PRINCE of PEACE Lutheran Church

Tidings of Peace

August 2021



Worship in August

Indoor & Online Worship at 9:30 am
https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch

8:30 am Outdoor Worship

Sunday, August 1
Tenth Sunday After Pentecost
I Am The Bread of Life

Sunday, August 8
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Do Not Let the Sun Go Down On Your Anger

Sunday, August 15
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost
Walk in the Way of Insight
Pastor Erich Kussman Preaching

Sunday, August 22
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
You Have the Words of Eternal Life

Sunday, August 29
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Be Doers of the Word
Vicar Kayla Preaching

Also in August

August 12
Book Group

August 31
Racial Justice Meeting

On Leaving the Planet

I'm having a hard time with billionaires going into space this past week. Richard Branson took off in his space plane, Virgin Galactic. Not to be outdone, eleven days later Jeff Bezos was on board his rocket Blue Origin for its twelve-minute flight above the earth's atmosphere. Add Elon Musk, with his SpaceX Endeavor, and this trio of the world's wealthiest individuals seem more intent on leaving this world as opposed to helping it.

I must admit that I haven't followed these stories closely. The little I have read is that Branson and Bezos got involved in space travel as business ventures, offering space tourism to those who can afford it. Apparently, you need not go through the rigors of becoming a NASA astronaut to go into space. All you need are very deep pockets. One ride on Virgin Galactic will cost over $250,000. So far, six hundred future passengers have already bought tickets. Who has this kind of money?

Still, the optics don't look good. Writing in *The Atlantic,* Shannon Stirone writes:

> *Could there be a worse time for two uber-rich rocket owners to take a quick jaunt toward the dark? The climate crisis is now actually starting to feel like a crisis. Hurricane season is starting early. Oh yeah, then there's the pandemic that is very much still not over. Anyone would want a break from this planet, but the billionaires are virtually the ones who are able to leave.*

Have we lost all sense of perspective? Jeff Bezos spent 5.5 billion dollars for his twelve-minute ride.

My gut reaction to billionaires flying in space is that with nothing left to conquer on earth, they are just moving to the next frontier. Some ambition is never satisfied.

I wonder if the prophet Amos has words to say to this matter.

> *Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain their strength. Those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses* [or rockets?] *save their lives.*
>
> Amos 2:14-15

I know Mary, in *The Magnificat*, has a comment.

> *He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich empty away.* Luke 1:52-53

Maybe I am too simplistic, but can the money spent on space tourism be put to better use on earth? Maybe the rich can try to save the planet instead of just escaping it.

—Pastor Froehlke

A New Chapel for the Community



The team working on the new garden chapel at a July meeting in the space the chapel will occupy. Clockwise from top: Nancy Herrington (standing), Berta Schott, Shari Rexroad, Mark Snyder, Lois Case, Kayla Hopgood. Not pictured, David Case, Dale Selover.

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 September issue is Sunday, August 29

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Vicar Kayla Hopgood
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
Martin Rexroad
Wendy Schutzer
David New, Secretary (non-voting)

Often when we think of birth, our minds drift to the joy of new beginnings, but hardly do we ever consider the fragility of this season. One in four families in the United States loses a baby during pregnancy, delivery, or infancy. As people shaped by the promises found at the cross of Christ, we are called to weep while others weep and to minister in the places where others might be afraid to go. As Paul so poetically reminds us: "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38).

Led by the Holy Spirit, a Committee formed to build a memorial garden specifically for pregnancy and infant loss in order to bring voice to that which can feel voiceless and to give a safe space for all our families who grieve. Together, we've prayed for this space and the healing which can come from it. We've dreamed about what it means to provide this ministry not only to Prince of Peace, but to the greater Mercer County area. Working closely with Mark Snyder, the landscaper who designed our labyrinth, we've come up with a way to make the space private and meaningful for those who will visit. A description of the space, accompanied with pictures, as well as ways you can support this ministry are provided in the continuation of this article.

Description of Space

After prayerfully walking around our outdoor space, our Committee agreed to create the garden among the trees, between the labyrinth and the playground. The garden will be surrounded by panels for privacy, with a focal point on a three paneled series entitled, the *Tree of Life*. The panels surrounding the *Tree of Life* will provide similar privacy and will echo the labyrinth motif in such a way that will unify both of these outdoor spaces.

The center of the garden will hold a fountain surrounded by stones. Guests who enter the space will be invited to write the name of their child on a rock to leave at the fountain. We intend to have a resource box in the chapel such that families can find out more ways to be connected in their bereavement journey. As shown in the sketch provided on page 6, benches will surround the space.

Continued on page 6

August & September Events

Pastor Erich Kussman to Preach at POP

Sunday August 15th, Pastor Erich Kussman from St. Bart's will preach at both the 8:30 and 9:30 services. Pastor Peter will be preaching at St. Bart's that day. Come and be inspired by Pastor Erich.

Saint Bart's Community Picnic

September 4

Our church partner, St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton, is holding a community picnic on Saturday September 4th from 12 to 2. Prince of Peace is invited. The price of admission will be a back pack loaded with school supplies to be distributed to neighborhood children at the picnic.



God's Work, Our Hands

Help Provide Items for Welcome Home Boxes
Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 am
Lunch Hosted by Staff

Sunday September 12th is *God's Work, Our Hands* Day. We join this day with congregations throughout the country to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ, to serve and love our neighbor.

Our service project for the day will be packing *Welcome Home* boxes for people being released from incarceration. We will be collecting items for these packets in August. We are still waiting on a complete list, but some items we know are needed are any type of cosmetics, NJ Transit monthly bus passes, and gift cards to Walmart and Target.

Watch the bulletin and the church Facebook page for a complete list.

Book Group

If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at 609-799-0723
or p.church@mindspring.com

August 12

Please note the Book Group meeting for August has been cancelled since so many people will be away.

September 9

7:30 pm at the home of Bente Ott
47 Gordon Way, Princeton
RSVP to benteott@gmail.com or 609-683-8363

The Grace Kelly Dress by Brenda Janowitz



This charming light novel connects the lives of three generations of women all with one thing in common, a wedding dress inspired by the gown Grace Kelly wore at her wedding. The story takes us back to France in the late 1950s, to Jersey in the 1980's, and to present day New York City. Most of all, it's a book about family.

Save the Date

The New Jersey Synod of the ELCA Interfaith Ecumenical Committee will be sponsoring an outdoor afternoon family event at Prince for Peace for people of all faiths in Central Jersey on Sunday, October 17, rain date October 24.



The August Donation Requested
for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is

Men's Disposable Razors

Please place donations in the
wooden box in the breezeway.

POP Lending Library
A Great Summer Activity!

The POP Lending Library is open and available for requests. If you like suspense novels, adventure, or legal thrillers, try a novel by Dan Brown, Sidney Sheldon, Janet Evanovich or Fern Michaels. If you enjoy a Christian–themed novel, I recommend trying a novel from Jan Karon's series about a fictional town in Mitford, North Carolina and following Father Tim around town. (I have seen one of these stories on TV!) There is an extensive list of books on the POP website! I even recognized several authors from the high school reading list in years past.

Go to the POP website - popnj.org - and scroll down to the *POP Lending Library*. Select *Read More* and you will see a pdf list to click on for a list of the books alphabetically by author. At the bottom of the paragraph is a form to complete to request a book or books. Complete your request right here on line and select '*SUBMIT*' at the bottom. Your information will be automatically e-mailed to the Safranek family who will get your request and contact you to set up a time for delivery. Give it a try! Pick up service is also provided when you are ready to return the novel.

Peter and I are always looking for a new author to try, so let us know if you have any favorites!

— Dorothy Safranek

Donations Still Needed For St. Bart's Food Ministry

Over the summer, our Prince of Peace grocery donations for the Food Ministry at St. Bart's have dropped off. This is certainly understandable, likely due to vacations and other summer commitments.

The need for groceries has not diminished for the folks served by St. Bart's, however. Canned goods, rice (2-lb. bags), cereal, pasta, peanut butter, jelly (no glass jars), and snacks are especially needed. Any donations you are able to provide will be greatly appreciated.

Containers for the donated items are on the porch outside the white doors of the Education Wing. Monetary contributions are also appreciated. Make checks to Prince of Peace and earmark for St. Bart's Food Pantry. They may be put in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550.

Thank you so much for considering this ministry opportunity and for your contributions.

— Appreciatively, The Social Outreach Team

Summer Bounty



From the garden of Jim & Martha Winder, a beautiful display of hydrangea flowers from a plant that enhanced the worship space on Easter a few years ago.

Exciting Harvest at Peace Garden

Warm weather, plentiful rain, wonderful volunteers, and accumulating experience has paid off in the Peace Garden. Among the vegetables, flowers, and herbs are beets, sweet and hot peppers, basil, tarragon, parsley, sage, garlic, potatoes, carrots, romaine, chard, eggplant, kale, Russian sage, yarrow, zinnias, collards, green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, scallions, chives, onions, purslane, and squash.

Produce is harvested on Wednesdays and delivered fresh from the garden to St. Bart's food pantry, where it is distributed within a few minutes of arrival.

If you would like to be part of this exciting and rewarding ministry, please contact loismcase@gmail.com or come to the garden between 9 and 11 on Wednesday or Saturday.



The
House
Next Door

A Safe Space — A Place of Grace
To Dwell in the Heart of God

Weekly Opportunity for Healing Prayer

Every Friday at noon, Prince of Peace gathers with Charlie Frantz and Pastor Dale for Healing Prayer. It is a time to hear Scripture, share our concerns, hold one another's prayers, and witness to God's presence in our lives. Come once; come weekly. Watch for the Prince of Peace weekly email with the Zoom invitation.

Group Direction: Listening Together for God at Work in our Lives

Group Direction is for individuals who would like to experience spiritual direction in community. Groups gather once a month for two hours. New groups will be forming in September. Both afternoon and evening sessions are available. The cost is $25/session. If interested, please email Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org.

Walking the Labyrinth

Looking for a quiet place to catch your breath? to pause for prayer? The Labyrinth is open from dusk to dawn. You are always welcome to walk the labyrinth or come and sit in the oasis that is Prince of Peace's backyard.

The Labyrinth
A path for prayer and meditation
A tool for transformation and healing
A walk with your soul

Congratulations, Cynthia Reyes Lally and Team!



Cynthia Reyes Lally, formerly volunteering as one of Prince of Peace's teenage recreation leaders at VBS, has moved on to a career in sports. Her Women's Football Team, Derby City Dynamites out of Louisville, Kentucky, became the WFA Division III National Champions at the Pro Football Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio on July 23. Cynthia was the kicker throughout the game against Arizona for a 30-20 win. The next day she moved to North Carolina to start her new job as Director of Campus Recreation at Methodist University in Fayetteville.

New Chapel, Continued from page 2

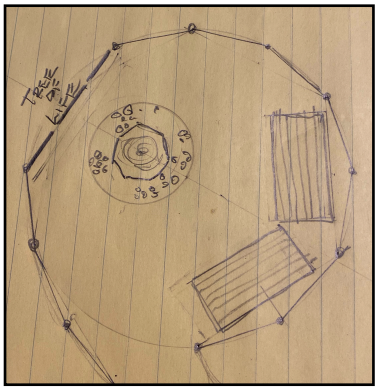
We've intentionally set up the space so that anyone, regardless of religion or culture, would feel comfortable entering it. However, as Christians it is not hard to envision this space and see the deep symbolism which it holds for us.

First, the fountain is like that of the baptismal font, a reminder of our own baptism and our own belonging as children of God. Secondly, the tree of life not only reminds us of Eden and of ultimate restoration, but as is the tradition in the Eastern Orthodox Church, it can also be a prefiguration to the cross of Christ. A reminder that Christ stands in solidarity with our own suffering, our own grief and loss. This, of course, is not where the story ends. The journey to the empty tomb is part of our reality and the Hope we hold.

As part of my leadership on this Committee, I've reached out to our neighbors in the West Windsor/ Princeton Junction community. The feedback I heard was overwhelmingly one of gratitude as if this gift was needed long ago. No such space similar to it exists in our area and there has been a deep sense of appreciation for our intention to make this space inclusive as well as private for any who might enter.

Ways to support the Tree of Life Chapel

Many of you have expressed an interest in this ministry and for that, I'm very grateful. Most importantly, please keep this ministry in your prayers as we move toward the building phase. Hold in your heart those you know who have gone through a miscarriage or infant loss, and please share this ministry with others as you might see fit.



A preliminary sketch of the Tree of Life Chapel, with the fountain, two benches, and the 3-panel Tree of life privacy screen.

Financial gifts for this garden will help us offset our budget of $10,000 needed to create the garden. If you feel led to make a gift, please indicate that the gift is for *Tree of Life Chapel/Infant Memorial Garden.* Lastly, mark October 15th, National Day of Pregnancy and Infant Loss, in your schedule. On this day, every year, it is our intent to gather in this new space to remember and honor the precious lives lost.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me at kayla.j.hopgood@gmail.com or by cell at 609-791-9720.

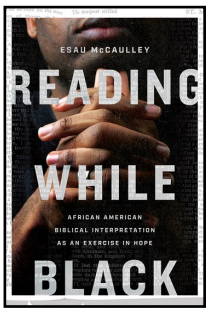
In Gratitude, Vicar Kayla

New Books Added to Racial Justice Library

Available in the Gathering Area

Reading While Black

Esau McCaulley

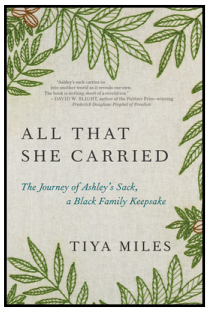


Esau McCaulley, Anglican priest and professor at Wheaton College, grew up in the American South. In *Reading While Black* he 'advocates for a model of interpretation that involves an ongoing conversation between the collective Black experience and the Bible, in which the particular questions coming out of Black communities are given pride of place and the Bible is given space to respond by affirming, challenging, and, at times, reshaping Black concerns.'

All That She Carried

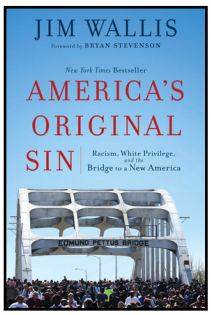
Tiya Miles

All That She Carried takes its inspiration from a cotton bag, now displayed at the Smithsonian, that was passed down through generations of Black women. In the book, Tiya Miles 'carefully unearths these women's faint presence in archival records to follow the paths of their lives … to write a singular and revelatory history of the experience of slavery, and the uncertain freedom afterward, in the United States.' Tiya Miles is a professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and director of the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University.



America's Original Sin

Jim Wallis



In *America's Original Sin*, Christian activist Jim Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians — particularly white Christians — urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

Wallis argues that whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change. This book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America.

Don't Let the Summer Pass Without Learning Something More about Social and Racial Justice

There's So Much to be Done!

Does life seem to be slowly getting back to normal for you? Perhaps you're back to work or traveling, socializing or getting out of your house more, and happy that you're not constantly seeing videos of police brutality against people of color that were so frequent last year? Don't let that fool you into complacency. There's still so much injustice all around us. Make time this month to think about your passion, your part in societal issues, and to reflect on how it's affected your life. Just because violent racism and inequities may not seem front and center right now, don't forget them.

I'd like to share a personal anecdote.

> This past week while traveling in Ohio, my husband and I got into an elevator alone, and though John had on his mask, I'd forgotten to take mine out. As the door was almost closed, a young Black man, probably in his late 20s, stopped it from closing and walked in on the side where John was standing. My immediate reaction was to back up to the far side since neither he nor I had a mask on. Sadly, his immediate response was to say, 'I'm not going to hurt you or anything.'
>
> My response was, 'No, that's not it! I forgot to put my mask on!' He still felt compelled to explain why he got on the elevator with us (did he know John and I were together?): Loud kids we'd just passed had been running in the halls all day in the hotel and he couldn't take one more minute with them waiting for the next elevator. We talked the rest of the short ride, but I haven't stopped thinking how sad it was, that he automatically felt or thought that way.
>
> How much more relaxed would our conversation have been if he had been white or I had been Black? How many times have I unconsciously reacted to another person's skin color before recognizing my own white privilege, and even this time, was I completely honest with myself and him? What did his parents have to teach this polite young man as he was growing up just because he was Black? Have I done enough to teach my daughters to treat others equally? What more can I do to leverage my privilege to help people of color since I automatically benefit from it every day?

Our team continues to discuss how to have such difficult conversations at Prince of Peace, addressing systemic racism and divisiveness that exists all around us. Do you have stories of unearned White Privilege or being treated differently because of your skin color, appearance, or heritage? Perhaps those stories can help others to grow in our journey of self-reflection and awareness, an important part of this on-going work. (Send your thoughts and experiences to nancyauerreyes@gmail.com; join our team email list; or get the link for our next meeting, August 31, 7 to 8:30 pm.

In an effort to move from talking about mass incarceration in Pastor Erich Kussman's class last spring to action. Prince of Peace's's Racial Justice Team and Faith New Jersey invite you to join us on *God's Work Our Hands* Day, September 12. This issue is so wide-reaching that we will be exploring more ways to help those in and recently released from prison in the future, so let us know of your interest.

Meanwhile, the knowledgeable and passionate Pastor Sara Lilja, director of New Jersey Synod LEAM (Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry), is offering a virtual Summer School of Advocacy on Mondays, 5:30 to 6:30, on Zoom. Register for free at https://www.leamnj.org and see recordings of those you missed. Come when you can to learn ways you can get accurate information and act on issues tugging at your heart or keeping you up at night. Here are the remaining sessions that touch many social and racial justice issues.

August 9 - New Jersey Civics

This session will take you back to 7th grade Civics class. How does our state government actually work? What kind of issues are decided at various levels of government?

August 16 - Advocacy Research Guide

In this session, we'll discuss how you can learn about an advocacy issue you're interested in. What are good sources and practices for finding unbiased information about advocacy issues?

August 23 - Voter's Guide

In this session, we'll prepare for campaign season by covering how you choose a candidate whose platform is in line with your values and concerns. What kinds of questions should you ask a candidate?

— Nancy Reyes, Chair

Parish Care — July 2021

Sharing our Care and Compassion with All
Wishing all a wonderful summer — Time to be out and with family, friends, and neighbors again.

Huge Thanks

A very special thank you to all the folks who helped with the repast on July 17th. We celebrated the life of Al Parker and provided a space for Al's family and friends to remember and renourish their souls and bodies. The family appreciated all of our efforts. We had folks help with setting up table and chairs, serving the luncheon, cleaning up after the luncheon and some dessert bakers. Many thanks. It was very nice and felt right to be able to provide this special service in our community room again.

Amazing: We are thinking of Back to School Time Already

It is hard to believe that it is time to be thinking of back-to-school. The Parish Care team keeps in touch with our students throughout the school year. Please share your student's contact information: a USPS mailing address at school, an email address, and/or the a good way to touch base. So as you are packing up your college student for the fall semester at school, please share their correct snail mail and email information with us.

Looking ahead to our Christmas Caroling - Hopefully we will be able to share our care

We have been Christmas and spring caroling at local assisted living homes for the last several years. It has become a tradition for Prince of Peace to bring much cheer to folks who cannot get out into the community. We have taken our gift of voices and a small gift/treat and a card. In the past, we have taken small candies, bookmarks, flowers, cards, knitted prayer squares. We are looking for ideas for a small special project/treat that we can make and give away when we go caroling. If you have any project ideas that would be special, please let us know.

Calendars and Greeting Cards

We are collecting 2022 Calendars. Last year the senior residences greatly appreciated them. I have already received a few in the mail, so if you have calendars there is a box in the breezeway to collect them. The same applies to greeting cards. Please check with church office to see when the building will be open for drop off.

We also need to have the greeting cards sorted by type. If you would like to help with getting the cards organized, please let me know. This can be done at church or in your home.

Senior Residence Liaisons: We are looking for some folks to help deliver the calendars and cards to the senior residences. If you live near or visit one, please consider helping by dropping off these items.

Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards and Care Notes

All are in the breezeway into the church. Look for a basket with knitted Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards along with the *Care Note* display. They are for you and to pass along to others who would like a little reminder that they are cared for by many. If you cannot get into the church, let me know and I can help get things to you.

Rides Needed

1. To and from church for Sunday Service.
2. Rides needed to appointments, grocery and local shopping.

If you would be willing to help with some transportation, please let us know.

New Project

On Confirmation Sunday it has become a tradition to take a picture of the class with the church pastors.

We would like to create area where there will be a visual remembrances of all the classes — past, present and future. So look through your photos and find one of your confirmand/s and share them with Parish Care. We will make a digital copy and return your original. If you would like to help with the collection of pictures, names and dates, we have many opportunities to help.

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 include, please contact Parish Care.

Martha Winder 609-799-7280 maw14jpw@aol.com

PRINCE of PEACE
Lutheran Church

177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753
E-Mail: email@popnj.org
Website: popnj.org

Office Hours
Monday & Tuesday 9 to Noon
Thursday 1:30 to 3:30

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am (Indoor and Livestream)
https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch

Outdoor Worship at 8:30 am