

Tidings of Peace



July 2026

Worship in July

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



July 5
6th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Erich Kussman Preaching

July 12
7th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Fred Schott Preaching

July 19
8th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of the Word
Arundel Clarke Preaching

July 26
9th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Paul Rorem Preaching

Pastoral Call Process

The council has begun work on the call process and we are right where we should be.

The first step is to complete a Ministry Site Profile. Nancy Durie is going to help the council work through this document. There will be a survey based on questions in the profile which will serve as a vehicle to gather valuable Congregational input. Our goal is to have this survey in your hands by the beginning of August. It will be available online and on paper.

Specific times will then be scheduled where we can gather to discuss key questions and priorities.

Once the document is completed and submitted to the Synod, the council can then appoint a call committee.

At this time, the Synod has appointed a Vice Pastor to Prince of Peace (see the intro article). Joan New and Kathy Nowak (president and vice president) will be in conversation with the Office of the Bishop to discuss the possibility of having an interim pastor appointed at a later time.

An interim pastor would attend to pastoral care, meet with the council, and preside at worship on Sundays. Fifteen years ago, when Pastor Lutz left, we were first assigned a vice pastor and then later an interim pastor.

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 August issue is Sunday, July 26th

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Victoria Sychow, Church Musician
Janis Haddock, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Joan New - President
Kathy Nowak - Vice President
Jessica Clarke
Michelle Conk
Ellen McBrearity
Beth Mitchell
Dorothy Safranek
Martin Rexroad
Dunja Saleh-Zaki
Wayne Dougherty
Con Sweeney
Claudia Thompson
David Herrington, Secretary (non-voting)

Faith Night at Trenton Thunder

Saturday July 25 will be Faith Night at Trenton Thunder as they play the Williamsport Crosscutters, beginning at 6 pm.

Pastor Erich has a block of tickets and still has some left at \$10 a piece. We will try to get some more.

Let Joan New know if you want to join in the fun! Wear a Prince of Peace shirt if you have one or a God's Work Our Hands shirt!!



July Food Donation for St. Bart's

St. Bart's food pantry would like bags or boxes of granulated sugar and so Prince of Peace disciples are asked to bring sugar in July.

Our goal is 150! I am told that Dollar Tree has boxes for a reasonable price.

Minister of Music Search Team

The following people have agreed to work on searching for a new minister of music: Wayne Dougherty, Carol Baldessari, Meaghan Grimm, Dave New, and Wendy Schutzer.

Wayne will be the primary reporter back to the council. Carol, Meaghan, Dave, and Wendy have been participants in the music program – some for a very long time! If you have any leads about people who might be interested or anything you would like the team to know, please pass along that information to one of the team.

HVAC Replacement

You may have noticed it being a little warm in the sanctuary at times. One of the two HVAC units that serve the sanctuary stopped blowing cold air at the end of last summer. Additionally, the unit that serves the Community Room is also in need of replacing. Our long-time partner, Tindall and Ransom, will replace both units for a cost of \$40,130 plus permit fees. Our 2026 spending plan has \$23,300 included for this project. Our constitution allows the council to engage in contracts of up to 5% of the spending plan for items not included in the spending plan. The difference between the proposal and the spending plan amount is right at 5% of the spending plan income. Therefore, the council voted to proceed with this proposal and get the work done.

Meet Arundel Clarke - Interim Parish Administrator

A lifelong Lutheran, Arundel Clarke is dedicated to serving both the church and the community through leadership, education, mentorship, and advocacy. Holding a degree in Network and Communications Management, Arundel brings a collaborative and solutions-focused approach to every role he undertakes.

For the past 11 years, he has served as Vice President of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), helping guide the synod's mission and ministry. He also serves on the ELCA Churchwide Disciplinary Hearing Committee, is an active member of the Anti-Racist Team, and is certified as part of the New Jersey Synod Coaching Team.

Throughout his years of church involvement, he has served as a Congregation Council President, Youth Leader, and mentor, supporting faith formation and leadership development across generations.

Beyond his church service, Arundel is deeply committed to public education and community engagement. He serves on the Lawrence Township Board of Education, works as a substitute teacher, and is an Assistant Coach for Junior Varsity Volleyball in Princeton.



His passion for inclusion and empowerment is reflected in his work as a Special Olympics coach in both cycling and bowling.

A devoted husband and father of two children, Arundel values family, faith, and service. In his free time, he enjoys exploring food, listening to music, creating crafts, and playing a wide variety of games. Through his many leadership and volunteer roles, he strives to build welcoming communities where all people can learn, grow, and thrive.

Contact Arundel: aclarke@popnj.org
or the office phone, 609+799-1753.

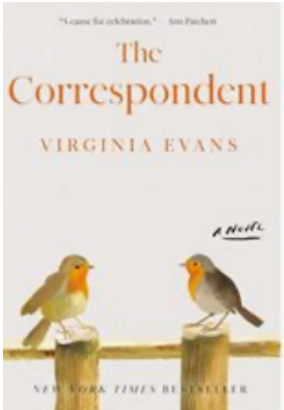
Meet our Vice Pastor, Adrian Deepak

The NJ Synod Office of the Bishop has appointed Rev. Adrian Deepak to be the vice pastor for Prince of Peace. A vice pastor attends to all pastoral care needs and meets with the council but does not conduct worship on Sunday mornings. Pastor Adrian is pastor of Abiding Love Lutheran Church in Kendall Park, formerly Christ the King. The council was pleased to meet him at the June council 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.*

**Thursday, July 9th at 1 p.m. in the
Lounge**

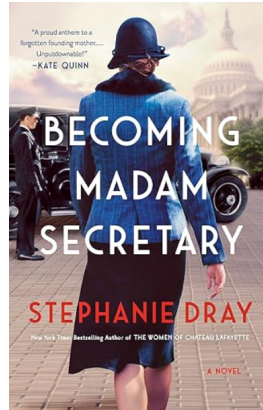


The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

Sybil Van Antwerp is a retired lawyer in her 70's who keeps up with her family and friends through the letters she writes each morning. Her letters help her make sense of the world. One letter she writes

but never mails, however, recalls the guilt and grief she still feels over the death of one her children. Eventually when she begins receiving letters from someone in the past, she comes to realize that the unsent letters she has been writing need to be read. The novel describes the transformative power of the written word.

**Thursday, August 13 at 1 p.m. in the
Lounge**



Becoming Madame Secretary by Stephanie Dray

Historical fiction at its best! This is the story of the first woman cabinet member, Frances Perkins. Frances served as Secretary of Labor under FDR and was instrumental in the

conception and success of the New Deal including the Social Security Act and various labor protection laws. She married a man called Paul Wilson who later suffered from mental illness. It was a struggle to care for him as well as shoulder all her other responsibilities, but she never wavered in her determination to help the American people.

Prince of Peace Lending Library

The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice: by Anthony Ray Hinton and Lara Love Hardin – donated by Peter Froehle

In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free.

But with no money and a different system of justice for a poor black man in the South, Hinton was sentenced to death by electrocution. He spent his first three years on Death Row at Holman State Prison in agonizing silence—full of despair and anger toward all those who had sent an innocent man to his death. But as Hinton

realized and accepted his fate, he resolved not only to survive, but find a way to live on Death Row. For the next twenty-seven years he was a beacon—transforming not only his own spirit, but those of his fellow inmates, fifty-four of whom were executed mere feet from his cell. With the help of civil rights attorney and bestselling author of Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson, Hinton won his release in 2015.

The Sun Does Shine is an extraordinary testament to the power of hope sustained through the darkest times. Destined to be a classic memoir of wrongful imprisonment and freedom won, Hinton's memoir tells his dramatic thirty-year journey and shows how you can take away a man's freedom, but you can't take away his imagination, humor, or joy.

Prince of Peace Lending Library (Continued)

Farewell to innocence: A social-ethical study of black theology and black power:
by Allan Aubrey Boesak – donated by Peter Froehlike

The author is a black South African theologian, and this book was written, in his words, “out of anguish of the black experience in that nation”. The book establishes the basis of liberation theology and explores the existing relationship between and the socio-ethical dimensions of black theology and black power.

Not Just Yes & Amen: Christians with a Cause,
by Dorothee Soelle and Fulbert Steffensky –
donated by Peter Froehlike

This compelling book is at once an introduction into lived Christianity and an “interpretation of faith from the understanding of history.” Writing for lay

people of all ages the authors direct their attention to people who want to live their faith, to those who would follow Jesus’ words, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” (John 4:6) and strike out against injustice, violence, exploitation, and war.

Desmond Tutu, Hope and Suffering –
donated by Peter Froehlike

This book of sermons and speeches offers a telling glimpse of Tutu’s strictly moral war against a system he fights because it is, he says, unchristian. Reading it you will realize how many lives he’s touched, the vast and varied audiences he’s captured, both black and white. And it offers clues to why, of late, the bishop’s pleas for change have sounded and increasingly urgent note.

Filled School Backpacks for Children Served by St. Bart's

On Saturday, August 29, 2026, St. Bart's will be distributing many filled school backpacks to the children in their community and have asked partner churches to help gather the filled backpacks.

As we have done in past summers, Prince of Peace is collecting only completely filled backpacks for them.

Please consider donating one or more filled backpacks. We hope to receive 30 or more. The list of items to include in each back is below. All items must be brand new. Calculators are NOT being requested.

Please leave your filled backpack(s) on the collection table or under the coat rack in the Narthex/Gathering Area anytime between now and Sunday, August 16, 2026.

Thank you for considering being a part of this outreach ministry!

Appreciatively, Berta Schott, for the PoP Social Outreach Ministry Team
Questions: Text Berta at 609-731-3193 or call her at 609-799-1783 (landline)

Brand New School Supplies Needed Per Backpack:

New backpack
#2 Pencils
Pencil Pouch
Eraser
Crayons
Expo Markers
3 Composition Notebooks
Glue Sticks
Washable Markers
Highlighters
2 Pocket Folders
Pencil Sharpener
Blunt Scissors
Ruler
Headphones
Reusable Waterbottle
Hand Sanitizer
Clorox Wipes
Tissues

Parish Care - July 2026

As we enjoy the summer, we continue to share our care with others.

If you know of someone that would enjoy some POP care please let us know.

As we begin our time of transition please remember we have much POP care to share with many.

2026 High School Graduates (and others that are or will be away at school this fall)

Congratulations to our 2065 High School graduates. We are very proud of your accomplishment and look forward to your next adventures. Blessings to all.

We keep in touch with our young adults away at school, please share your contact information - mailing, shipping and email addresses along with your school as soon as possible. Please send details to the church.

We are looking for the same information from our young adults that are already in school. Please start to gather the 2026-27 school year info and share it with church. Thank you

Keeping in Touch

We are asking for families or individuals that could help us keep in touch with folks that cannot always get to church. Dropping off a Sunday bulletin, making a phone call to see how things are, going to see someone to share a hello and prayer are just a few of the ways to help. Please think about a way that you can help to make their days much brighter. Details of who and where will be provided.

OMG!

In June my first 2027 Calendar arrived in the mail!!! We will be gathering these calendars this fall to share with our local Senior Residences. They were greatly appreciated last fall. So, look for a box in the breezeway to drop off your 2027 Calendars.

Care Notes, Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards

are on the table in the breezeway. Please share with Family, Friends and Others. Show folks your care. May thanks to Ginger Reiersen and Chris Wethe for their special support of this ministry.

Rides Needed

Summer is a good time to provide a ride.

We are looking for a few folks to provide rides to and from church for the Sunday 9:30 Service. If you can help please let me know ASAP. We can co-ordinate times as needed.

Monthly Mailings

We continue with our Splash and Hope through Healing monthly mailings along with the Care Notes in the breezeway. If you know of anyone to be included, please contact Parish Care.

Altar Flowers

There are a few weeks that are available for Sunday sponsorship. Check the flower calendar posted outside the church office. After our Sunday service you are welcome to take the arrangement home to enjoy. The cost is \$45 for the arrangement.

Recently the flowers are being delivered in glass dishes – not plastic. In trying to encourage reduce, recycle and reuse we are going to try and collect the dishes for reuse. Once your flowers are finished, you can return the dish to the church and we will then return them to the florist for reuse. There is a small box in the breezeway to return the glass flower dishes.

Our small step to help with the reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Watch for some pop-up events this summer to share our care.

Enjoy the hot lazy days of summer and remember to share some POP care!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at church!

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

**Prince of Peace
Reconciling in Christ Tidings Article
July 2026**

Upcoming Reconciling in Christ Activities

The Reconciling in Christ team is happy to announce the following activity for the coming summer:

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert, Sunday, August 23rd, 3:30PM: [Bobby Jo Valentine](#) is an explorative, hopeful, spiritual, queer artist who strives to make music and poetry that is good medicine for everyone. Bobby Jo has won multiple awards for his songwriting, given a ~~Ted~~x Talk, and is a believer in the soft and steady power of everyday acts of love to heal our world. He uses his art to tell about his coming out journey. POP is cosponsoring this event with Emanuel Lutheran Church of New Brunswick.

More details will be available as we get closer to the date.

Con P. Sweeney

Reconciling in Christ Team



Racial Justice - July 2026

Juneteenth, Remembering a Time of Transition, and Immigrants in Transition

As you entered POP this past month, we hope you noticed the display Kathy and Greg Nowak set up to commemorate America's newest holiday, Juneteenth, a celebration of the actual end of slavery in the USA. Although the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863 marked the legislative end of slavery, that horrific institution continued in parts of the country where the Civil War was still being fought. Slave-owners in Louisiana and Mississippi found ways to move their slaves to Texas where slavery continued until June of 1865 when the last of the Confederate Army was defeated.

Then on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived with federal troops in Galveston, TX, and issued General Order No. 3:

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor." (See more facts about Juneteenth at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/10-facts-juneteenth>).

Imagine the impact of that announcement on those receiving the news.....they were now employees who had to be paid to work! Here at POP, we were given notice and our Council has been preparing for transition, but it still leaves us in uncertainty about the future. We'll be fine and continue as a church family with our ongoing ministries and our lay leaders as we continue welcoming others into our building and our faith community, but those slaves had NO time to prepare, no place of their own, and their "owners" turned "employers" had no warning either! There were certainly celebrations that day and in the years that followed, the original

Juneteenth celebrations, but there were also 250,000 newly freed Americans of all ages who'd never been able to make their own decisions and had no idea what their immediate present and their futures would be like!

Some did stay on as employees as the announcement also suggested (and that was NOT a smooth transition) while others were part of the "Scatter" during the following weeks - they chose to leave Texas and try to find family from whom they'd been separated in other parts of the USA. Mostly illiterate individuals and families with no money and no home of their own going out into a war-torn country where many people had to start thinking differently about them just as they had to think differently about every part of their own lives.....Just imagine....

Today, over 160 years later, more and more people and communities celebrate that announcement and the freedom we all share with fairs, parades, music, historical and cultural performances and displays, but we must also recognize that the "absolute equality of personal rights" has never been fully achieved. POP's Racial Justice Team continues to work towards our congregation, communities, and country being truthful about the racism that still exists despite the end of slavery. POP is advocating for such equality to help us move closer to the promise in that announcement. You still have several ongoing opportunities to learn about related history and inequality today as many displays and programs continue into the summer. Below are just a few local opportunities:

Freedoms Reframed: Art on the Edges of the Constitution, a compelling exhibition of art and poetry examining fundamental human rights and social freedoms curated by Art Against Racism. (William Trent House Museum in Trenton, will continue through July 28th).

Other programs by Art Against Racism include a July 5 reading of excerpts from Frederick Douglass's 1852 speech, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?, a Paper- and Printmaking Workshop focusing on food insecurity, self-determined health and wellness, and cultural identity on July 11 and 12, and Artists in Conversation on July 19....For more info <http://artagainstracism.org/>

Racial Justice - July 2026

(Continued)

Re-visioning America, a Princeton Humanities Initiative and local collaboration showcases how artists from a range of backgrounds grapple with the complexity of America and its histories, then and now <https://initiative.humanities.princeton.edu/re-visioning-america>

Our Neighbors in Transition this year....Refugee and Immigration Updates

Our refugee and asylum seeking neighbors and other immigrants are not just living with the typical uncertainty of adjusting to a new country and culture this year. As stated in an email from Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service), “ At a moment when nearly 120 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced, the United States has abandoned its role as a global humanitarian leader. Only a small number of refugees from increasingly limited circumstances have been allowed through our doors—**leaving millions in immediate danger** and still more languishing in camps....Global Refuge and our partners are in the halls of Congress advocating for **smart, humane refugee and immigration policy.**”

And their June 9 email included, “Afghan allies —people...who supported U.S. forces—**are facing the possibility of being sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo or even back to danger in Afghanistan**, instead of being welcomed here.”

These neighbors who came here to feel safe are living in constant fear. In Global Refuge's May report, it stated, “The administration set this year's refugee admissions ceiling at just 7,500 -- the lowest in USRAP's history, even as global displacement reaches record highs. Nearly all resettlement slots have gone to white refugees from South Africa (over 6,000 arrivals), while only three refugees from any other nationality have been admitted. The administration is now adding 10,000 more slots through an amended admissions ceiling, but plans to reserve them exclusively for Afrikaners from South Africa.” All this means tens of thousands of vetted approved refugees from 90 countries are stranded, waiting to come to the US.

In other news, as per Politico 6/23/26, U.S. District Judge P. Casey Pitts ruled that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents can no longer detain noncitizens at immigration courts. That is helpful because those immigrants who are legally here are required to check in periodically, but over the past year before this decision, many were detained there when all they were doing was following the law by reporting as scheduled so others were afraid to do as required.

The US Supreme Court also announced some less humane decisions over the past few weeks including 1) allowing the government to require most applications for asylum to be submitted only from outside the USA. Once in effect, immigrants already here, including legally vetted and admitted refugees, may need to leave the country and wait elsewhere to do so allowing the federal government the ability to end Temporary Protected Status for refugees from Haiti and Syria. This means as many as 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians legally in the US (and many living in NJ) could lose their work authorization and ability to remain in the US legally unless they are eligible for other types of protection such as already having asylum. This ruling ignores the ongoing danger they would face if returning to their own countries.

Please pray for our immigrant neighbors including those already deported or detained (and their worried struggling families) and those living in constant fear (no matter their status), that they be treated humanely, given due process and fair judgements regarding their individual cases. Pray also for those making and enforcing the law, that they stay safe while doing their jobs to the best of their ability and in good conscience, keeping in mind that all humans are equal in God's eyes.

Nancy Reyes
nancyauerreyes@gmail.com



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am (in person/Livestream)

Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin