

# Tidings of Peace



December 2023



## Worship in December

*Worship with Holy Communion  
In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am*

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

### December 3

First Day of Advent  
Welcome to the Gospel of Mark  
*Pastor Peter Preaching*

### December 10

Second Sunday in Advent  
Prepare the Way of the Lord  
*Field Ed Student Sara Manning Preaching*

### December 17

Third Sunday in Advent  
A Garland Instead of Ashes  
*Pastor Peter Preaching*

### December 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent  
How Can This Be?  
*Pastor Peter Preaching*

### December 31

First Sunday of Christmas  
A Service of Lessons and Carols  
*Pastor Peter Preaching*

## Pastor's Page

Last week the Religious Leaders of West Windsor and the Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium met on back to back days. We celebrate diversity in both groups; Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims. We respect and honor each other, but at both meetings last week our usual cordial decorum was challenged as our rabbis and Muslim representatives shared their deep pain over the Israeli Palestinian War now tearing the Holy Land apart. Our Jewish members spoke of increased acts of antisemitism only adding to their anguish. Sadly, our Muslim members said the same about increased acts of Islamophobia. At times they challenged each other's truth as raw emotions were let loose. These two meetings were the most intense I've experienced in my ten years of attending both.

I came out of both meetings with the same take aways. First, both Jews and Muslims are tied to the Holy Land in ways that we as Christians cannot appreciate. The conflict is half a world away, but it felt like it was happening right next door given the emotion. Second, my role at both meetings was to listen and learn. Too many on the sidelines of this war cheer on one side or the other, or more accurately, they cheer against one side or the other, without any attempt to listen or effort to understand, leading to increased acts of hate against both sides.

The conversations were hard but I'm glad we didn't skirt the conflict. We didn't reach any consensus last week, but we drew only closer to each other. I give thanks for these relationships.

After last week I determined that a conversation at Prince of Peace would be helpful for us as Christians. The coming season of Advent is the right time. The Adult Forum in December will center on the book "Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine." Advent is the season of hope. If there is going to be any hope in the Holy Land it will begin by seeking to understand the people and the history of our religious roots. I invite you to the conversation Sundays at 10:45.

Pastor Froehlke

*Tidings*, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to [rclarecarlson@aol.com](mailto:rclarecarlson@aol.com).

**Deadline for the January issue is Sunday, December 24th**

### 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, Church Musician

Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

### Congregational Council

Tim Gjenvick (President)

Joan New (Vice President)

Jessica Clarke

Mary Ellen Glickson

Christian Oehm

Dorothy Safranek

Wendy Schutzer

Con Sweeney

Claudia Thompson

David Herrington, Secretary (non-voting)

## Advent and Christmas Services at Prince of Peace

Advent Midweek Dinner Church sponsored by the House Next Door  
Wednesdays December 6th and 13th 6:00pm

Midweek service of Hope and Healing sponsored by the House Next Door  
Wednesday December 20th 7:30pm

Christmas Eve  
Sunday December 24th 7:30pm

Christmas Day  
Monday December 25th 9:30am

### Book Group

*If interested in joining the book club, please contact Phyllis Church at 609-799-0723 or [p.church@mindspring.com](mailto:p.church@mindspring.com)*

*We meet once a month in the church lounge at 1 p.m. Please bring your lunch and/or snack for others to share.*

**Thursday, December 7, 12:30 p.m.**

Book Club Christmas Luncheon at the Springdale Golf Clubhouse  
1895 Clubhouse Dr., Princeton, NJ.  
(\$25 is requested to cover costs.)



**SoulCollage® by certified facilitator Teresa Knipper**

**Dates: November 17, December 8, 2023**

**9 AM-12 PM (coffee at 8:30, program begins at 9)**

**\$30 per session**

**House Next Door 173 Princeton-Hightstown Road Princeton Junction, NJ 08550 (parking is available next door at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church)**

**Soul Collage®** is a satisfying, fun and creative collage process connecting art, soul and journey. As you engage in creative play, you make your own cards, each one representing one aspect of your personality. You then use the cards intuitively to contemplate life's questions and enhance self-discovery. Participants will learn and practice the basics to create Soul Collage® cards during the workshop. No art experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided.

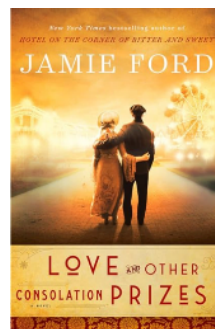
This series will be focused on themes of Hospitality to Self, Loved Ones, and Stranger. Each session is stand alone and it is not necessary to attend both.

**Come awaken your Inner Wisdom!!**

Register by emailing [hnd@popnj.org](mailto:hnd@popnj.org). registration ends the Tuesday before each Friday session. Confirm you are coming by sending payment to PayPal at [Teresa.knipper82@gmail.com](mailto:Teresa.knipper82@gmail.com)

**Thursday, January 11, 1:00 p.m. in the lounge**

**Love and Other Consolation Prizes by Jamie Ford**



Here is another great historical fiction novel by the author of *The Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. The story centers around the Seattle world fairs of 1909 and 1962, two very different eras in the life of the main character,

a young Asian-American boy who arrives as an orphan from China and discovers that his benefactor's plan for him at the first fair is not what he imagined. Much of action takes place in a brothel where young Ernest meets two young girls and forms an unbreakable bond. The book was inspired by actual events.

## November Council Report

### Thanksgiving Thanks for Turkeys and Hams for St. Bart's

Thank you to all who donated turkeys and hams for St. Bart's to provide for Thanksgiving to the hungry in their neighborhood in the South Ward of Trenton. Of the nearly 250 turkeys and hams they distributed, Prince of Peace donated 30. Many hungry people were fed and were very grateful. Your ministry to this community is deeply appreciated by St Bart's, the recipients, and the Social Outreach Ministry Team of Prince of Peace.

### Christmas Gift Wishes from Individual Children Served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ)

Again this year, we are partnering with Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ to provide Christmas gifts requested by individual children that they serve. Prince of Peace has wishes from 20 children. Many thanks to those of you who have already chosen a child. There are still some wishes available. The sign-up form is on the Prince of Peace website. Select a child or children and then make out a check to Prince of Peace, earmarked "LSM/NJ Child(ren)'s Gift(s)". The check may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. Selections may be made through Wednesday, December 6. The checks will be appreciated ASAP, but no later than December 10. LSM/NJ will purchase the gifts and deliver them to the children.

Thank you again for being a part of this giving opportunity.

Appreciatively,

Berta Schott, on behalf of the Social Outreach Ministry

- Pastor Peter reported that it was easy to serve St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor in November thanks to the support of the congregation and the preaching of Pastors Dean Brown and Paul Rorem and Chaplain Claudia Thompson.

- The search for a new office manager has begun.

- The House Next Door is very busy as it is becoming known outside the NJ Synod in neighboring synods and the wider ELCA.

- The Council approved the changes to our Church Constitution to comply with the ELCA model constitution and changes to our bylaws to match what we are doing. These changes will be sent to the congregation with plenty of time to review them before the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

- The finance team is transitioning to better financial software, and an audit is in progress. So far pledges are less than in previous years. If you have not pledged but want to please do so now so our 2024 budget can be prepared.

- Ideas for how to expand Joyful Noise were discussed.

As always, the meeting began with devotions and prayer concerns, and ended with the Lord's Prayer. Please bring any concerns you have about our congregation and its mission to any of the members of the council.

### Holy Currencies Thank you

Holy Currencies are flowing here at Prince of Peace!

Thank you to all who responded with financial commitments for 2024 to our Holy Currencies Stewardship emphasis. We have 40 pledges amounting to \$227,000. The finance team will be working with this number to develop the 2024 spending plan but it is a little lower than typical. If you haven't pledged yet, we would welcome your commitment. Commitment cards are available in the office.

### Parish Care News — 2023

As Advent begins and we prepare for our Christmas Season.....

During the advent and Christmas seasons, we think of and spend time with our families. Some members of our church family may appreciate a little extra care during this time. If you are able to share a little time, make a call, deliver some holiday cheer, assist a member with some holiday tasks, read a Bible story or say a prayer with a member of our church family please let the Parish Care Team know, we can provide details.

Care Notes are available in the gathering area. Please take, read, and pass along to another as needed. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for helping to keep the display organized and current. And to Chris Wethe for the financial support of this project.

Starting Dec 1 there will be a table in the gathering area with Christmas cards. They will be sent to our homebound members and friends. Please take a moment to share a Christmas message. They will be mailed by Dec. 20th.

Martha Winder  
maw14jpw@aol.com



# Creating + Crafting Festive Stars for Advent

Friday, **December 15, 2023**

**9.15a** Coffee  
**9.30a** **Reflection + Meditation**  
**10a – 2p** **Star making / crafting**  
**2p – dusk** *the house and grounds will remain open for prayer, silence and personal retreat time*

## LOCATION

**The House Next Door**  
177 Princeton-Hightstown Road \*  
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Stars are often used throughout the Advent season. Jesus is the **Bright Morning Star**, the Magi were led by the **Bethlehem Star**, and the Old Testament speaks of **a star coming forth from Jacob**.

You are invited to step back from the busyness of the holidays to engage in a contemplative time of prayer and listening, followed by an art practice. Using scissors, simple folding techniques and glue sticks, we will each create several different types of stars as a reflection of this rich season.

Everyone is welcome — no artistic experience or skill is required. All materials, patterns and instructions will be provided.

Facilitated by Pat Pickard + Teresa Knipper

**Cost :** \$30  
*bring your lunch or purchase locally*

**For more information and to register**, scan the QR code or send an email to [hnd@popnj.org](mailto:hnd@popnj.org).  
*Registration ends on Monday, December 11, 2023.*

*\* Parking is available at “the church next door”,  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church*





**Consider this an invitation to a restorative reset.**

Join us at **The House Next Door** as **Dr. Zan Struebing** leads us in discussion and meditative activities to push the pause button on holiday stress. This will be a time for reflection and reclaiming of the holiday season in community, employing the tenants of Mindful Self-Compassion.

**All are welcome, whether new to mindful practices or an experienced practitioner.  
Simply arrive with an open heart and a beginner's mind.**

**Remember that sense of joy and wonder you felt when anticipating the holiday season when you were a child?** Perhaps it felt as though you literally *could not wait* for Christmas morning to arrive, and, if you were raised in a religious Christian tradition, the weeks of Advent could not possibly drag on any longer! Yet, in adulthood, do you find yourself struggling to enjoy the holidays? Pressure. Planning. Powerlessness over the chaos? Claim some time for yourself and join us.

**Dr. Zan Struebing** is a licensed psychologist, educator, and passionate presenter and practitioner of Mindful Self-Compassion.

 JOY *and* PEACE 

**RSVP by November 28 to: [hnd@popnj.org](mailto:hnd@popnj.org)**

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

## OUR MEDIEVAL HYMNS

### “Savior of the Nations, Come”

By Paul Rorem

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 263), which Lutherans have long sung as the first hymn of Advent, is a good example of “our medieval hymns,” especially from Martin Luther’s perspective. The hymn writer was St. Ambrose (340–397), Bishop of Milan, Italy, and famous author of hymns and theological treatises.

When Ambrose as the Roman Empire’s Governor of the area around Milan was monitoring a contested election of a new bishop for the city, he suddenly found himself acclaimed as the church’s leader. Although just a catechumen (inquirer) at the time, he was baptized, ordained a priest, and installed as bishop, all in a single week of Advent in 374 and thus the envy of impatient ministerial candidates ever since. The yet more famous St. Augustine (354–430) was inspired by Ambrose’s preaching and presented himself to the bishop for baptism at the Easter Vigil of 387. Augustine’s *Confessions* testify to the importance of Ambrose’s antiphonal Psalmody and hymns in Milan, especially in the ongoing dispute over Christ: Is he really God? Another hymn by Ambrose, “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright” (*ELW*, 559), echoes the Nicene Creed quite exactly in the opening line; Christ is “Light from Light.” “Savior of the Nations, Come” also champions that same Nicene view of Christ’s full divinity. The Creed says that he is “true [very] God from true [very] God,” not a lesser being as some thought then and as many think today. When we sing “Very God, and Mary’s son” (stanza 3), we are making the Nicene Creed’s strong claim that Christ is really God, not a different being or a lesser divinity.

Martin Luther knew and cited Ambrose often as a Father of the Church, especially his several hymns. Where Ambrose in this Advent hymn affirmed that Christ was “equal to the eternal Father” (in a stanza not retained in *ELW*, 263), Luther translated it quite faithfully as an expression of the Nicene Creed. In “Savior of the Nations, Come,” for Ambrose and for Luther, the incarnation was God’s rescue mission, down into our mortal coil and back up to immortality. No wonder that the “manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light” (stanza 5). Neither Ambrose nor Luther worried about a strict separation of Advent and Christmas, for the one season leads directly to the other.

Luther’s respect for Ambrose and his hymnody, which included translating his “O Trinity, O Blessed Light” (*ELW*, 571), is only one portion of his substantial reception of medieval texts for singing. He translated and paraphrased the classic and anonymous “Te Deum” (“We Praise You, O God” *ELW*, 227–28 and “Holy God, We Praise Your Name” *ELW*, 414), noting its legendary association with Ambrose and Augustine. He adapted “Creator Spirit” (*ELW*, 577–78, earlier in this series) and made another medieval text the starting point for his powerful Easter hymn “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (*ELW*, 370). Several other times Luther took a brief and familiar medieval text, and sometimes the tune as well, and made it the first stanza in a larger hymn. The familiarity helped get the singing started, and then the hymn went on to Luther’s additional stanzas with his Reformation message. For three more examples, see “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” (*ELW*, 395), “Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” (*ELW*, 743), and the communion hymn “O Lord, We Praise You” (*ELW*, 499).

In all, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* contains about a dozen Luther hymns that are based on medieval texts in part or in whole, besides the many other texts he used from scripture, the catechism, or the liturgy. From the fifth century (Sedulius) to the fifteenth (Jan Hus), medieval authors known or unknown supplied Luther and his colleagues with materials worth adapting into hymns for the Evangelical movement. Texts that were originally poems or processional songs or monastic chants became hymns for home and parish in the new and enduring sense of congregational singing.

“Savior of the Nations, Come,” then already over a thousand years old, was one of the very first hymns that Luther prepared for the first Lutheran hymnals in 1524, a quincennial that is now upon us. Five hundred years on, we may still sing it this Advent.

“Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heav’n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.”

## Racial Justice Team

The Prince of Peace Racial Justice Library has some new additions, including 2 children's books. Below are short summaries of each new addition:

### **The Sentence, by Louise Erdrich**

A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from November 2019 to November 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply won't leave the store. Tookie, who has landed a job selling books after years of incarceration that she survived by reading with murderous attention, must solve the mystery of this haunting while at the same time trying to understand all that occurs in Minneapolis during a year of grief, astonishment, isolation, and furious reckoning.

### **The Little Green Book: Princeton Parents for Black Children - 2022 Edition**

The Green Book was an annual guidebook for African American motorists published from 1936 to 1966. During the Jim Crow laws, Black travelers in the U.S. faced much discrimination. Gas stations, auto repair shops, hotels, and doctors refused to offer their services. The Green Book contained addresses that were safe for Black people. While the publication of the Green Book ended in 1966 with Jim Crow Act, which outlawed discrimination against Black people, there are still areas of life today where a Green Book is helpful. The "Little Green Book" of Princeton is very instructive. It contains addresses and tips for parents of Black children living in Princeton for various areas of life.

### **Gender Identity for Kids: A Book About Finding Yourself, Understanding Others, and Respecting Everybody!, by Andy Passchier for Ages 7-10**

What is gender and what does it mean to you? What are ways people express their gender? What if you don't feel like the gender everyone says you are? This new resource is here to help kids make sense of who they are and how they feel.

From the illustrator behind *What Are Your Words?* and other books on gender and personal identity, comes a resource for all kids, of any gender. This fun, heavily illustrated chapter book explains the basics of gender identity—what it is, what it means, and how to support yourself and others no matter who you are.

### **I Am Somebody Hardcover - by Nyasia Williams (Author), Ashley Evans (Illustrator); Ages 4-8**

An empowering picture book about the importance of stepping up (and speaking up) to address injustice and effect change within our daily lives, from the author of *I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids*. *I Am Somebody* takes the reader on a journey over the course of a day, as our main character notices various forms of neglect and injustice—from trash on the sidewalk and students butting in line waiting for the bus, to not sharing on the playground and bullying about food. In each instance, the young child remarks that **SOMEBODY** should do something to remedy the situation(s) until, eventually, they realize that they are the person that can effect change. This powerful story reminds us that every living thing is unique and should be treated with kindness and respect and that we are ALL "somebody."

See Kathy or Greg Nowak, our new librarians to zero in on what's been added or to find a specific type of book for you or your family to borrow.

## ICYMI - Racial Justice Team Princeton Black History Tour...



Last month a small but interested group left after worship at POP to explore the Black History of Princeton using the self-guided Heritage Tour of the Witherspoon-Jackson Historical and Cultural Society developed by Shirley Satterfield, recent guest speaker at Prince of Peace. What an interesting, educational walk including streets and neighborhoods some of us had never walked before! From informative plaques we learned about past life in this vibrant neighborhood full of many Black businesses, from stores to barber that thrived for years but are no longer in Princeton at all, segregated and later integrated schools transformed into residences or community centers now...but the stories and the legacy are still there thanks to those who helped fund the WJHCS.

Though there were several historic predominantly Black churches included in the tour, the highlight for those walking that chilly day was the First Baptist Church of Princeton. As we opened the doors to take a peek inside this historic building, the greeter genuinely welcomed us into their worship service in progress. Listening from the back we heard the altar call inviting anyone there to come forward and pray together, repeating what he said. The Holy Spirit was there with us and the congregants gathered there. What started as a look into the past turned out to be a moving, inspirational, sharing of our Christian faith in a different worship space in prayer.

Next time you notice someone unfamiliar at POP, be sure to welcome them, introduce yourself, invite them to sit with you or to stay for fellowship, offer a tour of our building or campus, or just get acquainted. Have you noticed our Love Thy Neighbor banner and signs lately? In response to the hostages and wars in our world, we thought it important to post those again. Let's make sure that anyone who walks through our doors on Sunday morning feels as welcome as First Baptist Church of Princeton made our members that day!

A few other notes from the Racial Justice Team:

**Did you think about the indigenous perspective this Thanksgiving?** Sorry this was not sent out last month, but learning about our indigenous neighbors and their little-known history should not be confined to one month of the year. Follow this link to get a few perspectives shared by our Unitarian Universalist newsletter. [https://uusj.salsalabs.org/indigenous\\_thanksgiving\\_2023](https://uusj.salsalabs.org/indigenous_thanksgiving_2023)

Reminder - The traveling exhibition "**Albert Einstein: Champion of Racial Justice and Equality**" is at The Jewish Center Princeton through December 20 and then at Plainsboro Public Library, January 2-27.

Reconciling in Christ Update On Reformation Sunday, October 29th, Prince of Peace, in a congregational meeting voted to approve its welcoming statement to the LGBTQIA+ community.

POP is now a participant in the ELCA's Reconciling in Christ initiative under its ReconcilingWorks program.

The core team will continue its work of outreach and education.

Our welcoming statement follows:

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction, NJ commits to live as a community of people seeking reconciliation and wholeness in our life together and in our outreach to the world.*

*We commit to the work of anti-racism, liberation, social, and environmental justice for all of God's beloveds.*

*We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.*

*We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, or culture.*

*We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.*

*We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. You are invited to join us in a lifelong journey of practicing resurrection with gratitude and grace. You are needed as without you we cannot truly be the body of Christ in and for the world.*





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)

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am (in person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Office hours vary

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin