

Tidings of Peace



September 2023



Pentecost Season Themes

Worship in September

*Worship with Holy Communion at 8:30
In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am*

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

September 3

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Take Up the Cross
Pastor Peter Preaching*

September 10

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

New Member Sunday

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Love Your Neighbor As Yourself
Pastor Peter Preaching*

September 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Parable of the Talents
Pastor Peter Preaching*

September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Laborers in the Vineyard
Pastor Christine Ruth Preaching*

Pastor's Page

I usually am not into science fiction, but this summer I heard the science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson. He explained that there are two genres in science fiction. Stories that take place hundred's of years into the future, and stories that take place in the near future.

Robinson caught my attention when he called the near future authors "prophetic." He distinguished between what he called predictions and prophecies. Predictions are specific, but prophecies call society to task. Biblical prophets are not seers predicting that this or that will happen, though often it did, like the destruction of the temple. Instead, prophets announce God's word as a call for the people to return to God's ways. The prophet seeks not to frighten, predicting some impending doom; the prophets seek to inspire, calling for change, so God's people can live as God intends.

I'm reading Robinson's latest book, *The Ministry of the Future*. Don't think church ministry here, think a ministry of the United Nations called to enact the agreements of the Paris Climate Accords. It is chilling, no pun intended, to read Robinson's prophecy of the 2030's during this summer of the Maui and Canadian wildfires. We continue to hear the horrors of Lahaina's incineration, as we remember those eerie June days when Canada's smoke blanketed over us. I can't help to ask if the future is now.

Robinson's read is difficult, but in true prophetic form, not without hope. Fantastic as they sound, Robinson fictionalizes solutions to climate change in the 2030s. But, as he explained in his lecture, Robinson said any solutions for the biospheres sustainability will only be realized if peoples and nations collaborate.

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 October issue is
Sunday, September 24***

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

Geeta Telang, Office Manager

Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary

Congregational Council

Tim Gjenvick (President)

Joan New (Vice President)

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Mary Ellen Glickson

David Jeedi

Christian Oehm

Dorothy Safranek

Wendy Schutzer

Con Sweeney

Claudia Thompson

David New, Secretary (non-voting)

Pastor's Page (continued)

My confession, perhaps like yours, is that I have not done enough to reverse the trends of climate change. I get angry when people call out the fire chief in Lahaina, when we all hold culpability for what is happening on our planet.

In reading The Ministry of the Future I'm thinking that the prophets of science fiction can inspire, not unlike the prophets of the Old Testament. As I commit to life style changes and habit choices, I will live with hope, because this what the prophets announce.

Pastor Peter

P.S. I will be a busy preacher in September. I will be preaching at Kayla Hopgood's ordination on September 9th. On September 17th, in addition to preaching at POP at 8:30 and 9:30, I have been invited to preach at Live Well Church in Windsor at 11:00 for their 40th Anniversary. All good.

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF KAYLA J. HOPGOOD



11 AM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Ascension Lutheran Church
900 Washington Crossing Rd
Newtown, PA

ALL ARE WELCOME.

CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST AND PROCESS. COLOR OF THE DAY IS RED.

Dates to Remember

House Next Door Sunday

September 24th Prince of Peace will lift up our ministry of the House Next Door. Pastor Christine Ruth, the marriage and family therapist working out of the House Next Door will be our preacher. Pastor Dale will preside.

Pastor Ruth will lead the Adult Forum. She will speak on the topic, "Welcome to Fall, Finding an Anchor in Change, Loss, and Transition."

Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise returns for the fall on Sunday September 17th. Join us at 1:00pm.

New Members

Prince of Peace will welcome new members on Sunday September 10th at the 9:30 service. If you would like to join Prince of Peace at this time speak with Pastor Peter.

West Windsor Day

West Windsor Day is Saturday September 23rd. Prince of Peace will again be out at Duck Pond Park, next door to the Liquid Church, from 12-4. Speak with Pastor Peter if you want to join us. It is a great community day.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM PROPERTY AND BUILDING USE TEAMS

Calling all POP members!

"If you see something, say something."

Please let us know if you see a property matter that needs to be addressed. You may speak directly to a team member, or place a written note in the Property folder outside the Church Office door. Thanks for your help!

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, September 14th at 1 p.m.

The Christie Affair by Nina De Gramont

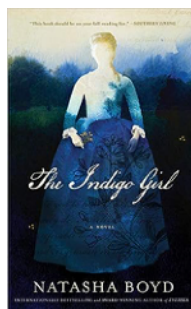
In this intriguing novel the author imagines what really happened during the 11 days when the famous mystery author, Agatha Christie, disappeared back in 1926. Written as a murder mystery itself, the story is narrated



by Nan, the woman Christie's wayward husband plans to leave her for. It's full of twists and turns and surprises in true Agatha Christie fashion.

Thursday, October 12th at 1 p.m.

The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd



The year is 1739. Eliza Lucas is only 16 years old when her father leaves her in charge of the family's plantations in rural South Carolina as he heads off to war. Faced with financial ruin, the plucky teenager decides to grow indigo, a crop in high demand

because of the deep blue indigo dye that can be extracted from it. Based on historical documents, this is the story of how the dye she produced became one of South Carolina's largest exports. Romance, forbidden friendships, and political and financial threats all combine to tell the tale.

Prince of Peace
Reconciling in Christ: Autumn Speakers'
Program
September 2023

POP's Reconciling in Christ team is happy to announce its speakers' program leading up to our congregational vote on Reformation Sunday, October 29th.

The two guest speakers are:

Donald Maher, Esquire, will speak on Sunday, September 17th.

Donald is an attorney who resides in Pennsylvania and has been a longtime LGBTQIA+ activist in both the Catholic and Lutheran faiths.

He will speak during the Adult Forum on his faith journey as a gay Christian and the importance of programs like Reconciling in Christ.

(Donald's detailed biography is in a separate article in this issue of Tidings.)

Our second is probably already known to many members of POP:

The Reverend Bruce H. Davidson, will speak on Sunday, October 1st.

Pastor Bruce was ordained in 1974 and has served as Pastor of Holy Trinity in Wildwood, St. Paul's in Teaneck, and St. John's in Summit. He also was Director of Lutheran AIDS Ministry in NJ, and Chaplain at Betak, a long-term care facility in Philadelphia for people with HIV/AIDS.

He retired in 2011 and now lives with his husband in Philadelphia. He currently serves as Leader of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Hunger Ministry Team. Pastor Bruce will speak during the Adult Forum about how the Bible has been used both against and for the LGBTQIA+ community.

(Pastor Bruce's detailed biography will be published in the October issue of Tidings.)

We welcome both speakers to our congregation and look forward to hearing them speak!

Reconciling in Christ – Donald Maher, Esquire
Biography

Donald Maher was born and raised in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn next door to Bethlehem Lutheran, an ELCA congregation where and when Daryl C. Helmer was pastor and spent much time in the home of the pastor and his wife and 5 kids. That Lutheran connection left a lifetime impression. Mr. Maher is also a high school class mate of Con P. Sweeney.

Following law school Mr. Maher moved into the bright lights and big city of Manhattan and as an openly gay man founded the historic LGBTQ parish based ministry in 1991 at a Catholic parish in the NY Archdiocese. It was the first Catholic parish based "gay" ministry on the planet. That ministry continues to this day as "Out at St. Paul's" providing the opportunity for the telling of faith stories, fellowship, service and religious education/formation.

In this time period Mr. Maher went on to establish the "Roundtable of Gay and Lesbian Catholic Ministries" in NY, as well as the "Spiritual Rainbow" a LGBTQ interfaith group where he worked with the earlier precursor to the ELCA "Reconciling in Christ" ("RIC") effort. Mr. Maher was at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and in its aftermath went to Pennsylvania and onto Tennessee for treatment, returning to PA to live,

and to continue both his legal career and his LGBTQ ministry efforts.

Eventually those efforts took him into the "North East PA Synod" of the ELCA, where he became a most active member of that Synod's LGBTQ task force giving 2 major presentations at the Synod's annual gatherings: "Welcoming the Modern Family"; and "Marriage Equality" for which he received many a death threat. After purchasing a home in Berks County PA, Mr. Maher joined the ELCA congregation of Friedens Stony Run in the village of the same name and where when you stay long enough he wound up on the parish council.

Mr. Maher continues his efforts in the Roman Catholic world where he is described as a glacier mover. He established a new ministry in his neck of the Catholic world "Out in the Diocese of Allentown" and writes for various publications in both the Christian and Catholic press. He is a correspondent with Pope Francis on such matters and attempts to make inroads with his local Catholic Bishop, as he did earlier with his local

Donald Maher Biography (continued)

Lutheran Bishop. Earlier this year he assisted his Catholic Bishop to hold a listening session to listen to the voices of LGBTQ Catholics and their families, and as part of the current and larger Church's Synod process.

Mr. Maher considers himself a child of the God of Abraham and of the Reformation, as well as a Sermon on the Mount Christian and a Dorothy Day Catholic. He also considers himself "A Voice in the Wilderness" akin to St. John the Baptist and graced by God to do the ministry work he does and that his voice is prophetic.

While he has already earned an honorary Masters in Divinity degree for the ministry work he does, Mr. Maher recently returned to University studies at Alvernia University in PA where he is studying theology. In addition to his being an attorney, writer and lay minister, Mr. Maher is also a yoga teacher. While still having an apartment on West 57th street in NYC, Mr. Maher maintains his home in the Centre Park section of Reading PA which is the area's "Gayborhood" where he lives with his cat Galileo.

Filled Backpack Collection for St. Bart's A Wonderful Success

Thank you to everyone who contributed a filled back pack, or backpacks, to the collection for St. Bart's to distribute to the school children in their surrounding community during their Community Barbeque and Fun Day on September 2, 2023! We are delighted to be contributing 29 filled backpacks! The backpacks were blessed during our worship service on August 27, 2023. The receiving children and their parents are most grateful for the fruits of this sharing opportunity. This demonstrates the love and caring of people engaged in God's ministry to others in a very concrete way. Thank you again.

With deep appreciation,

Berta Schott, for St. Bart's and the Prince of Peace Social Ministry Outreach Team

POP's Racial Justice Team Wants Your Input

You may remember that when the Racial Justice Team first formed in 2019-2020, we chose Education as our main focus area. Educating each other and our congregation about systemic racism and the covert ways our neighbors are oppressed was part of that.

Another part is encouraging advocacy within our local school districts to be sure they are providing equitable services for ALL children and that American History has expanded to include ALL of America's history by adding the perspective and history of diverse groups to traditional textbooks, and not just during that minority's highlighted "month".

Do you know what YOUR district is doing? Even if you're not a parent of school-aged children, attending your Board of Education Meetings is one way to find out. If you can't make every meeting, reading the minutes or listening to the recordings of meetings can inform you and let you know if there's a critical issue under consideration. Your BOE members may need your support if they are trying to change systems that quietly but negatively impact marginalized students, not just when you are angry about something they do.

You can also join parent support groups that are working to make changes within your school system. If you live in Princeton, Princeton Parents for Black Children (PPBC) can use more allies. In West Windsor/ Plainsboro, look into the African American Parent Support Group (AAPSG). Do you know if marginalized groups felt the need to organize in your district? Find out why and see if support is needed. If nothing else, find out which candidates support positive change and support them in the next election. Each of these can make a difference in the education system of your community and in YOUR future!!

Our other focus area added this past year is housing, an issue that affects even hard-working families in NJ where the cost of living is so high. Pay attention to whether your community is doing its part to provide Affordable Housing to working families, not just talking about it. Housing Board meetings are another way you can support positive change in your community.

To help the Racial Justice Team build awareness of such issues locally, learn more about a support group or controversy in your district, or to join our email list or POP's Racial Justice Team, contact Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com. Virtual Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month from 7-8:30. Email for the zoom link and join us!

Lending Library - Have you checked out the bookshelves in the lounge outside the sanctuary recently? Have you noticed the **Red Dots showing which books are banned?** **(Have you noticed that the Bible has a Red Dot?** They're not the only good books there, of course, but with so many people trying to limit what our students read, we're looking to add more of those to our collection. Look for an email coming soon with some suggestions for relevant Banned Books that could be part of our library. Let us know which of those listed you'd like to see available and we'll add the congregation's top choices. (Others can always be donated!)

Interested in finding out about refugees in our area needing help?

The Mercer County Refugee Resettlement Committee works with families from Ukraine, Afghanistan and elsewhere who are going through the legal channels to make a new life for themselves in our area (and Middlesex, too!). Volunteers are needed for everything from taking them to a doctor or lawyer appointment to playing with their kids to helping them study for or practice for their driver's license to learning English (training provided, only 6 week commitment required) to picking up donated items for a family that is moving or help them set up their new place... and much more! **Donate an hour a month or play it by ear and give as much time as you have! Virtual Volunteer Orientation sessions** (about 1 hour long) for this month will be conducted by Donna D'Anna on **Tuesday, September 19th at 7:00 pm and on Tuesday, September 28th at 7:00 pm**. If you are interested in attending, please contact Donna at donnadanna@comcast.net.

Garden Volunteers Needed!

Most Tuesdays and Fridays through the fall you'll find volunteers at the Peace Garden (behind the House Next Door) and the Cherry Tree Garden (behind the Community Wing) from 9-11. Fall seedlings have been planted and summer veggies are producing, so we can always use help, even once in a while, with harvesting, planting, clearing out finished crops and weeding the pathways or beds. It's best to be on our email list in case we cancel because the ground is too wet or conditions aren't healthy, but you can always stop by and see how you can help if you find yourself free one of those days... No experience needed. We have Master Gardeners that give on the job training! Email Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com to be added to the contact list.

OUR MEDIEVAL HYMNS

"All Creatures"

By Paul Rorem

Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) is commemorated on October 4, especially for his legendary love of animals and all creation. A "Canticle of Brother Sun" may sound too Green and modern to be medieval, but Francis really did create the text behind the hymn we know as "All Creatures of Our God and King" (Lutheran Book of Worship 527) and as "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship 835).

For centuries, monasticism in Western Europe was only Benedictine and Christians there sang only in Latin, but Francis broke the mold, starting a new order and composing in an Italian dialect. Over against the wealth and power of his family, his town, and his time with its extravagant Gothic cathedrals and costly crusading armies, Francis chose radical poverty. Begging on the streets, he lived outdoors and thus experienced nature and all sorts of animals. The sun and moon were his natural companions, along with the traditional four elements of creation as gradually mentioned in his canticle: wind, water, fire, and earth. Francis sang the harmonious goodness of creation, not a discordant evil of matter.

The song was early on called "The Canticle of Brother Sun," yet it starts not with the sun but with high praise for God. "Highest, omnipotent, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and every blessing. To you alone, Most High, do they belong And no human is worthy to name you." Even if no human being is worthy to pronounce the divine name, God can still be praised with and through the other creatures.

Thus follow the stanzas with their opening phrase "Praised be you, my Lord" repeated many times. "Praised be you, my Lord, through sister Moon and the Stars; in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful." Francis praises God through these creatures; he does not here address them as if they were living beings. God the Creator is praised by means of all creation, from the heavenly bodies down through the four basic elements, even to the earthly predicament of human weakness and all the way down to "our sister bodily death," a section added at the end of his life.

Translator William Draper ("All Creatures of Our God and King") was probably influenced by the scriptural witness, including Psalm 148: "Praise God, sun and moon." His version addresses the text to the creatures themselves, calling on all things to join in praise

of the Creator, with multiple "Alleluias" echoing the Psalms.

*O flowing waters, pure and clear, Make
music for your Lord to hear.*

Oh, praise him! Alleluia!

*O fire so masterful and bright, Providing us
with warmth and light. (LBW 527, st. 3)*

While Draper had dropped the familial language, "All Creatures, Worship God Most High" restores the naming of brothers, sisters, and mother.

*Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong; drive
far the shadows, join the throng.*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise
God in colors bright and rare. (ELW 835, st. 3)*

Although Francis was clearly devoted to the "poor Christ," including Jesus's birth in a simple stable with its lowly animals, his canticle does not explicitly name Christ, not even in the full stanza about death. "Praised be you, my Lord, through our sister bodily Death, from whom no one living can escape. Who to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they whom she finds in your most holy will, for the second death can do them no harm."

In the end, the Canticle calls on all to praise and bless the Lord, giving the last word to a very Franciscan humility.

*O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God
with humble heart.*

The original Italian for the refrain "Praised be You" is *Laudato si'* which in 2015 served as the title of the present pope's first encyclical, subtitled "On Care for Our Common Home." Bringing a medieval hymn text fully into the current concern for the natural environment, this pope even chose the author's name, Francis, a name forever known for this celebration of creation and its Creator.

Parish Care News — September 2023

Sharing our POP Care with All

Amazing

September 1st is here and Back to School.

It's the start of our church year and as our Church Year begins here are a few Parish Care needs and projects.

This will be a year of "new" and creative ways to share our Care.

Back to School Time - When, where and how to contact you.

Parish Care keeps in touch with our young adults away at school. Please send us **updated contact information**. (USPS mailing address, email etc)

Rides Needed

To and mostly from the Sunday church service. Also, During the week to appointments and some food shopping. If you can help with rides, please let me know.

On Going Projects

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. If you would like any materials and the church is not open arrangements can be made to get the materials to you.

Phone Calls

A "good morning/day and how are you doing" Phone Call. We would like to reach out to our church family that cannot be with us on Sunday morning. The call is a simple Hi, we are thinking of you, hope all is going well, and is there anything we can do to help. If you can help with making a few calls once a month, your care is greatly appreciated by many. With several folks involved a phone call could be a great way to stay connected. Want to help, call me.

2024 Calendars

We are gathering 2024 Calendars. They are shared with several of the senior residents in the area. We need help with sorting and delivering them to the residences.

There is a gathering box on the table in the Gathering area.

Watch for dates to sort and deliver these items to our Senior Residences.

We are looking for some new ways to remember and care for our church community. If you have any thoughts, ideas, and would like to help, please suggest and/or join us.

Questions or what to help contact me

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

Church Council - August, 2023

The Prince of Peace Church Council met on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 at the Pastors's home for a picnic and our bi-monthly meeting. We elected Dave Herrington as our new church council secretary, and thanked Dave New for his many years of service in that role. Con Sweeney updated us on the Reconciling in Christ plans for the fall, including two adult forums, and the scheduled congregational vote on the Welcoming Statement on October 29th. Joan New updated us on the changes required to be made to our church constitution to conform with the recommended changes from the ELCA from both 2019 and 2022. These will need to be approved by the council later this year, and then by the congregation at our annual meeting in January 2024. I informed the council that I would be asking the finance team to review the various funds we have so that the money can be put to the use for which it was given rather than sitting in our bank account. This will be done as part of the finance team's conversion of their accounting software from QuickBooks to Icon. Our next meeting will be on October 22. Please reach out to me or any of the council members if you have any questions or concerns.

Tim Gjenvick
Council President

World Holidays & Celebrations – The Meaning of Rosh Hashanah

September 2023

Rosh HaShanah (Hebrew: ראש השנה, Rō's haššānā, literally "head of the year") is the Jewish New Year. The biblical name for this holiday is Yom Teruah (יום תרועה, Yōm Tērū'ā, lit. "day of shouting/blasting"). It is the first of the Jewish High Holy Days (ימי נוראים, Yāmīm Nōrā'im, "Days of Awe"), as specified by Leviticus 23:23–25, that occur in the late summer/early autumn of the Northern Hemisphere. Rosh Hashanah begins a ten-day period of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur, as well as beginning the cycle of autumnal religious festivals running through Sukkot and ending in Shemini Atzeret.

Rosh Hashanah is a two-day observance and celebration that begins on the first day of Tishrei, which is the seventh month of the ecclesiastical year. In contrast to the ecclesiastical lunar new year on the first day of the first month Nisan, the spring Passover month which marks Israel's exodus from Egypt, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the civil year, according to the teachings of Judaism, and is the traditional anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman according to the Hebrew Bible, as well as the initiation of humanity's role in God's world.

Rosh Hashanah customs include sounding the shofar (a hollowed-out ram's horn), as prescribed in the Torah, following the prescription of the Hebrew Bible to "raise a noise" on Yom Teruah. Its rabbinical customs include attending synagogue services and reciting special liturgy about teshuva, as well as enjoying festive meals. Eating symbolic foods, such as apples dipped in honey, hoping to evoke a sweet new year, is an ancient tradition recorded in the Talmud.

The origin of the Hebrew New Year is connected to the beginning of the economic year in the agricultural societies of the ancient Near East. The New Year was the beginning of the

cycle of sowing, growth, and the harvest; the harvest was marked by its own set of major agricultural festivals. The Semites generally set the beginning of the new year in autumn, while other ancient civilizations chose spring for that purpose, such as the



Persians or Greeks; the primary reason was agricultural in both cases; the time of sowing the seed and bringing in the harvest.

Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the numbering of a new year in the Hebrew calendar, but, just as modern governments may insist on taxing over a fiscal year, universities observe an academic year, and the Western Christian liturgical calendar begins on the first Sunday in Advent, in Jewish law, four different "New Years" are observed. In order of import, they are Rosh Hashanah (the first of Tishrei), the first of Nisan, the first of Elul, and Tu BiShvat (the fifteenth of Shevat). Each one delineates the beginning of a "year" for different legal or ecclesiastical purposes. The Talmudic distinctions among the "New Years" are discussed in the tractate on Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah is the new year for calculating ordinary calendar years, Sabbatical years, Jubilee years, and dates inscribed on legal deeds and contracts. Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of Man. In Jewish practice, the months are numbered starting with the spring month of Nisan, making Tishrei the seventh month; Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the new calendar year, is also actually the first day of the seventh month.

Shanah Tovah!

Con P. Sweeney, Racial Justice 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 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>
