



Worship in May

Online Worship at 9:30 am

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

Indoor Worship begins May 23 at 9:30

11 am Outdoor Worship

Sunday, May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

I am the Vine, You are the Branches

Sunday, May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mothers Day

Love One Another as I Have Loved You

Vicar Kayla Hopgood Preaching

Sunday, May 16

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May They Be One, As We are One

Sunday, May 23

Day of Pentecost

All of Them Were Filled

with the Holy Spirit

Sunday, May 30

Holy Trinity Sunday

Memorial Day Weekend

God the Creator — God the Redeemer

God the Sanctifier

Also in May

May 5

Cross Roads Zoom

May 6

Chair Yoga

May 7 & 8

Synod Assembly

May 11

Racial Justice Meeting

May 13

Struggling for the Soul of Public

Education

Returning to Indoor Worship

May 23rd, 9:30

A year ago, I read that there would be the medical ending to the pandemic, but there would also be a social ending. The social ending would come much sooner. I think this is playing out now. Covid-19 numbers are at the same level as in the fall; but today schools are open, fans are back at the ballpark, and airfares are sky rocketing. Society is itching to declare the pandemic over.

May 23rd will be the first Sunday the entire staff will be fully vaccinated. This has been the determining condition to bring back indoor/ in person worship. But May 23rd will not look like March 15th 2020, the last Sunday we worshipped inside. The staff and the re-entry team are still concerned about safety, and the worship team is still concerned about the live stream. We realized that our virtual congregation was not second rate. We reached across states and oceans in addition to locals who became quite comfortable worshipping on line. Because of this our communication team added spot lights and a microphone to enhance worship. Given this, the live stream is a worship experience we don't want to lose; but how do we proceed?

First, the outdoor service will continue. This will provide in person worship for those still uncomfortable going indoors. We will switch back to an 8:30 start June 6th as we anticipate the return of summer temperatures. This service, as always, will be at the mercy of the weather.

Second, the 9:30 service, while not ignoring the people in the pews, will cater to the live stream. This means that the camera will still be front and center, and the microphone and spot lights will remain; at least for the time being. We anticipate a less distracting indoor setting as more worshippers return, hopefully in the fall. Having said this, communion will be offered at the 9:30 service using the communion packets we've been using outdoors. At this time Doug and I are still discussing hymn singing. Can we do it safely?

A couple of other points about indoor worship. Masks and social distancing will be honored. There will be no fellowship hour. And, a sign-up will be available on line — not to keep anyone from worship, but to anticipate attendance. We've set the limit at 50. Given the comments I've heard, I don't anticipate nearing that number.

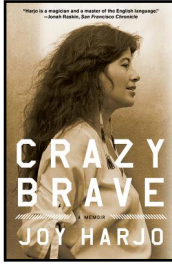
I've said throughout the pandemic that our return to the sanctuary will not be a grand march but more of a tip toe. We will make changes as we deem necessary. Having said this, however, I am very excited. Preaching into a phone in a nearly empty sanctuary has been surreal. It is time to move ahead.

Be well.

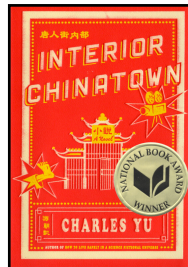
— Pastor Peter

Library Grows as Prince of Peace Reads about Equity, Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Systemic Racism

Several books were added this past month. Stay tuned for children's additions due to arrive in early May. Stop by to borrow a book when Kathy is in the office, browse and sign one in or out when you attend in-person worship, or contact Nancy Reyes for delivery. We're still looking for another shelf to spread the books out as the collection grows. Donations of your own relevant books are welcome, too.



Crazy Brave is a memoir by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation. The book is a frank memoir of her experience growing up as a Native American. (W.W. Norton, 2013)



Interior Chinatown, the National Book Award winner by Charles Yu is a light-hearted and sometimes moving novel about a Chinese man who's trying to advance his acting career and to get cast as something other than *Generic Asian Man* — a Hollywood satire with some truths about being Asian in the U.S. (Vintage, 2020)

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

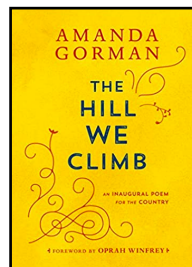
Deadline for the June issue is Sunday, May 23

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Vicar Kayla Hopgood
Field Ed Student Rebecca Laabs
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
Victoria Chow-Torres, Church Musician
Kathy Nowak, Parish Administrator
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Elizabeth Wagner (President)
Kim Contini (Vice President)
Nancy Durie
Charlie Frantz
Tim Gjenvick
Mary Ellen Glickson
Martin Rexroad
Wendy Schutzer
David New, Secretary (non-voting)



The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman. This is the amazing Youth Poet Laureate's poem, performed at President Biden's and Vice President Harris's inauguration. Take some time to read and enjoy this historic poem recently released in book form with a foreword by Oprah Winfrey. (Viking, 2021)



The May Donation Requested for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is

Barbecue Sauce

Please place donations in the wooden box in the breezeway.

May Events

Synod Assembly — May 7 & 8

Many churches are opening up but the New Jersey Synod Assembly will be virtual. Pastor Peter Pastor Dale, and Joan New will be Prince of Peace's voting members. If you'd like to follow the assembly, you can join Vicar Kayla and watch the proceedings on the synod's YouTube. The assembly begins Friday May 7 at 6:45 and continues all day Saturday, May 8, beginning at 9:00 am.

Confirmation Sunday — May 23rd

Confirmation is Pentecost Sunday May 23rd. Gehrig and Eliana Hebert will be confirmed. Offer your prayers for Gehrig and Eliana on this special day.



Stations of the Cross: Pandemic Hope by Mary Button

Many have expressed an interest to experience the Stations of the Cross that were on display on Good Friday. The stations will remain up in the sanctuary throughout May and June.

Please call the Church Office to arrange a time when the building is open that you might see this inspiring art and experience this powerful time of prayer.

Book Group

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

Note: Outdoor meetings may be scheduled, weather permitting.

*Zoom meetings at 7:30 pm will be
scheduled if the weather is unfavorable.*

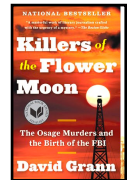
*We are also considering meeting in the
church fellowship hall if the weather is unfavorable.*

May 13

Time & Place to be Announced

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

David Grann tells the shocking true story of the fate of the Osage Indian tribe once oil was discovered on their Oklahoma reservation in 1920. At first the Osage people were among the richest in the land, but starting in 1921, tribal members began to die, some of gun shots, others from a mysterious wasting disease. Murder was suspected and the newly formed FBI headed by J. Edgar Hoover began to investigate.



June 10

Time & Place to be Announced

The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd



In first century Judea we meet Anna, a strong, intelligent woman who longs to find her voice as a writer even although she lives in a society bent on her silence. She finds and marries Jesus of Nazareth, a young man whose heart burns with a different kind of longing. This book is a reverent re-imagining of the life Jesus might have led before he began his mission. Based on careful historical research, it gives a fascinating glimpse of what life was like for women and men alike in Biblical times.

CROSS ROADS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Two Zooms from Cross Roads

Wednesday, May 5th
10 am to Noon — \$10

The Image of God
John Kelly

The session will explore the *imago dei* — the image of God — and what it means for us to be made in God's image. What is the significance that after the resurrection Christ still bears scars? Can our scars bear witness to God's beauty?

Wednesday, June 2
10 am to Noon — \$10

Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith
Dale Selover

In his classes, beloved priest, author, and spiritual guide, Henri Nouwen offered gentle wisdom for the spiritual life. We will explore his invitation to look within to the heart, look to God in the book, and look to others in community.

Chair Yoga Coming May 6, 10:30

See Poster on page 9

After a much too stationary winter and pandemic season, this is a chance to move into spring.

The class will be held at the labyrinth and led by local yoga teacher Kelly Kenny.

This gentle class is great way to experience an ancient method of nurturing body, mind, and spirit.

Reminder

Food items for the Feeding Ministry At St. Bart's Continue to be Needed

St. Bart's provides many, many families in their community with bags of groceries each week. Place your donations in the bins provided on the porch outside the white doors. Checks for this ministry are also appreciated. Mail your check, made out to Prince of Peace and earmarked *St. Bart's Feeding Ministry*, to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction. 08550.

Thank you for your part in feeding our hungry neighbors.

The Social Outreach Ministry Team

Reparations Survey

At Prince of Peace's Annual meeting in January, the congregation agreed to add Reparations as a separate line item in the 2021 budget so members can easily donate to begin reconciliation.

To help guide the distribution of such donations, a short survey was sent out to the church's email group. Thanks to those who have already participated. We hope many more will do so this week (anonymously if you choose). If you haven't done it, please use this link and submit by May 1: https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQruXW5WVSLrGnQ

If you are not able to do this online, call Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239 and we'll figure out the best way for you to participate.

Building Use

June 1st the re-entry team will begin opening the building for use by groups, both members and non-members. Given the pace of the pandemic, however, the team will approve requests on a case by case manner. If you have a request to use any of our indoor rooms, contact Kathy in the church office and she will forward the requests to the re-entry team.

Peace Garden Harvests First Crop of 2021

The Peace Garden has harvested its first crop, the beginnings of what should be a very productive patch of cilantro.

Gardening began in March and the two plots (behind the church house and in the old Cherry Tree Garden) are gradually filling with healthy vegetable plants and flowers. Produce is being donated to the food bank at St. Bart's Lutheran in Trenton.

The gardens are maintained by volunteers who gather on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. We are pleased to have the help of three gardeners from the larger community. More help is always welcome. For more information, contact Lois Case (loismcase@gmail.com).



Thank You's

To all at Prince of Peace Church —

Many thanks for the lovely Easter card, and also for the beautiful flowering plants that now grace our apartment.

Best wishes to all.

Al & Eileen Parker

Dear Members of Prince of Peace,

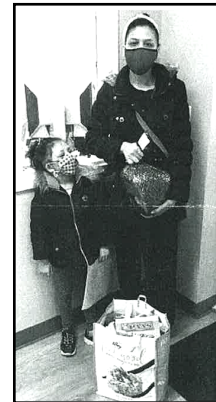
Thank you so much for all the support you give to the residents of LSMNJ affordable housing.

This has been a difficult year for our residents. Feelings of isolation have crept into many people's lives. Your gifts and cards let people know they are cared for, loved, and not forgotten.

May the blessings of Easter Resurrection and the love of neighbor resonate in your hearts.

Thank you.

— Beth Gebhart



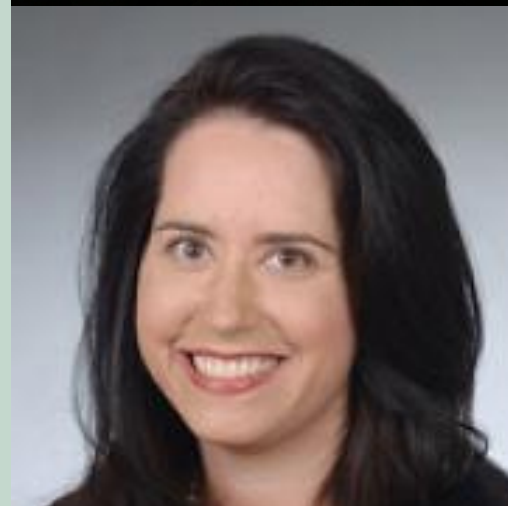
THURSDAY, MAY 13 AT 6PM

STRUGGLING FOR THE SOUL OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

ELISE BODDIE, JD
RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Decades of research point to significant educational and social benefits of integration. Yet public schools across the country are highly segregated, especially in New Jersey. Professor Boddie will discuss the peculiar challenges of integration in the north and why school segregation is a threat to public education and to democracy. Professor Boddie's talk will be followed by a conversation with **Professor Lynda G. Dodd, JD, PhD** of Princeton University.

This event is virtual, free, and open to the public. To register, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/BoddieDodd>



Sponsored by Not In Our Town Princeton, Princeton Public Library, Princeton Civil Rights Commission, Campaign to End the New Jim Crow (Greater Trenton Chapt.), Citizens for a Diverse & Open Society, Congregation Beth Chaim Racial Justice Task Force, Congregation Kehilat Shalom Racial Justice Working Group (Belle Mead), Har Sinai Temple Racial Justice Committee, Hopewell Valley Together, Kidsbridge, Lawrence Citizen Activists, Lawrence League of Women Voters, Live Well Church (Windsor), Princeton Mutual Aid, Princeton Progressives Action Group, Racial Justice Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, Racial Justice Team of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Princeton Jct.)

Prince of Peace Continues to Move Forward Toward Racial Justice

Wouldn't it be nice if taking a few steps to stop racism made as much of a difference as a few steps (masks, social distancing, and vaccines) are doing to diminish the threat of coronavirus? Prince of Peace's Racial Justice Team knows it won't be that easy to stop systemic racism, but we're determined to keep trying, step by step, over decades instead of months. Our April steps were the following.

Special Meetings

Synod-Wide Anti-Racism and Synod Guest

At our usual monthly meeting, Pastor Sara Lilja, New Jersey's Director of Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry (<https://www.leanmj.org/>) spoke about current issues and legislation, both federal and state. Everyone is invited to *Become a Member* of that site. It's free and just means you'll get email updates on ways to support needed legislation.

Pastor Lilja helped us explore how to move from talking and educating ourselves and others to acting as allies and advocating for systemic change. She suggested a few to get started:

- Get *Cover All Kids* (S876/A4387) into New Jersey's 2022 budget
- push your community to build affordable housing asap
- work to help young readers
- support lowering look-back years after incarceration
- assistance for farm workers and immigrants left out of stimulus packages
- frequently contact your legislators and governor because public opinion drives policy.

LEAM also offers monthly update meetings you can join on Monday's at 5:30 in the focus areas of Hunger, Housing, Employment, and Healthcare, all of which are interconnected and impacted by racism.

Several Racial Justice Team members also attended the third New Jersey Synod-wide anti-racism meeting. This included discussing *Cracking the Code: Unconscious Bias* in small group breakout sessions with others from New Jersey ELCA

congregations, sharing ways to address racism as Lutherans, and experiencing sample video clips from *Transforming White Privilege* (TWP is a virtual course the synod will offer soon). As the month ends, some are taking the synod's *Active Bystander Training*.

Interested in either of these training programs in the future or joining the Racial Justice Team? Contact Nancy Reyes (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com).

Mark Your Calendar

Do you realize that New Jersey's schools are some of the most segregated in the country? The Racial Justice Team is joining Not In Our Town (NIOT) Princeton and others working against racism to sponsor a distinguished speaker. On Thursday, May 13 at 6 pm, recently appointed to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court and Rutgers law professor Elise Boddie will discuss *Struggling for the Soul of Public Education*, a free, virtual event. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/BoddieDodd>. Please help spread the word and attend.

Thursday, April 29 at 5:30 - *The Chauvin Verdict: A Psychological, Legal and Societal Reckoning* (<https://notinmytownprinceton.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/chaubin-verdict.jpg>)

Monday, May 3 at 7 - Dominant Media and Understandings of the Call to Defund the Police (<https://niotprinceton.org/continuing-conversations>)

The next Racial Justice Team virtual meeting is May 11, 7- 8:30.

Contact Nancy Reyes to receive an invitation.

Parish Care — May 2021

*Hope you are safe and well
Amazing that April has gone by so quickly.
Our monthly mailings were easy to continue.
Delivered some groceries and supplies.*

Easter Wishes were mailed to our homebound/senior resident church family. Thank you to folks who were able to include a message during Holy Week. Things are starting to open up and if you would like to make a phone call or send a message, please let me know.

Easter Sunday was a beautiful day and we enjoyed a wonderful outdoor service. It was very special to be able to worship together.

Greeting Cards

We have gathered Greeting Cards to distribute to several senior residences in the area. This a great way to share all the greeting cards that you receive in the mail. If you can help sort and/or deliver a package of cards to the residences, please let me know.

Graduation

Spring is here and high school graduation is near. We are now looking for information on our 2021 High School graduates. If you are graduating this spring, please share some information about you – where you are graduating from and what you might be up to after graduation. Please leave the details with the church office or with the Parish Care Team.

Sharing

Care Notes are booklets with inspirational messages for many different life situations. They are displayed in the gathering area and are for folks to take and read and/or pass them along to others who might enjoy the message.

There are knitted prayer squares and pocket prayer cards in the breezeway. Please share with others. If you would like any of these materials arrangements can be made to pick them up.

Monthly mailings to families with new babies, *SPLASH*, and those who have lost loved ones, *Hope Through Healing*, continue. If you know of folks to include in our mailings, please let me know.

Transportation Needs

Rides to doctor appointments during the week

Rides to local groceries

If you can help with getting folks to and fro, please let me know.

Many thanks for all your care and support of our ministry.

After all of our isolation, I am so looking forward to sharing care with ALL

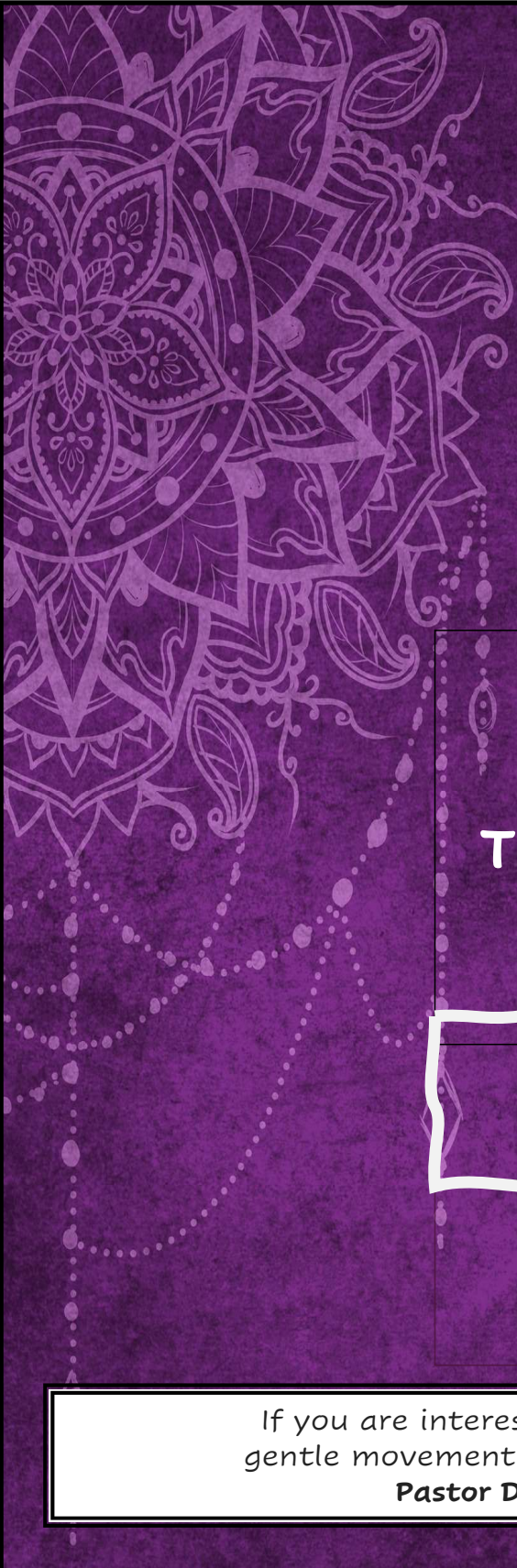
Hope we can gather together soon

Keep Safe Keep Well

If you need something/help

Looking forward to lots more news and projects in June

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



After a much too stationary winter (and pandemic) season, we invite you to join us as we *literally* move into Spring.

Chair YOGA

Will be offered in the

Outdoor Chapel

Thursday, May 6, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Led by fitness and yoga instructor

Kelly Kenny

45 minute session

\$10

No experience is necessary!

If you are interested in attending this time of gentle movement and reflection, please contact
Pastor Dale at hnd@popnj.org



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday 9 to Noon

Thursday 1:30 to 3:30

Sunday Schedule

Worship at 9:30 am (Livestream)

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

Outdoor Worship at 11 am
