

Tidings of Peace



Worship in June

June 2025

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 am

In person/Livestream Worship at 9:30 am

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



June 1

7th Sunday after Easter

"A Prison Story"

Pastor Peter Preaching



June 8

Pentecost

"What Does This Mean"

Pastor Peter Preaching

Planting of the Peace Pole

June 15

Holy Trinity Sunday

"Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier"

Rev. Dr. Paul Rorem Preaching

June 22

2nd Sunday After Pentecost

"Built Upon a Rock"

Chaplain Claudia Thompson Preaching

June 29

3rd Sunday After Pentecost

"On Behalf of the Foreigner"

Pastor Peter Preaching

Pastor's Page

Peace Pole to be Planted

The House Next Door and our Spiritual Formation Ministry is planting a peace pole on our property near the labyrinth. A peace pole is an internationally recognized symbol of peace, grace, love, and hope for the entire human family. It is to be used as a gathering spot to pray for peace. Pastor Dale and the House Next Door will invite the community to gather weekly, Sundays at 4, to pray for peace. Our hope is that other faith communities and community organizations will take turns leading these prayers. The WHAM clergy commissioned the peace pole when we gathered at Prince of Peace for our May gathering. Participants in World Labyrinth day also commissioned the peace pole as a part of that day's events. On Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, we will conclude the 9:30 service processing outdoors and commissioning the peace pole yet again as the pole will be planted on our back grounds. Fellowship will take place that day outdoors at the peace pole.

I give a special thanks to the House Next Door manager, Laura Glatz, the artist who painted the peace pole.

New Bishop of the New Jersey Synod to be elected at the assembly June 5-7.

This year's synod assembly will elect a new bishop for the New Jersey Synod. Bishop Bartholomew has indicated she will not be a candidate which means we will have a new bishop. Election of a bishop is with an ecclesiastical ballot. Any rostered ELCA pastor is eligible to be placed on the ballot. If needed, a total of five elections could be held before a candidate receives the needed votes to be elected.

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 July issue is Sunday, June 29th

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)

Pastor's Page (Continued)

Voting members from Prince of Peace will be Pastors Peter and Dale, Joan New, Claudia Thompson, and Morrigan Clarke. Our own Arundel Clarke, vice-president of the synod, will preside over the election.

In addition Pastors Peter and Dale and Elizabeth Wagner will be hosting the Global Refuge display at the assembly as they represent this ministry of our Lutheran Church to immigrants and refugees.

Pastor Peter

Adult Class in June

The Adult Class continues through June 22nd. Join us in the Double Classrooms

June 1st	Pastor Peter will look ahead to the upcoming bishop's election
June 8th	The peace pole planting on the back grounds
June 15th	No Class
June 22nd	Carol Wachter from the Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice

HELP! *We need somebody!*

HELP! *Not just anybody!*

We need You!

Yes, POP needs some help. The current 4- month financial analysis is indicating a shortfall of about \$13,000 based on current giving. We were informed that the Pranavam Dance Group is opening their own studio at the beginning of June and will no longer be using our facilities. So, 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.

We also need volunteers for the finance team. Although accounting experience (especially fund accounting experience) is preferred, it is not necessary. We are looking for members who would like to donate time entering, counting, reviewing financials and other important tasks.

Grants interest??

The Finance and Executive teams have been exploring the possibility of applying for grants for Prince of Peace.

We have information from an organization, Foundation Search. We would like to know if there is any disciple at POP who would be interested in pursuing grant writing and processing.

If you have any interest, please speak to Joan New (JLNewcrew@aol.com) to find out more about the potential process.

Food of the Month

The Food of the Month for Enid's Pantry at St. Bart's is Mac n' Cheese.

The Prince of Peace Lending Library

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

My Granny Went to Market; by Stella Blackstone – donated by the Racial Justice Team:

A children's book for ages 3 - 7. Fly away with Granny as she takes a magic carpet ride around the world, collecting a steadily increasing number of souvenirs from each unique location! This rhyming story will take young readers on an adventure to different countries while teaching them to count along the way. Bright folk art enlivens the journey... Each page delights the senses and opens young eyes to the world around them.

Zahra's Blessing: A Ramadan Story; by Shirin Shamsi – donated by the Racial Justice Team:

A children's book for ages 4 - 9. A sweet story about the importance of sharing and caring that's embedded in Islamic traditions. During Ramadan, Zahra hugs her cherished teddy bear and prays that she will get what she wants more than anything in the world -- a sister. She remembers, "Baba says we get more blessings when we give." But Mama reminds her we should give without expecting anything in return and to be patient. When Zahra goes with Mama to volunteer at a local shelter for asylum seekers, she befriends a displaced child and finds her prayers just might be answered in unexpected ways. Explains the idea of displacement and asylum seekers in a kid-friendly way.

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}.

Planned Giving: Thy Will . . . My Will

Many congregations have a Planned Giving Ministry as a part of their Stewardship Ministry. Would you like to learn more about what this means and what it could look like at Prince of Peace? I am looking for a few people to help me with this. Here are a few tidbits.

What is a Bequest Statement?

Careful advance planning avoids many future problems. Have you considered remembering Prince of Peace in your will? A sample bequest statement: "I give, devise, and bequeath ____% or \$____ of my estate to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 177 Princeton-Hightstown Road, Princeton Jct., NJ 08550" and then choose one: to be used for its unrestricted general purposes or to be used for the following specific purpose: _____."

What is a Legacy Gift?

A legacy gift is a planned future donation to a charity, given through your will or other type of beneficiary designation. It can take any number of forms. Prince of Peace has been a community of believers whose legacy and future are deeply rooted in stewardship.

What is a Memorial Gift?

A memorial gift is a financial contribution given to Prince of Peace to honor the life and memory of a loved one. Families may indicate a desire for such contributions to be made "in lieu of flowers." Memorial gifts may be directed to a specific ministry, program, or purchase. A list of specific ministry and facility needs is available upon request.

If you are interested, please contact Joan New at JLNewcrew@aol.com or leave word with Sherri in the church office!!

A Writing From Pope Francis

"The walls of hospitals have heard more honest prayers than churches...

They have witnessed far more sincere kisses than those in airports...

It is in hospitals that you see a homophobe being saved by a gay doctor.

A privileged doctor saving the life of a beggar...

In intensive care, you see a Jew taking care of a racist...

A police officer and a prisoner in the same room receiving the same care...

A wealthy patient waiting for a liver transplant, ready to receive the organ from a poor donor...

It is in these moments, when the hospital touches the wounds of people, that different worlds intersect according to a divine design.

And in this communion of destinies, we realize that alone, we are nothing.

The absolute truth of people, most of the time, only reveals itself in moments of pain or in the real threat of an irreversible loss.

A hospital is a place where human beings remove their masks and show themselves as they truly are, in their purest essence.

This life will pass quickly, so do not waste it fighting with people.

Do not criticize your body too much.

Do not complain excessively.

Do not lose sleep over bills.

Make sure to hug your loved ones.

Do not worry too much about keeping the house spotless.

Material goods must be earned by each person—do not dedicate yourself to accumulating an inheritance.

You are waiting for too much: Christmas, Friday, next year, when you have money, when love arrives, when everything is perfect...

Listen, perfection does not exist.

A human being cannot attain it because we are simply not made to be fulfilled here.

Here, we are given an opportunity to learn. So, make the most of this trial of life—and do it now.

Respect yourself, respect others. Walk your own path, and let go of the path others have chosen for you.

Respect: do not comment, do not judge, do not interfere.

Love more, forgive more, embrace more, live more intensely!

And leave the rest in the hands of the Creator."

—Pope Francis

Parish Care June 2025

Sharing our POP Care with All

Our usual ongoing monthly projects continue.

Monthly mailings to families welcoming a new family member and families who have lost a loved one continue. If you know a family to include, please contact us

Care Notes, Prayer cards and knitted prayer squares are in the breezeway. Please take and share.

Looking for folks to deliver our Sunday bulletin to those that can not attend Sunday worship. If you would be willing make a quick visit.

Congratulations to all our Graduates of 2025! We would all like to congratulate and celebrate your accomplishment. Please reach out to us and share details about your graduation and your future plans. We like to keep in touch as you move on to new adventures.

If you know of anyone to share our care with, please contact us with details.

Enjoy Summer and take some time to Share some POP Care with Others.

Watch for some over the summer POP parish care projects.

Martha Winder maw14jpw@aol.com

Book Group

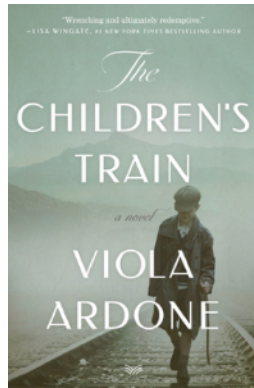
*If interested in joining the book club,
please contact Phyllis Church at
609-799-0723 or p.church@mindspring.com
We meet once a month in the church lounge at 1
p.m. Please bring your lunch and/or snack for
others to share.*

**Thursday, June 12th at 1 p.m. in
the Lounge**

The Children's Train by Viola Ardone

In the aftermath of WWII, seven-year-old Amerigo lives in poverty with his mother in Naples, Italy. One day he learns of a train that will take him away from the rubble-strewn streets of the city to spend the winter with a family in the north. With thousands of other children he leaves his mother and travels

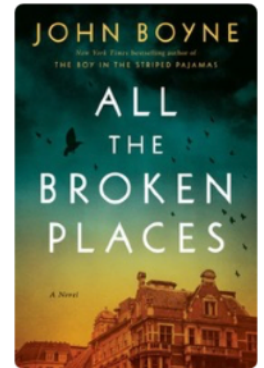
to new life with his adoptive family. Life is better in the north and offers Amerigo opportunities he never had before. Through Amerigo's young eyes we gain a glimpse into postwar Italy as it struggles to become a new nation. This is a touching story about the meaning of family.



**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.

Peace Garden Harvesting Has Begun!

The few but dedicated volunteers working the Peace and Cherry Tree Gardens cut, packaged, weighed, labeled and delivered the first crop to St. Barts on Friday, May 23. The first delivery of our weekly harvests consisted of collard greens, kale, lettuce, arugula, herbs and more for a total of about 16 pounds. While it doesn't sound like very much, consider how light those greens are and that they filled four large trash bags!

Our volunteer group is small and dedicated, but we really could use more help since for various reasons, we've lost a few people already this season and the Cherry Tree Garden is barely started as a result. Do you like to be outside and have a few weekday hours you could give to help? NO experience necessary....Shari Rexroad, our Master Gardener, does all the planning and directs the rest of us to whatever tasks are at hand. Others are gardening for the first season or have varied levels of experience and are glad to share what we've learned as we keep learning together...If nothing else, you

could weed the paths or edges of our rows, areas we're trying to keep under control where there isn't anything planted so you'll have no worries about picking the wrong thing! For June, we're continuing Tuesday afternoons from 3-5 and Fridays from 9-11. Shari Rexroad (srexroad915@gmail.com) or Nancy Reyes (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com) can add you to the email group to be sure you know if/when that schedule changes.

One last request - Joan New has very graciously volunteered to drive to and from Philly every month or so to pick up the free seedlings the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society provides for gardens like ours that feed the food insecure... She's unable to make the pickup on Saturday, June 7 because she'll be representing POP at the Synod Assembly....Do YOU like to drive? Can YOU volunteer to do this one trip? ALL YOU NEED is a VAN OR car with a LARGE TRUNK (and perhaps some plastic to make cleanup easy after your trip). The pickup is at a garden so if you'd like, you can explore the grounds.

Prince of Peace
Reconciling in Christ – Upcoming
Events
2025



The Reconciling in Christ team is happy to announce the following, upcoming events:

- Saturday, June 14th – Princeton Pride Day and Parade. POP will be participating in this year's parade and hosting a booth at the After Party as we did last year as we show our support for the local community. More details will be forthcoming.

The parade will begin at 11:00AM at the far end of Witherspoon Street near the fire house. If you you'd like to march with us, you can join us at 10:15AM on the playing fields behind the Princeton YWCA and we can all walk over together to the assembly point.

The POP booth will be at YWCA playing fields. We'll be setting up from 9:00AM on and will be there until late afternoon.

Please contact Con P. Sweeney at conpatrickswweeney@gmail.com for more information and if you'd like to either help out or just join in the fun!

- Sunday, June 22nd – Carol Watchler, the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Bayard Rustig Center for Social Justice, will be returning to lead our Adult Forum after services and fellowship. She'll be speaking about the challenges facing the LGBTQIA+ community and why our help means so much.

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 attachment. 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 in June to help provide meals for our guests.

25 YEARS
EST. 2000
CROSS ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

CROSS ROADS DAY CAMP

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

www.crossroadsretreat.com

We've "Adopted" a Family from Haiti!

Hopefully you've heard by now that the Racial Justice Team has been acting, not just advocating and talking about our focus on immigration for 2025... With all the cuts and changes in regulations affecting immigrants over the past few months, the need for volunteers to step up has grown dramatically and POP has stepped up to fill some of those needs!

A Haitian family of six was approved through the legal processes in place and arrived in the US before the recent halt in accepting refugees. They've tried to make a new life in several parts of this country before arriving in Trenton where they are staying in one bedroom of someone else's home until they can find work to get a more appropriate place to live.... Can you imagine the stress they must be going through as they try to raise four children, ages 18 months through 12 years in a country with a language they barely know and with no income?

Usually those approved to come here to avoid religious or political persecution, starvation from extreme drought or natural disasters, or other reasons are given government support for a minimum of three months. This includes a place to live, food and clothing as needed to meet their basic physical needs, assistance in learning English, help finalizing their legal work permits and enrolling their children in schools, and transportation as they search for legal employment to become self-sufficient... This family arrived in Trenton as all the funding for those services was stopped. Resettlement employee staff was cut to a bare minimum so those whose job was to help are spread so thin helping all who came in the few months before the changes need more volunteers than ever to help.

What have we done so far?

- Four team members each attended 2 or 3 virtual training sessions and completed paperwork for free background checks and volunteer registration.
- Those members met with the family and a case manager who speaks Haitian Creole to learn about their skills, needs, and areas of concern.
- Two different pairs of POP volunteers started meeting them at the Trenton I-RISE office on two of the days they are coming for ELL (English Language Learner) classes to help with their 18 month old and 4 ½ year old so the parents can take classes and to converse with the parents after class to give them individual practice....

- While parents were in in class, activities included reading books, coloring, cutting, playing with Legos, and walking the toddler around to help him sleep or calm down when he wanted his parents.
- Collected strollers, a car seat and two booster seats so they can safely and legally ride in cars as needed (unless we pick them up, they are using public transportation or walking right now).
- Collected cleaning supplies, diapers and pull-ups which aren't covered by SNAP funding and helped transport these items to their home (too much to carry on bus along with young children).
- Took parents and youngest children to Trinity Cathedral Academy to enroll the 4 year old in free preschool, helping make an appointment for this, finding out the needed proof of residence and other documents, and assisting with all the forms needed for the application.
- Took them to the transit station and purchased monthly bus passes for the parents using money donated by POP members.
- Took the mother to and from the train station to get to an appointment out of the area.
- Helped the father learn about road signs and markings to prep for written driver's test.
- Took the father to motor vehicle (and paid the fee from a donation) for his first attempt at passing the written test and watched/entertained the children while he was testing (their mother was in class learning to be a Home Health Aide).
- Reached out to several employers to get them to consider hiring a refugee with support to help find employment for these and others, met virtually with an employer to discuss concerns and questions, and coordinated help from I-RISE to develop resumes.
- Took the father and other refugees to interview team members arranged.
- Communicated regularly with case manager, employment specialist, donations manager, volunteer and donations director, and director of the Trenton I-RISE office to get them clothes, a laptop, some basic furniture requests, and more....

ALL THAT IN JUST ONE MONTH!

We've "Adopted" a Family (Continued)

What's left to do?

SO MUCH, most of which we will know as the need comes up in conversation or an issue arises, but just a few things we know already:

- Continue to help with conversational English to build confidence in understanding, listening, speaking, reading and writing English in everyday circumstances and to increase vocabulary, understand idioms and slang so they can function independently in the US.
- Interact and give them experiences with others and to get acquainted with what's in the Mercer County area for free and inexpensive entertainment (parks, schools, libraries, festivals, etc.) and to give them the welcoming support of helpful friends.
- Research to find free summer programs for the children (or scholarships) to continue to learn English, develop skills, and have a productive summer (not sitting at home).
- Research and find resources as needs arise.
- Help both parents find employment and adapt to that environment.
- Help both parents pass written test for driver's permit (at least one had a permit before).
- Help both parents learn to drive and to pass road test.
- As they start earning money, help find an affordable place to live, which will include helping to find furniture and household items and help to move them and settle in.
- After getting their licenses, help them find a car.

As you can imagine, the family still needs lots of help and will for the coming year at least as they learn how to navigate life in NJ...and adding more volunteers would lessen the time each volunteer needs to put in. Because of POP's Child Protection policy and for our own peace of mind, volunteers shouldn't be alone with the children, so we are mostly working in pairs, but if one of us can't come as scheduled, we'd love to have more to call on to fill in once in a while.

Some of the above have been on days outside the one day a week for a few hours that each of us originally planned on, so there have been weeks when some of us volunteered 3 or 4 times!

CAN YOU HELP? This family is VERY GRATEFUL for all we've done and we are getting to be friends as we spend more time together. Their English is getting better slowly but surely (and Google Translate is always there as needed!).

- Let's expand that network with more members taking the 1-hour virtual training and getting on a list to be called as needed to fill in or for specific needs. Talk to Nancy Reyes, Joan New, Nancy Herrington, or Cathy Corcoran to find out more... You can also join an orientation on a Thursday at noon through links on the I-RISE website <https://interfaithrise.org/volunteer> or contact Nancy Reyes (nancyarreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239) if Thursdays don't work for a more flexible orientation from the Jewish Center Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Volunteer Committee of Mercer County.
- Mechanically inclined? Many times bikes are donated for transportation while families are getting on their feet to get to work where buses don't go. These bikes need to be serviced before giving them out. Contact Nancy Reyes if you are able to help with this.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** We will again be hosting a Refugee Welcome Picnic for God's Work Our Hands Day on Sunday, September 7! Contact a team member if you'd like to help with planning!

This past month your Racial Justice Team also visited the Highland Park headquarters of I-RISE at the Reformed Church of Highland Park to enjoy a delicious international meal at the Global Grace Cafe (a refugee-run international lunch program where you can get a full meal for \$7 that helps train refugees in three month training program to work in food service) and Global Grace Marketplace (a small store where you can fair trade items from around the world).

Can't volunteer right now but would like to stay informed about immigration and advocate for those who want to come to the US for a better life? Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, has lots of resources online and a site especially for those who want to know about and advocate for fair immigration policies. Go to <https://globalrefuge.quorum.us/> to find out about current issues and contact your representatives to advocate for change.



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