

Tidings of Peace



Worship in September

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion
8:30 am

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



September 7

13th Sunday after Pentecost
"Choose Life"

Pastor Peter Preaching
God's Work, Our Hands Day

September 14

14th Sunday after Pentecost
"The Parable of the Lost Sheep"
Pastor Peter Preaching

September 21

15th Sunday after Pentecost
"The Dishonest Steward"
Pastor Peter Preaching
Joyful Noise Sunday

September 28

16th Sunday After Pentecost
"The Rich Man and Lazarus"
Pastor Peter Preaching

September 2025

Pastor's Page

Welcome to fall and our theme "I Love to Tell the Story."

Lutherans have never been big on testimony. Perhaps it is our northern European roots, but storytelling, specifically faith storytelling, inspires. Faith stories shape who we are as a congregation by giving us context, creating an identity, sharing values and developing a sense of belonging. I know Prince of Peace is a treasure to our members and this fall I invite you to tell us why.

Certain folks have already been invited to tell their story on Sunday morning. A few guest preachers with connections to Prince of Peace are excited to return to tell their faith stories. But I want all of us to have a chance to tell our stories. In November I will schedule a number of different small group gatherings. I encourage the congregation to attend one where you will be invited to tell your story.

More details will follow beginning with the Adult Class September 14th. In the meantime start thinking about your faith story. Start thinking about the difference Prince of Peace makes in your life.

I anticipate "I Love to Tell the Story" being a game changer at Prince of Peace.

Pastor Peter

God's Work Our Hands Sunday: September 7

This year for GWOH Sunday we will once again be hosting a Welcome Picnic, welcoming a speaker from I-RISE at our Adult Forum, and gathering for prayers of unity and peace at the Peace Pole.

Please sign up on the sheet outside of the main office, letting us know how many people are coming and what food you can bring. To help in other ways, contact Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239. Let's witness to our community our love for God and neighbor!

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will follow the 9:30 Services on Sundays of September 21st, September 28th and October. Pastor Paul Rorem will discuss "the Nicene Creed". (See the article below for more details).

"The Nicene Creed, 325–2025" By Paul Rorem

This year is the seventeenth centennial of the Creed of Nicaea, so let's take a closer look at what we confess on Sundays. The Adult Forum will devote certain Sunday sessions to the Creed, starting with a general introduction on September 21.

In 325, an ecclesiastical council of bishops was called and financed by the Roman Emperor Constantine. The issue was Christ. Was the Word or Logos who became flesh (John 1) fully God, or a secondary being? In other words, is God's Word really God? It was a hot topic, and not really settled until another council in 381, which also added the third part about the Holy Spirit. That's when the Nicene Creed in our liturgy was (almost) complete, as we will discuss on September 28.

Naturally, Martin Luther had a lot to say about all of this and even wrote a hymn to paraphrase and to teach the Creed. On Sunday, October 12, we will look at Evangelical Lutheran Worship #411, "We All Believe in One True God," including Luther's key phrase about the Holy Spirit, one that modern translations get wrong.

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

Deadline for the October issue is Sunday, September 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)

Adult Class

The Adult Class begins on September 7th. We meet in the double classroom every Sunday at 10:45.

September 7th In conjunction with God's Work Our Hands day, Fida Ayoubi, Director of Volunteers and Donations at I-RISE (Interfaith Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment) will be our presenter.

September 14th Pastor Peter will introduce "I Love to Tell the Story."

September 21st Dr. Paul Rorem will teach on the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

September 28th Dr. Paul Rorem on the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

Food of the Month

Boxed Cereal

West Windsor Day

West Windsor Day is scheduled for Saturday September 20th at Duck Pond Park from 12-4. All faith communities of West Windsor will sit together in a show of unity and to share information of their respective communities. Speak with pastor about representing POP.

Distinguished Alumni Convocation at United Lutheran Seminary

On Monday September 15th Pastor Selover will be honored as the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. The congregation is invited to the convocation at the Philadelphia campus.

Joyful Noise

Joyful Noise returns on Sunday September 21st. Joyful Noise is a worship service specifically designed for children with disabilities and their families. We begin with a community meal at 12 noon. The service begins at 1. Tell your neighbors and friends. The service is intended for all people of faith.

Looking Ahead

Prince of Peace and Dutch Neck Presbyterian will again worship together on Sunday November 9th here at Prince of Peace at 9:30. An education hour will follow along with a reception. Mark this on your calendars.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Joshua Ramjit and Swati Tripathi who were married at Prince of Peace on Saturday August 23rd.

Peace Pole Prayers

Beginning on September 14 we will be offering Prayers for Peace at our Peace Pole every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. We are inviting the Community to gather, and we are also inviting them to take turns leading.

We invite the PoP Community to do the same. Individuals, families, and PoP Teams are invited to sign-up to lead a time for peace with prayer, poetry, reading, and/or music. If you have any questions or are in need of resources, please speak with Pastor Dale.

Saturday, September 6 at St. Bart's, 11:00 a.m.



Pastor Erich will lead a reading and discussion of *Sparking Peace*, a book by and for children about gun violence.

Copies of the book will be given to

participants. Sponsored by Trenton RAWtools and the NJ Synod.

Book Group

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

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

The Secret War of Julia Child by Diana Chambers

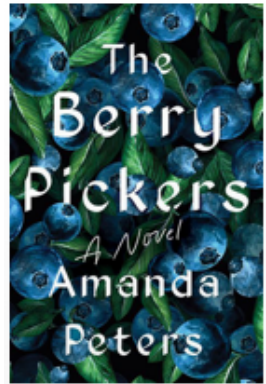


Long before she became the "French Chef", Julia Child worked for the OSS, a forerunner of the CIA during WWII. As head of the Secret File Registry, she traveled to distant front lines in Ceylon, India, and China

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.

**Thursday, October 9th at 1 p.m. in
the Lounge**

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters



In 1962 the indigenous Mik'maq family travels from Nova Scotia to Maine to pick blueberries. Weeks later their daughter, 4-year-old, Ruthie, disappears. Her 6-year-old brother Joe was the last one to see her and remains haunted for years to come. Meanwhile a young girl named Norma, the

only child of a wealthy family, grows up disturbed by dreams and visions. In this unforgettable story of grief and the persistence of love, both Norma and Joe seek the truth.

Thanks to the Donors of the 30 Backpacks for St. Bart's Neighborhood Children



Prince of Peace donated 30 filled school backpacks to be given to children in the St. Bart's neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Pastor Erich picked them up on August 20, 2025, and they were given out on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Pastor Erich was at the Installation of Bishop Christa Compton on August 23, and he said that before he left St. Bart's for the service, 330 backpacks had already been distributed of the 600 they had available. He said that he expected the rest would be gone by the time he returned from the service. He, the folks at St. Bart's, and the recipients of the backpacks and their parents all deeply appreciate the generosity of the Prince of Peace community and say thank you to all!

Pastor Erich also picked up the several boxes of peanut butter and jelly that had been collected as our July Food of the Month. He thanks everyone for those donations, too.

All of these gifts are an active outreach ministry of Prince of Peace. Thank you for your part in that ministry!

Appreciatively,
Berta Schott, for the Social Outreach Team, St. Bart's, and all the Recipients

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 for more details).

Ghosts in our Gardens?

Have you gone to walk the labyrinth and thought there were ghosts in the Peace Garden? It may appear that way but it's actually cloth covering what deer consider our most tasty, tempting crops! Early in the season we'd see greens almost ready to harvest and the next workday would discover our under-the-shed resident groundhog had enjoyed his own feast. More recently we've seen tops of plants (some flowers for pollination as well as veggies) have been eaten. In addition, sometimes they ate all the middle leaves and crops like okra that were about eye level for deer. We're being creative and wrapping the taller "trees" and extending the cover from the fence to the first tasty row in hopes that will make it harder to see them and to jump over the fence and back out after eating. We've planted fall greens and are keeping those lower rows covered against critters as well.

Despite those large and small creatures and a variety of insects Shari Rexroad is skillfully finding and addressing, we've added more (often precautionary) harvesting on Tuesdays besides our usual Fridays. Weekly deliveries to St. Barts have included peppers, okra, tomatoes, scallions and onions, carrots, beans, eggplants,

cucumbers, potatoes, leeks, and more veggies as well as herbs like basil, mint, chives, oregano and tulci! Blueberries are done now but we may have figs soon...and lots more greens will be ready in a few weeks.

Our heaviest delivery so far was 51.5 pounds and our total only ⅔ of the way through harvesting season is already over 302 pounds! Pray that we feed more people than animals this coming month as we harvest more butternut squash, zucchini, eggplants, tomatoes and maybe a few more watermelons, the heavier crops that quickly raise our numbers!

Interested in helping? NO experience necessary! Contact our Master Gardener, Shari Rexroad, at srexroad915@gmail.com to get on the mailing list and come when you can...Weather permitting, gardeners are usually working Tuesdays and Fridays between 8:30 (our early birds) or 9 and 11 (usually later...what dedication!) Perks include friendly coworkers, fresh air and Vitamin D while you work!!! Friendly Visitors, the human volunteer kind, are always welcome to join in!

Parish Care September 2025

Amazing
September 1st is here
Back to School
The start of our church year

As our Church Year begins
Here are a few Parish Care needs and projects.

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

Back to School Time

When, where and how to contact our young adults away at school.

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

We will be mailing advent calendars in early November and preparing for our care box shipment in Feb.

Rides Needed

To and mostly from the Sunday church service. If you can help with rides, please let me know.

On Going Projects

We continue with
Splash – mailings for families with young children under 3.

Hope through Healing mailings – for families that have lost loved ones.

Care Notes in the breezeway for dealing with life issues and joys.

Prayer Squares – Thanks to our joyful stitchers we have knitted prayer squares.

If you know of anyone to be included, please contact Parish Care.

Phone Calls and/or Deliver Sunday Bulletins

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

Also the Sunday Bulletin is mailed to our members that cannot get to church. We would like to try hand delivery of the bulletin. This would allow a quick Hello and quick visit. If you would be willing to deliver a bulletin let me know and we will get things organized and started.

2026 Calendars

We are gathering 2026 Calendars.

Many of us have received several already!

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

There is a gathering box on the table in the Breezeway.

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

We are looking for some new ways to remember and care for our church community.

If you have any thoughts, ideas, and would like to help, please suggest and/or join us.

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

GWOHD Second Annual Refugee Welcome Picnic...and more on Immigration

This article is due one week before God's Work Our Hands Day and our 2nd annual Refugee Picnic - Welcoming Our Neighbors! Planning is done and last minute purchases will be made as we finalize the number of attendees. Volunteers from Interfaith RISE who attended last year are excited and spreading the word. We are expecting over 30 guests from Afghan, Syria, Myanmar, Haiti and more so the Racial Justice Team hopes you've decided to join us and contribute to the meal! Maybe you've even met and personally welcomed our family who plan to attend POP's 9:30 service that day!

Unfortunately this year's event has a somber overtone...Many of our neighbors are living in constant fear because of all the raids, arrests, and inhumane treatment of even law-abiding immigrants and legal residents of color, much less those here illegally. Churches such as St Barts have canceled their usual outdoor community events and even English Language classes so as not to put those neighbors in danger. With the way our property is situated, we feel we can still hold our event but even as I write, whether to have part or all of it outside and what signage or other precautions to take are still under discussion. Please keep our event attendees and those too afraid to come, those legally vetted and approved but still stranded in other countries, in detention centers, or living "freely" but worried about family and friends who've disappeared or been detained in your ongoing prayers!

Regarding recent arrivals, the numbers are very low compared to previous years because of funding cuts and policy changes. A few families and individuals who were previously approved but had flights canceled were able to raise the money for their own flights. Select refugee and asylee cases have been reviewed and a trickle of refugees have arrived in our area. I-RISE (Interfaith Refugee and Immigrant Services and Empowerment) has continued to serve those already here, many of whom now need more support because their work authorization has been paused or canceled. Several I-RISE employees were rehired when some previously held funding came through as well as grants and donations covering necessities.

POP's team of five volunteers works directly with "our" Haitian family in Trenton. We usually go to the Trenton I-RISE office during ELL class times; one parent attends Level 2 from 11-12 and the

other attends Level 3 from 1-2. When not in class we help that parent and while the parents attend their formal classes, we work and play with the kids (ages 20 months up to 17 years now...a teenage nephew came to live with them last month). We help them with conversational English and vocabulary most Mondays and Tuesdays. We also take turns bringing them to appointments at DMV, meetings for schools, and dinners where they get a free meal, groceries, and clothing. The team appreciates the support of those who've donated towards monthly bus passes and brought in donations of clothing and household supplies we requested.

We could still use more help! See Nancy Herrington, Joan New, Cathy Corcoran, Lisa Schott or Nancy Reyes for more info on how to join. Meanwhile, donations of seasonal clothing and outerwear as well as small household goods and toys can be left in the large box at church to be given at an event in September or later on as needed. Better items not needed immediately are sold at the Upcycle store in Highland Park to help fund vital needs where cuts were made. Monetary Donations are always welcome to support ongoing needs of POP's Haitian family by noting "Refugee Fund" in the memo on your checks or envelopes.

This past month, I-RISE has held press conferences and gatherings to remember the 4th anniversary of the fall of Kabul to continue to support our interpreters and allies who put their own lives in danger to help our military and humanitarian support employees while in their country, emphasizing that our government is not fulfilling our promise to help them and their families start new safer lives here. I-RISE had a similar event to recognize Ukrainian Independence Day for those already here, and the agency has been told that about 100 Ukrainian Refugees will soon be coming to NJ as a result of some successful lawsuits resuming permission for their journey here. As you can see, there are glimmers of hope, and thousands of advocates and immigrants across the US are sending letters and petitions, calling and visiting legislators and making others aware of what needs to be done to "love our immigrant neighbors"...

Welcome Picnic GWOHD Second Annual Refugee (Continued)

If you'd like to stay updated on immigration related executive orders, legislation, and lawsuits, subscribe for free to Church World Service's daily updates by email at <https://cwsglobal.org/blog/daily-state-of-play>. You can also subscribe to I-RISE's newsletters and/or follow its founder and leader, Pastor Seth Kaper-Dale on Facebook. Here at POP, we invite you to join our Racial Justice Team to help POP keep the congregation informed and plan educational, advocacy, and service opportunities related to immigration (our focus this year) as well as other ongoing racial justice issues. We meet virtually on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. To JOIN THE TEAM (please do...we need more of you!!!) OR JUST GET ON OUR MAILING LIST for more frequent updates on current advocacy opportunities, contact Nancy Reyes at 609-273-1239 or nancyauerreyes@gmail.com.

Council News

The council is seeking a person to take over as Financial Secretary by the end of 2025. Dorothy Safranek has been faithfully fulfilling this role for about 20 years! We thank her for such faithful and long service to Prince of Peace.

As stated in our bylaws, the financial secretary is charged with counting and recording the offerings collected each week. POP has a secure web-based financial system. The procedures are documented. There are others who help with the counting and depositing each week. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to serve in this role. Talk to Dorothy Safranek, Joan New, or Pastor Peter.

Outdoor Property Work Day Saturday, September 6th , 9 AM – 1 PM

Word has it that the House Next Door property is getting lots of use! And not just by church members. Folks are walking the labyrinth. People come to pray at the Tree of Life Chapel. Soon, the Peace Pole will be the site of regular gatherings to pray for peace. We are very grateful and proud that Prince of Peace can provide these lovely spaces for those seeking healing, wholeness, and transformation.

We are grateful to NJ Angels which cares for the property directly surrounding the house. Unfortunately, the grounds behind the HND have been neglected. Weeds abound, tree branches hang low, benches are dirty. As such, we are dedicating September 6th as a day to solely focus on cleaning up the HND property. We are especially anxious to spruce up the grounds for the many upcoming events that are slated for the Fall.

Please consider coming on September 6th to help with this effort. We plan to work from 9 am through 1 pm, but come when you can and leave when you must. We will have a list of the tasks to tackle for the day and will provide some outdoor tools to assist our work efforts. We encourage you to bring your own work gloves and tools you might find useful to complete the outdoor work. If you bring tools, please somehow label them with your name so they don't get confused with our church tools!

Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in tending to the care of our HND property. We want the property to exude beauty, peacefulness, and calm, and caring for the property will help us achieve this goal!

The Prince of Peace Lending Library

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

Singing Church History: Introducing the Christian Story through Hymn Texts; by Paul Rorem – donated by Paul Rorem:

A book authored by POP's very own Paul Rorem. Paul's analysis of well-known hymns from diverse strains of Christianity makes Singing Church History a useful resource for students, congregations, and curious readers. Placing familiar music from Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Pietist, Methodist, American evangelical, historically Black, and Christian communities around the world into historical context helps us appreciate the ecumenical nature of our musical traditions. Singing Church History includes hymn texts for easy reference.

Christianity is a "singing church," with biblical foundations and centuries of examples in the Psalms and canticles, favorite hymns, and gospel songs. And this singing church has a history. Through engaging tales of the stories behind this music and its authors, Paul makes church history come alive. Singing Church History journeys through an ecumenical history of church music from early and medieval times through the Reformation and the early modern world, into American and World Christianity. Throughout, Paul shows us how these familiar hymn texts have us "singing church history" on Sunday mornings without even knowing it.

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}



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