



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 40, Iss. 5

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

June 2021

## In-person Worship Changes at Prince of Peace

As of Friday, May 28, 2021, Montgomery County lifted all Covid restrictions. Therefore, many of the things we were doing in order to comply with the orders will no longer be necessary. Council adopted a policy for worship (beginning Sunday, May 30).

We will continue to hold one service on Sundays at 10 am. This service will also be livestreamed.

We will no longer ask people to sign up to come to worship, as social distancing requirements have been phased out.

We will phase back into “normal” worship processes.

Masks will no longer be required. However, as CDC recommends, we will still encourage non-vaccinated people to wear masks.

Nursery will not be offered for the time being, since small children are not currently vaccinated.

For more information on these items and additional policy items, please see SPOTLIGHT on page 3.

As before, you are welcome to attend live or online, whichever is more comfortable for you!

If you have questions, or would like to help as we enter this new phase of reopening, please contact [Pastor Steve](#) or Council President [Kwame Mensah](#)



## Honduras Mission Trip - POSTPONED

Due to updated information regarding the Covid climate in Honduras, the 2021 mission trip has been postponed until December 27.

We are so grateful for the generous donations and prayers towards this effort, as many Hondurans lost homes, fields, and sources of income last year due to extensive hurricane damage. In addition to medical and educational efforts, the mission team is slated to help rebuild some of those homes, and Haven Universe has been able to provide food contributions this past year to those in need because of ongoing donations. We thank Prince of Peace for your continued support in helping toward this cause! Those who would still like to support the Honduras mission can make a donation through [this link](#).

If you would like more information, please contact [Ric Kienzle](#).



## Vacation Bible School - Cancelled

Due to lack of interest in virtual VBS, we will not be holding VBS this year. We look forward to resuming VBS in 2022.



## Sunday School Schedule

Elementary classes will continue through Sunday, June 13 - families will receive new Zoom links for June. Middle and high school classes ended on Sunday, May 30.



## From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler  
([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org);

301-869-3666)

As I always do around this time of year, I've been spending a lot of time getting my yard ready for the summer. I've done lots of weeding. I've spread 3 yards of mulch. And I'm now in the process of planting several flats of flowers. It's always a big task and takes several weeks. But around Memorial Day weekend, all of the preparation is done. I'm pleased with how it looks. And inevitably, I sit back and think to myself, "I'm done!"

But of course, I'm not done! I've just finished the preparation. Over the course of the summer, I will need to water and feed the plants. More weeds will have to be pulled. Grass will need to be cut. And lots of other things will need doing as I use my backyard for BBQs and get together.

As we're now coming out of Covid restrictions, I've also had that same feeling of "we're done!" And hopefully, as even more people get vaccinated, we will indeed be done with infections, hospitalizations, and the stress of the last 15 months. But we're really just done with the preparation for what comes next.

Over the past several months, we've upgraded our sound and video systems to make it possible to continue to livestream services and events. We've begun how to learn to do "hybrid" events which people can attend online or in-person. And we've begun to re-think what needs to start up again and how things need to change at Prince of Peace. Sometimes, a crisis becomes an opportunity as well. And the pandemic gave us an opportunity to begin to think about things that we've needed to think about for years.

But, we're really just beginning. And how we grow back will in large part be determined by how together we "water," "feed," and tend the things that are important for us in living as a community that actively experiences and shares the living presence of Jesus. As we move through these summer months, there will be lots of opportunities for us to show up, participate and talk together

about where we're headed. I don't have all the answers (or even all the questions!) but I do know that we're not done - we're just getting started!

Yours in Christ,

## June Highlights

### Every Sunday

9:00 am Preschool and Elementary Sunday School on Zoom (ends June 13)

10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our Facebook Page

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters

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

### Every Wednesday

7:15 pm Evening Prayer - Pastor Steve will lead us in Compline (10-15 minute prayer at the close of the day). This will be streamed on our Facebook page.

## COMING UP...

### June

6 First Communion Class

8 Church Council Meeting

10 Women's Book Group (pg 5)

13 Last Sunday for Elementary classes (pg 1)

13 First Communion Class

14 Flag Day

19 Juneteenth

20 First Day of Summer

20 Father's Day

20 Bible Art Journaling (pg 5)

27 Young Adult Mini-Golf (pg 4)

### July

4 Independence Day

8 Women's Book Group (pg 5)

13 Church Council Meeting

18 Bible Art Journaling

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, Mark Berninger\*\*, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Annie Hampe, Allison Hurst, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Jim McNerney, Gail Moran, Dick & Sandy Moore, Heather Robinson, Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson

### Ongoing

For Racial justice and equality  
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers  
All those impacted by winter storms

The complete Prayer List is available in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.

### **\*\*NOTE:**

The Berninger family is very appreciative of the many prayers for Mark! At this time, Cathy has requested that all contact (texts, cards, questions, etc.) be directed to June Herron ([june.herron@verizon.net](mailto:june.herron@verizon.net)). June will pass them along to Cathy and will also provide updates on Mark's condition to those who are interested. Contact June for status and her address/phone, if desired.



## SPOTLIGHT

Council adopted the following policy for worship (beginning Sunday, May 30):

We will continue to hold **one service on Sundays at 10 am. This service will also be livestreamed.** If attendance grows to need it, we may add a second service on Saturday evening which will not be livestreamed.

We will no longer ask people to sign up to come to worship, as social distancing requirements have been phased out.

We will phase back into “normal” worship processes, including specifically:

Masks will no longer be required. However, as CDC recommends, we will still encourage non-vaccinated people to wear masks and make clear that anyone who is more comfortable wearing a mask is free to do so.

Nursery will not be offered for the time being, since small children are not currently vaccinated.

Seating will be expanded, but we will continue to offer some socially distanced seating for those who desire it.

Hand sanitizer stations will continue to be provided.

Whenever the AC is not on (which automatically brings in fresh air) windows will be cracked opened to ensure fresh air circulation.

We will resume distributing communion to in-person worshippers. However, communion “snack packs” will still be available for those who are uncomfortable coming up to receive communion. We will also continue to advertise “Holy Communion in Extraordinary Times” as an option for online worshippers.

Worshippers will continue to be encouraged to download the bulletin file on their own device, as well as to donate online.

Everything worshippers need will continue to be in the bulletin or on the projector, so there will be no need to handle worship books.

Congregational singing will be allowed to resume.

We will work towards food and beverages for fellowship time in ways that accord with guidance from CDC.

**As before, you are welcome to attend live or online, whichever is more comfortable for you!**

If you have questions, or would like to help as we enter this new phase of reopening, please contact [Pastor Steve](#) or Council President [Kwame Mensah](#).

## 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](mailto:michel_christian@yahoo.com)) or Kwame Mensah ([mensahkn@gmail.com](mailto:mensahkn@gmail.com)) with any questions.

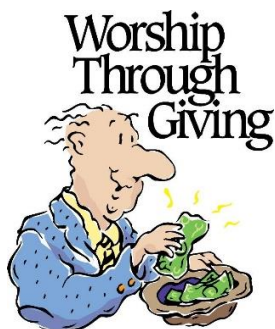
### Electronic Giving

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



### AmazonSmile

You can support Prince of Peace with each Amazon purchase! Use our AmazonSmile link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1283295>) and PoP receives .5% of your purchases. **We have received \$825.27 as of March 2021!** 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](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). (AmazonSmile will remember the nonprofit previously selected.) It's easy!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Sunday School

Thanks to our Sunday School Leaders!

They continued to connect with our learners and share God's love every week. Each of these dedicated leaders has been working with our youth for many years:

John Conary - High School Leader

Samuel Bornhorst and Sarah Kuykendall - Middle School Leader

Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten - Lower and Upper Elementary School Leaders

Trish Taylor - Lower Elementary Shepherd

Danielle Drobny - Opening Music Leader

Janet Levine - Sunday School Superintendent

The leaders appreciate our learners and look forward to seeing you again soon! We will share details about our fall plans later this summer.



## YOUNG ADULTS

### Montgomery County Young Adults

#### Mini Golf

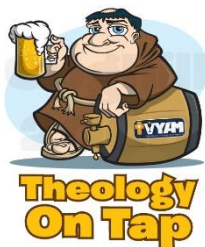
Come join Young Adults (those in their 20s and 30s) from Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, and Christ the Servant to play mini golf at Bohrer Park on **Sunday, June 27 at 1:30 pm**. After, we will have Rita's ice! Please bring \$5 cash (total cost for mini golf and Rita's) and a mask. Let [Kelly Stief](#) know you're coming by Sunday, June 20, so we can order enough Rita's. Looking forward to seeing you there!



## ADULT EDUCATION

### 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 in person and on Zoom. Join us live or online, whichever is more comfortable for you!



### PoP Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm on Zoom. We are currently studying the Book of Acts. Questions? Contact Pastor Wendy Deeben ([wdeeben@gracerock.org](mailto:wdeeben@gracerock.org))

### Bible Art Journaling

Bible Art Journaling typically meets one Sunday evening per month. Our next gathering is Sunday, June 20, 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Zoom.



Carmen Hooks-Hill, a member at Prince of Peace, uses her artistic skills to guide us in our creativity based on a religious or pastoral theme. No advance preparation or materials are necessary. This is a fun and creative way to get into God's Word and to enjoy one another's company. If you have questions, please contact [Carmen](#).

Note: The decision was made last month to leave the name of the group as Bible Art Journaling.

## MUSIC

### Grace Notes

Grace Notes, with their new members, is hard at work practicing to sing for and with us in the, hopefully, near future.



## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Gaithersburg HELP

Please keep those wonderful food donations coming in. Cereal, tuna and peanut butter are always in high demand, soups, and diapers (sizes 5 and 6) are especially hard to get right now. At the moment, client need has settled into about a 50% increase over pre-Covid times. New safety procedures, generous donations and grants plus hardworking volunteers are managing the situation. There is always a need for new volunteers, especially as drivers and in a few leadership positions, including Treasurer. Check the GaithersburgHELP website or talk to Hope Walker ([hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org](mailto:hope.walker@GaithersburgHELP.org)) for more information.



## FELLOWSHIP

### Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet at Nancy Morton's home on Thursday, June 10 at 6:30 pm (outdoors, weather permitting). If any POP women would like to attend, please RSVP to [Nancy Morton](#) or, if Zoom is preferred, please contact [Kathy Mellott](#) by Monday, June 7, and it will be set up.

The book selection for June is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett.

From Good Reads: Twin sisters run away at age 16; years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. It's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. What will happen to the next generation when their own daughters' story lines intersect?

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

July 8	<u>Anxious People</u> by Fredrik Backman
August 12	<u>The Giver of Stars</u> by JoJo Moyes
September 9	<u>America's First Daughter</u> by Stephanie Dray
October 14	<u>The Memory of Us</u> by Camille Di Maio

## RECENT EVENTS

### Confirmation Service Project 2021

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the annual service project for 2021-2022 Confirmation classes honored a past patron of Prince of Peace. Under the leadership of Paul and Mary Hlavinka of the Muddy Branch Alliance, the confirmands and parents (19 total) picked up trash along Speicher's Run. We collected many bags of trash, including 3 tires (one was larger than the other 2 and was especially entrenched in the mud), barbed wire, a fire hose part, another black hose, a rusted metal frame (several hefty poles after it was broken down), a small table, a brake disc, a street sign (No Motorized Vehicles which can be put up at the start of the trail), numerous plastic bottles, chip wrappers, plastic bags, cans and the like! But not all that was found was trash - We found a baseball in great condition (probably lost from a backyard practice) and a blue jay feather. Paul also pointed out garlic mustard and bamboo (invasive species), Japanese barberry (a common backyard bush that might harbor deer ticks (!), and even a jack-in-the-pulpit! We also met Allen Speicher, the son of Larry Speicher, who belonged to PoP and was an avid runner. Thank you to the following teens who participated: Eleanor Acheson, Addison Barr, David Butler, Eric Ely, Eric Hoeger, Connor Kohne, Evan Schneider, Dekker Spielman, Cruz Witten, Yasya Yanevskyy.



## "I AM NEVER FAR AWAY"

PoP Member Susan Weiner wrote this poem, influenced by the horse farm next to her and all the beauty of Maryland. It can be found in her book *Before the Foundation of the World*, published in 2020. From Susan: "It is written in the voice of Jesus, which I hope is pretty obvious."

"I Am Never Far Away"

Here am I before the wind that knows my name;  
I am the blossom that shimmers like a tongue of flame.

I am the voice of bells that sweetens morning's breeze;  
I am the spoken word that shapes the leaf on trees.

In my hands, vast infinity exploded into light,  
And I loosed the sphere a sun would capture in its flight.

One day, neutrons, protons, atomic nuclei, and quarks  
Seized and bound me in their subtle web of arcs;

And so, I was raised on the transverse of a cross,  
Triumphant over iron nails to rescue you from loss.

Believe in me for I am the Resurrection, the Word,  
the Narrow Way.  
The peace I keep for you is confirmed in a tulip's  
spring display.

Let the fishes and the beasts herald the breaking of my day,  
For, just as sunlight speckles morning's foal, I am  
never far away.

## OF CONTINUING INTEREST

### Recycling Toner/Ink Cartridges

Please continue saving used ink & toner cartridges for PoP. We still recycle them for store credit on office supplies. You can leave them in the labeled bin on the "Give & Take" table outside the back door or in the collection box inside the church.



### How to Contact Us

Our office is now being staffed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. It is always possible to call or email the office (or the Pastor directly). Email and voicemail are monitored daily.

## 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.

## THINK ABOUT IT

For two years, scientists sequestered themselves in an artificial environment called *Biosphere 2*. Inside their self-sustaining community the Biospherians created a number of mini-environments, including a desert, rain forest, even an ocean. Nearly every weather condition could be simulated except one, wind.

Over time, the effects of their windless environment became apparent. A number of acacia trees bent over and even snapped. Without the stress of wind to strengthen the wood, the trunks grew weak and could not hold up their own weight.

*Though our culture shuns hardship, we would do well to remember that God uses it "for our good, that we may share in his holiness" (Heb. 12:10).*  
--Jay Akkerman

I was wearing a t-shirt with the words: BE NICE TO ME. I HAD A HARD DAY. Little Eric looked at the words and said, "How can you tell this early in the morning?"

--Verna Chambers

Four-year-old Sarah was invited to her first wedding, and she had lots of questions. At the reception, we explained there were two cakes—a groom's cake and a bride's cake.

"What's the matter, Mom," Sarah asked, "haven't they learned to share yet?"

--Patti Culver

At a wedding, my granddaughter Melissa asked, "Why is a bride always dressed in white?"

"Because white represents happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life," I replied.

Her next question was: "Then why is the groom dressed in black?"

--Clara Null

Rick Majerus, men's basketball coach at the University of Utah, recently captured a common concern:

"Everyone's worried about the economy this year. Hey, my hairline is in recession, my waistline is in inflation, and altogether, I'm in depression."

--Arizona Republic

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Articles for the July/August issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **June 20**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at [GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com). Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

*Glad Tidings* is online at [www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org)

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