



# GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 42 Iss. 6

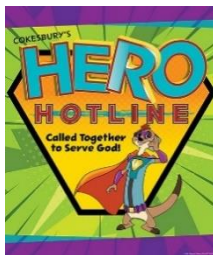
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

July/Aug 2023

## VBS and Adult Bible Study

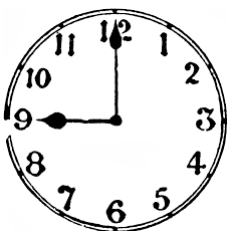
VBS will be held in the evening from Sunday, July 16th through Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Dinner will be provided for attendees at 6:00 pm. Then at 6:30 pm, adults will join Pastor Steve for a Bible Study on the same lessons that the children will be learning in their VBS activities. All adults are welcome (whether you have kids or not!)

[Please click here for the pre-registration/registration form.](#) Donations of food and funds are needed from the congregation, to make sure we have healthy, well-balanced meals. Please consider donating either a food item or funds towards the purchase of supplies for the meals. The sign-up genius link for food is <https://tinyurl.com/VBSSupper> and the online donation link is <https://tinyurl.com/VBSPoP>. [Please click here for the pre-registration/registration form.](#)

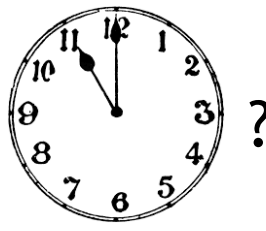


## Sunday School Start Time Poll

Sunday School is polling families to determine whether a Sunday 9 am or 11 am start time would be better for Preschool - High School classes this fall. Please click on the [SurveyMonkey link](#) to let us know. The survey also has room for your comments about anything related to Sunday School. The deadline is July 23. Thank you!



OR



## The Interfaith 5k walk/run sign up is open!

[Register Here!](#) PoP continues to be a sponsor and supporter of this event and we are hoping to have our largest turnout yet this year. Can we have the largest team?! Please sign up!



When you do, please select to join the Prince of Peace team. More information is available at <https://mocointerfaith5k.org/>.

Any questions please reach out to [Ric Kienzle](#). Thank you!"

## Ukraine 101 Coming September 30th

How much do you know about Ukraine? On September 30<sup>th</sup>, POP is hosting a program and fundraiser for Ukraine.

- Hear from people in the country, and friends and relatives here.
- Enjoy classic Ukrainian food.
- Support US Ukrainian Activists, an organization run by volunteers that raises funds to buy medical supplies for the military as well as helping civilians fleeing the war to find shelter, food, and support.

<https://www.usukrainianactivists.org/>

Watch for more details in months to come!



**Second Saturday Service** - in order to provide an additional opportunity for worship apart from Sunday morning, we will hold a 5 pm Saturday service on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our next services will be on Saturday, July 8 and August 12. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.



## From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler  
([pastor@poplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@poplutheran.org);  
301-869-3666)

Every year, as summer approaches, I have a vision of how I think my summer will go. My vision includes events I'm going to be involved in, whether personally or at church. It usually includes places I hope to go and people I hope to see. And it always involves lots of time to sit on the deck, cook out and relax! And I've also realized, whether I'm consciously thinking about it or not, my visions of these things always occur on bright, sunny days!

But then it rains. And sometimes, it rains a lot. It rains when I have an outdoor event planned. It rains when I desperately need it to be dry so I can cut the grass. And it rains at the exact moment that Phoenix is expecting me to take him for a walk. And the rain irritates me.

And yet, we frequently need the rain in the summer. The grass that I complain about cutting will die without the rain. The dust and pollen in the air will continue to linger without the rain to wash it out. And, long term, too little rain will cause bigger problems down the road for our communities. The rain is needed for growth and for health.

In the same way, I don't like many of the things in my life that I think of as "spiritual rain" - the pain, the sadness and the loss that occur during times that I'd rather be sunny and happy. It's often hard to see any goodness from this type of rain. And yet, it happens whether I envision it coming or not.

But "spiritual rain" is also something God can use to help us grow. It's often in the experience of pain that God gives us strength to persevere that we didn't think was possible. It's often by experiencing sadness that we appreciate how much love and happiness a person or situation has been in our lives. And it's often at a time of loss that we can really hear the promise of new life and resurrection in a way that we simply can't when things are "sunny." Sometimes, it's through "spiritual rain" that God helps us to grow and gives us strength.

I hope that for all of us, this summer is mostly sunny and pleasant! But when days are rainy, meteorologically, or spiritually, remember that the rain is often a necessary part of growth. Remember to look for the ways God is using the rain to give you life and strength. And remember that the promise of God in Jesus is that the "rain" is never the end!

Yours in Christ,

## July/August Highlights

### Every Sunday

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

### Every Monday

6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal (pg 5)

### Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters\* (pg 6)

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

\*Quilters will not meet on 7/4.

\*\*Women's Bible Study will not meet on 7/4, 8/1, & 8/8

## COMING UP...

### July

4 Independence Day

7 Ann Callahan Memorial Service

8 Saturday Worship Service (pg 1)

11 Church Council Meeting

13 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

16 - 20 VBS & Adult Bible Study (pg 1)

### August

10 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

12 Saturday Worship Service (pg 1)

### September

4 Labor Day

4 Interfaith 5K (pg 1)

9 Saturday Worship Service

14 Women's Book Group (pg 8)

17 Rally Sunday! (pg 5)

30 Ukraine 101 (pg 1)

For a current calendar, see:

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

## COUNCIL CORNER

### June 2023

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

#### NEWS

Here are the updates from the June Church Council meeting.

**Finances:** Giving continues to be good; although we are still a little bit behind expenses. ([Council notes](#)).

**Solar panel project:** A contract has been signed and we are in the process of scheduling a structural analysis.

**Feast Fund:** A committee was formed at the last council meeting consisting of Charles Harrington, Pastor Steve, and Pam Cook with input from Jim Bostrom and Ric Kienzle to start the bathroom renovation project.

**Yard Sale:** Yard Sale was a success. The parking lot stayed full during the entire Yard Sale, we had a lot of donations and sold a lot of what we got as donations. We also were able to identify and save items that will be needed for the refugee family that is moving into an apartment soon. (Editor's Note: Hopefully, the family will have moved into their apartment by the time you read this!)

#### VIEWS

The Juneteenth celebration was fun, informative, and super well attended (BEST GUESS IS AROUND 160 PEOPLE!!!). It was great to meet so many people from our neighboring churches. (THANK YOU: FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE, SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE THAT PLANNED THE EVENT and EVERYONE THAT HELPED OUT). Up next: VBS in a new format: In the evening, with dinner before and Pastor Steve is doing an adult class.

Thank you again for your continued support with both time and talents.

Respectfully,  
Jon Conary

**Council met on June 13.** You can read notes from that meeting (including the Pastor's and Treasurer's report) [by clicking here](#).

## SPECIAL PRAYERS

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

#### PoP Members

Alice & James Baur, William Bolek, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Honduras Mission Team, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, John Militzer, Dick Moore, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Cynthia Watter, Susan Weiner, Laura Wilson, John Zobel

#### Sympathy

Family of Ann Callahan  
Family of June Bingaman (mother of Nancy Morton)  
Family of Jay Solomon  
(father-in-law of Tracy Solomon)

#### Thanksgiving

Birth of Owen Brooks Bruening  
(son of Gregory & Brenna Bruening, grandson of Judy Bruening)  
Birth of Willow Horiguchi  
(grandson of Helen and Crawford Griffith)  
Baptism of Josephine Louise Satria (daughter of Clara (Koenig) and Jonathan Satria)

#### Ongoing

The people of Ukraine  
For Racial justice and equality  
All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers  
All those impacted by weather

The complete Prayer List is available from the credenza in the narthex and in the Weekly Email sent on Thursdays.



## SPOTLIGHT

Summer is here. Many people have extra time to explore other opportunities to try new things or check out volunteer services. If you are interested in being more involved in PoP activities on an as-can or ongoing basis, here are some suggestions.

### Photographer



Looking for a designated photographer: someone who can take pictures to update and/or add to the church directory and our picture wall. Also looking for a list of people willing to take pictures at church events.

Contact [Pastor Steve](#) or [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

### PoP Quilters



Join us on Tuesdays, 10am - Noon. (During the past school year, we met with some of the youth once a month for Service Sundays!)

If interested, contact [Lisa Conary](#)!

### Vice Treasurer



Actually, that is the Treasurer's job!

We need a Vice Treasurer to eventually take over the job of our Treasurer who wishes to retire after training his replacement.

If interested, please contact [Terry Forish](#) for more information.

### Counters

We COUNT because you COUNT!!!



Count the offering and prepare the bank deposit with a fun and friendly group of COUNTERS.

Goal: To have accurate bank deposits

Time Commitment: No more than an hour after church on your rotation.

If interested, contact [Helen Griffith](#) for more information.

### Fellowship Committee



If you love having friends over or giving parties, then the Fellowship Committee

is for you!

If interested, contact [Pamela Cook](#)!

### Weed Warriors

First - are they really weeds? Or just grass and other miscellaneous plants that have volunteered



to grow where we do not really want them to be. Like on our little parking lot islands or under our bushes or between the bricks or in any little crevice they can

find!

Needed - individuals to round them up and help them move out.

Goal: Make the landscape more attractive

Time commitment: Up to you

If interested, please contact [Lisa Conary](#) for more information.

### Window Washers

Needed - magical individuals to make our windows transparent again!!



Goal: Sparkling windows

Time commitment: Up to you

If interested, contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

### Altar Guild

WANTED: An Altar Guild member for 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays



(i.e., when a month has 5 Sundays - that 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday would be your turn.)

TRAINING PROVIDED!!

TIME COMMITMENT: About 30 minutes to set up before a church service, Communion Assistant during communion, and about 15 minutes to clean up after church (4 times a year).

If interested, contact [Pamela Cook](#)!

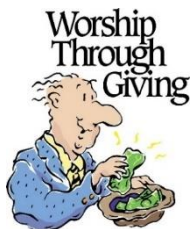
"...if you want a Holy Spirit moment, volunteer for Altar Guild. Coming into the chapel - with quietness - and preparing the Altar with the sacraments - you feel the Holy Spirit's presence. It's not a chore - it's a blessing." (Janis Dixon, Morristown, TN)



## 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



of Peace!

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

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Sunday School

Sunday School leaders look forward to welcoming learners back on **Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 17!** Note this is two weeks after the Labor Day weekend. **Let us know whether 9 - 9:50 am or 11 - 11:50 am works better for your family** by completing the SurveyMonkey linked in the adjacent article by July 23. **We will announce the start time by August 3.**

We will have classes for youth from preschool through high school ages. Everyone is welcome any week they can attend!

#### Preschool through Elementary School

We will use Group's *Simply Loved* curriculum, which has popular elements of VBS, such as Bible buddies, videos, games, and experiments. This fall, a new weekly Bible story will support a Bible truth about God's love and trustworthiness. Each week, we will meet for Opening in the sanctuary, introducing a Bible truth, sharing our offerings, and participating in music led by Danielle Drobny. Next, we will head to our Preschool and Elementary classrooms. During our time together, we will share a simple breakfast or snack. Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten will be our workshop leaders. Trish Taylor will be our elementary shepherd. We want your students to



feel comfortable, so remember that parents are always welcome in class.

#### Middle School

We will announce the curriculum for our Middle School class later this summer. Once a month, we will join the High School class to work on SSL-eligible service projects during class. Lauren Gibson will lead our Middle School class.

#### High School

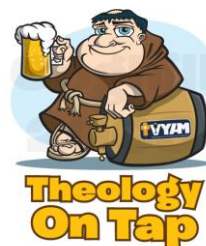
We will decide together on the topics to explore this fall. In addition, we will team up with Middle School to work together monthly on SSL-eligible service projects during the Sunday School hour. So, if you are in 9th through 12th grade, please come by and check us out. Jon Conary will lead our High School class.

Please contact [Janet Levine](mailto:Janet.Levine@poplutheran.org) or your learner's Sunday School leaders with any questions or concerns.

## 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 and join us! NOTE: In July this is being replaced with Adult VBS.



### PoP Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm in person and on Zoom. We are currently discussing *Exodus*.

Questions? Contact [Pastor Wendy Deeбен](mailto:Pastor.Wendy.Deeben@poplutheran.org).

NOTE: Women's Bible Study will not be meeting on July 4, August 1, and August 8.

## MUSIC

### Grace Notes

Is this the year to dust off your trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, guitar or other musical instrument and start playing again? Have you always wanted to sing or play with "the Band"? Grace Notes is looking for musicians and singers. We rehearse Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:00pm



and are working toward the goal of playing once a month during our worship service.

**Time commitment** is rehearsal 3-4 times a month and playing at one Sunday service a month.

Contact [Jon Conary](#) for more information.

## SOCIAL MINISTRIES

### Gaithersburg HELP



As always, huge thanks for your great support. Seasonal summer work for Gaithersburg HELP client families is more available in summer, which is good, but at the same time more hungry kids are home from school

needing lunches, so peanut butter, jelly, tuna, and small servings of fruit are always a great need in addition to the regular staples.

Special for July through October is the need for a few volunteers to pick up crates of donated fruit and vegetable surpluses from the Saturday Kentlands Farmers Market. If you are sometimes available on Saturdays from about 1:00 to 2:30 to transport produce to the Pantry, please contact Hope Walker, 240-888-5459 or [hope.walker@gaithersburgHELP.org](mailto:hope.walker@gaithersburgHELP.org) and I'll be happy to show you what the job involves. SSL hours are available.



### Quilters



Would you like to change the world for someone? Can you tie a knot or tear/cut a piece of cloth? Then join the Quilter's group, Tuesday mornings from 10:00 am till noon at the church or work from home. **We are changing the world one quilt at a time!**

Contact [Lisa Conary](#) for more information.

### Fabric Donations Needed



Do you have some fabric in your home that you are not going to use? The PoP Quilters are in need of fabric and sheets for quilts. We use sheets for the backing and other pieces of cloth for squares. Cotton is best but blends work as well. Please leave any fabric donations in the church office or music room.

If you have questions, please contact [Lisa Conary](#).

## Social Justice Ministry News

### Creating a Home for a Refugee Family

A few months ago, Pastor Christine Dunn visited POP and talked about Lutheran Social Services and its program to welcome and support refugees.

There are many roles that a congregation can fulfill in this process. Social Justice Ministry met again with Pastor Christine for more details and decided that we could take on furnishing an apartment for a refugee family. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Committee met with two LSS staff for an orientation; at the end, we heard that a family of four was arriving on June 15<sup>th</sup> and needed our help. So, we signed up.

The family of four (father, mother, 5-year-old boy, and 3-year-old girl) arrived Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

They are from Afghanistan but have been in Albania (one of 27 countries that accepted Afghan refugees)

temporarily.

We've already delivered some items to meet short-term needs (towels, hygiene products, etc.).

[Joan Kowalik](#) is coordinating the effort to collect and set up all the things needed to create a home for the family. Please check this list to see what is still needed and sign up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4eada729a3fa7-housewarming#/>. Contributions for larger

items can be made on the POP website at

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-743Z/campaign/C-13R88> or by check made out to Prince of Peace

with refugee family on the memo line.

This project continues POP's commitment to supporting refugees. Last year, we raised nearly \$13,000 to support the work of [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#). During the year, we also created Personal Care Kits with towels, soap, toothbrushes and more, for people fleeing war or disasters; the kits are distributed by [Lutheran World Relief](#).

Heartfelt thanks to the congregation for supporting these efforts with such generosity and enthusiasm!

### Donating, Re-using, Recycling at the End of the Yard Sale

One goal for the Yard Sale this year was to donate, recycle and/or re-use as many of the leftover items as possible. Many individuals made this possible. Cherie DeGeorge, Kathy Mellott, Jennifer Maloney and Christina Levine took kitchen items, clothing, and hangers to Interfaith Works. Sean Dillon, Dan



Gibson and the truck crew dropped off furniture at Restore (Habitat for Humanity). Joan Kowalik posted the remaining furniture on Facebook Marketplace for free; many, many pieces were taken to be loved and used again. Jamie Pflasterer and Ian, Dekker, and Calliope Spielman delivered a truckload of books to Wonder Books. Ric Kienzle filled his truck with cardboard to recycle at the dump. Lisa and Jon Conary took the toys to the Salvation Army. Joan Kowalik also dropped off knick-knacks and décor items to the Humane Society and the Salvation Army. Thanks to everyone for putting in the extra hours to accomplish this goal, and to Pastor Steve, Jennifer Maloney, Chris Knaus, and others who took the rest to the dump.



### **God's Global Barnyard**

Wow!! Jingle and jangle - the barn banks came back filled with \$1,430.17 in coins, bills, and checks. The Sunday School students decided to use the funds to send cows, piglets, goats, chicks, and honeybees to farmers around the world. These gifts change lives, as sources of sustainable income and food. A big shout - out to Helen and Crawford Griffith who counted and packed all the coins!



### **Electronics Recycling**

POP seized the opportunity to recycle electronics, such as laptops, computers and more, at the City of Gaithersburg recycling event in May. Thank you to Kathy Mellott, who dropped off the items.

### **Camp Mar-Lu-Ridge's Capital Campaign, *With Open Arms*, is off to a great start, but needs our help!**

Mar-Lu-Ridge has been bringing school-age campers and the community closer to God and creation in a warm and inclusive environment for the last 63 years. To ensure that this legacy continues, the camp is running a capital campaign to raise funds for improvements that will **increase accessibility and hospitality** for years to come. Major goals of the \$2 million / 3 year campaign include:

1. **Making the Ridge Inn fully accessible for all guests and visitors.** An elevator will be installed so that guests with mobility needs may easily and safely access the top floor. Adding public restrooms on the lower level and installing automated doors will expand camp hospitality in new ways and allow the camp to be rented out to groups, who today must be turned away due to the lack of accessible facilities.
2. **Improving Cabin 3** - the most-requested, most-used cabin - with an accessible restroom and a refreshed interior. Siding will replace the log exterior to prevent further decay from pests.
3. **Adding new concrete siding to protect Potomac Lodge's log structure.** Carpenter bees have damaged a significant portion of the exterior. New siding will protect the outside, while preserving the logs that line the lodge's interior.
4. **Removal of Cabins 1 & 2** (which are beyond repair and no longer usable) to increase green space. The old swimming pool at Area 3 will also be removed, since it is no longer serviceable and the rest of the area is in near-constant use by scout and community groups, thanks to renovations and upgrades by MLR staff. An accessible pavilion will be added to this space in the future.
5. **Retiring remaining debt on the main camp water reservoir** development (which needed maintenance in 2020 due to leaks).

Will you help Mar-Lu-Ridge serve the wider community? **Campers will come and speak about what Mar-Lu-Ridge has meant to them on Sunday, 8/6 and executive camp director, Sarah Lefler will speak on Sunday, 8/13.** To learn more about the campaign, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/OpenArmsVid1> and <https://tinyurl.com/OpenArmsVid2>



To donate, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/MLROpenArms> and designate your gift to Capital Campaign - Prince of Peace Gaithersburg. Donations by check can be made out directly to Mar-Lu-Ridge, with "Capital Campaign - Prince of Peace Gaithersburg" on the memo line.



## FELLOWSHIP

### Women's Book Group

On Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 pm, the Women's Book Group will be discussing *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn and will be meeting at the home of Nancy Wolejsza. From GoodReads: The New York Times bestselling author of *The Rose Code* returns with an unforgettable World War II tale of a quiet bookworm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper.

On Thursday, August 10 at 7:30 pm, the group has chosen *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray and will gather at the home of Becky Carr. From GoodReads: The remarkable, little-known story of Belle da Costa Greene, J. P. Morgan's personal librarian—who became one of the most powerful women in New York despite the dangerous secret she kept in order to make her dreams come true.

### Future Book Selections and Hosts

September 14 *The Kitchen Front*

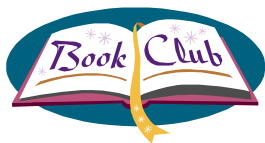
by Jennifer Ryan

October 12 *The Four Winds*

by Kristin Hannah

November 9 *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*

by Allison Pataki



## RECENT EVENTS

### Juneteenth Interfaith Celebration

Thank you to the Fellowship Team and the Social Justice Ministry Team for their work to host Prince of Peace's first ever



Juneteenth celebration on June 19th, held jointly with Fairhaven United Methodist Church, Shaare

Torah Synagogue, Poplar Grove Baptist Church, St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, and the Kentlands Ward of the Church of



Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Despite the threat of rain during the evening, we had an amazing turnout for the event with over 170 people attending (and standing room only in the sanctuary, even after additional folding chairs had been set up). Prince of Peace's A/V team also livestreamed the event, and posted the recording on our Facebook page so that remote attendees could enjoy the festivities as well.

The evening kicked off with a processional and



music from the Fairhaven gospel choir. The music during the evening

included famous spirituals that were used as "code songs" to communicate hidden messages to enslaved people, where directions on escaping are coded into the lyrics. For instance, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot", which was Harriet Tubman's favorite song, was a message to be ready to escape, since a band of angels were coming to take people to freedom. In the song, the Underground Railroad (sweet chariot) is coming south (swing low) to take enslaved people to the north or freedom (carry me home). Tubman used "Wade in the Water" to tell people to get into the water during an escape, to avoid being seen and make it through.

After a welcome by Pastor Steve, we then moved into prayers given by members of each community.



Speakers for the evening included Anne Witten from Prince of Peace, Bishop Josh Turley from the Kentlands Ward, Deacon Charlotte Genies from Poplar Grove, Reverend Gerard A. Green, Jr. from Fairhaven, Rabbi Annie Lewis from Shaare Torah, and John Lightfoot from St. Nicholas. As the evening's emcee, Christian Michel from Prince of Peace kept everything flowing smoothly throughout.

A special highlight of the evening was the "living acrostic", where children and families from each of the six



participating faith communities gathered together in front of the audience. As each family read a passage from a poem, *Why We Celebrate Juneteenth* (adapted from the article *The Black Church and Juneteenth* by Dr. Charles Taylor), each child raised a sign with one letter until the word "Juneteenth" was spelled out.

Although Juneteenth is the newest federal holiday, celebrations of emancipation have been taking place for a long time. Sylvia Craig from Fairhaven and Jennifer Maloney from Prince of Peace both



walked us through the history. It took over 2½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed (which freed only slaves in the 10 confederate states), and the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution to fully abolish slavery in the US. Juneteenth commemorates the delivery of *General Order No. 3* by General Gordon Granger to the people of



Texas on June 19, 1865, informing them that all enslaved persons in the state were now free. The first Juneteenth anniversary celebration took place in 1866. For more resources on Juneteenth, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/JuneteenthRt28>



the celebration kosher so that refreshments could be enjoyed together by everyone. Since red is the traditional



color of Juneteenth celebrations, the fellowship team had both the hall and patio decorated with red streamers and red balloons. Fairhaven Methodist provided Juneteenth flags and centerpieces for all the tables, as well as table tents with facts about emancipation, black history, and, also, the history of the Pleasant View historic site next door to Prince of Peace - one of the original churches that merged to form the Fairhaven congregation and the location of the first school for black children in Montgomery County.

Thanks to everyone who welcomed our guests during the Juneteenth celebration, and who helped us all forge stronger connections with our neighbors!

## THANK YOU!

**A big Thank You for hosting a going-away party.** It was heartwarming to reconnect with so many wonderful PoP people. Special thanks to Pamela Cook, Melanie Zobel, Meredith Kuykendall, Jennifer Maloney, and everyone who contributed to the evening. I am filled with gratitude for my years at PoP and I will keep you in my heart as I head to Minnesota to serve at Westwood Lutheran! Please stay in touch!

Pastor Sarah (Associate Pastor, 2007-2012)



## POP OFFICE

### Office Hours

Our office is now being staffed by Martha Rogers on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm.** However, it is always possible to:

- Call or email the office (or the Pastor directly) - we will be monitoring email and voicemail daily, so it's always possible to contact us;
- Drop off food for Gaithersburg HELP at the church - the bins continue to be located outside each door under the covered walkways.
- Send offering checks to the church (although [we're encouraging online donations](#) if you can do that.)

### 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 box in the Narthex or in the labeled bin on the "Give & Take" table outside the back door.



### Kitchen Care

Now that we are doing more in the building, help us keep the kitchen tidy and organized! Kitchen rules are posted in the kitchen, usually on the refrigerator, so that we can keep it clean and tidy and make it easier for everyone to use.



### Sunday Service Snacks

Snacks after Sunday Service are back! If you are interested in helping, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you for all your help. If you have any questions, you can contact Pamela Cook at 301-806-8016 (call or text).



### Fresh Flower on Sundays!!



Please help us by ordering an arrangement. The cost will be \$40.00. There is a sign-up sheet and envelopes for the payment in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Cook at 301-806-8016

(call or text).

## 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 continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, and the war in Ukraine. 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

### Food for Thought:

#### July

If Jesus gave us a #1 commandment to love the Lord our God, work to pursue a relationship with Him through prayer/devoted time with Him. (*Matthew 22:36-37*)

#### August

Pray for someone in need - there is power in intercessory prayer! (*1 Timothy 2:1*)

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