

Tidings of Peace



July 2025

Worship in July

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion
8:30 am

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



July 6

4th Sunday after Pentecost
"Harvest Plentiful, Laborers Few"
Pastor Peter Preaching

July 13

5th Sunday after Pentecost
"The Good Samaritan"
Pastor Peter Preaching

July 20

6th Sunday after Pentecost
"Mary and Martha"
Pastor Peter Preaching

July 27

7th Sunday After Pentecost
"Ask, Seek, Knock"
Seminarian Jessi Labenski Preaching

Pastor's Page

At the recent New Jersey Synod Assembly Rev. Dr. Christa Compton was elected as our new bishop.

Pastor Compton hails from South Carolina and has a PhD in Education and has served as an educator for her first career. She is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Seminary and has been ordained for twelve years.

Most recently she has served as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Chatham. The bishop elect has a mind to guide the church at large along with a pastoral heart to serve the pastors and churches of the New Jersey Synod.

Bishop Elect Compton will be installed on Saturday August 23rd at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in East Franklin at 1:30pm. Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton will preside at this service.

Pastor Peter

Food of the Month

The July Food of the Month for Enid's Pantry at St. Bart's is Peanut Butter and Jelly.

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

Deadline for the August issue is Sunday, July 27th

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)

The Prince of Peace Lending Library

The Prince of Peace Lending Library has a new addition this month:

Sparkling Peace; by Kim Pacinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin – donated by Stephanie Cuddahy:

After breaking a neighbor's window, a young child discovers friendship, transformation, and new beginnings in an unlikely story of peace. Gentle and moving, this poetic tale offers readers a hopeful path in the face of gun violence and despair, showing kids how peacemaking can turn conflict into friendship and new beginnings—and forge guns into garden tools.

Children grow up with lockdowns and gun violence as part of their reality. As parents, caregivers, and educators, how should we respond? *Sparkling Peace* provides a springboard for those seeking to discuss gun violence and trauma with children in a safe way that highlights help rather than harm. This picture book helps children learn about conflict while also carefully addressing gun violence and peacemaking. It includes resources that equip parents and educators to talk about gun violence and trauma, using a story of a broken window to show kids how conflict can be transformed through acts of peace.

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



St. Bart's Community Back to School Backpack Collection

On Saturday, August 30, 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 to the right. 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 Sunday, August 24, 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

St. Bart's Family Night at the Trenton Thunder

St. Bart's invites the Prince of Peace community to join them for Faith & Family Night on Saturday, July 19 at 6 p.m.! Tickets are \$10 each. Please talk to Pastor Peter or e-mail officestbartlutheran@gmail.com to reserve your spot/s.



Council Corner

The Prince of Peace church council meets seven times throughout the year with the executive team meeting in the other months. The council met on June 24. We reflected and prayed on current needs within the congregation and the concerns for our society, locally and around the world.

We heard appreciation for the work of our Racial Justice team in working with the Haitian family in Trenton, with the help of Interfaith Rise. Additional help is always welcome.

We rejoiced that the Peace Pole has been installed in the backyard of the House Next Door and was dedicated on Pentecost Sunday. The intent is to hold prayers for peace every Sunday at 4 pm starting in the fall. Various leaders from POP and the community will take turns leading. Did you know there are over 250,000 Peace Poles around the world??

Our plastics collection took a big jump in the last two months and we are nearing the goal of 1,000 pounds. Much thanks goes to Peter Perkuhn and Joan Prins for connecting with Patel Brothers in Hamilton and delivering all the collected bags to the center in Burlington.

Our financial reports showed cash flow is holding for now but the typically lean summer months give us some concern for the early fall. You are encouraged to keep up with your intent of giving.

The Pranavam Dance Group is no longer using our facilities. We are looking for another appropriate group to utilize our facilities during the week. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Sherri Daniels or Dorothy Safranek from the Building Use Team.

The financial team will soon roll out a new interface for online giving! It will provide more options and an easier interface than Paypal. The council continues to explore ideas for adding to our income, one of which is applying for grants. If you have any ideas, please contact Joan New.

Joan New
Council President (JLNewcrew@aol.com)

Thank You Note

Dear Prince of Peace Church,

Some of you may know about the fire that started in my home at 3 AM a few months ago on Sunday February 23. I appreciate those who read the prayer list both in the weekly bulletin and in the monthly Tidings newsletter and continued to pray for me.

The repair work on the thermostat (the culprit who started the fire!) and the wall is now completed and everything is safely back in working order.

Thank you for your prayers.

Sincerely,
Carol Baldessari.

Reconciling in Christ

The Reconciling in Christ team attended the Princeton Pride Parade and Fair on June 14. It was a rainy day but thanks go to Con Sweeney for arranging things.

Thanks also to Wendy Schutzer, Greg Nowak, Dave & Nancy Herrington, Joan & Rachel New, Zan Struebing, Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Pastor Dan Whitener, and Pastor Linnea Clarke.

Parish Care July 2025

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

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

2025 High School Graduates (and others that are or will be away at school this fall)

Congratulations to our 2025 High School graduates.

We are very proud of your accomplishment and look forward to your next adventures. Blessings to all. We keep in touch with our young adults away at school, please share your contact information - mailing, shipping and email addresses along with your school as soon as possible. Please send details to the church.

We are looking for the same information from our young adults that are already in school. Please gather the 2025-26 school year info and share it with church. Thank you.

Keeping in Touch

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

OMG!

In June my first 2026 Calendar arrived in the mail!!! We will be gathering these calendars this fall to share with our local Senior Residences. They were greatly appreciated last fall. So, look for a box in the breezeway to drop off your 2026 Calendars.

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

Rides Needed

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

Summer Soup and Cookies

Those interested in gathering together to bake cookies or make soup please let me know.

We would like to have some baked goodies to share with our home bound members.

If you are interested in baking or making something to share please let me know, we can schedule a date!

Monthly Mailings

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

Altar Flowers

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

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

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

Enjoy the hot lazy days of summer and remember to share some POP care!
Looking forward to seeing everyone at church!

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

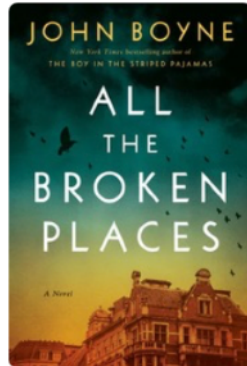
Book Group

*If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com
We meet once a month in the church lounge at 1
p.m. Please bring your lunch and/or snack for
others to share.*

**Thursday, July 10th at 1 p.m. in
the Lounge**

All the Broken Places by John Boyne

In this powerful sequel to *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, 91 year old Gretel lives in solitude in a London apartment trying to forget the sins of her father, a German commandant responsible for the death of thousands



of Jews at Auschwitz. This proves impossible, however, when a new family moves in downstairs. Gretel begins a friendship with the family's young son and learns that he is in danger. To save him, she must confront her past and reveal her own complicity in what happened in Germany many years ago when she was twelve.

**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.

Gardening and Weeding Help Needed as POP Feeds Neighbors in Need!

How does POP's Garden Grow? With the help of a very small group of dedicated volunteers...

Both the Peace Garden and the Cherry Tree Garden are in full swing. Working Tuesday and Friday mornings whenever we can, eight dedicated members are out there weather permitting, planting, trimming, harvesting (and weeding when there's time) under the knowledgeable direction of Shari Rexroad, our Master Gardener. Watermelon and figs, okra and squash, tomatoes and peppers, potatoes and garlic are just a few of the crops in progress, fighting to stay alive amidst the heat, the weeds that seem to grow faster than the crops, and the critters that are finding their way in and eating what was designated for our food insecure neighbors.

Despite the competition, each week we've delivered a variety of such crops as broccoli, cabbage, kale, lettuce, collard greens, radishes, beans, basil, parsley, oregano and recently blueberries to Enid's Food Pantry at our partner congregation St Bart's in Trenton.

Even if you have no experience or gardening skills, we can use your help! Tell your friends and neighbors they're welcome, too! Teenagers needing community service or families looking for meaningful ways to get involved in helping others are all welcome! Contact Nancy Reyes (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239) or Shari Rexroad (srexroad915@gmail.com or 609-558-3042) to get on our email list in case of schedule changes. (No gardening July 4th!).

June's been a Busy Month for Your Racial Justice Team at POP

Juneteenth is the holiday recognizing the day that slavery really ended in the US when those enslaved in Texas found out about the Emancipation Proclamation - two years after it was signed! In addition to WHAM's moving interfaith worship, several team members volunteered at SSAAM (Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum) for their Juneteenth celebration. So much was learned about African American history in NJ through spoken, dramatic and musical performances by choirs and soloists. If you've never been to that museum, spend a few hours there sometime soon!

The team also started planning for God's Work Our Hands Day on Sunday, September 7. After last year's very successful and meaningful Refugee Welcome Picnic, many POP members suggested we should do that again...so we will! Mark your calendars AND OFFER TO HELP! Plan to stay for the Adult Forum when we will have Fida Ayoubi, I-RISE Volunteer and Donation Coordinator, as our guest speaker. And after that we'll have a typical American picnic with many local refugee families. Even more important in the climate this year where so many immigrants are fearful of losing their chance to live freely in the US, POP can show them that we love having them as neighbors and welcome them with open arms.

On a more personal level, **POP's "adopted" Haitian family of six** has had a busy month and kept POP's team working with them very busy as well! Here are just a few highlights -

GREAT NEWS! The father in this family got the job! He's been in training doing food prep for a restaurant in Princeton where the trainer speaks French (the family's second language). He started part time and is building up his hours as he learns BUT in order to get to full time and a better position, he'll have to improve his English...one of our goals is to help him do that!

MORE GREAT NEWS! The 4 ½ year old daughter got into preschool at Trinity Cathedral Academy and attended the last few weeks of the school year. If the timing still works for the family, she can continue there this fall.

EVEN MORE! The son in middle school is now enrolled in the Multilingual Summer Program for Trenton Public Schools thanks to our persistence. POP's team is also helping him with his English this summer.

PLUS! - The mother in this family has completed training and passed the test (in English!) to be a Home Health Aide so is now certified but waiting for her actual license...She's also passed I-RISE's ELL (English Language Learner) Level 2 and moved up to Level 3, meaning she is more able to advocate for herself and explain her needs. She's applied and interviewed for several jobs on her own but still unemployed. Pray that changes this summer!

UPCOMING NEEDS - The father still needs help to pass his written test and then learn to drive. (Evidently he only drove a motorcycle in Haiti.) **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING HIM PASS THE KNOWLEDGE TEST OR LEARN TO DRIVE** once he passes the written test?

The other children are home for the summer, still hoping to get into some formal programs, but need to continue to improve their English and social skills. **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE CHILDREN** (age 19 months, almost 5, 6 1/2 and 12) **THIS SUMMER?**

Our team of four switches days to help cover for vacations and would love to have others to help fill in, if we can add another pair, see the family three times a week....Volunteers only need a one hour virtual orientation to help. **MAYBE YOU CAN JOIN OUR TEAM?** Orientation is available Thursdays at noon (link on interfaithrise.org/volunteer) or with Donna D'Anna (donnadanna@comcast.net on Tues., July 8 at 7 pm but can also be arranged for another time.

JOB LEADS - Do you or someone you know own a business that is **HIRING** entry level employees? Please share any leads or contacts with one of our team, especially if you know they'd be willing to help this mom (or other refugees) improve her English on-the-job as she trains...Child care can be subsidized once both parents are working, and we hope they will soon be making enough so they can move to a more appropriate living situation (**KNOW OF ANY PLACE AVAILABLE WITH REASONABLE RENT?**) and become more independent.

Cathy Corcoran, Nancy Herrington, Joan New and Nancy Reyes have been working in pairs to help the parents with their conversational English while entertaining and enriching the children's experience with games and activities and working with I-RISE employees and other agencies on various issues.

Racial Justice Team (Continued)

For the summer, the family needs **gently used or new summer clothes (i.e. shorts and tops), shoes/sandals or money towards their purchase as follows:**

Toddler boy clothes size 4T and shoes/sandals size 7.

Boy's clothes sizes 10 and 14, shoes and sandals sizes youth 14 and junior 3 1/2.

Girl's clothes size 7, shoes and sandals size 12.

Ladies clothes size large, shoes and sandals size 9.

Men's clothes size large, shoes and sandals size 10.

We are also collecting **money to cover the cost of bus passes purchased for July (totaling \$215)**, not only for the father to get from Trenton to Princeton for work and the mother to get to ELL classes, stores, and other appointments, but also for the two school age boys to go with her and to get to summer school. (The littlest ones are free.)

Monetary donations can be given to any team member or sent to POP with "Refugee Fund" in the memo.

Clothing donations can be left in the large box outside our sanctuary anytime the building is open.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR ANY HELP YOU CAN OFFER!

"It takes a village" to welcome our immigrant neighbors and to help them become self-sufficient contributing members of our local communities!

Thank You Note From I-RISE

Thanks to the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Princeton Junction for going all out in adopting a Haitian family of 6 (shout out to Nancy and Joan!) and helping them go beyond just surviving. From helping the dad find a job to finding a new home (they are currently in a one-bedroom apartment in Trenton), and everything in between (helping parents get to ESL class, helping get kids registered for school, etc), we are so grateful for the compassion and dedication shown by the congregation at Prince of Peace!

CrossRoads Day Camp

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in East Windsor is hosting Day Camp (think VBS) July 14-18. If you have a child in your life who you think would be blessed by this wonderful experience, please check out the details in the flyer below. Registration forms can be picked up in the PoP vestibule and office.

Also, working in partnership with St. Paul's, the House Next Door will be hosting the CrossRoads Staff throughout the week. Please watch for a sign-up sheet to help provide meals for our guests.



The flyer for CrossRoads Day Camp features a group of diverse children and adults smiling at the top. Below them is a circular inset showing a colorful outdoor play area. The text 'CROSS ROADS DAY CAMP' is prominently displayed in a green box. To the right, there are two more circular insets: one showing a group of children in a room, and another showing a group of children sitting at a table. The flyer includes the following details:

- DATE:** July 14-18, 2025
- TIME:** 9am-3pm
- NOTES:** For ages entering K through 6th grade in the Fall of 2025
Co-sponsored by St Paul & Prince of Peace Lutheran Churches
Cost: \$100.00

At the bottom, there are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, along with the website address www.crossroadsretreat.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 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