

Tidings of Peace



December 2025

Worship in November

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



November 30

Advent 1

"Woke, An Advent Posture"

Matthew 24:36-44

December 7

Advent 2

"What We Know is True "

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14

Advent 3

"An Upside Down World"

Isaiah 35:1-10

December 21

Advent 4

"Eschatology, a Posture of Trust"

Isaiah 7:10-16



December 28

Christmas 1

Service of Lessons and Carols

Pastor's Page

To be honest, more than once, as I listened to your Prince of Peace stories in November, I thought our best days are behind us. In these days it is hard to compete with a church that offered mission trips, mom's support groups, VBS, The Cherry Tree Club, multiple choirs, and hosts of other programs. Today Prince of Peace does not have the numbers, we do not have the programs, and we do not have the people like we used to, but we still have stories. I asked "why?"

The short answer is that the church still makes a difference. Our stories have changed, but they are still being told.

I have been introduced to a book by Professor Andrew Root of Luther Seminary entitled, *When Church Stops Working, A Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. Two words jump out in this title, "future and beyond." If you fear the church has stopped working, I hope you can find hope in Andrew Root's subtitle. There is a future for the church, but our stories will be beyond money, programs, and innovation.

I look forward to reading this book as Root is a keen observer and commentator about church and society. I plan to share my thoughts and reactions in our Adult Class in the new year, and I look forward to your reaction. I anticipate gaining a better understanding of why the church is still here, and offering direction to tell our stories in the future and beyond.

Pastor Peter

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 January issue is Sunday, December 28th

Staff and Officers of Prince of Peace

Rev. Peter Froehlke, Pastor
Rev. Dale Selover, Director of The House Next Door
Dr. Doug Helvering, Minister of Music
Victoria Chow, Church Musician
Dorothy Safranek, Financial Secretary
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)

A Restless Heart on the Way Back to God By Paul Rorem

"You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." So begins St. Augustine's long prayer of Confessions.

Our double book club is off to a good start, with a November session on this opening line and on his tale about theft as a rebellious teenager.

Those who are reading the full text with me are sharing selected passages aloud at these sessions of the Adult Forum, namely, Con Sweeney, David New, Dave Herrington, Sean Cuddahy, and Claudia Thompson.

Next, on December 7, we come to his moving depiction of Monica. "For my mother, your faithful servant, wept for me before you." She was a formidable figure in his life, and she became Saint Monica because of his narrative.

We invite others to join in the reading, in any translation, and everyone to join in hearing and discussing some passages on December 7, after worship.

Christmas Eve Worship December 24th 7:30pm

Advent Midweek Worship Wednesdays in December 7:00 P.M.

Again this year we will worship with our ministry partner St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church. We will worship at Prince of Peace on December 3rd and December 17th. We will be at St. Bart's on December 10th. A meal will be served before worship at 6:00pm. Please bring a dish to share when POP hosts.

Joyful Noise Christmas Worship Sunday December 21st 1:00 P.M.

Council Corner

The finance team and the council are working on the 2026 Spending Plan. If you have not had a chance to send in a giving card, there is still time! Extra cards are available in the gathering area, next to the weekly bulletin – or you can send in the amount to the office (Attention: Dorothy Safranek).

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, January 25, immediately following the worship service. We will hear reports about 2025, elect council members and the 2026 Nominating Team, and approve the 2026 Spending Plan. Please make every effort to attend!

Joan New
Council President

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, December 11th
at 1 P.M.**

Book Club Luncheon

Springdale Clubhouse 1895 Clubhouse
Drive, Princeton, NJ 08540

Members are asked to R.S.V.P. Martha
Winder at maw14jpw@aol.com

**Thursday, January 8th at 1 p.m. in
the Lounge**



Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall

Beth and Frank are happily married and live on a farm in the English countryside. Everything changes, however, when Beth's brother-in-law shoots a dog going after their sheep. The dog's owner is Gabriel, the man Beth loved and lost as a

teenager. Tensions arise as a love triangle develops and Beth is faced with an impossible choice. The novel is a mystery as well as a love story and has all the twists and turns of a thriller.

Harvey Milk Memorial December 2025

Harvey Milk was one of the first openly gay persons to be elected to public office in the United States. When elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, he was the first openly gay person to be elected in California.

While in office, he sponsored an ordinance that banned discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation. Milk also supported other marginalized groups and advocated for a wide range of social issues, including affordable housing, public transportation, and childcare.

Sadly, Milk, along with George Mascone, the mayor of San Francisco, were assassinated

on November 27, 1978 by a disgruntled former city supervisor whom they had had differences with.

Milk's death shocked the nation and galvanized the LGBTQIA+ rights movement, sparking a new wave of activism and ensuring his legacy as an enduring symbol of the struggle for equal rights.

To remember Harvey Milk as the anniversary of his murder approaches, the House Next Door will commemorate him at their Peace Pole service on **Sunday, December 14th, at 4:00PM.**

Pastor Dale Selover will preside and Donald Maher, a gay activist, will speak as well.

Community solar – Share with friend and neighbors!!

Community solar allows multiple customers to subscribe to and receive the benefits of a single, shared solar energy project. Participants receive credits on their monthly electricity bills, which are typically offered at a discounted rate by a community solar provider, resulting in energy cost savings. This model expands access to solar power for renters, low-income households, businesses, and others who are unable to install their own rooftop systems.

There is no catch! Community solar is a state-regulated program in over 20 states and there are projects in over 41 states. Renewable energy is cheaper than fossil fuels, so companies like Neighborhood Sun increase access to shared renewables by helping residents subscribe to a community solar farm in their area. Since 2018, Neighborhood Sun has managed over nearly 800 Million kWh of clean energy and passed on more than \$8 Million on their electricity costs to 30,000+ community solar subscribers.

What are the benefits of community solar?

There are so many incredible benefits to community solar! You're saving money on energy costs each month while also helping to reduce tons of harmful pollutants from entering our atmosphere by displacing fossil fuels from our electric grid. Plus, by getting your solar energy locally, you're supporting local jobs and fostering a community that is making clean energy more accessible and affordable to everyone--not just the select few. Community solar is a win-win-win all around!

Does community solar cost me anything?

Nope! There is NO cost to join or cancel, NO equipment to install or maintain, and NO rate hikes. In fact, you're guaranteed to SAVE money on energy costs every month just by powering your house or apartment with community solar. You will still pay your current utility provider for the electricity you use, but now it will come from a cheaper and cleaner energy source that doesn't harm you or your environment.

Prince of Peace is now a Community Partner with Neighborhood Solar. They are holding about 40 spots for households who sign up with this special Prince of Peace link - <https://info.neighborhoodsun.solar/popnj>.

Bonus -- Prince of Peace will receive a contribution for each household! Dan Druckenbrod and Dave Herrington have already started this process. Feel free to talk to them!

PLEASE SHARE WITH NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS – ONLY PSE&G CUSTOMERS!!

Just an Update from Finance

For those of you who turned in pledge cards, thank you so much! If you have not turned in your pledge, there is still time. Drop it off at church, bring it on Sunday or send an email to finance@popnj.org with your pledge information. For those of you who use electronic "simply giving" and have made a change to your pledged amount for 2026, a new form simply giving form or an email should be sent to finance@popnj.org in order to update your vanco giving beginning 1/1/26.

As an FYI, giving statements are available any time upon request, but are officially available for pick up at church the beginning of May (for 1/1-4/30) and September (for 1/1-8/31). The final year end statements which you can use for tax purposes are mailed by the end of January. If you have any questions on your statements, please contact Dorothy Safranek as soon as possible. We would like to close the 2025 year by 1/31/26.

If you are new at Prince of Peace and would like envelopes, please contact Dorothy Safranek or Sherri Daniels so we can add you to the list. The next set of envelopes will be mailed out the end of December for the first half of the 2026 year!

Processing payments for 2025. Anyone ordering supplies or requesting reimbursements for purchases or travel, must submit all 2025 expenses by December 30, 2025. If you are purchasing items for 2026, please do the purchase and submission in 2026. That will be a big help to the finance team and allow us to process receipts and expenses in the appropriate year!

THANK YOU ALL for your continued support!

Dorothy Safranek
Financial Secretary

Social Outreach Ministry Team

Christmas Gift Wishes from Individual Children, Families, Seniors, and Hospice Patients Served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ)

Again this year we are partnering with Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ to provide Christmas gifts requested by 20 individual children that they serve, as well as options for Families, Seniors, and Hospice Patients. All gifts are \$30 each.

The sign-up form for the children, Hospice Patients, and Gift Cards for Seniors is available on the PoP website under "Announcements" and in "Keeping in Touch:PoP's Weekly E-News" under "Service Opportunities".

From it, select a child (or children), hospice patient(s) and/or Seniors, then make out a check to Prince of Peace earmarked "LSM/NJ Child(ren)'s Gift(s)and/or Hospice Patient(s)' Gifts(s).

Gift cards for Seniors may be mailed to the church office or put in the Sunday worship offering plate.

Put check(s) in the offering plate on Sunday, or send it/them to Prince of Peace at 177 Princeton Hightstown Road, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550. Selections may be made through Saturday, December 6, 2025. The checks will be appreciated ASAP, but no later than Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Thank you so much for being a part of this giving opportunity.

Appreciatively,
Berta Schott, on behalf of the Social Outreach
Ministry Team

Many Thanks for the Thanksgiving Food Baskets for St. Bart's

Thanks to all who contributed Thanksgiving Food Bags, turkeys, and hams to St. Bart's! They gave out 237 bags and send their deep appreciation to Prince of Peace for our donation of 35 bags.

Thank you for your part in this wonderful and much needed outreach ministry,

Berta Schott, for the Outreach Ministry Team, and the People at St. Bart's.

Racial Justice

Racial Justice Article for December 2025
Newsletter

2025-26 - Praying and Advocating, Especially
For Our Indigenous and Immigrant Neighbors

Though the Racial Justice Team has been focused recently on helping our Haitian family and other refugees in our area, we haven't forgotten others who are marginalized because of their race, religion, ethnicity, preferences, etc. Many recent government orders and policy changes have negatively impacted people of color whether citizens or not, so we've been attending webinars, following legislation, and advocating for justice for ALL. For example -

Peace Pole Prayers

On November 30, the Racial Justice Team led devotions at the Peace Pole with a focus on our Indigenous neighbors. As we struggle to change the narrative traditionally taught in American schools about Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day and the first Thanksgiving, we recognize that Native Americans still here in NJ and all over the USA need our help. They are still victims of broken treaties and unfair policies so must constantly advocate for respect and survival of their own culture. If you missed the litany at the Peace Pole, here's a small excerpt adapted from **Our Pledge as a non-indigenous community of the ELCA** as food for thought:

"We commit to strengthening our anti-oppression efforts ...to help our church.. better understand...the Church's role in and the century's long policy of the U.S. federal government of family separation and to eradicate Native culture and identity through indoctrination and forced assimilation of Native children at Indian boarding schools, forced and illegal adoptions to white families, and foster care. We commit to supporting the healing of survivors...and their descendants while advocating for policies that

will bring both truth and justice...and being in solidarity with tribal nations...organizations, families and friends who have long been searching for their loved ones - Indigenous women, girls and relatives - who have gone missing or who have been murdered. We commit to supporting Tribal nations in their work to preserve their languages, and we commit to begin the practice of Land acknowledgments at all expressions of the church..."

Immigration and Your POP family

Looking to the new year, your Racial Justice Team is planning activities and events after the holidays that focus on immigration in a more personal way...Over the past few months of storytelling, we've heard how many members came to POP, but do you know how, when and why POP's families came to America? Did you migrate here from another country? If so, why, and how did you have to adapt? What made it difficult or easy for you? If you were born here, do you know the story of why and how your ancestors came and where they came from? We'll be asking for your help and participation as we think about Mary and Joseph as migrants just like our own families. Are you interested in participating or helping plan the best way to share POP's immigration stories? Even if you're not interested in joining the Racial Justice Team long-term, perhaps you have ideas to contribute to this focus for the beginning of 2026.

If so, PLEASE contact Nancy Reyes at nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239.

WE WELCOME YOUR HELP AND
PARTICIPATION!!! Stay tuned....

Parish Care December 2025

As Advent begins and we prepare for our Christmas Season.....

During Advent and Christmas seasons, we think of and spend time with our families. Some members of our church family may appreciate a little extra care during this time. If you are able to share a little time, make a call, deliver some holiday cheer, assist a member with some holiday tasks, read a Bible story or say a prayer with a member of our church family please let the Parish Care Team know; we can provide details.

Care Notes are available in the gathering area. Please take, read, and pass along to another as needed. Many thanks to Ginger Reiersen for helping to keep the display organized and current. And to Chris Wethe for the financial support of this project.

Look for the table in the gathering area with Christmas cards. They will be sent to our homebound members and friends. Please take a moment to share a Christmas message. They will be mailed by Dec. 20th.

A few **Rides to and from Church** would be appreciated. If you are able to help please let me know.

A Sneak Peek -2026 Up Coming Project

Valentine Care Boxes and Bags 2026 (yes Valentine Day!)

Mark your 2026 Calendars to help
Our next big project is our annual shipment of Valentine Day Care Packages - to our young adults away at school, in the military and care bags to our homebound Senior citizens. Watch for the details in the gathering area in January 2026.

We will need donations - baked goodies and dollars to purchase goodies, treats and supplies, and shipping costs. If you know someone to include, please make sure we have their name and address.

We need to have names and USPS address of students and senior adults by Jan 12,2026 to have a number of boxes and bags needed to fill and to prepare for the shipping of boxes and delivery of bags.

Phone Calls

We are looking for some folks willing to make a few phone calls throughout the year. Just to say Hi and check in with our Church family members. Please let me know if you could make a few calls.

2026 Calendars

We are a gathering **2026 calendars**. Many thanks for all the calendars we have gathered so far.

If you have received many in the mail and do not have a home for them, please bring them to church. There is a box in breezeway (look low) to collect them. We will take them to adult care communities in the area. They are greatly appreciated by the residents.

Many Thanks for all those who have supplied calendars.

We need to deliver them to local senior living facilities in our area.

If you can help deliver the calendars, please let me know.

Merry Christmas to all!

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



177 Princeton-Hightstown Road
Princeton Junction NJ 08550

Church Office: 609-799-1753

E-Mail: email@popnj.org

Website: popnj.org

Sunday Schedule

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

Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday, 9 am - 2 pm

Latest details can be found in the Sunday bulletin