

Tidings of Peace



February 2023

Transfiguration & Mission

Worship in February

Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30
In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am
<https://www.facebook.com/popnjchurch>

Sunday, February 5

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
You Are the Light of the World

Sunday, February 12

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Choose Life
Dr. Paul Rorem Preaching

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration Sunday
His Face Shone Like the Sun
Francisco Herrera Preaching

Joyful Noise Worship

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent
Worship the Lord Your God
Dinner Church

Also in February

Wednesday, February 1

Pastor Class

Thursday, February 9

Book Group

Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Don't look now, but Lent is just a few short weeks away. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd.

Our liturgical calendar always assigns the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday as Transfiguration Sunday. You know the story. Jesus climbs up a mountain and shines like the sun before Peter, James, and John. The day is never one of my favorites. What more is there to say about a shining Jesus?

Maybe this is why I invited a guest preacher for Transfiguration Sunday, February 19th this year. Francisco Herrera is a PhD student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. I met Francisco at St. Bart's this fall where he was in residence, studying the congregation's intersection with their neighborhood. Francisco calls himself an evangelist and a missiologist, but I like his identification as an agitator and educator. Francisco seeks to find that point where the gospel, the Lutheran Confessions, and the neighborhood intersect; for here is found the church's call.

Truth be told, I didn't have Transfiguration Sunday in mind when I asked Francisco to preach. It was the only Sunday open before he returns to Chicago. But I'm thinking the date is serendipitous. I anticipate a revelation, or at least some guidance, as Francisco agitates and educates Prince of Peace about our intersection with the neighborhood. In the tradition of the Lutheran Confessions, we faithfully proclaim the gospel in this place; but, like many Lutheran churches, we struggle to find that intersection with the neighborhood.

Francisco was thrilled to hear about the diversity of our neighborhood. Where I see a hindrance, Francisco sees a mission. There might be no better setting for the gospel and the neighborhood to intersect. And there might be no better day to have the mission of the church revealed than Transfiguration. Think about that.

Welcome to Prince of Peace, Francisco.

— Pastor Froehlke

Lent Wednesday Evening Services Offering

For ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023. Beginning with the Lenten Service on March 1, 2023, the offering received at each mid-week Lenten Service is designated for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Through these offerings, we will be helping our sisters and brothers domestically and globally who are in need of daily sustenance, as well as getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty. In addition to providing food, these funds will connect these people to resources they need to produce their own food, gain access to clean water, and provide health care, education, and sources of income for long-term sustainability.

Thank you for your part in helping to make this ministry possible.

Berta Schott, for the Social Outreach Ministry Team

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 March issue is Sunday, February 26

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
Daniel Marrone, Seminarian
Geeta Telang, Office Manager
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

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Jessica Clarke
Mary Ellen Glickson
David Jeedi
Christian Oehm
Dorothy Safranek
Wendy Schutzer
Con Sweeney
Claudia Thompson

Food, Clothing, and Small Household Items Still Needed by St. Bart's

The Food Pantry and Clothing Closet at St. Bart's continue to be in need of donations. They can also use small household items. Non-perishables like rice, beans, pasta, tuna and other canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and the like, and warm winter clothing that is new or gently used will be particularly appreciated. Contributions may be placed in, or beside, the bins outside the white doors near the Community Room at any time.

To give monetary donations, make a check out to Prince of Peace and earmark it *St. Bart's/Food, Clothing*. Checks may be put in the offering plate on Sunday, or mailed to the Prince of Peace office at 177 Princeton Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550.

Thank you very much for continuing to share your gifts with these fellow children of God,

Berta Schott for the
Social Outreach Ministry Team
and St. Bart's

**See Page 9 for
Information about
Joyful Noise
Worship Service
On the third Sunday
Of the Month
At 1:00 pm**

February Events

Book Group

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

Please note: We will now be meeting at 1 pm. Please bring your lunch and/or a snack for others to share.

Thursday, February 9, at 1 pm

In the Church Lounge

American Dirt — Jeanine Cummins

Lydia runs a book store in Acapulco, Mexico. She has a son, Luca, and a wonderful husband. She leads a comfortable life. Everything changes, however, when her journalist husband's tell-all profile of the newest drug lord is published. Forced to flee, Lydia and her son find themselves joining hundreds of other people trying to reach the United States. They face many trials and tribulations. This is a hard book to read even though the power of love and hope shine through.



Thursday, March 9, at 1 pm

In the Church Lounge

The Magnolia Palace — Fiona Davis

The Magnolia Palace is a story that takes place in the Frick Mansion in New York City with the action shifting between 1919 and 1969. In 1919, Lillian, an artist's model, becomes known throughout NYC as the beautiful face of the Gilded Age. Falsely accused of murder, she locates a job at the Frick Mansion and hides there. In 1969, Veronica, also a model, is accidentally locked in the mansion, now a museum, after a shoot. The story includes descriptions of the art in the museum, romantic intrigue, and even a treasure hunt.

Pastor Class

Pastor Class reconvenes on Wednesday, February 1st. Seminarian Daniel Marrone will lead a class entitled *How to Read the Bible*, a discussion on biblical interpretation. The class will be held via zoom. Contact Pastor Peter for a zoom invite.

Adult Class

Adult Class continues in February. Join Dr. Paul Rorem on February 5th as he leads a session on the hymn, *All Creatures, Worship God Most High*, ELW 835, with the text from St. Francis of Assisi.

On February 19th join Francisco Herrera as he leads on the topic of *The Intersectionality of the Church*.

On February 26th Dr. Rorem will lead another session on the hymn *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*, ELW 594, with the text from Martin Luther.

Join us in the Double Classroom, at 10:45.

Note, no class on February 12.

And, coming in March and for Lent, a five-week class on the Pharisees, taught by Pastor Peter and Seminarian Daniel Marrone.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The ministry partnership with St. Bart's and Abiding Presence is sponsoring a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper here at Prince of Peace on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30pm.

Pancakes are a traditional meal on this day, also known as Fat Tuesday, or in New Orleans, as Mardi Gras. The practice is to rid the kitchen of all fat and feast with pancakes as the church prepares for the Lenten fast that begins on the next day, Ash Wednesday. This is a perfect opportunity to join our ministry partners.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is February 22nd. At noon Pastor Peter will lead a brief spoken liturgy in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes. At 7:30 pm a formal liturgy will be held in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



The House Next Door

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Ash Wednesday at Cross Roads

The Lantern and the Wildflower

Led by Dale Selover

February 22, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm

We usually refer to the forty days of Lent as a journey, but this year we are going to embark on an adventure.

Inspired by Kaitlin Curtice's poem *The Lantern and the Wildflower*, we will reflect upon Kaitlin's understanding of God as Adventure.

For details and to register visit

www.crossroadsretreat.com



Lenten Dinner Church

Sunday, February 26, 2023

5:00 pm

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey together. We will gather around the table to enjoy a meal, share stories, break bread, and hear the good news of God's love for all people.

Invite a friend! All are welcome!

Please RSVP no later than Friday, February 24th and let us know what food offering you will bring.



Entering Lent

Friday, March 10, 2023

8.30 am—11.30 am

Bring / purchase lunch and spend the afternoon at the House Next Door and on the grounds for prayer, silence, and reflection.

In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the season of Lent is described as a 'bright sadness.' That phrase contains the nuance of holding both hope and grief. Grief over the sin and brokenness in our present lives, but hope because we know the end of the story at Christ's resurrection at Easter.

We'll spend some time together listening and praying through Scripture to consider this 'bright sadness' as we move toward resurrection in our hearts and in our world with its griefs and sorrows. The time will be followed by a creative art practice together.

Everyone is welcome — there is no requirement for artistic experience or skill. All materials will be provided.

Cost: sliding scale suggested \$25-\$35.

Led by Pat Pickard, Spiritual Director + Graphic Designer

Coffee at 8.30. We will begin at 9 am.

World Holidays and Celebrations

The Story Behind Black History Month



Black History Month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland, and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom, it is observed in October.

Black History Month was first proposed by Black educators and the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State a year later, from January 2nd to February 28th, 1970.

When first established, Black History Month resulted in some controversy. Those who believed that Black History Month was limited to educational institutions questioned whether it was appropriate to confine the celebration of Black history to one month, as opposed to the integration of black history into mainstream education for the whole of the year. Another concern was that contrary to the original inspiration for Black History Month, which was a desire to redress the manner in which American schools failed to represent Black historical figures as anything other than slaves or colonial subjects, Black History Month could reduce complex historical figures to overly simplified objects of hero worship. Critics refer to the celebration as a form of racism. Actor and director Morgan Freeman and actress Stacey Dash have criticized the concept of declaring only one month as Black History Month.

Freeman noted, 'I don't want a Black history month. Black history is American history.'

The precursor to Black History Month was created in 1926 in the United States, when historian Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) announced the second week of February to be *Negro History Week*. This week was chosen because it coincided with the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12th and that of Frederick Douglass on February 14th, both of which dates Black communities had celebrated together since the late 19th century.

Early in the event's history, African-American newspapers lent crucial support. From the event's initial phase, primary emphasis was placed on encouraging the coordinated teaching of the history of Black Americans in the nation's public schools. The first Negro History Week was met with a lukewarm response, gaining the cooperation of the departments of education of the states of North Carolina, Delaware, and West Virginia as well as the city school administrations of Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Since its inception, Black History Month has expanded beyond its initial acceptance in educational establishments. Carter Woodson's organization, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), designates a theme each year. *Black Health and Wellness* was 2022's theme and focused on medical scholars, health care providers, and health outcomes.

The theme for 2023 is *Black Resistance: Building Bridges and Navigating Barriers*.

Contributed by Con Sweeney

Racial Justice News

So many Ways to Get Involved in the Fight for Racial Justice.

Let's start the year with a variety of resources you can check into. Pick and choose which are most relevant to you. Everyone can do something to make our world more just.

New Jersey Synod Justice Groups Starting in February

Can you commit two hours once a month to make a difference? Pastor Sara Lilja explains:

Choose the advocacy topic that you're most interested in and come (virtually) to discuss with like-minded people who are ready to tackle that particular issue priority. The first Justice Group meeting will be held on February 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. There will be a half-hour introduction, an hour for meeting with your group in a break-out room, and a half-hour wrap-up.

We will have justice groups on seven important advocacy topics: Environmental Justice, Food Security Justice, Health Care & Mental Health Justice, Housing Justice, LGBTQIA Justice, Migration Justice, and Racial Justice. Fill out the survey below to express your interest!

— Pastor Sara Lilja

Click [Here](#) for the Justice Group Interest Survey

Prince of Peace Racial Justice Team adding A focus on Housing to the ongoing goal of educating the congregation and others.

You've probably heard about the Racial Wealth Gap, especially as it widened during the pandemic when many essential workers were losing jobs and millionaires were making more than ever, and those trying to buy a house often had to bid tens of thousands more than asking price to buy a home.

One of the major factors that has kept BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) from gaining wealth has been housing, starting long ago when discriminatory redlining kept most from building equity in a house for so many generations — still true in many places under the guise of exclusionary zoning. Here is a link to a recorded webinar on housing. You can view it and then find out if your own town is doing its part. Let the team know if not and we'll follow up to act for change.

Intercongregational Program on Affordable Housing

If this link doesn't work or if you'd like a full list of resources and glossary along with these programs, contact nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

Interested in reading about and/or signing a petition to stop hedge funds from buying single family homes in bulk, a practice which raises prices for families trying to buy?

<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-ban-hedge-fund-investors-from-owning-single-family-homes>

Just A Few Black History Month Opportunities (all but last one listed are online)

National Museum of African American History and Culture:

Poetry workshops online on various dates and times plus one especially for kids age 6 and up
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/nmaahc-kids-learning-together-celebrating-encantos-antonio>

Saturday Webinars at International African American Museum <https://iaamuseum.org/announcing-black-history-month-virtual-programming/>

Salvation and Social Justice events (<https://www.sandsj.org/events>): Red, Black and Blue (2/2 from 6-8:30)

Trent House (<https://tinyurl.org/TalkFeb5>)

Removing Barriers to Civic Engagement for African Americans 2/5 at 2 pm or find other videos at <https://www.williamtrenthouse.org/videos>

And Putting Together the Pieces

Exhibit Art Against Racism - through March 4 at West Windsor Arts Council

Don't forget you can borrow books (even some Banned Books!) from Prince of Peace's free Anti-Racism Lending Library in the Narthex Lounge.

To join our team, get on the mailing list or share your personal stories of racism so we can work for change in our own community, contact Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239.

Parish Care News — February 2023

Reminder

Prince of Peace Parish Care Valentine Care Box and Bag Project 2023

*Our annual Box and Bag Project is happening.
6 Boxes and 14 bags of goodies will be shipped and delivered the week of February 5
to our young adults away at school or in the military and
to our 'Seniors' living in area residential homes.*

This is a project that has been happening at Prince of Peace for easily 30 years.
It started by sending boxes to our young adults away at school.
Boxes are filled with treats, home baked goodies, school supplies and a few surprises.
Several years ago, we started delivering a bag of
Valentine treats to our 'Senior Adult Students'

We need your help to support our project.

1. We need the names and addresses — **DONE**
2. **Bakers** are needed to bake the homemade cookies, brownies or something yummy that will travel well.

Baked goods can be bagged as individual portions (ie/2-3 cookies/bag).

They need to be at the church by **Sunday, February 5**

I HAVE 5 BAKERS. WE COULD USE A FEW MORE.

If you could bake a treat to include, please let me know.

3. We are asking for **Monetary Donations** to cover the cost of supplies and postage.
Donations may be placed in the offering, dropped off at the church, or mailed with a note for
Val box project. Thank you for all your financial support of this project.
4. Look for cards to be signed in the church gathering area on Sunday mornings.
These will be included with boxes and bags.
5. Boxes and Bags will be filled on Sunday, February 5 in the afternoon.
If you would like to help with this please let me know.
6. We have 13 Valentine bags to be delivered to seniors in the area resident homes.
We need a few delivery folks. Please let me know if you can drop off a bag.

Thank you for your support of this project.

It is fun for us to do and fun for those receiving a special Valentine gift.

More Ways to Share the Care

Monthly Mailings

*Splash packets, for families with newborns and Hope Through Healing notes, dealing with loss and grief, are mailed monthly.
Care Notes, prayer squares and Pocket prayer cards are in breezeway.*

Greeting Cards

We are **not** gathering greeting cards at this time.
Help is needed with sorting, packing up the cards and delivering them.

If you have some time to help with any of these projects,
Or have questions, please let me know.

Martha Winder — Maw14jpw@aol.com — 609-799-7280

There are lots of opportunities to help share the care.

Thank You



Dear Pastor Froehlke,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 designated for Christmas Gifts for Children.

Your gift helps LSMNJ continue to provide hospitality, healing and hope for those in need. On behalf of LSMNJ and those we serve, please accept my appreciation for your commitment and gift to sustain the mission. Together we provide that helping hand and the support of compassionate care

We thank you for your partnership in our mission of serving those who hurt, who are in need, or who have limited choices. May your gift of compassion and concern bless you and your loved ones. LSMNJ can only continue our work with the generosity of donors like you.

Sincerely,
Alison Lauck



Thank you for your generous gifts. Your gifts allowed Lutheran Social Ministries to provide Christmas gift for the children and seniors living in our affordable housing. We did things a bit differently this year. We had the parents come and pick up the gifts. This allowed parents to wrap the gifts and have them under the tree for their children on Christmas. The smiles on the parents' faces tell you they appreciate the gifts. Our seniors loved the gift cards, and all the teenagers in LSMNJ received books in addition to gifts. At LSMNJ we strive to create a home for our residents. Being remembered at Christmas gives a true feeling of home.

Beth Gebhart

Note: Beth has recently been honored by Leading Edge NJ/DE with the award for Providing Excellence In Community Service. The presenter noted that people 'are inspired to work alongside Beth because of her spirit and determination.'

Dear Geeta, Pastor Peter, and the rest of your wonderful staff,

I would like to thank all of you at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for providing your beautiful sanctuary for my daughter's fundraiser recital. It made the children feel so valued!

In addition to the use of the space all of you have been so helpful and kind. We are so grateful to know that your church is such a supportive part of our community.

Thanks you again for everything!

Best, Shirley, Benety, and Evelyn Fang

For Staff Gifts

Dear PoP,

My deepest thanks to you for the thoughtful end-of-year staff gift. What a blessing it is for me to know you all and serve alongside each of you!

Love, Geeta

From Our Custodian

Thank you so much for thinking of me this holiday season. The gift was very thoughtful and appreciated!

Bud Lochin

Thank You

Dear Prince of Peace Family,

Our deepest thanks for the generous Christmas gifts we received this year.

What a blessing! Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated more than we can say. We thank God for each of you and for the ministry we share in Christ Jesus.

With love,
Pastors Peter and Dale

Join us for Joyful Noise Worship! *All Are Welcome!*

- “Joyful Noise” Worship is appropriate for children with Autism, PDD-NOS, ADHD, Down’s Syndrome, any other developmental/physical challenges and families with young children.
- This joy-filled service brings together children with and without disabilities, giving them the opportunity to learn from one another about God’s love for them in an atmosphere of understanding and acceptance.



- This 30-minute Christian service is engaging and interactive with music, movement, prayer, Bible stories, Holy Communion. Children and adults will learn about Jesus’ love for them and all of God’s people.
- Join us for this beautiful worship service and help us share God’s love with all God’s children.

Where: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
177 Princeton Hightstown Rd - Princeton Jct, NJ 08550
When: Third Sunday of every month
Time: 1:00-1:30 p.m.



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177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 am (In Person)
and 9:30 am (In Person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Office hours vary.

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin

Or at <https://popnj.org/PDF/bulletin.pdf>
