



Tidings of Peace

October 2020



Worship in October

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion
8:30 am on October 4 & 11
11 am on October 18 & 25
Online Worship at at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>

Sunday, October 4

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Fruits of the Kin-Dom
Vicar Kayla Hopgood Preaching

Sunday, October 11

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Guests of the Kin-Dom

Sunday, October 18

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Taxes in the Kin-Dom

Sunday, October 25

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
In the Kin-Dom
Reformation Sunday

Also in October

October 4 & 11

Examining Racism

October 6

Racial Justice Meeting

October 8

Book Group

Thursdays

Except October 15
Pastor Class

October 11

La Convivencia Town Hall
See page 6

October 21 & 28

Prayer Service for Our Nation

Dear church, *The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength!*

I've found myself in these blurred days of the pandemic recalling Scripture memorized as a young girl. In the midst of bewildering national and global news, a particular verse from the Book of Nehemiah continues to circulate within me: *The joy of the Lord is your strength* (8:10).

At first glance, this seems like an odd verse to recall. Wouldn't it be better if it were something from one of the two most notorious models of lament in Scripture: Job or Lamentations? But this invocation for worship comes from the Israelites, a people all too familiar with hardship. A generation of their people had seen the destruction of the Temple and were exiled to Babylon, far from the promised land God had given them at their liberation from Egypt. Their joy does not come without a long history of suffering.

As Christians, we also know that joy does not negate suffering. Jesus' suffering on the cross led to the greatest joy we'll ever know: new life. Our joy is not something we acquire because of our property value, career, or education. It is given to us freely by the grace of God through Christ Jesus. What has been earned can be lost, but what has been given from God cannot be taken away. In this season, there have been an exceeding number of losses and a growing sense of anxiety as we race toward election day, but no one – no power, no authority, no virus – can take away your eternal joy.

It is my prayer that the joy of the Lord would continue to free you to do the work you've been called to do: whether in your home, as an essential worker, or at Prince of Peace.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58).

— Vicar Kayla

Worship Update

Outdoor worship continues through October, weather permitting. Note that we will change the time starting October 18th to 11 am. October 4th and 11th will continue at 8:30. October 18th and 25th will be at 11:00. The live stream service will continue every Sunday at 9:30.

Racial Justice Focuses on Education

As you probably know, Prince of Peace's Racial Justice Team has started the new school year with important conversations, all essential to working for God's justice in our world. First, at our team meeting we discussed an article saying Christian churches have served as institutional spaces for the preservation and transmission of white supremacist attitudes. Our discussion included how segregated churches are and denominations who have split as a result as well as connections between Civil Rights activists like Martin Luther King, Jr. and evangelists like Billy Graham. Could it be that we as Christians have been complicit in racial injustice all along? Shouldn't we investigate those charges and if true, do something about it?

Pastor Froehlke led two forums on reparations based on scripture (Deuteronomy) as well as the writings of Ta-Nehisi Coates, Nikole Hannah Jones, and others. Did you know that in the Bible, part of Israel's covenant with Yahweh was to make reparations by returning land and freeing slaves every seven years? Have American or Christian churches ever seriously considered repairing the racial injustice inflicted on Africans who were enslaved and brought to our shores over four hundred years ago? Shouldn't we as Christians be following that Biblical example? Do we

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 October issue is Sunday, September 27

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)

owe something to the ancestors of those enslaved persons? How does (or should) the Christian church influence those with political power to make reparations?

How will our focus on education move from Prince of Peace into our communities? Team and reparations participants agreed we need to learn more and act justly based on that knowledge, so we're working to build relationships with other faith and community organizations and schools. Did you know Princeton, Upper Freehold, and West Windsor School Districts (to name a few we are in touch with so far) have administrators, parent committees, courses, and/or student clubs studying or working against overt as well as systemic racism? As we develop such relationships as a church, individual members will find ways they can get involved. For example, the West Windsor African American Parent Support Group (AAPSG) and their high school club (POC Advocacy Club) are willing and available to help as we struggle to define our work. Discussion is underway to start conversations about race between Prince of Peace adults and youth and members of these groups.

Are you ready to get involved? Email Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

- Sign-ups have begun for *Examining Racism: Looking Inward First*, a free two-session virtual course offered by NIOT(Not In Our own) Princeton on Sundays, October 4 and 11 from 11-12:30 via Zoom for anyone 17 through adults. How can our congregation work against racism if we don't understand our own implicit biases and/or can't recognize the microaggressions committed daily in our own communities? These uncomfortable conversations are critical as we struggle to be allies in this overwhelming task of following Jesus's example in fighting injustice. As of this publication there are still openings. Prince of Peace's work for justice starts within each of us!
- According to Latoya Edwards, president of the African American Parent Support Group in WW-P Schools: 'We offer tutoring to students who need additional assistance with schoolwork. Subjects include: Math, English/Language Arts, Science and History. We offer tutoring at all grade levels.'

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October Events

Joyful Stitchers Holiday Project

Each year in the fall, the Joyful Stitchers turn their talents to creating warm, beautiful, useful handmade items to donate as holiday gifts for those who might need them. With our small group of knitters and crocheters, and with help from stitchers in the congregation, we've been able to donate a considerable number of items each year.

This fall, given our close association with St. Bart's, the scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens we're making will be donated to St. Bart's. Even though there are no scheduled meetings for the Joyful Stitchers in October, we are all working on this project at home. We'd like to provide as many high-quality, handmade items as we possibly can, so if you'd like to help us out, we'd certainly appreciate it.

Please note that we are requiring all items to be made of good quality **machine washable** yarn. We have some appropriate yarn available, so if you'd like to make something for us, but don't have yarn or need a pattern, please let Kate Chen know at kcmchen@comcast.net.

Similarly, if you have yarn to donate that meets the requirements for this project, please send Kate an email with the particulars. Plan to have finished items ready to go by early December. As soon as we have a specific date, we will let everyone know. Happy Stitching!

Pastor Class

Pastor Class continues Thursdays with the exception of October 15th. A yet-to-be determined topic will be announced for October 22nd. Let pastor know if you'd like to attend and he will send a zoom invite.

Confirmation at St. Bart's

On October 10, the confirmation class will volunteer at the St. Bart's Food Pantry. We plan to bring with us homemade cookies. If you would like to donate, contact pastor.

Book Group

In the early fall we plan to meet outside, weather permitting. If necessary a Zoom meeting will be scheduled. at 7 pm.
If interested in receiving an invitation to our Zoom book club, please contact Phyllis Church at 609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com

October 8

Outside beginning at 4 pm
At the home of Phyllis Church
11 Princeton Place, Princeton Junction
RSVP to Phyllis Church

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

The Dutch House acts as character in this modern-day fairytale. Cyril Conroy buys the palatial mansion in Philadelphia for his wife Elna, but she fails to appreciate it and abandons her husband and children to do philanthropic work abroad. The children, Danny and Maeve, grow up here. Danny, who acts as the narrator, is seven years younger than his sister Maeve. The two siblings are a modern-day Hansel and Gretel and face abandonment, banishment, and a wicked step-mother. They even have three 'Fairy Godmothers': Fluffy, Sandy, and Jocelyn. A complicated story featuring intense family relationships.



November 12

Zoom meeting at 7:30 pm

The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff



This unusual WWII story centers on a German circus performing in occupied France during the war. The owner of circus provides refuge for Jewish performers hiding from the Nazis. The focus is on Astrid, a Jewish aerialist, and Noa, a Danish girl raped by a German soldier. After her baby is taken from her, Noa escapes to the circus. Astrid is tasked with training her to perform on the high wire. The story is told by these two main characters in alternating chapters. This is a tale of friendship, hope and sacrifice.

Prayers for our Nation

Beginning Wednesday October 21 a midweek prayer service will be held offering prayers specifically for our nation as we head toward the national election. This service will be live-streamed beginning at 7:30.

October & Beyond



The October Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is *Canned Fruit*

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

Youth Racism Workshop

On Sunday November 1, Sara Froehlke will lead an anti-racism workshop for our confirmation class and our high school youth. We begin at 4. The venue will be announced.

Stewardship *Generosity Today*

Our Stewardship emphasis this fall is *Generosity Today*. The call in these days of pandemic is greater than ever to be generous.

Prince of Peace is making a difference at the St. Bart's Food Pantry, RISE in Hightstown, our prayer circles, in-person youth activities, educational offerings, and of course worship both in person and on line.

Our stewardship team encourages you to be generous in supporting Prince of Peace during this crisis. Our emphasis will take place on the Sundays in November.

Social Ministry

Food & Clothes for St Bart's— Peace Garden — Christmas

As COVID-19 continues to affect our approaches to various ministries, the Social Outreach Team has been working on creative ways to provide outreach opportunities. Although we have had to cancel the fall clothing drive for the Trenton Rescue Mission, we are still supporting the Food and Clothing Pantries at St. Bart's. They can use bedding and small household items, as well, and are also in need of plastic and paper shopping bags for distributing the food and clothing. Their circle of recipients has expanded widely this summer and into the fall, so all donations are greatly appreciated.

Bins for these donations are located outside the white doors that lead into the Education Wing. You may also leave donations in sturdy garbage bags there. Prince of Peace has been and continues to be most generous in supporting St. Bart's and we thank each of you for your part in that effort. Monetary gifts in the form of checks may be made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked for St. Bart's.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have been working in the Peace Garden. A variety of produce continues to be available and about 600 pounds have been gathered, bagged, and given to several food pantries, most of it going to St. Bart's. The harvesting will continue as long as there is produce to gather.



*From the
Peace Garden,
a bouquet of
ageratum and
Russian sage,
picked,
arranged and
modeled by
Berta Schott.*

We are currently working with LSM/ NJ on a safe way for families/individuals to provide specific Christmas gifts requested by individual children in their care, as we have been doing in recent years. Stay tuned for more information on this endeavor when the details have been finalized.

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

Appreciatively,
The Social Outreach Team


Prince of Peace Presents
EXAMINING RACISM
Looking Inward First



Free!! Sunday, October 4 and 11, 2020 On Zoom!!
11 am - 12:30 pm
 Racial discrimination still exists in private and public settings. To make meaningful change, we must begin with ourselves: understanding the biases we all carry, and how they affect our own lives and our interactions with other people. As a previous participant wrote: "The workshop made me more aware of my own implicit biases as well as those that are embedded in social norms."

Led by Linda Oppenheim, linda.oppenheim@gmail.com, 609-462-0421.
 Limited to 25 participants.
 Register by contacting **Nancy Reyes**, nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239.

Racial Justice, continued from page 2

- Parents reach out to AAPSG for tutoring assistance and we work to match the child to the appropriate tutor. All tutoring sessions will be via Zoom.
- Coming in October, an *Hour of Engagement*, sponsored by *Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry*. If you have a passion for housing, hunger, health, or employment, join an Issue Table. Each week one table will gather on a Monday at 5:30 pm for an hour via Zoom to review current policy on the issue, create strategies to address the situation, advocate for change, and reflect on our engagement. Contact Rev. Sara Lilja at slilja@learnj.org with questions or to join in.
 - Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 7: Prince of Peace's next Racial Justice Team Meeting (on Zoom)
 - October 12-13: National Council of Churches Christian Unity Gathering, *Breathing New Life into Our Nation: Repentance, Reformation, Reparation*. This is an exploration of "what churches must do to turn back the tide of chaos and embrace Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of the beloved community." For more information, see nationalcouncilofchurches.us/cug.
 - Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 to 7:30: *Virtual Race Conversation for Parents — The Untold Story +*. Let's share on this critical topic. Nancy Reyes will bring some suggestions as you share yours. Parents of all ages welcome. Let's help each other. If you can't make it but are interested, RSVP saying that as well.
 - Saturday, November 7, 2020, 10:00 am to noon: Join the New Jersey Synod Anti-Racism Team for a Virtual Conversation on racial justice, equity, and inclusion. Registration information will be posted in *Jersey Jottings* and this newsletter.

**The next Racial Justice Team
 Virtual Meeting is on
 Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m.
 Anyone can attend.**

La Convivencia hosts:

**West Windsor and Plainsboro
Police Chiefs**

Town Hall Meeting




October 11, 2020 3:00-4:30 pm via Zoom

DISCUSSION ON All are welcomed and encouraged to attend this important moderated town hall discussion to voice your concerns and thoughts on police enforcement in the WW-P community. As the State of NJ reviews its policing policies state-wide, the WW-P community has an opportunity to come together and dialogue on local policing strategies.

OPEN to the PUBLIC

Registration Required

www.laconvivencia.org

To our Church —

We appreciated the lovely church flowers that Wendy brought to our home.

Thank you so much!

— Eileen Parker



Dear Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2500 for the Rise Pantry. We have put your donation to work assisting families in Hightstown, East Windsor, and the surrounding local area during this challenging time!

You are allowing Rise Case Managers to assist your neighbors in applying for unemployment and other supportive services. We can offer food to individuals who are struggling during the pandemic because of your generosity.

We have seen record demand at the Rise Pantry and have held 9 emergency food drive-thru distributions. You have kept the shelves stocked and provided critical aid to 5000 families during these events. The Rise Snack Shack for students is open at the Rise Thrift Store. To keep students engaged, our Summer Campers are receiving free virtual instruction in Coding, Robotics, Digital Media, Wellness, and Youth Entrepreneurship in addition to creating beautiful artwork to celebrate the diversity of our community.

With great appreciation, Leslie Koppel, Executive Director

Parish Care — October 2020

*Sharing our care and concern with those in our community in times of need and joy.
Now that our new church year has started, we are getting our projects up and running. We need your help.*

Care Callers

OMG its October and we are still not able to gather together for Sunday worship!

We need some help sharing a personal touch with *all our church* family.

I am looking for 10 to 12 folks (or more) willing to make 4 to 6 phone calls every 4 to 6 weeks. Our calls are to just say Hello and check in, to see how life is going, if there are any needs. Directions and names will be provided. Please let me know asap if you are willing to help. We would like to get started right away, especially since the holidays will be here soon.

Young Adults

We are gathering mailing, shipping and email addresses for our young adults who are learning remotely or traditionally at school or at home. We keep in touch with our students throughout the year. Please make sure we have a current 2020-21 addresses. Our first mailing is going out in early November, so please make sure we have the information.

Care Note Ministry

In the breezeway you may have noticed a display of *Care Notes*. These are pamphlets with spiritual messages to help us with our everyday life events. They are for all to take and benefit from their messages. It is time to think about restocking our supply. In the past we have had donations made to help cover the cost — between \$100 to \$150. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, donations can be made to the church with the memo note *Care Notes*. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for keeping the display full and current.

Prayer Squares & Prayer Cards

On the table in the breezeway are Prayer Squares, knitted by Joyful Knitters, and Prayer Cards. They are there to be used by yourself and to share with others.

Sharing Our Faith

With our Local Community

We *hope* to be Christmas caroling in December following our morning worship service. All ages and voices are welcome. This has been a very

heartwarming project for all — our singers and those we are singing too. We will be taking a small gift and card for all. Watch for details on how you can help with this ministry. *Stay tuned for updates.* Plan on taking our Holiday care to others who cannot get out. All voices are welcome, all ages, no rehearsals. Let us know your favorite carol to sing.

Calendars — Greeting Cards — Christmas Cards

We are gathering 2021 Calendars, greeting cards, and Christmas cards to share with senior residents in local Assisted Living Facilities. So if you are receiving more calendars, greeting cards, and Christmas cards than you can use, bring them to church. There is a box in the breezeway. If you need access to breezeway, contact me and we can work out a safe time to drop off items.

Christmas Messages

Soon we will be writing Christmas cards to share with the community during the Holiday season. We can still send cards if we cannot go into the building. Let me know if you are willing to add a message to the cards. Cards will be bundled in Ziploc bags to pick up, complete cards with message and return to church.

Watch for more details about times to pick up and drop off if we are not able to use the building. Take a few minutes and help send some Christmas cheer.

Rides Needed

1. Rides on Tuesday afternoons to doctors appointments from Princeton Junction to Princeton.
2. Rides to local grocery and shopping venues in our area as needed.

Ongoing Projects

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

We are working on an easier way to have access to these ministry items. Until then if you would like any, let me know and arrangements can be made for pickup/delivery.

***If you would like to help with any of our projects or be part of our team, please join us.
We are always looking for new ways to share our care with others. Contact Martha Winder: maw14jpw@aol.com***



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753
E-Mail: email@popnj.org
Website: popnj.org
Worship: Sunday, 8:30 & 9:30 am

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 & 9:30 am

Streaming on facebook

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