



### Worship in February

*Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30 am*

#### Sunday, February 3

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Why is God's Word So Dangerous?*

#### Sunday, February 10

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

*Here Am I, Send Me*

#### Sunday, February 17

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

*The Sermon on the Plain*

#### Sunday, February 24

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*

*On Resurrection*

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### February Events

#### February 3

*Annual Meeting*

#### February 4, 11, 18, 25

*Stitchers*

#### February 7

*Book Group*

#### February 9

*Challenges of Being Christian*

*In the 21st Century*

#### February 23

*Church Council Retreat*

### Thoughts on the Felling of a Tree

I contemplated not coming to church today. I have a miserable cold and thought a day at home would do me good. But I'm glad I came, not to write this article, but to watch the dead old oak tree by the playground come down. The little boy in me still is fascinated to watch professionals tackle jobs that I can't even imagine doing. My great grandfather, a carpenter, would comment about the minister at the family church. 'A good day's work would kill him,' he would say. After watching the loggers cut down the old oak, my great grandfather just might be right.

I know I could never cut down a tree, but I can think about the meaning of a fallen tree. I was fascinated watching the tree pros cut the tree limb by limb, using ropes to direct their fall away from the playground. Even with this obstacle, the tree came down in about two hours. Compare that to how long it took the tree to reach its majestic height? Maybe only pastors think about these things. But it's striking. A beautiful oak takes years to mature, but it comes down in a couple of hours. And if the tree guys didn't have to worry about the playground below, I think the tree could have come down in minutes, if not seconds.

It was Will Rodgers who said, 'It takes a lifetime to build a reputation, but you can lose it in a minute.' When I watched the old oak tree come down, and when I see how easy the mighty fall, I'm reminded that we can't put faith in reputations. The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

*For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up and high; against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan. The haughtiness of people shall be humbled, and the pride of everyone shall be brought low; and the Lord alone will be exalted on that day.*

Isaiah 2:12-13,17

Lent doesn't begin until March this year, but usually February is when we start contemplating the fall of our reputations. It is good to be reminded by Isaiah that while we fall with the oaks of Bashan, the Lord alone continues to stand.

I'm sad to see the old oak tree come down, but it reminds me that the only tree we can believe in, is the two wooden beams that form the cross. We live with the illusion that the lives we build will last forever, but we know it is not true. The only eternal truth is the love Christ demonstrated on the cross, a love that endures beyond the grave and fallen reputations.

— Pastor Froehlke

## Remembering a Dear Friend

Before moving to NJ in 2009 to begin teaching at Westminster and serving as Music Minister at Prince of Peace, Megan and I lived in Kansas City. Actually, we lived in a suburb (on the Kansas side) called Overland Park. We lived there from 2002 to 2009. Kansas City is a lovely (and sprawling) town. The metropolitan area, from southwestern tip to the northeastern tip, is about the same amount of distance between center city Philadelphia and New Brunswick.

Not soon after we moved to Kansas in 2002, I joined a local community chorus called the Festival Singers. This organization runs an auditioned choir that predominantly sings unaccompanied sacred music. Most of the members sang in college and wanted to keep at it as adults. Their music director and founder, William Baker, has become a lifelong friend and supporter. No other person has performed as much of my music (besides me) than Bill. (The Festival Singers came to Prince of Peace in the spring of 2013 as they toured the northeast.)

As I began to become friendly with the choristers, one particular alto became fast friends. Her name is Kathryn (Kathy). She is a free spirit from the panhandle of Florida with a zest for life, her faith, choral music, and Florida State football. In my second year in the choir, we sang my setting of the Catholic prayer Ave Maria, and my setting quickly became one of Kathy's favorites. She would often call on me to send her my newest composition, and she would often refer to me as an 'adopted' son. She and Megan and I would often go out to KC jazz clubs, enjoying music and a meal. Kathy even came to NJ in 2010 and sang *O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* (from *Messiah*) with our Adult Choir during Advent. We went to NYC and took in the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree as well as a few bars in the East Village.

Today, we received word that Kathy is being moved to hospice after a short but hard battle with cancer. I have many fond memories of Kathy and count her among the saints of my life. She touched many people during her life, including me and Megan. Rest easy, Kathy.

Peace, Doug

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

**Deadline for the February issue is Sunday, February 24**

### Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor  
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music  
Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator  
John Franek, Church Musician  
Tim Urbanek, Treasurer  
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

### Congregational Council

Newman Wilson (President)  
David Case (Vice President)  
Rich Carlson  
Mary Ellen Glickson  
Nancy Herrington  
David Jeedi  
Martin Rexroad  
Wendy Schutzer  
Diane Urbanek  
Elizabeth Wagner  
David New, Secretary (non-voting)

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### February Music Schedule

**February 3**

Adult Choir & Nightingale Bells

**February 10**

Adult Choir

**February 17**

Adult Choir

**February 24**

Adult Choir

## February Events

### Joyful Stitchers in February

We continue looking for new ways to help with our stitching skills, so if you know of a service project that the Joyful Stitchers could help out with, please let us know.

Meanwhile, we'll be continuing to work on our ongoing projects. A few examples include hats for preemies, cat mats for rescued kitties, and our pocket prayer cloths. If you'd like to join us, our meetings are on Mondays in the lounge, alternating between afternoon meetings at 1:00 and evening meetings at 6:30.

If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, we're happy to help you learn. Our pocket prayer cloths are a great first project. Come to one of our meetings and our experienced knitters and crocheters can help you out.

For more information, please contact Kate Chen at [kcmchen@comcast.net](mailto:kcmchen@comcast.net).

Joyful Stitchers' schedule for Mondays in February: Feb. 4: 6:30; Feb. 11: 1:00; Feb. 18: 6:30; Feb. 25: 1:00

### *On the Road Again with Jesus: Challenges of Being Christian in the 21st Century*

Dr. Darrell Guder, noted author and Professor Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary, will present a workshop on Saturday, February 9, from 9 am to 2 pm, at Prince of Peace.

The author of *The Missional Church* and *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*, Professor Guder is especially known for his analysis of the state of the Christian church in North America and gifted at adapting the ideas and experience of the first century church to current challenges.

A donation of \$15 is requested to cover costs of the workshop and lunch.

Walk-ins are welcome; RSVPs appreciated (call the church office or email [kathynowak@popnj.org](mailto:kathynowak@popnj.org)).

### Book Group meets February 7

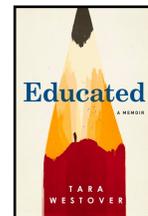
*Educated* by Tara Westover

At the home of Ginny Moore

24 Terrapin Lane, Mercerville

RSVP to [ginnymoore@gmail.com](mailto:ginnymoore@gmail.com) or call 890-1929

This stunning memoir recounts the author's struggle to educate herself despite unbelievable odds. As the child of a survivalist Mormon couple who didn't believe in public education, Tara never saw the inside of a classroom until age 17. Her book chronicles her efforts to escape her brutal, dysfunctional family, gain access to the outside world and receive an education. Rated by numerous sources as one of the ten best books of 2018.

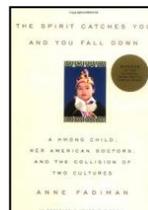


March 14

### *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

by Anne Fadiman

Location TBA



This book is a true story that explores the culture clash between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of their daughter, Lia, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. Lia's parents and her doctors both wanted to help Lia but had great difficulty communicating and understanding each other. This is a book that is often recommended reading to those going into medicine as a career, but it is informative to all of us.

*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*

*RSVP to Phyllis at 609-799-0723*

*or [p.church@mindspring.com](mailto:p.church@mindspring.com)*

## Coming in March

**March 3**

First Communion

**March 6**

Ash Wednesday

**March 9**

Soul Collage  
House Next Door

**March 24**

Social Justice & Interfaith  
Leadership Conference

**March 24**

*Child Protection Policy Training*

*Prince of Peace will provide training on the child protection policy to all staff and childcare workers on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45, following our worship service.*

*All staff and volunteers who work with children are strongly encouraged to attend this training event. Please read over the policy at <https://popnj.org/child-protection-policy> and bring any questions that you have to the training session.*



**The February Donation Requested  
for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is**

***Canned Chicken or Beef Gravy***

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

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**Dear Congregation of Prince of Peace,**

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. I am grateful for your kindness and the ongoing support from each of you throughout the year.

Many thanks.

— Kathy

### **Labyrinth Entrance Eagle Scout Service Project**

My name is Andrew Luczak and I am currently working towards my Eagle Rank for Boy Scouts of America. One of the requirements is to lead and complete an Eagle Scout Service Project to benefit any religious institution, school, or community.

My Eagle Scout Project will benefit Prince of Peace and the Labyrinth area. The project will entail me building a roofed arbor to serve as an entrance way for visitors coming to the Labyrinth. The arbor will be located along one of the paths to the Labyrinth, visible from the parking lot.

In order to complete this project I will be fundraising and donations are welcome. The estimated cost for this project is \$500. My goal is to complete the fundraising phase by March, and to complete the project in the spring.

If you would like to make a donation, or learn more about my project, please contact me at [ajlsportsfan@gmail.com](mailto:ajlsportsfan@gmail.com).  
— Yours in Scouting,  
Andrew Luczak

# Parish Care Notes

## Valentine Care Packages

The Valentine Day Care Package project is underway. Since around 1990 the church has been sending boxes filled with Prince of Peace care to young adults away at school or in the military.

Many thanks to those that have already contributed goodies to help fill the boxes.

It is not too late to **HELP**. We have until February 4 to get the boxes filled with lots of treats.

This year we will be filling and sending around **25 boxes** to students all around the country. And nine small bags to local students and 'older valentines' who cannot get to church regularly.

Baked goodies are always greatly enjoyed. If you would like to bake some treats, please bring them to church on Sunday, February 3rd. Details about this project are in the gathering area of the church.

All goodies and other donations should be left in the gathering area by Sunday, February 3.

We are packing the boxes on Monday night (February 4th) starting promptly at 7:30 pm.

The cost to ship is around \$18.90/box. Contributions to help cover the cost of shipping can be made through Prince of Peace offering with a note in memo for *Val Care Boxes*.

Thank you for supporting this project. Throughout the years this project is always successful because of your donations of items, goodies, and dollars. It sends a loving, caring message from our church to our young adults and their friends away at school.

## Transportation

Looking for transportation assistance. If you can help with rides on Sunday mornings to and from church and/or to some weekday appointments, let me know. Many thanks to Chris Wethe, David Jeedi, Diane Urbanek, Jim Winder, Berta Schott, and Bente Ott for providing many rides recently.

## Greeting Cards

We are gathering greeting cards, which we share with local senior residences. Help is needed with sorting, packing up the cards and delivering them. If you have some time to help with this project, please let me know.

## Just Stop In

We would like to start a *Just Stop In* group. This group would take turns just stopping in to say Hello and drop a treat of some kind to our church friends who are not always able to get to church — 3 or 4 times during the year.

We will have some Valentine bags that need to be delivered. If you can share a little time and drop one off to a church friend, let us know. We can give you names and directions.

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



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Fax: 609-799-0958  
E-Mail : email@popnj.org  
Website: popnj.org  
Worship: Sunday, 9:30 am

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*Sunday Schedule*

Worship at 9:30 am  
Education Hour at 10:45 am

*Office Hours*

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 2 pm  
Friday 9 am to noon

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