next adventures. Looking forward, we like to keep in touch with our young adults. Please share your contact information: mailing, ,shipping, and email addresses, along with your school. Please send details to the church.

Keeping in Touch

We are asking for families or individuals who would help us keep in touch with folks who cannot always get to church. Dropping off a Sunday bulletin, making a phone call to see how things are, going to see someone to share hello and prayer are just a few of the ways to help. Please think about a way that you can help to make their days much brighter. Details of who and where will be provided.

We are Gathering Greeting Cards — Happy Birthday, Thinking of You, Get well, etc.

The cards are being shared with local senior living residences. If you live near or visit a senior living residence and would be willing to drop off a packet of cards, please let me know. Also if you can help sort and package the cards, let me know. We can schedule some time for sorting.

OMG! Is it only July and I have already received a 2021 Calendar!

We will be gathering these calendars this fall to share with our local senior residences. They were greatly appreciated last fall. So look for a box in the gathering area or breezeway to drop off your 2021 Calendars.

Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards

These are on the table in the breezeway. Please share with family, friends and others. Show folks your care.

Rides Needed

As more offices and businesses are opening, rides to local shopping areas and medical appointments are needed. If you can take a little extra time when you are going shopping to help someone get out and do a little shopping too, please let us know. Hopefully we can co-ordinate a time.

Soup or Cookies — Hopefully this Fall

If you are interested in baking or making soup, we are looking for a few folks to create some treats to share with others in our congregation. If you are interested, let me know so we can schedule a date.

Splash & Hope Through Healing

We continue with our *Splash* and *Hope through Healing* monthly mailings along with the *Care Notes* in the breezeway. If you know of anyone to be included, please contact Parish Care.

Martha Winder
609-799-7280



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753
E-Mail: email@popnj.org
Website: popnj.org
Worship: Sunday, 9:30 am

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am

Streaming on facebook

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