

Tidings of Peace



January 2024



Worship in January

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

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

January 7

The Baptism of Our Lord
"Heavens Torn Apart"
Pastor Peter Preaching

January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany
"Come and See"
Pastor Peter Preaching

January 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany
"Follow Me"
Pastor Peter Preaching

January 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
"A New Teaching, With Authority"
Pastor Peter Preaching

Pastor's Page

A New Year's Blessing from Jan Richardson

For you, for the new year: a blessing that has been waiting for you to arrive. As we cross into 2024, may we find it—and make it—a welcoming kind of year. Blessings!

BLESSING THE THRESHOLD

This blessing has been waiting for you for a long time.

While you have been making your way here, this blessing has been gathering itself, making ready, biding its time, praying.

This blessing has been polishing the door, oiling the hinges, sweeping the steps, lighting candles in the windows.

This blessing has been setting the table as it hums a tune from an old song it knows, something about a spiraling road and bread and grace.

All this time it has kept an eye on the horizon, watching, keeping vigil, hardly aware of how it was leaning itself in your direction.

And now that you are here, this blessing can hardly believe its good fortune that you have finally arrived, that it can drop everything at last to fling its arms wide to you, crying welcome, welcome, welcome.

—Jan Richardson

Image: "Heart Coming Home" © Jan Richardson

Adult Forum in January

January 7th To Baptize or Not To Baptize, Pastor Peter Teaching

January 14th Faithful Finances, A look at the 2024 Budget
Led by Pastor Peter and Con Sweeney

January 21st "A New Song" What is the new song of the church?
Pastor Peter Teaching

January 28th Congregational Meeting

Book Group

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

Tidings, the newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, is published monthly. Articles, story ideas, and comments can be emailed to rclarecarlson@aol.com.

Deadline for the February issue is Sunday, January 28th

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

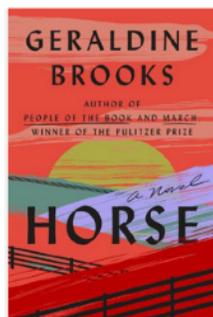
Congregational Council

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)

Book Club Christmas Luncheon at the Springdale Golf



Thursday, February 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the lounge



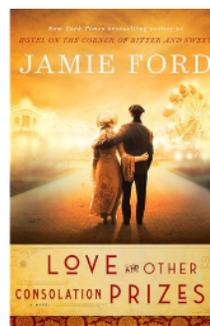
Horse by Geraldine Brooks

“Horse” by Geraldine Brooks goes back and forth from 1850 to modern-day when art historians discover paintings of Lexington, a beautiful horse considered the greatest race horse of all times.

Research reveals the story of Jarrett, the enslaved black man who trained him and raced him during the Civil War period. In the present day a scientist studies Lexington's skeleton for clues about his speed and endurance. All of this combines into a fascinating mix of art, science, and racial history. Historical fiction at its best.

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.

Racial Justice Team

Always More to Do for Racial Justice - Can YOU help?

As the year comes to a close, your Racial Justice Team continues to educate ourselves and others, looking to see where we can make a difference. Team members have been attending meetings and conferences from various organizations to stay abreast of current needs in surrounding communities...

Princeton Parents for Black Children (PPBC) held their December meeting and holiday celebration in person so families could meet others of color within the school community and their allies including representation from POP. Though this group has been active for several years and the district now has many goals related to equity, those attending this event were encouraging parents and allies to speak up and look into anything their children say that doesn't seem fair. Did you know that some families with children of color move OUT of Princeton to surrounding communities not only because of the cost of living in that town but sometimes because they don't feel welcome OR because there are so few peers or staff of color in their daily classes that their child's self-esteem becomes more of a concern than academics? We all know mental health concerns in America have grown over the past few years, but keep these children in mind when deciding whether to support or use your voice against decisions related to hiring, changing school boundaries, Board of Education seats, or redistricting within the state, not only in Princeton but your own school district and advocate for the marginalized students.

The team has also been discussing how and whether to reach out to the local Spanish-speaking community. Though the numbers seem relatively small, there is a significant population in the area near POP. Do you know anyone this might include? Do you know of a need we could try to address? We're wondering if there is a need for ESL classes, possibly even in our building. If a new Spanish-speaking individual or family walks through our doors, would they feel welcome? We do know of an African American woman who came into our building for a non-POP event, noticed our library and commented that it made her feel more comfortable and welcome. As a result, the team was considering purchasing a few books for the lending library that might do the same for members of the Hispanic community. We decided to ask for donations instead of spending money from our budget at the end of the year, recognizing POP's budget concerns. If you'd like to donate any of the following, please contact Nancy Reyes, team leader, to let her know. Please include whether you will be purchasing the book yourself or sending a check to POP to cover the cost. In consideration of our mission, we try to

buy books from minority owned bookstores or at least through bookshop.com where part of the cost benefits local independent stores (of your choice if you designate one). These are a few ideas we had:

- Bible published in Spanish
- Children's Bible in Spanish
- Luther's Small Catechism in Spanish
- Children's books in Spanish teaching about Hispanic cultures and daily life

Another topic that's been brought up for several years but for which we have not sponsored any programs has been anti-Asian hatred and bigotry. In discussing how to address it, we've decided that ongoing discussions are needed to educate ourselves about the many cultural groups within the Asian community. As we explored ways to speak out and advocate for victims, we realized that this is not a cohesive group. "Asian" includes many nationalities like Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Burmese, Laotian, Vietnamese, Korean, and more as well as multiple religious affiliations such as subgroups. There are also historical and current conflicts between those subgroups. Beginning this past fall, our team has dedicated 15-20 minutes of each monthly meeting to expanding our subgroups. There are also historical and current conflicts between those subgroups. Beginning this past fall, our team has dedicated 15-20 minutes of each monthly meeting to expanding our subgroups. There are also historical and current conflicts between those subgroups.

knowledge of the many similarities and differences among Asians so as not to offend anyone as we try to work as allies...If you are Asian (or have close family or friends who are) and have relevant books you'd recommend for others (children or adults) which are not in our library, please consider recommending and/or donating one.

- Bible or Children's Bible in another language
- Lutheran Catechism from Asian perspective
- Relevant Books for children or adults not currently in the library.

Have you seen the Einstein and Black History exhibit yet? It's at Plainsboro Public Library from January 2-27.

As always, we invite you to send suggestions or comments, to join our email list or attend our monthly Zoom meetings (1st Tuesdays from 7-8:30) by contacting Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239 (C) or nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

The Prince of Peace Racial Justice Library has some exciting new children's books thanks to the Durie and Cuddahy families. Below are short summaries of each new addition:

Each Kindness (by Jacqueline Woodson)

This unforgettable book, with its powerful anti-bullying message and striking art, will resonate with readers long after they've put it down.

Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.

The Other Side (by Jacqueline Woodson)

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African-American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship, and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together.

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family (by Ibtihaj Muhammad)

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Tree of Cranes (by Allen Say)

As a young Japanese boy recovers from a bad chill, his mother busily folds origami paper into delicate silver cranes in preparation for the boy's very first Christmas.

I Am Every Good Thing (by Derrick Barnes)

The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid, because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow

down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you--and shows you--who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!

Say Something! (by Peter H. Reynolds)

The world needs your voice. If you have a brilliant idea... say something! If you see an injustice... say something! This empowering new picture book explores the many ways that a single voice can make a difference. Each of us, each and every day, have the chance to say something: with our actions, our words, and our voices. This timely story reminds readers of the undeniable importance and power of their voice.

I Am Jazz (by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings)

From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers. Jazz Jennings has become a spokesperson for trans kids everywhere.

Sparkle Boy (by Leslea Newman)

Casey loves to play with his blocks, puzzles, and dump truck, but he also loves things that sparkle, shimmer, and glitter. When his older sister, Jessie, shows off her new shimmery skirt, Casey wants to wear a shimmery skirt too. When Jessie comes home from a party with glittery nails, Casey wants glittery nails too. And when Abuelita visits wearing an armful of sparkly bracelets, Casey gets one to wear, just like Jessie. The adults in Casey's life embrace his interests, but Jessie isn't so sure. Boys aren't supposed to wear sparkly, shimmery, glittery things. Then, when older boys at the library tease Casey for wearing "girl" things, Jessie realizes that Casey has the right to be himself and wear whatever he wants. Why can't both she and Casey love all things shimmery, glittery, and sparkly? Here is a sweet, heartwarming story about acceptance, respect, and the freedom to be yourself in a world where any gender expression should be celebrated. Sparkly things are for everyone to enjoy!

Baby's First Book of Banned Books (by Mudpuppy)

Baby's First Book of Banned Books is a unique new board book from Mudpuppy that introduces beloved classics and cherished stories like The Diary Of Anne Frank and To Kill A Mockingbird to little learners. Provides young children with a captivating and engaging way to learn key lessons from infamous classic banned books. Simple yet bright and bold illustrations with simple yet powerful messages, the book contains a glossary and explanation of each book featured.

If you have any suggestions or would like to discuss ideas or resources for the Library, please contact Kathy {kathynowak@verizon.net} or Greg Nowak {gregsnowak@verizon.net}.

Parish Care News - January 2024

Sharing our POP Care with All

Happy New Year!

Now that the new church year has started It is time for us to look forward to February! The Valentine Care Boxes and Bags Project 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 POP is the filling and shipping of care boxes to our young adults away at school and bags of treats for our "Senior students". We fill and send boxes with goodies, supplies and treats to our young adults that are away and deliver bags of treats to our Seniors.

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" x 12" box. This tradition started many, many years ago with just a few boxes and last year we sent 7 boxes and 11 bags to our "Older" members.

Save the Dates: The boxes will be packed and shipped/delivered Feb 4 or 5 and 6th, 2024. 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

RIGHT NOW: We are Gathering names and current USPS Addresses: by Jan. 16, 2024

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 1/16/24. This helps us with planning.

Gather donations to fill the boxes.

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

Donations can be placed in the offering or sent to the church.

Donations are used to purchase items to fill boxes and bags and to ship the boxes. Last year shipping charges were ~\$20/box.

Look for display in gathering area. As a reminder and details about how you can help.

Plan on Baking Treats to include: Please bring to church on Feb. 4, 2024.

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 the gathering area or let me know. Again to help with planning.

Packing of boxes: TBD, it will be either Sunday Feb 4, 2024, in the afternoon or Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, in the evening. Delivering boxes to Post Office for shipping: Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024, meet at church at 9 AM.

*Senior Valentine bags are delivered in person to our Seniors that week.

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.

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

Specific dates will be known shortly.

Look in the Gathering Area for updated information,

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

Questions: contact Martha Winder 609-799-7280 . maw14jpw@aol.com

Thank You - Thank You -Thank You

- Many thanks to all the members that wrote Merry Christmas messages in Christmas cards sent to our home bound members.
- Thank You to all who donated 2024 Calendars. 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 are greatly appreciated and used. Watch for the calendar collection box this fall.

On-going projects/needs

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Meals – prepare and provide a simple meal for a church family as needed. If you can prepare a simple meal 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 that should be included in any of our projects or 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 maw14jpw@aol.com for more details.

Epiphany Dinner Church

Saturday, January 6

5:00 p.m.

Our Christmas celebration concludes with the Festival of Epiphany. Join us as we focus on the arrival of the wisemen and the gift of the star. Please RSVP to hnd@popnj.org and let us know what food offering you plan to bring.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Prince of Peace will meet for its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28th, immediately following worship, at 10:45. The Congregational Annual Report will be available on Sunday January 21st.

Thanks from LSM/NJ for the Children's Christmas Gifts

Thank you to all who provided the means for the Christmas gift wishes of the 20 children assigned to us by Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey (LSM/NJ) for 2023, and for the extra monetary donation. Beth Gebhart, Director of Community Relations & Volunteers, sent us this note of appreciation on December 12, 2023:

Good Morning,

Thank you all so much for the generous gifts to the children we serve at LSMNJ. This is a great way to purchase gifts and make things as easy as possible.

Have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!
Beth

Gratefully, to all of you for supporting this important outreach ministry,
Berta Schott, for the Social Outreach Ministry Team



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 9:30 am (in person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Office hours vary

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin