



Tidings of Peace

May 2020



Worship in May

Worship will be streamed online
Sunday mornings at 9:30

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

Sunday, May 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 24

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 31

Day of Pentecost

Also in May

May 14

Book Group

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Service of Healing

Thursdays at 7 pm

Book Discussion
with Pastor Peter

Fridays at Noon

Healing Circle

God Uses Generosity to Strengthen the Body of Christ

Our leadership at Prince of Peace is Bold, yes with a capital '**B.**'

Tuesday evening I zoomed in to our Executive Team meeting. This was our first meeting since the pandemic forced the cancelation of public worship. I was worried about the finance report. How had five Sundays without an offering affected Prince of Peace's financial health? Our Finance chair, Eric Jorgensen, said that it was too early to see any trends. Offerings were still coming in, and Eric's calm demeanor eased my anxiety.

But next our leaders really surprised me. The Executive Team, recognizing our privilege, talked about supporting a local cause directly impacting the community. This would not be a free will offering, which frees council from financial responsibility — you get what you get so to speak — but an added expenditure from the operating budget, of which council takes total responsibility. We concluded this is a time to be bold with our generosity as the church.

We identified two recipients. First, the St. Bartholomew's food pantry. I personally know the overwhelming needs flowing into St. Bart's. And to think that the food pantry only opened in February. For a month Prince of Peace has been filling up three food bins for St. Bart's (of which we ask you to continue) but now we have an even greater opportunity to serve their neighborhood as the need will only deepen.

The second recipient is RISE (<https://www.njrise.org/>). RISE is the only social services organization dedicated to serving eastern Mercer County, with a focus on our neighbors in Hightstown and East Windsor. They have a food pantry (last year they distributed nearly 30,000 bags of food to families); comprehensive social services; programs for children, youth, and families; English language learner programs to help a large immigrant population; and a great deal more. They're a lifeline in a part of our region that's vastly underserved, and they reach a population not served by the Trenton/ Princeton based organizations.

On Friday our church council unanimously approved a \$5000 expenditure split equally between these two local ministries. This is not to say POP is awash in cash. As the pandemic continues, our financial resources could very well be strained. But for now, the leadership of our church has taken this bold step to help our neighbors in a way we best can, with our financial resources.

Vicar Erich from St. Bart's, when I shared this news, replied that you cannot out give God. In other words, God uses generosity to care for our neighbor, but to also care for us. Bold acts of faith only strengthen the body of Christ.

— Pastor Froehlke

Racial Justice - So Much More to Do

Though the timing of the Racial Justice Committee meeting is after this newsletter deadline ...

- *Acolyte Robes* are being altered to take off the hoods which made them offensive to those reminded of Ku Klux Klan white-hooded robes and past oppression. Thanks for the help of Nancy Durie in contact with a local seamstress in need of work who is doing these during this crisis.
- Committee members attended webinars and meetings including
 - *Community Advisory Council weekly updates through Trenton Health Team* on how local government, organizations, and individuals are addressing the COVID-19 crisis and inequities in health care including free medical appointments, walk-up testing sites in Trenton, shelter for those diagnosed, sites for lunches, meals, food; prescription and delivery for those without transportation; phone kiosks for telemed and testing; multilingual distribution of info, etc.
 - *STAND CNJ Income, Health Care and Consumer Protection Advocacy webinar* on disproportionate effects on people of color and marginalized populations. Go to <https://p2a.com>) to see and possibly support legislation to stop debt collection, debt court filings, negative credit reporting, and to protect unemployment, stimulus, CARES Act, and Small Business checks from being garnished until the crisis is over.
 - *YWCA Stand Against Racism: Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women: Identifying and Addressing Inequity in Elections*, pushing voting and Census. You can help by filling out your census today <https://my2020census.gov/login> and by telling others.
 - *EmbraceRace: What COVID-19 Tells us about Structural Racism*: presented data and lack of it on race, use of risk factors of poverty, environment, and underlying conditions to avoid discussing systemic racism causing all of these. Consider these ideas: *Shelter in Place is a privilege* and *We have never really been 'in this together.'*
 - *Talks at Pulitzer: Indigenous Lands and the Land-Grant University System*: From the 1860s on, the US government gave 10 million acres taken from Native Americans to 52 higher education institutions. These have now been traced and notified and some are considering reparations for indigenous peoples.

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 June issue is Sunday, May 24

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehle, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
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)

The team welcomes your input as we struggle with how to fight not just outright racist acts but also systemic racism. Interested? To join the committee or to get ongoing details by email, contact Nancy Reyes, chairperson, at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239.

More for You to Consider

Volunteers are needed for Mercer Street Friends warehouse and Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Food Donations to St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church (can leave in bins at POP) or any pantry

New Book Released in April: Toni Morrison Book Club. Four TCNJ professors used four works by Toni Morrison to explore personal experiences which they share. Well worth reading, whether or not you've read the original works.

Unique Website - BlackQuotidian.org: Features everyday lives of hundreds of African Americans taken from black newspapers mostly between 1900s and 1980s, including video clips, photos, and more. Excellent primary sources compiled by Dartmouth College professor.

April Events

Connected in Christ

Pastors Dale and Peter are offering a variety of opportunities to help us remain connected to Christ and to one another throughout the health crisis.

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

Service of Healing with Pastor Dale

Each week we will focus on a different form of prayer or spiritual practice. These thirty-minute prayer services will be live-streamed on the Prince of Peace Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>).

Thursdays at 7:00 pm

Book Study with Pastor Peter

Pastor Peter will lead a discussion on Richard Rohr's book *The Universal Christ*. You do not need to have read the book in advance. If you are interested in attending, please email Pastor Peter at pastor@popnj.org and he will send you a Zoom invitation.

Fridays at 12:00 pm

*Healing Circle with Pastor Dale
and Suzannah Sabin*

The purpose of a Healing Circle is to hold one another in prayer. Our time together will begin with a reading or passage of Scripture, followed by a time of sharing and silent prayer. Please watch for your Zoom invitation in your Friday morning email.

Book Group

Please note that all meetings are tentative. It seems unlikely that we will be meeting together in the near future unless we decide to communicate online via Zoom. The books we have selected will be listed, however, for your reading pleasure.

May 14

Please check with Phyllis Church for more information.

***A Well-Behaved Woman* by Therese Anne Fowler**

In this biographical novel the author takes us behind the velvet draperies of the Gilded Age in her stunning portrait of Alva Vanderbilt, a strong and fascinating heiress who refused to bow to societal convention. Alva emerges as an early feminist modern women can relate to.



The Book Group usually meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

New members are always welcome.

*If interested, please contact Phyllis Church
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com*

House Next Door Series on Prayer

Brandi Hebert has concluded her series on prayer, but it is still available at www.therestorativetable.org

or the videos are on the House Next Door Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/>

Worship in May

The Worship and Executive Teams have made the decision to cancel public worship through May 31, Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday. This was a difficult, but we felt necessary, step to protect the good health of the congregation.

Live streaming will continue through the month, except on May 3rd. Bishop Bartholomew and her staff are offering a worship service for the entire synod on this Sunday. The worship will be posted on our Facebook and YouTube accounts on Sunday morning. The Bishop offers this to give pastors, musicians, video recorders, and church administrators a well deserved Sunday off. Plus, this

will be an opportunity for the congregation to hear from the Bishop and worship together with the synod.

The worship team is beginning to discuss options for opening worship safely when we do return. As the weather warms, worship outdoors while keeping social distance, looks like a strong possibility.

The pastors have also talked about offering an additional alternative worship, perhaps a Taize service, at a different time to keep attendance limited (did you ever think you'd hear this from pastor?) Stay tuned for this.

Joyful Stitchers in May

As we all continue to minimize our contact with others and work from home, there are no scheduled meetings for the Joyful Stitchers in May, 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 May Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is Shampoo

Please place donations in the wooden box in the breezeway.

NOTE

The statement on the church website and Facebook pages sent at the end of March missed deadlines for monthly media so will hopefully appear in May editions to let our community know that Prince of Peace is standing up against racism of any kind.



Thrivent Action Projects - Almost Done!

Despite Social Distancing, several families worked as Thrivent Action Project Team Members to keep the shed and property enhancement projects moving along. Lois and Dave Case assembled two convertible picnic benches which will soon be out by the outdoor worship area to provide seating with backs for those who need it, and they can be put together for use as a new picnic table when needed for retreats or outdoor events at The House Next Door.

John Reyes cleared an area next to the Peace Garden, hauled and leveled gravel, and built a platform, assisted by Gerard, Robert and Matthew DiGioia. (Four masked men carrying the 7' x 7' wooden platform past the Peace Garden workers was quite a sight!)

Then the Durie family took over. Nancy, Bob, Joseph, Tom, and John worked together to assemble the SunCast Resin Storage Shed which is already in use.

Wendy Schutzer suggested repurposing the former Cherry Tree Club shed shelves, which were cleaned, moved, and reconfigured by garden volunteers Lois and Dave Case, Nancy Nicosia, and Nancy Reyes.

Only a few finishing touches are left...By the time we are worshipping at Prince of Peace the projects will be done thanks to Thrivent and POP monetary donations and time and labor by church families!

To Pastor Froehlke and Church Members,

Thank you so much for the Easter greeting (all framed and hanging here), the welcome card, and especially the continuing church sermons and notices.

We're having a quiet time, as everyone has to stay in their apartments, and no visitors are allowed in the building. This too shall pass —

Best regards, Al & Eileen Parker

Parish Care — May 2020

Hope You are Safe & Well

Hope We Will Be Gathering Together Soon

In Some Different Ways

April was a Different Way of Caring

Our monthly mailings were easy to continue.

Delivered some groceries and supplies.

I was able to deliver Easter Wishes to seven of our homebound/senior residents. I was able to chat with four. All were very grateful for the few minutes of conversation. If you would like to make a phone call or send a message, please let me know.

Greeting Cards

We continue to gather Greeting Cards (non Christmas) to distribute to several senior residences in the area. This a great way to share all the greeting cards that you receive in the mail. If you can help sort and/or deliver a package of cards to the residences, please let me know.

Graduation

Spring is here and high school graduation is near. We are now looking for information on our 2020 high school graduates. If you are graduating this spring, please share some information about yourself – where you are graduating from and what you might be up to after graduation. Please leave the details with the church office or with the Parish Care Team.

Care Notes, Prayer Squares, SPLASH

Hope Through Healing

Parish Care would like to thank Ginger Reiersen for her care and help with keeping the *Care Note* Display looking great. *Care Notes* are booklets with inspirational messages for many different life situations. They are displayed in the gathering area and are for folks to take and read or pass them along to others who might enjoy the message.

There are knitted prayer squares and pocket prayer cards in the breezeway. Please share with others.

Monthly mailings to families with new babies, SPLASH, and those that have lost loved ones, *Hope Through Healing*, continue.

Transportation Needs

Rides to Dr. appointments during the week.

Rides to local grocery stores.

If you can help with getting folks to and fro, please let me know.

After all of our isolation

I am so looking forward

to sharing POP care with all.

Hope we can gather together soon.

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



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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
Education Hour at 10:45 am

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 2 pm
