

# Tidings of Peace



## Worship in August

*Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion*

*8:30 am*

*In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am*

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



### **August 3**

8th Sunday after Pentecost

"Building Bigger Barns"

Pastor Peter Preaching

### **August 10**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

"The Conviction of Things Not Seen"

Pastor Peter Preaching

### **August 17**

10th Sunday after Pentecost

"Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Pastor Peter Preaching

### **August 24th**

11th Sunday After Pentecost

"Standing Up Straight"

Pastor Peter Preaching

### **August 31st**

12th Sunday After Pentecost

"The Humble Will Be Exalted"

Pastor Peter Preaching

## August 2025

### Pastor's Page

After a couple of mid-summer days off I have returned to church feeling anxious. Anxiety, in fact, is creeping more frequently into my days. Half-jokingly, my friends recommend gummies. But I'd rather listen to the wise sage in my life, my wife, who says that anxiety is the body's invitation to draw closer to God.

A source of my anxiety is our precarious financial status at church. Last Sunday I preached about new wine fermenting at POP. The House Next Door, Joyful Noise, Racial Justice, Reconciling in Christ are all new, vital ministries. The problem is that we are trying to fit the new wine into old wine skins. The old wineskins are the programmatic church, the institutional church, the church that has an aversion to change. Another old wineskin may be the church itself, literally the physical building that houses the church.

In my sermon on July 20th, I referenced an article in The Christian Century, that claims the church holds more wealth than Apple, Google, and Microsoft combined. The church is sitting on trillions of dollars. The powerful paradox, however, is that churches are closing at an alarming rate. The problem is that the church cannot access its wealth as most of it is tied up in buildings. I have to say a lot of my angst is triggered by our building. It is expensive to maintain.

We cannot imagine church without a church. But do faith communities need buildings to do ministry? The House Next Door thrives with only a house, a new wineskin.

## Pastor's Page (Continued)

*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 September issue is Sunday, August 31st**

### 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

Cheryl "Sherri" Daniels, Office Manager

### Congregational Council

Joan New - President

Kathy Nowak - Vice President

Ellen McBrearity

Jessica Clarke

Michelle Conk

Beth Mitchell

Christian Oehm

Dorothy Safranek

Con Sweeney

Claudia Thompson

David Herrington, Secretary (non-voting)

I'm not ready to sell. Accessing the wealth in our building is a question worthy to explore. Still, better questions are how do we access the generosity that I know resides in our believing community? How can our anxiety draw us into a closer relationship with God?

I know many of you share my anxiety. One letter cannot calm our anxiety about being church in this new day. But know that within this anxiety God is inviting us to a new place. What are the new wineskins God is creating that will handle the new wine fermenting within us?

Pastor Peter

You can listen to my sermon from July 20th on POP's YouTube page.

## THE NEW JERSEY SYNOD of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

requests your prayers and presence as

The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton

is installed as the fourth Bishop of the  
Synod

at a Festive Service of Holy Communion  
Saturday, August 23, 2025  
2:00 PM

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens  
711 Somerset Street, Somerset,  
NJ 08873

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding  
Bishop, Preacher

A light reception will immediately follow.

## SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Refugee Welcome Picnic is on  
Sunday September 7th - God's Work Our Hands  
Let's show these refugees that we love our  
neighbors!

## Food of the Month

None designated. We're concentrating on  
collecting the filled school backpacks this  
month.

# Summer Time...and the giving has slow-ed...but you can help...

Welcome to August and the continuing saga of finding funds for POP operations. Yes, we are showing a net deficit. If you remember the annual meeting, we approved a deficit budget close to \$100,000. Unfortunately, we are still looking at a deficit even after some very generous donations made earlier in the year.

To reduce some fees, make recording easier and give generous donors additional opportunities to give, we recently updated our web site to provide secure giving through VANCO. (We have eliminated PayPal as an option.)

We are currently using VANCO as our choice for regular weekly or monthly giving which we refer to as "Simply Giving." We have several members who donate weekly on Mondays or once a month on the 15th using this method. Once they choose this, it stays in effect until they choose to stop it. Now, **we are working with VANCO to allow secured electronic giving on our website that is controlled by you.** Here is how it works.

**Go to the POP website** and select **DONATE**. When you select donate, you will have 2 choices:

- (A) Donate to Prince of Peace or
- (B) Donate to the House Next Door.

*If you select Donate to Prince of Peace, you will then have 4 choices:*

- (1) General Donation - will be used for operations and supports items such as salaries, insurance, worship and music expenses, administrative expenses, utilities, maintenance, etc. Please use the comment box for your envelope number if you have one.
- (2) Flower Donation – allows you to pay directly for weekly or holiday flowers. Use the comment box to designate the date for weekly flowers or the choice for holiday flowers.
- (3) Building Use – to be used by individuals or groups using our facilities and making a donation for the use. The comment box must be completed with the date of the event.
- (4) Property Improvements – Donations will be used for unplanned emergency repairs that may occur. For example, we were able to repave the parking lot through the special collections for Property Maintenance.

*If you select Donate to the House Next Door you will have 3 choices:*

- (1) General Donation – will be used to cover director and admin salaries, utilities, and general maintenance of the facilities.
- (2) Program Registration – allows you to pay your registration online. Please utilize the comment box to indicate the program name and date that you are registering for.
- (3) Building Use – this should be used for groups using the HND facilities and donating a fee for the use. The comment box should be used to indicate the date of the event.

**Processing your donation-** you will be able to:

- (1) Type in the amount
- (2) Choose either a one-time donation or recurring donation.
- (3) One-time donation will pop up as "now." Choosing a recurring donation will give you a choice of monthly, weekly and a calendar where you can pick a date.
- (4) In the Note section, please enter your envelope number if you have one or any other message you wish to make.

You will notice that when you continue to process the payment, if you choose directly from your bank account, there is only a 1% processing fee. This is the cheapest way to donate. If you choose a debit or credit card, there will be a 2.9% fee. You can select to pay the fee or not to pay the fee. If you pay the fee, your recorded donation will be for the full amount including the fee. If you choose not to pay the fee, obviously, you will only get credit for the donation piece.

We want to thank everyone for their generosity and continued support of POP and all that we do for our community.

Dorothy Safranek and Finance Committee

## 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, August 14th at 1 p.m. in  
the Lounge**

### **The Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis**

Fiona Davis's latest novel is set in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, but much of the story takes place in Egypt. 19-year-old Annie Jenkins is working with a famous fashion editor who is planning the Met Costume gala when she meets Charlotte Cross, a middle-aged

Egyptologist who is the assistant curator of the Met's ancient Egyptian exhibit. The two uncover a theft and a mystery that take them back to the days of Hathokare, a rare female pharaoh dismissed by many authorities as unimportant.



**Thursday, September 11th at 1 p.m.  
in the Lounge**

### **The Secret War of Julia Child by Diane Chambers**

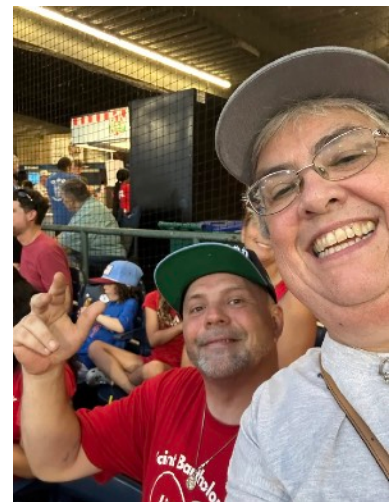


Long before she became the "French Chef", Julia Child worked for the OSS, a forerunner of the CIA during WWII. As head of the Secret File Registry, she traveled to distant front lines in Ceylon, India, and China

where she confronted many dangers but also acquired purpose and self-knowledge. In addition to all this, she found love and romance with a map-maker named Paul Child. This is a fascinating story with a quirky and unlikely heroine.

## **St. Bart's Family Night at the Trenton Thunder**

It was St. Bart's Family Night at the Trenton Thunder on July 19th. Sharing the entertainment were several POP'ers as well as Boomer and some fireworks.



# POP members are working with a Haitian refugee family of 6 through Trenton I-RISE (Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Services and Empowerment).

## DONATIONS NEEDED

Items for our Haitian family and others or for resale at Upcycle store to raise money to cover needs of immigrants through I-RISE (leave in Box in narthex or give to a team member):

- New or gently used SEASONAL clothing, shoes, sandals, especially for toddlers, men, women.
- Toys in good condition, especially for young children.
- Diapers and wipes.
- Housewares and SMALL appliances or SMALL furniture in good condition.
- Bikes, Tricycles, helmets ALL sizes, good condition (fun for kids, adults use to get to work!).
- Gift Cards especially Visa or Mastercard which can be used wherever needed.

## BIGGER NEEDS

- **Cars** (In good condition..also interested in knowing of any for sale at low cost).
- **Referrals to Employers with job openings**, especially entry level, for refugees with work permits but still learning English(support provided by I-RISE).
- **I-RISE Volunteers - Training and support provided**, work with an individual or a family as needs arise (ie drive to a doctor's appointment or DMV test, etc.), help babysit for children while parents go to English class, tutor after training to help learn English (in person or online), help fill out job applications, learn to drive, or self-apply for asylum... You can do a few hours here and there or help on a regular basis. (1 hour of virtual training +simple paperwork required)
- **Volunteers for DIRE** Rapid Response, hotline, detention visitation or Know Your Rights presentations and/or financial help towards legal fees for those detained (go to their website at [diresupport.org](http://diresupport.org) for more details).

## Peace Garden Update

Lettuce, Cabbage, Greens, are almost done but Eggplants, Okra, Squash are Just Beginning!

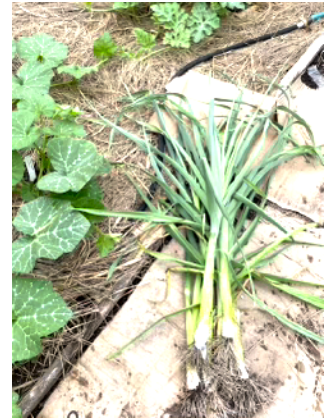
What an exciting time of year as POP garden volunteers plant, harvest, and deliver an ever-changing donation of fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit to St. Barts Food Pantry each Friday morning from spring through fall.



Though a resident woodchuck (seen under our shed!) enjoyed many of our greens and bean plants earlier this season, the rest was harvested and delivered...along with blueberries, peppers, carrots, tomatoes, basil, oregano, chives, potatoes, leeks, onions, garlic....and the list goes on and on! As July ended we got our first eggplants and okra and saw many squash blossoms soon to be vegetables.

## Peace Garden Update (Continued)

If you'd like to be part of this important ministry, join us whenever you can on a **Tuesday or Friday morning from (8:30 for early birds) or 9-11** and contact Shari Rexroad at [srexroad@gmail.com](mailto:srexroad@gmail.com) to be added to the email list in case of changes.



If T/Fri mornings don't fit your schedule but you have **ANY** time to give a half hour or more to help with weeding **ANYPLACE** on our property (the Butterfly Garden, Japanese Garden, our front gardens, etc.) or if you're one of those people that has trouble walking by weeds without bending down - **PLEASE DO! POP needs your help!** The weeds are getting the best of the small but dedicated Peace Garden team, and we don't even work on the rest of our campus!. If more people pitch in a little here and there, we can give first time visitors and newcomers a better first impression when they come for the House Next Door, Labyrinth, Memorial Garden, Tree of Life Chapel, or special events!

## Parish Care August 2025

Wishing all a wonderful summer - Time to be out and with family, friends and neighbors.

Enjoying the summer and surviving the heat.  
**Sharing some care with others.**

### **Amazing. We are thinking of - Back to School Time Already**

It is hard to believe that it is time to be thinking of back to school. The Parish Care team keeps in touch with our students throughout the school year. Please share your students' contact information: a USPS mailing address at school, email address are a good ways to touch base. So as you are packing up your college student for the fall semester at school please share their correct snail mail and email information with us.

### **Calendars and Greeting Cards**

2026 calendars have already been arriving! We are collecting 2026 Calendars. Last year the senior residences greatly appreciated them. I have already received a few in the mail, so if you have calendars there is a box in the breezeway to collect them.

At this time we are **NOT** gathering greeting/ Christmas cards. We have a large supply to organize.

If you would like to help with getting the cards organized please let me know. This can be done at church or in your home.

## Parish Care Continued

**Senior Residence Liaisons** - We are looking for some folks to help deliver the calendars and cards to the senior residences. If you live near or visit one, please consider helping by dropping off these items.

### Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards and Care Notes

All are in the breezeway into the church. Look for a basket with knitted Prayer Squares and Prayer Cards along with the Care Note display. They are for you and to pass along to others that would like a little reminder that they are cared for by many. If you cannot get into the church, let me know and I can help get things to you.

### Rides Needed

To and from church for Sunday Service. If you would be willing to help with some transportation, please let us know.

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 include, please contact Parish Care.

Much the same as always. We are always welcome to new folks to help with our sharing POP care. If you would like to help please let me know.

Martha Winder  
609-799-7280  
[maw14jpw@aol.com](mailto:maw14jpw@aol.com)

## St. Bart's Community Back to School Backpack Collection

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, St. Bart's will be distributing 250-300 filled backpacks inside to the children in their community and have asked partner churches to help gather the filled backpacks.

As we did last year, Prince of Peace is collecting only completely filled backpacks for St. Bart's. Please consider donating a filled backpack. We hope to receive 20-25, or more, backpacks. Last year we collected about 35.

Suggested items to include in each backpack are listed below. All items must be brand new. This list is the same as last year's and is more generic than in previous years. If you're not able to find all the items, just include all that you are able to.

Please note that calculators are NOT being requested. Please leave your filled backpack under the coat rack in the Narthex/Gathering Area anytime between now and Wednesday, August 20, 2025. Thank you very much for considering being a part of this outreach ministry opportunity!

Appreciatively, Berta Schott, for the PoP Social Outreach Ministry Team

Questions: Call Berta at 609-799-1783 (landline) or text her at 609-731-3193

## St. Bart's Community Back to School List of Brand New School Supplies Needed Per Backpack:

New backpack  
Several spiral notebooks  
1 or 2 Wide-ruled composition books  
Wide-ruled notebook paper  
Colored construction paper  
Manila drawing paper (if you can find it.)  
4x6 index cards  
Several folders with brads and pockets  
Several 3-ring binders (1-inch binders & 2-inch binders)  
Small bottle of hand sanitizer  
Pink erasers  
Glue sticks  
1 Pair Kid-friendly scissors  
1 Pack #2 pencils  
Crayons  
Colored pencils  
Highlighters  
Black/blue ink pens  
Watercolor paints  
Washable Markers  
Dry erase markers  
Pencil box/pouch  
Disinfectant wipes  
Facial tissues - Tissue box and/or travel tissue packets

## Racial Justice Newsletter

How do Baseball, Black History, and LGBTQIA+ Rights Overlap?

On July 19, most members of the Racial Justice Team happened to be among those attending a Trenton Thunder game for Faith and Family Night. Sitting with members of POP were two Burmese teens in the Win family, a refugee family POP helped over the past few years. They were excited to be in a stadium for their first time, witnessing their first baseball game (which made more sense to them after they realized it was a lot like kickball they'd played in school). Before the game I'd searched the listing of food booths trying to find nonexistent Halal offerings, and when looking for them from a distance to take a picture of them in the crowd, it was easy to spot the young girl's hijab (a scarf fully covering her head and hair), possibly the only one in the stadium, but it didn't matter. They were here as part of our community having a good time. Isn't it nice to be able to relax with a diverse group of friends enjoying a traditional American sport where many in the crowd are cheering for their own varied faith organizations without worrying about being judged as different from our neighbors?

Just by chance, that day's email included a story in 28 Days of Black History about the first openly gay member of a Major League Baseball team who spontaneously created a gesture common all over America today. Did you know that the fist bump was originally started in the late 1970s by Glenn Burke, the first of only 14 openly gay major and minor league baseball players ever? As reported by ESPN, Dusty Baker of the Dodgers had just accomplished his 30th home run of the season. Burke was on deck. As they passed each other, Baker raised his hand over his head with his back arched, and Burke hit his hand, not knowing what else to do to greet and congratulate his friend. Burke then stepped up and made his first major league home run. On his return, Baker gave him a high five. From there, the gesture ricocheted around the world and became commonplace as it is today. Did it matter that the two friends were Black or that one would soon be suspiciously traded, probably because of his sexuality, and even offered \$75,000 if he would marry a woman to appear more appropriate for the league? Not willing to change under such pressure, Burke retired at only 27 despite some predictions that he could have been the next Willie Mays. In 1982 he "came out" and won medals in track in the first Gay Olympics that year and then played softball in the Gay League

in San Francisco. Imagine what he might have done if not for such discrimination in sports 40 years ago. (If you see the Somerset Patriots play baseball in a game honoring the Black Leagues on August 2 in cooperation with the Stoughton Soutland African American Museum, you can imagine what their uniforms might have been like IF they'd been respected as white players were!) Think of the long-term results of discrimination not just in sports but in ALL facets of our lives today!

In these times when immigrants and people of color, citizens or not, are living in fear of being detained or suspected just because of their appearance or language, **let's make POP as welcoming** as last month's Faith and Family Night **and set an example.**

**- Speak up and stand up for our neighbors' rights to fair humane treatment and go out of your way to learn their history, making sure it's taught as American history.**  
Not sure how?

**Join the Racial Justice Team as we support each other in such efforts and educate each other and POP** about cultures we may not understand and systems we know need reform. We meet virtually on the first Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30.

Contact Nancy Reyes at [nancyauerreyes@gmail.com](mailto:nancyauerreyes@gmail.com) or 609-273-1239 for the link.

**- Make a point of learning about and spending time with refugees at POP's God's Work Our Hands Day Refugee Welcome Picnic on September 7 from 2-2:30. Come to the Forum** to hear from I-RISE about the many things that Christians are doing with people of many other faiths to love our neighbors and **then greet and eat with families who've settled in or near Mercer County and show them that we accept them as part of our community.**

**You may not have time to volunteer on a regular basis, but MAKE SEPTEMBER 7 ONE DAY THAT YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.**

Sign up outside POP's office or contact Nancy Reyes as above.

## **The Prince of Peace Lending Library**

The Prince of Peace Lending Library has 3 new additions this month:

**James; by Percival Everett– donated by Wendy Shutzer:**

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and darkly humorous, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

**Braided Roots: The interweaving of history, family, and a father's love; by Pasha Westbrook – donated by Julia Cuddahy:**

In this enchanting picture book, past and present come together in a tale about endurance, history, and love. A stunning, poetic debut picture book from Pasha Westbrook about honoring one's roots and the unbreakable bond of familial love, brought to life with enchanting illustrations by Madelyn Goodnight.

As a young girl's father lovingly yet painstakingly braids her hair, he weaves a story about the strength and resilience of their ancestors, Freedmen who walked the Trail of Tears from Mississippi to Oklahoma. Braided Roots tenderly explores the unwavering love between a father and daughter.

**When We Talk to God: Prayers and Poems for Black Women; by Sharifa Stevens – donated by Julia Cuddahy:**

These are prayers for your moments of gratitude and celebration. For your seasons of loss and waiting. For your days when prayers come, not in words but in groans. When We Talk to God, from poet-theologian Sharifa Stevens, captures the arc and the ache of our lives.

A beautiful interweaving of artwork, prayers, and poems for Black women, this unique book encourages you to lift up your whole heart and loudest voice to God. And to tell Him about everything; nothing is off-limits. Sharifa's honest and powerful words express prayer and longing through personal experiences, biblical examples, and stunning imagery.

If you have any suggestions or would like to discuss ideas or resources for the library, please contact Kathy {[kathynowak@verizon.net](mailto:kathynowak@verizon.net)} or Greg Nowak {[gregsnowak@verizon.net](mailto:gregsnowak@verizon.net)}.



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: [email@popnj.org](mailto:email@popnj.org)

Website: [popnj.org](http://popnj.org)

#### Sunday Schedule

Worship at 8:30 am (outside) and  
9:30 am (in person/Livestream)

#### Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm  
Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin