



# Tidings of Peace

March 2021



## Worship in March

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

### Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday in Lent  
*Jesus & the Money Changers*  
Vicar Kayla Hopgood Preaching

### Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
*The Little Gospel: John 3:16*  
Seminarian Becca Laabs Preaching

### Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
*The Hour Has Come*

### Sunday, March 28

Procession of the Palms  
Sunday of the Passion  
Palm Sunday  
Pastor Froehlke Preaching  
*The Lost Jar*

## Also in March

### March 2

*Racial Justice Meeting*

### March 11

*Book Group*

### March 16, 3 pm

*Memorial Garden Meeting*

## Focusing on God

Dear Church,

March brings upon us a milestone none of us ever wanted. It is in this Lenten season and during this specific month that we will reach one year of COVID-19 in our communities. In many respects, it feels like only yesterday that we began this journey, and, on the other hand, pre-pandemic life feels like it was at least several years ago. For however long this time has felt, it certainly never seemed to give signs that Lent 2020 had ever ended.

Pastor Peter has encouraged us not to write off 2020. Lent 2021 should be added to this sentiment. It's tempting to equate Lent solely with fasting from the things that distract us away from God. To be sure, there is sound and good reason to do so, but perhaps this year when we've already been forced to fast from so many things, we focus less on our actions and more so on God's. This, after all, is the beating pulse of Christianity that has lasted us through two-thousand years of plagues, wars, and unjust powers. We don't do the fasting for fasting's sake; and we certainly don't do the healing, the baptizing, or the saving. God does those things in order to liberate us from the sins of this world. We are a people who look to the cross of Christ and see that God's power is shown directly at the place of pain and suffering to defeat despair and bring forth new life.

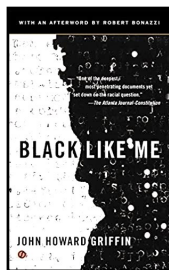
Wherever you might find yourself in this season, you don't need to do it alone. Join us in one of our many Lenten offerings. Trust that Christ meets you there and that your family in Christ – this community of believers -- wants to hear you and know your heart. Together, with the variety of gifts and life experiences, we can tell the stories of how God's redeeming work is already at play within our hearts and within our communities.

Christ's peace be with you.

— Vicar Kayla

# Latest Additions to POP READS\* Racial Justice Free Lending Library

*\*Prince of Peace Reads about Equity, Anti-Racism, Diversity, Systemic Racism*



## ***Black Like Me***

by John Howard Griffin (1996)

Here's a classic about crossing the color line across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Journalist John Howard Griffin decided to use medication that darkened his skin to deep brown to leave his privileged life as a Southern white man and live as an unemployed black man in the segregated Deep South. This eyewitness history is as relevant today as when it was written.

*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 April issue is Sunday, March 28**

## **Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace**

Rev. Peter Froehle, 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)

Kim Contini (Vice President)

Nancy Durie

Charlie Frantz

Tim Gjenvick

Mary Ellen Glickson

David Jeedi

Martin Rexroad

Wendy Schutzer

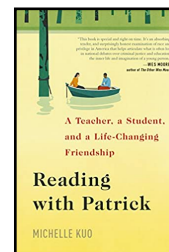
David New, Secretary (non-voting)

## ***Reading with Patrick:***

### ***A Teacher, a Student, and a Life-Changing Friendship***

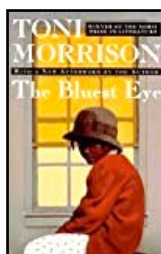
by Michelle Kuo (2008)

This memoir by Harvard grad Michelle Kuo takes the reader through her time in Helene, Arkansas, as a *Teach for America* volunteer convinced that as a Taiwanese-American she can relate and make a difference in the lives of her students living under Jim Crow laws. After two years, she gives in to pressure from her immigrant parents to attend law school but then returns when one of her gifted students is jailed for murder. Reading the classic poetry and writing of Black authors and activists helps their relationship grow.



## ***The Bluest Eye***

by Toni Morrison (1970)



This is the African American author and Pulitzer and Nobel Prize winner's first novel, which tells the story of Pecola, a young African-American girl growing up in Morrison's hometown, Lorain, Ohio in 1941, just after the Great Depression. Considered ugly because of her dark skin and mannerisms, her inferiority complex turns into a deep desire for the blue eyes she equates with 'whiteness.' This intense read has been on some banned books lists because of the incest, child molestation, and other controversial topics addressed as it illustrates the consequences of racism.

## ***You Can't Touch My Hair:***

### ***And Other Things I Still Have to Explain***

by Phoebe Robinson (2016)

A hilarious collection about race, gender, and pop culture from stand-up comedian and podcaster Phoebe Robinson. She describes her everyday experiences as a black woman in America while teaching about racism, microaggressions, and more in a lighter way than most anti-racism books.



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## March Events

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### Lenten Midweek

We worship with *Holden Evening Prayer* every Wednesday on our Facebook Livestream at 7:30 pm.

Meditations will center on our theme *Treasure in Clay Jars*. Pastor Peter, Vicar Kayla, and Field Ed student Becca Laabs will provide the meditations on Wednesdays during Lent.

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### Confirmation

Confirmation class reconvenes on Wednesday, March 3, at 5:30.

Also, the confirmation class will participate in a virtual retreat at Cross Roads on March 13 from 10 to 12.

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### Health as a Civil Right

In March the Sankofa Collaborative will present a virtual three-session panel series on *Health as a Civil Right*.

March 4— *Racism and Health*

March 11 – *Policy and Racial Health Disparities*

March 18 – *Community Responses to Racial Health Disparities*

All sessions run from 1 to 2:30 pm and are free. Pre-registration is not required. Use <https://bit.ly/3iASFoq> to join via Zoom. To participate by phone, call 929 205 6099. Meeting ID is 881 9470 5613 / Passcode: 199884

Sankofa ([sankofacollaborative.org](https://sankofacollaborative.org)) is a collaborative of several racial justice groups in our area.

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### Adult Class

#### *Sundays in March*

Join us every Sunday in March for a discussion on Howard Thurman's book *Jesus and the Disinherited*.

Thurman wrote the book in 1949, but it has much to say to our current racial climate. Legend holds that Martin Luther King Jr. kept a copy of this book in his back pocket throughout his life.

Vicar Kayla and Pastor Froehlke will be teaching on Zoom at 11 am on Sundays.

### 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](mailto:p.church@mindspring.com)

Note: Outdoor meetings are possible beginning in April.

#### 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 occurs.

#### April 8

##### Zoom Meeting at 7:30

***The Piano Teacher*** by Janice Lee

Two stories intertwine in this novel set in war-torn Hong Kong. In 1942 Will Truesdale, an Englishman, falls in love with Trudy Liang, a lovely Eurasian socialite. Their affair comes to end when the Japanese invade and Will is sent to an internment camp. Ten years later, Claire Pendleton, a married English woman, comes to Hong Kong to work as a piano teacher and also begins a fateful affair with the war-damaged Will Truesdale. This story of love and betrayal provides an interesting glimpse into the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong during WWII.



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### Outdoor Worship Update

We are hoping to hold outdoor services during March at 11 am. Watch for updates as the weather permits.

## The House Next Door Offers Sabbath Rest During Lent

# Treasure in Clay Jars



“...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**

## Join us for Sabbath Rest on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

The season of Lent is a journey from brokenness to wholeness.  
We will use the stories of scripture to guide us in a time of reflection and sharing.

<b>February 28</b> <b>Empty Jars - Elisha and the Widow's Oil</b> <i>In what ways are we feeling empty? What might God do with our emptiness?</i>	<b>March 14</b> <b>My Jar Overflows - Psalm 23</b> <i>How might we name God's abundant blessings, even in the midst of a pandemic? What gifts, what desires are flowing forth from you?</i>
<b>March 7</b> <b>Leaving Our Jars Behind - The Woman at the Well</b> <i>What do we need to leave behind in order to be fully present to Jesus? How might we experience a deeper relationship with God?</i>	<b>March 21</b> <b>Jars for Anointing – The Woman Who Anointed Jesus</b> <i>How might we serve and witness to Jesus in our every day lives? What needs to be broken open in us?</i>

Please register at [hnd@popnj.org](mailto:hnd@popnj.org)  
to receive a zoom invitation



The House Next Door  
173 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550



## Outreach News

### Easter Meal Gift Cards and Greeting Cards For LSM/NJ Families

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) has once again asked us to help provide the means for Easter Meals for their families and seniors who are in affordable housing. In past years, we've been able to gather bags of groceries and deliver them to LSM/NJ for distribution. This year, however, as with so many other activities, a creative way to do this has been devised by LSM/NJ. They write,

We will be supporting our families and seniors in affordable housing with meals for the Easter Holiday. Unfortunately, the majority of our properties remain closed to visitors, so we cannot receive Easter Dinner bags as we have in the past. I am suggesting congregations collect grocery store gift cards (Food stores, Walmart or Target). Families will then purchase what works best for them. If your congregation would like to provide something personal – cards would [also] be very welcome. The cards can be homemade or store bought.

The Social Outreach Team, in consultation with the pastors and Kathy Nowak, have agreed that this is a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to share our God-given gifts and to support our sisters and brothers throughout the state of New Jersey. ShopRite and Acme are the suggested food stores, as well as Target and Walmart. Easter cards may be either bought or home-made. Home-made cards are an excellent way to include our children in this endeavor, and also could be a fun family activity. As many cards as you would like to contribute will be appreciated. It will be fine to have more greeting cards than gift cards. Either mail the gift cards and/or Easter cards to Kathy Nowak at the church (177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction, 08550) or put them in a designated box outside the church's white doors (box will be checked daily). Everything needs to be received by March 15, since they'll need to be mailed to LSM/NJ and the mail is so slow. If you have questions, contact Berta Schott at 609-799-1783, or [rschott21@aol.com](mailto:rschott21@aol.com).

Thank you for your partnership in this ministry, as well as in all the other ministries of which you are a part. As Jesus has said, 'As you have done it to one of the least of these...' (Matthew 25:40).

Appreciatively,  
The Prince Of Peace Social Outreach Team

### Interested in Supporting Black-Owned Businesses?

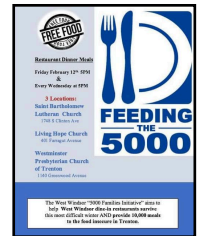
You can access a list of Black-owned businesses in our area along with descriptions of their services at

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQWTIjiU70aE7tnNhBp9DK8kARz\\_ZAEC6jppprKWu9zIHwxT1a2xx6MJz4wFRzvzQg8EvKabmf13ZCn/pubhtml](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQWTIjiU70aE7tnNhBp9DK8kARz_ZAEC6jppprKWu9zIHwxT1a2xx6MJz4wFRzvzQg8EvKabmf13ZCn/pubhtml)

The link is also on the church facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>)

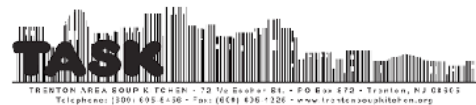
### West Windsor 5000 Families Initiative Ongoing

The West Windsor 5000 Families project has raised over \$30,000 toward their \$100,000 goal, which is to provide funds to local restaurants so they can prepare 10,000 meals to donate to families in Trenton.



Pastor Erich Kussman of St. Bartholomew's Lutheran has established the food pick-up and distribution network. The project was organized by Andrew Hersh and others in the WW Good Works non-profit.

Contributions can be made through venmo (WW Good Works account) or gofundme (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/west-windsor-5000-families-initiative>.) The organizers are very grateful for all contributions.



### The March Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Canned Vegetarian Beans*

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



**Clothing Drive Coming  
For One Day Only**  
*April 10, 8 am to 12 Noon*  
**To Benefit Children & Families  
In the Foster Care System**

New Jersey Angels is a national non-profit organization that is 'wrapping community around children and families in the foster care system.' They do this through intentional giving, relationship-building, and mentorship.

Headquartered in West Windsor, the New Jersey chapter of National Angels is just getting started. Their board of directors will be meeting at the House Next Door, and we are providing space and support for their Clothing Drive.

Please consider donating clothes to support this important ministry. Note that clothing can only be dropped off on the day of the event.

## Thank You's



***Dear Prince of Peace Congregation,***

Thank you so much for all the donations the congregation has provided. This will allow my troop and I to create Covid Care Bags for families in need. I am very grateful and honored to be part of such a faithful and loving church community. I hope everyone continues to remain safe and blessed. Have a wonderful day.

In Peace, Mo Clarke

Came home from work and was surprised with a POP Valentine's Day box!! Thank you for still including Joey and I in the tradition! I always love the surprise.

— Alison Safraneck

***To: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Our Church,***  
Thank you so much for the thoughtful Valentine bags of goodies and love shared; For the personal greeting and especially for the prayer jar,  
With best wishes and appreciation

— Eileen and Al Parker

***Dear Prince of Peace,***

Thank you for the Bag of Treats. My 12 year old granddaughter is visiting, and she and I explored the goody bag together. I am sure everything in the bag will be enjoyed or put to good use.

Thank you again for being so thoughtful.

Sincerely, Lee Akens

Shah and I just wanted to say thanks for the treats. It was greatly appreciated and thoughtful.

— Bud Lochin

***Note: Bud is our custodian and the owner of Custom Cleaning Service.***

Hi all,

I received the care package in today's mail. I am attending school from home this time around but the snacks are always appreciated, thank you for thinking of me!

— Grant Gallagher

## **News from the Racial Justice Team**

*February was a short month but lots happened around Racial Justice.*

### **Paying Attention**

Unfortunately, anti-semitists, anti-Asian, and other hate groups have been even more active recently. There have been many incidents in New Jersey and across the country. If you see something, say something. In addition to the police, here are several reporting sites:

- Stop AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Hate: <https://stopaapihate.org>
- Simon Wiesenthal Center for Global Social Action re Anti-semitism: [ireport@wiesenthal.com](mailto:ireport@wiesenthal.com)
- Anti-Defamation League: [adl.org](http://adl.org)

### **Team Activities**

February's Racial Justice Team meeting included many topics from members who'd attended various webinars as well as Black History Month events. These are just a few:

- Inequities in our health system include both accessibility issues and frequent unjust treatment for POC (people of color).
- Policing reform recognizes the need for police and the need to develop trust in police by POC. Proper policies, training and supervision, transparency, and accountability are needed within the police as well as community involvement by funding expanded social services that could provide restorative justice programs, especially for youth, instead of unnecessary violence and inappropriate or inequitable incarceration.

### **Lotus Hill Project**

More of Trenton's history of racism is coming to light in an exciting project started by the rediscovery of Locust Hill, the largest of 21 known colored cemeteries. It includes at least ten Civil War veterans. Various local organizations received grants and are fundraising to develop Assunpink Park with full involvement of the neighborhood. The park will also include a Civil War Veterans Memorial, an amphitheater, a lighted walkway to the creek, environmental research with a minnow pond to restock the creek, sports fields, an area for drill teams and reenactments, replacing abandoned houses with several new single family homes, a museum which will be maintained by the 6th Regiment US Colored Troops. Stay tuned!

### **Getting Educated About Local History**

Princeton has an ongoing history of racism coming more to light as evidence shows from a threatened lynchings if Black students tried to live or eat on campus in earlier times; race riots; and denial of admission, even to Paul Robeson's brother when his father was a respected minister there; and ongoing racist incidents reported personally by the current minister and neighbors of the Witherspoon-Jackson church. Get involved by getting educated about the local history. You and Prince of Peace can help if we start listening.

### **Setting Goals**

The January 6 insurrection brought even more awareness that White Supremacy and Christian Nationalism as well as QAnon and systemic racism are alive and more common than was previously seen. The racial justice team is working to learn more and make a difference. We're considering goals for the coming year, including more work on systemic issues, advocacy, and reparations.

*Continued on page 9*

## **Parish Care — March 2021**

### **Thank You! — You Did It Again!**

*How much Prince of Peace Care was shipped?*

*155.8 pounds in 21 boxes within the USA*

*One Valentine treat bag to our local college student*

*Two Special Valentine Cards*

*Six treat bags and signed Valentine cards to our Senior Valentines*

### ***Valentine Care Box and Bag Project***

The Parish Care Team would like to thank to all the members and friends of Prince of Peace for their generous support of the Valentine Care boxes project. All of your goodies and dollars have filled 21 boxes, 7 Valentine Bags and two special cards to the brim — sending much love and care to our students away at school and to our Senior Valentines.

When the package arrives via the USPS or personal delivery, our young adults and seniors are reminded that they are a part of our church family — even though they are not here with us weekly — and their friends get to see what it is like to have a church family.

On February 3rd, the boxes were filled with lots of goodies and care. Some of the things filling the boxes were home-baked cookies, instant oatmeal packets, lots of different snacks and treats, pens, pencils, gum, hot chocolate, tea, popcorn, a sponge, a couple of baggies of candy (just to mention a few items) along with a Valentine card. They were shipped to NY, MA, NJ, MD, PA, VA, CT, OH, and NC from the Windsor post office on Tuesday morning. Most were delivered by Friday.

Your donations of dollars, treats, and goodies allowed us to make sure the boxes were overflowing with treats and shipped. We had four folks working on Monday, figuring out how to get all the goodies in the boxes (~7.5 pounds/box), taping them shut, and making sure they all had addresses.

Every year we worry about having enough home-baked goodies to fill all of the boxes — this year we had several bakers! To our bakers: many thanks for sharing your baking skills. And many thanks to those who donated snacks, goodies, and dollars.

Along with the boxes for the students, we filled seven goodie bags for our Senior Valentines. They enjoy the treats and the most of all the visit when they are delivered.

**Save the date** for this fun project: 2021 Valentine Care Box packing, Monday, February 8; shipping on Tuesday, February 9. And do take some time to deliver some care to our Senior Valentines.

### ***Come Share Some Care***

#### **Easter Cards**

Watch for cards to appear in the gathering area to sign with Easter messages. Please take a few minutes to send Easter greetings to our church friends.

#### **Greeting Cards for Senior Residences**

We have many cards that we need to have sorted, packaged for delivery, and delivered to local Senior Residences. If you have time to help, let me know.

#### **Transportation**

We are in need of transportation to appointments, shopping, and church. If you can help with driving, please let me know. Thank you for your help.

*Continued on page 9*



### **Through Prince of Peace**

**Help us make the artwork at Prince of Peace more diverse.** Most of our art shows white people only. Do you have something from your culture or that you've seen online or in your travels that you like? Send a picture or loan the item to Nancy Herrington (nancyherrington9@gmail.com), who will be working on a collage or some creative inclusive art to add to Prince of Peace.

**Check out a book:** The READS Lending Library has opened with books on equity, anti-racism, diversity, and systemic racism — fiction or nonfiction, eventually for all ages. Books started going out for loan on February 14 from the books listed in the last newsletter or the new ones added this month (see page 2). An updated list will be posted on popnj.org soon. Contact Nancy Reyes for delivery or stop at church when Kathy's there to look and borrow. Thrivent provided \$250 seed money. You can add to the library by contacting Nancy to donate books or money to buy more. Note *lending library* on your check. Help us all learn about your race or culture or others by recommending books you feel represent it well.

**Join Sunday Adult Forums** at 11 on Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*

**Join the team on Zoom** on March 2 from 7 to 8:30 or ask for more information on anything here.

**Attend the next ELCA New Jersey Synod Anti-Racism Meeting**, February 27 from 10 to 12

### **In the Community**

Try something once and then decide whether to continue.

**Join Solidaridad**, a relatively new group in Princeton helping area immigrants with their asylum process. Their next meeting is on March 2 at 7 pm.

**Follow NIOT** (Not in Our Town) Princeton at <https://niotprinceton.org> for other anti-racism events and learning opportunities.

### **Every-Other-Month Visits**

I would like to get a visitation schedule going for our church family members who can't be with us on a regular basis. We are asking that you take an hour or so from your busy day to drop off a treat of some sort and spend a little time chatting. You will find this a rewarding way to get to know someone new and learn a bit about POP church history. The visits will be arranged for a time agreeable to all. All are welcome and Parish Care will supply the treat to deliver.

### **Ongoing**

**Care Notes:** Ginger Reiersen continues to keep our *Care Note* display in the breezeway filled. If you or anyone you know would benefit from one of the booklets, please take them from the display. If you have a topic that you would like to see in the display, please let us know; we will see what is available. Thank you to Chris Wethe for donations to restock our supply. Look for some of the new booklets dealing with prayer.

**Pocket Prayer Squares**, knitted by our Joyful Stitchers, and **prayer cards** are in the breezeway. Please take and share with others.

**Monthly Mailings:** We continue with our monthly mailings to families with a new baby (*Splash*) and those who have lost a loved one (*Hope through Healing*).

*We are always looking for new folks  
to be involved in our projects  
and to help use with some new ideas.*

Please contact us with your interest.  
Martha Winder — 609-799-7280 —  
[maw14jpw@aol.com](mailto:maw14jpw@aol.com)



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: [email@popnj.org](mailto:email@popnj.org)

Website: [popnj.org](http://popnj.org)

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### *Sunday Schedule*

Worship at 9:30 am (Livestream)

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

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