



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 39, Iss. 10

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD Dec 2020/Jan 2021

Advent and Christmas at POP

Although we've had to make modifications because of COVID, Advent and Christmas activities will still happen! Below is what's planned, along with links for you to learn more. Please share this information with others!



Advent Evening Prayer

Holden Evening Prayer ([livestream on Facebook](#)) each Wednesday evening in Advent (Dec. 2, 9 & 16) at 7:15 pm

Christmas Eve and Day Services

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve Children's Service at 4 pm ([Livestream on Facebook](#))

Candle lighting and Christmas Gospel reading at 7 pm (Outdoors on front lawn)

Christmas Eve Carols and Holy Communion at 9 pm ([Livestream on Facebook](#))

Christmas Day

Carols & Communion at 10 am ([Livestream on Facebook](#))

For updates (or more information), please check our [Advent](#) and [Christmas](#) web pages.

Other Events

Outdoor, In-Person Communion*



We will be offering outdoor, in-person Communion on **Saturday, December 12** at 3 pm in the back parking lot of Prince of Peace.

Christmas Pageant



Enjoy a celebration of Christmas on **Sunday December 20** at 6 pm. ([Livestream on Facebook](#))

Faith-Full Families*



We will have Advent To-Go Boxes available on **December 2nd, 12 - 2 pm.**

Giving Opportunities

Giving Tree*



Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PoP members can select a child's name from the Giving Tree and purchase a special Christmas gift for him/her. This year we are working with Brown Station Elementary School to provide a happy Christmas for selected students and their siblings.

Gift drop-off dates at the Church: **Sundays Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th** between 11 am -12 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact [Max Carreras](#).

Gifts of Hope *

Gifts of Hope will be all online this year.

Christmas boxes item collection*

Help year-round residents of the Village at Rockville who live in nursing care. We'll be collecting items for gifts for residents. There will be a collection box outside the door of the church (on the parking lot side) through **Sunday, December 13.**



Annual Congregational Meeting



Please save the date for the 2021 Annual Meeting, which will be held via **Zoom on January 31.** We will provide more details closer to the date, but we look forward to a good conversation with you all about plans for the upcoming year.

PoP Directory

The updated PoP Directory is ready! You can request a pdf copy by emailing the [Office](#). But, we'll also have hardcopy directories available at all in-person events.



NOTE: All articles marked with an asterisk (*) have more details on pages 3 and 4.

From Pastor Christine...



Pastor Christine Dunn
(pastorchristine@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

This year, more than most years, I've found myself longing for Advent. I love the Advent/Christmas season: the lights, the unfettered joy, the holiday greeting cards (not that I ever get any sent), and time with family. But mostly, I take great delight in anticipating the incarnation of God. Christmas is a season of love, of light, of giving and receiving; therefore, Advent is a season of promise, a season of hope of all that is Christmas.

I find myself almost in desperate need of that hope and promise this year. I've joked a few times with others that I have this running commentary in my head entitled, "*In the Terrible Year of our Lord 2020.*" It has been a grim and divisive year, full of loss: some consequential and irreplaceable losses; and some trivial by comparison - birthday celebrations, prom, sporting events - but, painful none-the-less. While I am able to see some bright sides to 2020, I doubt I'll look back at this year with much fondness.

What has been so different for me as I've anticipated this Advent (and for these past eight months) is it's unusual for me to wait with fear as my companion. I so much want to get away from where I am, so I'll do almost anything to escape the waiting. I know that I don't live my best life, nor am I my best self when I am fearful (which may explain my shorter temper and desire to just stay in bed and wake up when the pandemic is over).

I read recently that often times our waiting gets intermixed with our wishes (i.e., wishing for a new job, wishing for an answer, wishing for better weather), but that waiting itself is 'open-ended.' In the Bible people who are waiting are not filled with wishes, but rather hope. And what is hope but trusting that a promise will be fulfilled not according to OUR wishes, but according to THE promise we are given in Jesus.

I am so much more appreciative of the angels' proclamation, "Do not be afraid." Fear causes me to miss the gifts found in the waiting. One thing this year has taught me, rather forcibly, is to look

for the gifts found in the waiting time. Having the COVID-19 vaccine on the horizon is a tangible, real life reminder that we do not wait in vain. Often discomfort, confusion, and seemingly long delays accompany hope, but they do not diminish joy, love, or light. If anything, our waiting enhances those gracious gifts.

This Advent season I wish you the joy of expectant waiting with those you love. The sure promise that we do not wait in vain. Love has come down; the light is dawning.

Blessed Advent, my dear friends.
Pastor Christine

December/January Highlights

Every Sunday

9:00 am Preschool and Elementary Sunday School on Zoom*

9:00 am Middle School Sunday School on Zoom*

10:00 am Worship streamed on our Facebook Page

11:00 am High School Sunday School on Zoom*

*No Sunday School on December 27 and January 3.

Every Tuesday

12:30 pm Women's Bible Study (pg 5)

Every Friday

7:00 pm Story Time for Children - Pastor Christine will lead story time for children. This will be streamed on our Facebook page.



COMING UP...

December

- 2 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 6, 13, 20 Drop off for Giving Tree (pg 1)
- 8 Church Council Meeting
- 9 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 10 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
- 12 In person Communion (pg 3)
- 16 Holden Evening Prayer (pg 1)
- 20 Christmas Pageant (pg 1)
- 24 Christmas Eve (pg 1)
- 25 Christmas Day (pg 1)
- 27 No Sunday School (pg 5)
- 31 New Year's Eve

January

- 3 No Sunday School (pg 5)
- 14 Women's Book Group (pg 6)
- 31 Annual Congregational Meeting (pg 1)

February

- 11 Women's Book Group (pg 6)

For a current calendar, see:

<https://poplutheran.org/church-calendars/>

SPECIAL PRAYERS

. . . My need was met because someone came
and communicated . . . in words I could not
express. . . . Pastor John B. McGarvey



PoP Members

Alice Baur, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Kevin Ely, Annie Hampe, Allison Hurst, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Gail Moran, Dick and Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Laura Wilson

Sympathy

Family of Family of Eytan Berman
(friends of Cassidy & Tracy Solomon)
Family of Pam Farrar
(sister-in-law of Richard Farrar)
Family of Pastor Howard Weidemoyer

Thanksgiving

Marriage of Eric & Keighley Woodard
(son of Lisa & Lon Woodard)

Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their
Caregivers
All those impacted by the West Coast fires
All those impacted by the storms and hurricanes

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays and at the following website:

https://poplutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PoP_Prayer_List.pdf

https://poplutheran.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PoP_Prayer_List.pdf

SPOTLIGHT: ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Outdoor, In-Person Communion

We will be offering outdoor, in-person Communion on Saturday, December 12 at 3 pm in the back parking lot of Prince of Peace. Pre-packaged individual communion kits will be available for each person. The rite will last approximately 15 minutes, with time for brief conversation afterwards. We will plan to be outside and maintain physical distance from one another. Please wear a mask. Questions? Contact either [Pastor Steve](#) or [Pastor Christine](#).



Faith-Full Families

Faith-full Families is now available "To-Go." Are you a parent or grandparent of young children and want some hands-on, fun, faith-enriching activities to do at home? We will have Advent To-Go Boxes available on December 2nd, 12 - 2 pm. The kits will include: crafts, prayer, story, table decorations, and family-fun items related to Advent. Please email [Judy Bruening](#) or [Pastor Christine](#) by November 29th to receive a kit.

We will have Epiphany To-Go Boxes available on January 6th, 12 - 2 pm. Please email [Judy Bruening](#) or [Pastor Christine](#) by December 30th to receive a kit.



Giving Opportunities

Giving Tree



Make a child's Christmas joyful! Each year, PoP members can select a child's name from the Giving Tree and purchase a special Christmas gift for him/her. This year we are working with Brown Station Elementary School to

provide a happy Christmas for selected students and their siblings. If you are interested in participating, go to [Giving Tree](#) and sign up for a gift.

Gifts should be wrapped and include either the gift number or your name on the gift. This tag should be easily removable (although not so easy that it falls off) as we will be replacing it with a tag with the child's name.

Gift drop-off dates at the Church: Sundays Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th between 11 am -12 pm. If these dates and times don't work for you, contact Max Carreras for alternate drop-off plans.

All gifts must be returned by the latest Sunday, December 20th as we plan on delivering the gifts the next day. If you have any questions, please contact Max Carreras at carmax20021@gmail.com

Participate in the [Gifts of Hope](#) program

These gifts support the mission and



programs of area Lutheran social ministry organizations, camps, college or seminary, and our Synod's companion synods abroad. Your Gifts of Hope purchases will bring hope to others while you honor those on your gift list. Gifts of Hope will be all online this year, and can be purchased [by clicking here to go to the online catalog.](#)

Christmas boxes item collection

Help year-round residents of the Village at Rockville who live in nursing care. We'll be collecting items for gifts for residents. [Click here to see a list of items for the boxes.](#) You may contribute an entire box, or items for the boxes. There will be a collection box outside the door of the church (on the parking lot side) **through Sunday, December 13.**

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

It's easy and will make your life easier. Just go to the church [webpage \(poplutheran.org\)](http://poplutheran.org) and click the green Donate Online button. Giving online can help all of us easily provide consistent support for the church. Signup today! Online giving is a win for the church and for the congregation. Please contact Chris Michel (michel_christian@yahoo.com) or Kwame Mensah (mensahkn@gmail.com) with any questions.

Electronic Giving

To donate right now or become an E-Giver, go to poplutheran.org or scan this QR code with your smart phone or tablet. Thanks for supporting the ministries of Prince of Peace!



AmazonSmile

Shopping for Christmas can be a harried and stressful time. If you are someone who prefers to order online, please consider ordering through Amazon and supporting Prince of Peace with each purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives 0.5% of your purchases. Use AmazonSmile every time you shop! AmazonSmile is completely integrated with Amazon.com; you use the same account and have the same shopping cart, Wish List, Registry, and account info. It's easy to set up and use. First click on the following link to tell Amazon that you want donations to be made to Prince of Peace: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>; then whenever you want to make a purchase at Amazon, go to smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com. (AmazonSmile will remember the nonprofit previously selected.) It's easy!

Worship Through Giving



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School Schedule



Sunday School will not meet on:
Christmas Sunday, December 27
New Year's Sunday, January 3

Sunday School

Our learners are enjoying the variety of Group's *Dig In* curriculum, which we are using while meeting virtually. Along with the religious content, *Dig In* includes engaging activities for a virtual environment. For example, a recent lesson emphasizing that God is our friend included an activity where the Upper Elementary class tried to memorize the countries of Central America. Each then told a favorite memorable story from their lives, and after the stories, they tried to recall the countries. That led to a discussion of short- and long-term memory and the mnemonic "Big Gorillas Eat Hotdogs Not Cold Pizza," which might help you recall the countries of Central America! The tie-in to the lesson is that a good friend, like God, remembers you.

That day, our study of Psalm 25 showed us that God has the attributes of a good friend. In our further reading, we explored how God views us: Psalm 139:14a -- "I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made"

Genesis 1:24a -- "So God created mankind in his own image"

Zephaniah 3:17b - "The Lord will take delight in you"

1 John 4:16b - "God is love"

Romans 8:38a - "For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love"

To our Sunday School learners and also to each of you, remember that God made you just the way he wanted you, in his image, and he rejoices over you. He'll always choose to love you! God is our friend, and nothing can change that.

ADULT EDUCATION

Bible Art Journaling



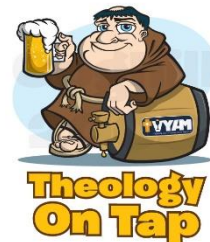
The Bible Art Journaling Class is coming BACK! We've been working diligently to create a Zoom space to allow for

creativity and expression. We are working on a new project entitled "Sowing Seeds." This project is a stand alone work, so it's a perfect time to try

something new and connect with friends. Watch the Weekly Email for the next date and time. [A supply list can be found here.](#) (These are suggested supplies. Feel free to use whatever you have.) Please contact [Pastor Christine](#) with any questions.

Theology on Tap

Join us for our next Theology on Tap session to talk about issues of faith. Pastor Steve leads one of these events each month. Check Weekly Email and the online worship notice for the next date. We are currently meeting on Zoom. Logon and join us!



PoP Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are currently meeting on Zoom, studying various verses using lectio divina

procedure and looking at participating in a different study soon. For more information or questions, see [Pastor Christine](#) (pastorchristine@poplutheran.org).



MUSIC

Adult Choir

The Adult Choir will be singing virtually this fall! Check emails, the website, and the Sunday bulletins to find out when the choir will be singing.

If you'd like to find out more about this interesting and new way of doing choir, please contact [Lindsey Paradise!](#)

Grace Notes

Grace Notes will be singing virtually this fall! Check emails, the website, and the Sunday bulletins to find out when they will be singing.



SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Gaithersburg HELP

Gaithersburg HELP has settled down to more workable numbers of people needing help each week - higher than last year, but not as overwhelming as it was in the spring. Demand will, as usual, go up as cold weather, loss of seasonal work, higher utility bills and the holidays all kick in at once. A huge thanks for the continued donations of non-perishable food and infant needs. Supplier availability continues to be a bit unpredictable from week to week. Meanwhile the area animals continue to be fairly predictable, chewing into any cardboard or plastic containers left outside, so perhaps cans and jars are best as long as we are still using the outside bins.



FELLOWSHIP

Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group chose Sue Monk Kidd's book, *The Book of Longings*, for our discussion on **Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 pm.**

From Goodreads: Grounded in meticulous historical research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus's life that focuses on his humanity, *The Book of Longings* is an inspiring account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place, and culture devised to silence her.

The Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the 10th. If anyone who is not a member of the Book Group would like to participate, contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com for the link.

Our January book (originally scheduled for February) is *The Dutch House*.

The Women's Book Group has chosen *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett for **Thursday, January 14 at 7:30 pm.**

From Goodreads: Set over the course of five decades, *The Dutch House* is a dark fairy tale about two smart people who cannot overcome their past. Despite every outward sign of success, Danny and Maeve are only truly comfortable when they're together. Throughout their lives, they return to the well-worn story of what they've lost with humor and rage. But when at last they're forced to

confront the people who left them behind, the relationship between an indulged brother and his ever-protective sister is finally tested. Please note that this book was originally scheduled for February.

In February, we have chosen *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson.

If anyone would like to participate that is not a member of the Group, please contact Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

Future Book Selections

February 11 *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*
by Isabel Wilkerson
March 11 *Know My Name*
by Chanel Miller

ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. With wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes, there are many immediate needs here and around the world. Most current for many of us is the Covid-19 pandemic. Visit the [ELCA Disaster Response webpage \(https://elca.org/disaster\)](https://elca.org/disaster) to donate or learn more about how you can help.

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Articles for the February issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **January 17**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

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