

# Tidings of Peace



January 2023

*Epiphany*

## Worship in January

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

### Sunday, January 1

First Sunday of Christmas  
No 8:30 Service  
The Name of Jesus  
Rev. Dr. Paul Rorem Preaching

### Friday, January 6

Epiphany Dinner Church

### Sunday, January 8

First Sunday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of Our Lord

### Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday After Epiphany  
The Cotton Patch Gospel

1:00 to 1:30

Joyful Noise Worship

### Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday After Epiphany  
The Call of the Disciples  
Seminarian Daniel Marrone Preaching

### Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany  
The Beatitudes

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## Also in January

### Friday, January 6

Epiphany Dinner Church

### Thursday, January 12

Book Group

### Sunday, January 15

Martin Luther King Worship

### Wednesday, January 18, 25

Pastor Class

### Saturday, January 21

John Franek Concert

## Building an Inclusive Church

Prince of Peace is embarking on its journey to learn how to deepen and expand our faith community's journey of inclusion, celebration, and advocacy with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual people (LGBTQIA+) people and their families.

Each of us comes to this holy work for our own personal reason; collectively, our lives and stories change and encourage the church to be the welcoming place God calls it to be.

A Core Team has formed and has begun to work following the detailed plan laid out in *Building an Inclusive Church, A Welcoming Toolkit*, created by ReconcilingWorks, Lutherans for Full Participation.

Our work begins with one-on-one meetings, ideally with every disciple of the congregation.

The purpose of these meetings is to learn about what matters to each person and what their concerns are.

Conversations will last no longer than 30 to 45 minutes and can take place either in person or via video. Other arrangements can be made if necessary.

The intention is to conduct these sessions during January so the Core Team can work towards having a congregational meeting and vote in early June 2023.

Updates on our progress will be given to the congregation regularly during this journey.

Please feel free to contact either Pastor Peter, Tim Gjenvick, Beth Mitchell, Joan New, Lisa Schott, or Con Sweeney if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.

## Joyful Noise News



On December 17th, Prince of Peace and POAC Autism Services partnered up to host an event called *Breakfast with Santa* for families with special needs children. Prince of Peace members gathered in the kitchen to prepare an amazing pancake breakfast as others, including the confirmands, served and helped with activities. POAC provided Santa. There was music, laughter, and lots of fun.

It was a wonderful event to bring so much joy and love to this community. The families felt so welcomed and supported. POAC expressed how blessed they are to be in partnership with Prince of Peace and look forward to growth in future events. Stay tuned.

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### 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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*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 February issue is Sunday, January 29**

### 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

Tim Gjenvick (President)

Joan New (Vice President)

Charlie Frantz

Mary Ellen Glickson

Christian Oehm

Dorothy Safranek

Wendy Schutzer

Con Sweeney

Elizabeth Wagner

David New, Secretary (non-voting)

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### John Franek to Offer Concert

**On Saturday, January 21**

*For more information, see page 7*

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# January News

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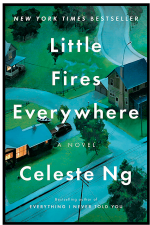
## Book Group

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

**Thursday, January 12, at 1 pm**

*In the Church Lounge*

### ***Little Fires Everywhere* — Celeste Ng**



Elena Richardson, her husband, and her four children live an easy and comfortable life in Shaker Heights, Ohio, a lovely planned community. The family owns a duplex which they rent to Mia, an immigrant artist, and her daughter. As the lives of the two families merge, Elena's comfortable world begins to fall apart. Soon, Izzy, Elena's youngest child, becomes estranged from her own family and connects instead with Mia and her daughter. Later, the entire town is divided over what to do when a young mother seeks to reclaim a child she gave up for adoption.

**Thursday, February 9, at 1 p.m.**

*In the Church Lounge*

### ***American Dirt* — Jeanine Cummins**

Lydia runs a book store Acapulco, Mexico. She has a son, Luca, and a wonderful husband. She leads 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.



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## Epiphany Dinner Church

The House Next Door will be hosting Dinner Church on Friday, January 6 at 6:00 pm We will gather for a meal and to walk the Labyrinth as we reflect upon the ways in which God is made manifest in our lives. Please RSVP at [hnd@popnj.org](mailto:hnd@popnj.org) to let us know you are coming and what food offering you will bring.

## Adult Class

Adult Class will reconvene on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 in the Double Classroom. Topics for the coming weeks include

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Martin Luther King Emphasis  
Clarence Jordan, the Cotton Patch Gospel  
and the Koinonia Community

**January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Beth Gebhart, Presenting the Work of  
Lutheran Social Ministries

**January 29<sup>th</sup>**

Congregational Meeting

**February 5<sup>th</sup>**

Francisco Herrera, PhD Candidate  
Presenting his Dissertation on  
The Study, Support, and Creation of  
Intersectional Church Culture and Community

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## WHAM Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Worship

Join us Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> for the WHAM annual MLK Interfaith Worship at Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Hightstown. The service begins at 7:00 pm. Livestream will be available.

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## Pastor Class

Pastor Class reconvenes on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via zoom. Pastor Peter will lead a discussion on the 100th anniversary of T. S. Eliot's epic poem *The Waste Land*. On January 25<sup>th</sup> our Field Ed Student Daniel Marrone will lead on a topic yet to be determined.

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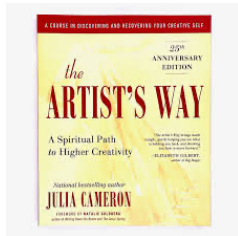
## Lutheran Social Ministries Guest Sunday, January 22

Beth Gebhart from Lutheran Social Ministries will be our guest on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Beth will present at the Adult Forum on the ongoing work of Lutheran Social Ministries. Join us in the Double Classroom at 10:45.



## *The* House Next Door

### Recover Your Inspiration With *The Artist's Way*



Do you ever suffer from writer's block or feel stuck on your creative path? Do you have creative ideas or dreams you've continually put on the shelf that you'd like to explore? Do you want to renew a sense of

inspiration and passion in your work?

After COVID-19, many of us felt caught in a rut or disconnected from our purpose. Join me to read and discuss one my favorite books, *The Artist's Way*, a 10-week journey to stimulate, recover, and restore your energy, creativity, and inspiration.

*The Artist's Way* has given me spiritual practices and daily habits that have helped me survive and thrive as a pastor, therapist, and writer. Come renew your creativity and purpose with me in 2023.

#### **Facilitator**

Pastor and Therapist, Christine Ruth  
M.Div, MS, LMFT

#### **Dates**

Bi-weekly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoons of the month, beginning January 12th (ending in May) via Zoom.

#### **Time**

12:30-2:30 pm via Zoom.

#### **Cost**

\$50 for 10-week series, plus \$14.99 book (free for New Jersey Lutheran pastors through ELCA grant) .

#### **Required Reading**

*The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron  
(1 chapter/meeting)

— Christine Ruth

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## Thank You!

A very special thank you to all who baked for the 2022 Cookie Event! It was a great success, with 120 people decorating and packaging 1,300 cookies for donation to St. Bart's in Trenton. The event was hosted by the Muslim Center of Greater Princeton and we enjoyed fellowship with our Muslim brothers and sisters. This was a life-giving event filled with love!



## World Holidays and Celebrations — Cultural Traditions of Epiphany

January 2023



Epiphany is a meaningful time for many Christians. One of the very first holidays (also called feast days) of the year, Epiphany comes on the heels of Christmas celebrations and is a time of joy and faith. While the biblical origins of Epiphany remain relatively consistent among believers, the actual holiday itself, from the date to its name to its length, actually varies greatly.

Also called Theophany, Epiphany is a celebration of God manifesting as the baby Jesus and revealing Himself to the world. The holiday also marks the day the Magi, or the three kings, (traditionally named Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar, although there is no Biblical justification for their names or even that they were kings) visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus' baptism is also celebrated during Epiphany. The holiday is also sometimes known as Three Kings Day and in some traditions celebrated as Little Christmas.

According to Western church tradition, Balthasar is often represented as a king of Arabia or sometimes Ethiopia, Melchior as a king of Persia, and Gaspar as a king of India. These names apparently derive from a Greek manuscript probably composed in Alexandria around 500, which has been translated into Latin with the title *Excerpta Latina Barbari*.

The traditional date for the feast is January 6th. However, since 1970, the celebration is held in some countries on the Sunday after January 1st. Those Eastern Churches which are still

following the Julian calendar observe the feast on what, according to the internationally used Gregorian calendar, is January 19th, because of the current thirteen (13) day difference between the Julian and Gregorian calendars.

Popular Epiphany customs include Epiphany singing, chalking the door, having one's house blessed, consuming Three Kings Cake, winter swimming, as well as attending church services. It is customary for Christians in many localities to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve (Twelfth Night), although those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas, the conclusion of Epiphanytide. According to the first tradition, those who fail to remember to remove their Christmas decorations on Epiphany Eve must leave them untouched until Candlemas, the second opportunity to remove them; failure to observe this custom is considered inauspicious.

The Quran omits Matthew's episode of the Magi. However, the Persian Muslim encyclopedist al-Tabari, writing in the ninth century, gives the familiar symbolism of the gifts of the Magi.

The message of Epiphany can be interpreted in several ways, and none are right or wrong. Some believe it is a message of faith in divine light, which guided the Magi to Bethlehem. Others interpret it as a celebration of Jesus coming to unite the world as the true *king of kings* and that He came to be a savior to all people.

## Parish Care News — January 2023

Happy New Year

Now that the new year has started it is time for us to look forward to February!

The Valentine Care Boxes and Bags will be here soon.

We need lots of help!

We need help supplying, packing and shipping the boxes and bags

### **Valentine Box and Bag Project**

As we enjoy the 12 days of Christmas and prepare to celebrate Epiphany, it is time to look forward to February. A 'very favorite tradition,' for both the senders and receivers, at Prince of Peace is the filling and shipping of care packages. We fill and send boxes with goodies, supplies, and treats to our young adults who are away at school.

Many years ago the boxes were a surprise, but now our 'college students' know the box is coming and they are always 'surprised' to see how many goodies and surprises we can fit into the 8"x 8"x12" box. This tradition started many, many years ago with just a few boxes and last year we sent 15 boxes to students and 12 bags to our 'older' members.

Save the Dates: The boxes will be packed and shipped/delivered Feb 5 or 6 or 7, 2023. Depending on building use, number of boxes and bags, and weather, the date will be firmed up closer to the ship date.

Updates to follow.

### **Several Ways to Help**

#### **Gathering of Names and Current USPS Addresses**

*By January 16, 2023*

If you have a student or senior adult that you would like to receive a box/bag, please get the names and addresses to us by 1/16/23. This helps us with planning.

#### **Gathering Donations**

We are asking again for monetary donations to purchase the things needed to fill the boxes.

Look for display in gathering area — as a reminder and to get details about how you can help.

Gathering of monetary donations for shipping: preferable by Feb. 6, 2023, but anytime works. Last year the shipping cost was ~\$17/box.

Gathering baked goods for boxes and bags: Please bring to church on February 5, 2023.

Home-baked goodies are always a favorite. We need folks willing to bake cookies, brownies, any treat that will travel well. There will be a sign-up sheet in gathering area or let me know. Again to help with planning.

### **Packing of Boxes**

TBD — It will be either Sunday, February 5, 2023 or Monday, February 6, 2023.

### **Delivering Boxes to Post Office for Shipping**

Tuesday, February 6 or Wednesday, February 7, 2023. Meet at church 9 am.

*If you would like to help with any of the above, please let me know.*

*Specific dates will be known shortly.*

The care packages contain a variety of goodies: home-made cookies and brownies and other baked goodies, pens, post-its, candy, instant soups, hot chocolate packets, snacks, and many other things that make a student's life more enjoyable. The box of goodies reminds them and their friends that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

The congregation donates the goodies to fill the boxes along with dollars to help with the cost of shipping (donations may be placed in the offering plate with *Valentine Boxes* noted in the memo section). Then by Valentine's Day our young adults away at school and our 'senior members' get a special package with lots of love and care from their church family.

Look in the Gathering Area for updated information. Plan on baking some cookies and donating some \$\$\$ to help fill the boxes with lots of extra love, care, prayers, and goodies.

Also, anyone interested in taking on a larger role with this project please let me know.

Look for more details posted in the gathering area or contact Martha Winder: 609-799-7280 or maw14jpw@aol.com

*Continued on page 7*

**John Franek**  
**Concert Coming**  
**January 21**

**OPUS MIXTUM**  
INTERACTIVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCE  
PROMOTING WELLBEING  
AND SELF REFLECTION  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023**  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-  
Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction  
**TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE:**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
*Please join us for refreshments immediately  
following as we reflect upon our experience and hear  
from John about his creative process in composing  
this interactive experience.*  
"he brought his talents to the keyboard in his own...inspired high-  
energy blend" - The Philadelphia Inquirer  
John Franek (b.1996) is a pianist and composer whose had premieres of  
his compositions performed throughout Europe, North America, South  
America and Asia. His music has been premiered and performed by  
ensembles such as the Sophia Philharmonic Orchestra, Janáček  
Philharmonic Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic, St. Petersburg  
Improvisers Orchestra and many more. The 2022 season has included  
features of his music in the Saint Petersburg Contemporary Music  
Festival and the Grachtenfestival Amsterdam.  
Free Will Donation to support the ministry of the House Next Door



*Parish Care, continued from page 6*

**Thank You - Thank You -Thank You**

Many thanks to all the members who wrote Merry Christmas messages in Christmas cards sent to our home bound members.

Thank You to all who donated 2023 Calendars and Cards. They have been taken to area senior living facilities for the residents. The activity directors are very grateful that we were thinking of their residents and said the calendars and cards are greatly appreciated and used. Watch for the calendar collection box this fall.

Thank you to all who have provided several rides this past year.

Anyone interested in baking cookies or making soup to share with others? Please let me know so we can plan a date, time and tasty treat to make and share.

**On-going Projects/Needs**

*Hope through Healing* Grief Notes – mailings to families that have lost loved ones

*SPLASH* and *Growing in God's Love* – mailings to families who have welcomed a new child into their lives.

*Care Notes* — They are available in the breezeway to take as needed.

*Knitted Pocket Prayer Squares, Pocket Prayer Cards and Care Notes* are available in the breezeway. They are there for you to take and share.

*Greeting Cards:* There are Greeting Cards to be sorted, organized and delivered. If you can help with this please let me know.

*Meals* – If you can prepare a simple meal for a church family when needed, please let us know.

*Transportation Needs* — Many thanks to those who have been providing rides to local appointments and to church. If you would like to help with some transportation needs, especially on Sunday and a few weekdays for special errands, please let us know. Details will be provided.

*If you know of any folks who should be included in any of our projects, or if you would like to assist with any of our projects, please notify Parish Care.*

*We are always looking for folks to learn about and to help grow our Parish Care ministry.*

**Contact Martha Winder**  
**609-799-7280**  
**maw14jp@aol.com**  
**for more details.**



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)

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### *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>

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