



Tidings of Peace

June 2020



Worship in June

Worship will be streamed online

Sunday mornings at 9:30

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

Sunday, June 7

Holy Trinity Sunday

Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Elizabeth Eaton, Preaching

Sunday, June 14

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Back to the Gospel of Matthew

Sunday, June 21

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Recognition of Juneteenth

Sunday, June 28

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

The Free Gift of God is

Eternal Life

Also in June

June 2, 7 pm

Racial Justice Meeting

See page 4 for more information

June 11

Book Group

Pastor Class

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Service of Healing

Thursdays at 7 pm

Starting June 11

Pastor Class

Fridays at Noon

Healing Circle

A Blessing in the Disruption

Is there more bird activity this spring or am I just noticing it? I asked the same question of the trees this year. It seemed they were especially full and colorful. Or did I just notice?

But back to the birds. I always intend to feed the birds around our house, but I never do. But this year it hasn't stopped the birds from putting on a show. Cardinals, blue jays, gold finches, sparrows, and lots of robins entertain daily. Some of them even fly into our windows. It seems daily we hear the ominous *clunk*. So far only one didn't bounce back.

I'm especially intrigued watching two mothers build nests. One right outside our bedroom window, and another building her nest in our basketball hoop in our driveway. One blade of straw and one twig at a time, these mothers persist.

It doesn't matter to the birds that were living through a pandemic. While life has been disrupted for all of us, God's creation goes about its business. Perhaps that business has been made a little easier this year with diminished human activity. Cars aren't hogging the roads. Planes aren't flying through the skies. Development and construction have been put on hold. Not good for the economy, but the air is a little cleaner.

Maybe when we get to other side of this pandemic, we'll show a little more respect for creation. Perhaps one blessing of all the disruption? I hope so. The birds in my yard deserve it.

— Pastor Froehlke

Reopening Public Worship

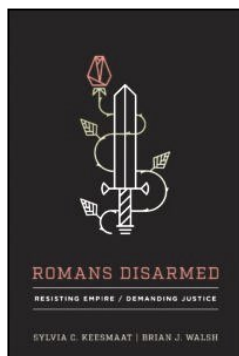
A task force is being formed to guide the process of reopening the church for public worship. Pastor Froehlke is also in communication with the New Jersey Synod and local colleagues to coordinate opening with other congregations. At this time the building remains closed for public worship.

New Pastor Class Begins Thursday, June 11

Pastor Froehlke will begin a new Pastor Class on June 11 at 7 pm on Zoom. Please email Pastor if you would like to be included and are not now receiving an invitation. If you do not now have a Zoom account, you can sign up at zoom.us. You will need only the free basic service for this class. You do not need to have read the book to participate.

In the class, Pastor will be leading a discussion of the book *Romans Disarmed*. The authors, Sylvia Keesmaat and Brian Walsh, take the original context of Paul's letter seriously in seeking to understand his intent. They also take the 21st century first-world context seriously in making the book relevant to today.

Keesmaat and Walsh argue that, like the first-century Romans, we live under an oppressive empire, struggle with issues of exclusion and marginalization, and have to work out how to live as God's people in such circumstances. They see Paul's letter as not only a theological treatise but a pastoral letter



encouraging the readers to faithfully follow Jesus in their time and place.

Romans Disarmed helps readers enter the world of ancient Rome and see how Paul's most radical letter transforms the lives of the marginalized then and now. Intentionally avoiding abstract debates about Paul's theology, Keesmaat and Walsh move back and forth between the present and the past as they explore themes of home, economic justice, creation care, the violence of the state, sexuality, and Indigenous reconciliation. They show how *Romans* engages with the lived reality of those who suffer from injustice, both in the first century and in the midst of our own imperial realities.

Sylvia Keesmaat and Brian Walsh are the authors of *Colossians Remixed*. They reside in Toronto, where Keesmaat is Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity College and Wycliffe College and Walsh is a Christian Reformed campus minister at the University of Toronto where he pastors the *Wine Before Breakfast Community*.

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 July issue is Sunday, June 28

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)

Ongoing Lockdown Offerings

Wednesdays at 7:30

Service of Healing

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

Fridays at Noon

Healing Circle

If you are not receiving a zoom invitation to these events and would like to be added to the list, please email hnd@popnj.org

June Events

Joyful Stitchers in June

As we all continue to minimize our contact with others and work from home, there are no scheduled meetings for the Joyful Stitchers in June, 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.

June Rescue Mission Clothing Drive Postponed

Because of the uncertainty of when the COVID19 restrictions will be lifted, there will not be a Rescue Mission Clothing Drive during June this year. Stay tuned for the date of the next Clothing Drive ... and keep collecting the items for whenever that can be.



The June Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is Shampoo

Please place donations in the wooden box in the breezeway.

Book Group

Please Note

During June, July and August book group will be meeting via Zoom.

We will meet on the second Thursday of the month as before. However, the meeting time has been changed to 1:30 p.m.

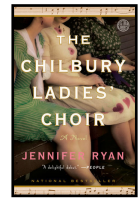
If interested in receiving an invitation to our Zoom book club, please contact Phyllis Church at 799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com

June 11

Zoom, 1:30 pm

The Chilbury Ladies Choir by Therese Anne Fowler

Because the men are off fighting for England during WWII, the women of Chilbury Village decide to form an all-women's choir despite their vicar's disapproval. The story follows the life of five of the women in the choir — a widow devastated when her only son goes to fight, a young woman drawn to a mysterious artist, her sister pining over an impossible crush, a Jewish refugee hiding a secret, and housewife plotting to overcome her questionable past. This is an enchanting story demonstrating the strength of women on the home front.



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.

Prince of Peace Reacts to Racial Injustice with Signs, Challenges and More

Once again Prince of Peace's recently organized Racial Justice Committee was called to action this month. Shortly after releasing our public statement condemning anti-Asian incidents, we were confronted by horrifying racism against our African American neighbors with videos on local social media and then national news that authorities had let several months pass without pursuing justice after Ahmaud Arberry's murder, yet another in the long ongoing history of young black men.

The committee chose two other ways to act for justice.

- 1) By the end of June, everyone passing Prince of Peace or the House Next Door will see yard signs to make it known that we as a congregation will not tolerate such hatred. Also a graphic on being an active bystander (afsc bystander pdf) is now posted at POP's bulletin board as well as on our website and in this newsletter on page 5.
- 2) Prince of Peace's own *21 Day Racial Equity Habit Challenge* (based on Debby Irving's challenge <https://www.debbyirving.com/21-day-challenge>) began.

To fight racism, we need to show, not just say, that people of every color, gender, ethnicity and religion are our neighbors and equal in God's family. We can't do that unless we educate ourselves and the congregation on the many inequities in American society so we can speak up and act against racism in all its overt and covert forms. To do so, our revised version of Irving's challenge was offered through the church's Facebook page, offering a smaller curated selection of choices twice a week covering a broader range of

ethnicities and racial groups than the original challenge and avoiding political opinions or offensive language. The 21 days ended May 24, but you are invited to continue that journey, learning more each day, using Irving's sources or others you find.

Did you participate, even if just a few times? Please send Nancy Reyes a quick email (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com) with your thoughts and reactions or just to say you were part of the challenge to get an idea of the level of participation and to help us in planning for future racial justice work.

One webinar included in the challenge and offered by ELCA (SE Synod) was *Becoming the Body of Christ where all bodies are valued: A Conversation around ELCA's Resolution to Condemn White Supremacy*. Please watch that webinar through this link. <https://youtu.be/LAatEgzsSnA> which is also posted on the church website (popnj.org). This is a commitment our whole denomination has made to right the wrongs built into our religious system and society, but resolutions (see POP or ELCA Website for those) made several years ago have done little. As our presiding Bishop Eaton said in her introductory statement, until the white majority feels the pain of people of color as deeply as their own pain, no significant progress will be made.

Meeting June 2, 7 pm on Zoom

Next the Racial Justice Committee (and other church members, we hope) will be meeting virtually with our New Jersey Synod Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Kimberly Vaughn on June 2 to see what else we can do to lead Prince of Peace and the ELCA in moving forward against racism. We hope all of Prince of Peace will join us.

Webinar on Internet Security

A webinar on information security was recently presented to the ELCA churchwide organization. Watch the recording to learn how to avoid phishing email attacks, how to protect sensitive data and prevent malware infections, and what to do if your data has been breached. Find the video, slides and FAQs at <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Information-Technology#Webinars>.

Parish Care — June 2020

Sending You All Special PoP Care

Hope You Are All Well

Hope We Will Be Able To Gather Again Soon

Some of Our Ongoing Projects

Gathering Greeting Cards

We are gathering greeting cards to share with the Senior Living Residences in the area. There is a table in the church breezeway to leave donations. If you can help sort/deliver cards, please let me know. Arrangements can be made to get them to you safely. We will also be gathering 2021 calendars and Christmas cards this fall.

Congratulations to Our Graduates

We would all like to congratulate and celebrate your accomplishment. Please reach out to us and share details about your graduation and your future plans.

Monthly Mailings

Monthly mailings to families welcoming a new family member and families who have lost a loved one continue.

Care Notes, Prayer Cards, and knitted Prayer Squares are in the breezeway. Let us know if you would like any; we can arrange a delivery.

Rides Around the Area

Hopefully soon we will be needing to assist with some rides. If you are willing to help with some driving, please let me know.

*If you know of anyone to share our care with,
please contact us with details.*

Many thanks for all your care and support of our ministry

If you need something/help, contact

Martha Winder

609-799-7280

maw14jpw@aol.com

Bystander Intervention

Do's & Don'ts

If you witness public instances of anti-Muslim, anti-Black, or anti-trans violence or harassment—or any other form of interpersonal violence and harassment—use these tips on how to intervene while considering the safety of everyone involved.



✗ **DON'T call the police.**

For many communities experiencing harassment right now (including Arab and Muslim communities, Black people, queer and trans folks, and immigrants), the police can cause a greater danger for the person being harassed.

✗ **DON'T escalate the situation.**

The goal is to get the person being harassed to safety, not to incite further violence from the attacker.

✗ **DON'T do nothing.**

Silence is dangerous—it communicates approval and leaves the victim high and dry. If you find yourself too nervous or afraid to speak out, move closer to the person being harassed to communicate your support with your body.

✓ **DO make your presence as a witness known.**

- If possible, make eye contact with the person being harassed and ask them if they want support.
- Move yourself near the person being harassed. If possible and you feel you can risk doing so, create distance or
- a barrier between the person being harassed and the attacker. If it's safe to do so, and the person being harassed consents, film or record the incident.

✓ **DO take cues from the individual being harassed.**

- Is the person engaging with the harasser or not? You can make suggestions, "Would you like to walk with me over here? Move to another train car? For him to leave you alone?," and then follow their lead.
- Notice if the person being harassed is resisting in their own way, and honor that. (Especially white folks, don't police the tone of the person being harassed).
- Follow up with the individual being harassed after the incident is over; see if they need anything else.

✓ **DO keep both of you safe.**

- Assess your surroundings—are there others nearby you can pull in to support? Working in a team is a good idea, if it is possible.
- Can you and the person being harassed move to a safer space/place?



**American Friends
Service Committee**

afsc.org/noislamophobia

FACE MASKS.

CLEANING SUPPLIES.

HYGIENE ITEMS.

FOOD. FUNDS.

& VOLUNTEERS, too.



CAN YOU HELP?



These are the things the food pantries throughout Mercer County are seeking.

Drop items in the Bin located at:

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

177 Princeton-Hightstown Rd.
Princeton Junction, NJ



*If you want to be a "Helping Partner",
please email:*

volunteer@laconvivencia.org

FOR MORE INFO: www.laconvivencia.org/urgent-response-projects.html



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>
