

PRINCE OF PEACE
Council Meeting Agenda 11/07/2023
This is a virtual meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87221670915?pwd=R2doUHFPFI3R0p4cmIzV1dOSXhudz09>

Call to Order- 7:30pm

Devotion/Prayer—Bill

Secretary for Nov. Meeting: Sherry

Devotion for Dec Meeting:

Secretary for Dec meeting:

Call for New Business/Additions to Agenda: Garbage Pickup

Oct. Financial Review:

Pastor Steve Report:

Preparation for Annual meeting:

Nominating Committee (Kwame Mensah, Helen Griffith, Dan Gibson

Budget: Recommend a 3% salary increase for staff

Update on solar panels: Laura

Fall Event Update recap: Pam

Next Feast Project: Chuck

Chairs: Sherry

Church Directory: Sherry

Refrigerator for the kitchen/floor cleaning: Pam

Adjourn and closing with the Lord's Prayer

PoP Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

Attending in person were Pastor Steve Buechler, Jon Conary, Chet Wolejsza, Terry Forash, Lauren Gibson, Pam Cook, Laura Dillon, Bill Harral, Chuck Harrington, Sherry Kienzle, Rainer Sahmel, Yasya Yanevsky (Youth Member)

7:30 pm Meeting was called to order by Jon

Sherry opened the meeting with a devotion prefaced by Psalm 19 and a reading making a case for the relevance of scripture.

Bill volunteered to do the next meeting's devotion.

Secretary for the next meeting in November is Sherry

The next meeting date has been changed to November 7.

Lauren commented on the status of the Inclusivity/Diversity Statement Draft which she later sent out to council members. Pastor agreed and then added the statement to our "About Us" page on the website.

Terry submitted a detailed financial report, provided by separate documents. He commented that the current giving pattern is still fairly light, but that our financial status is sound. We are running a slight deficit and need to address our giving to Synod. Lauren requested that next year's budget include an item for Youth.

Pastor submitted his report, and it is part of this meeting's record. He reminded council about participating for the upcoming statements of faith by several confirmands next week. The dates are October 17 and 18.

Laura reported that there is progress on the solar panel project and we can expect start of construction soon.

Pam and Chuck reported on the Fall Festival and the Bathroom Refresh projects, respectively. The Fall festival is very well subscribed with more than 30 vendors. Chuck is in discussion with potential contractors. He's expecting the project for both bathrooms to cost about 30 k\$.

The directory update is progress now that all requested changes have been submitted

Pam's other projects a. to replace the refrigerator and b. to professionally clean the floors in Fellowship Hall and vicinity were given full support by the council.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, Rainer Sahmel, October 12, 2023

Senior Pastor Report – November 7, 2023

On October 29, 8 of our young people were confirmed on Reformation Sunday! Next Sunday, Kieran McKnight, who is part of the class but wasn't present on Reformation Sunday, will be confirmed. Our first and second year group continues to meet once a month.

Adult Sunday School began on October 22, and has been well attended. The group is using study material from Augsburg Fortress, as well as welcoming occasional guest presenters. For example, last Sunday, Joelle Novey from Interfaith Power and Light made a presentation, including a demonstration of an induction stovetop.

On October 14, we held our first Fall Festival. The event was well attended and went well in spite of the weather being less good than we had hoped for! Pamela may tell us more about that event at the meeting, but she and her team deserve a big round of thanks!

On a more somber note, on October 24 I attended a quickly-organized "Wash away Hate" event in the Kentlands organized by Shaare Torah Synagogue. A couple of days earlier, teenagers from Shaare Torah had discovered swastikas chalked all over the ground in the Kentlands Market Square (between Crepes-a-Go-Go and Thai Tanium). This was in addition to antisemitic graffiti written on a playground in the Lakelands. The gathering occurred where the swastikas had been washed away, with prayers for the washing away of hate in all its forms. Following the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas, you've probably all read horrible stories about threats and acts of violence against both Jews and Palestinians in this country. Our local neighborhood has not been exempt, and we should be especially aware of, and sensitive to, how many of our Jewish neighbors are feeling particularly targeted and alone at this time.

At the end of the "Wash Away Hate" gathering, the rabbis lifted up Gaithersburg HELP as a way to do something positive in building community and lessening hate. And, this fall, Social Justice Ministry has been working overtime to help us do things like that, with a lot of great projects for the congregation to be involved with in helping others. Of particular note is this coming Saturday's "Mats, Merlot and More" event, which will follow our Saturday Service. Also, through the City of Gaithersburg, we have adopted 6 families to whom we will provide Thanksgiving dinners. Many of these families are very large, so we need lots of folks to help!

Looking ahead towards Advent and Christmas, there will services of Holden Evening Prayer during Wednesdays in Advent at 7:15 pm (Dec 6, 13 & 20), preceded by wine and cheese fellowship at 6:15 pm. This year is one of those odd years where the fourth Sunday of Advent is Christmas Eve. So, there will be the usual morning service on December 24 at 10 am (our Advent 4 service); two Christmas Eve services that evening (4 pm Children's service & 7 pm Carols & Communion); and Christmas morning service at 10 am. Christmas pageant planning is also underway, and will be done slightly differently this year. Jon may tell us more at the meeting, and details will soon be announced in the bulletins/emails.

There are property issues that are in process, including the bathroom renovation and the solar panels that Chuck and Laura will give up updates on at the meeting. Heat has been turned on in the main building and appears to be working fine! However, one of the heat pumps in the BYC is not energized (as is about half of the main room due to an electrical issue we identified back around the time of Yard Sale.)

Tom Kettler is working on getting an electrician to address that issue, and is also having drywallers come in to repair the drywall which was re-damaged when the roof leaked in the spring. We've now had enough rain to ensure that that leak was indeed repaired properly.

And, as always, below are Parish Register updates.

Parish Register Updates:

Confirmations – October 29, 2023

Kate Bardill, Jason Cobb, Avery Hillman, Nyla Mensah, Brody Meyer, Claire Spivak, Grady Webb and Noah Wooldridge

Baptism:

Phearson Alderich Carr – November 5, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Steve

Monthly Financial Summary – October 2023

Statement of Activities

Contributions

We saw a big improvement in October, to the extent that we almost made our budgeted revenue for the month. Total revenue for October was \$24,746 against a plan of \$25,268, a shortfall of \$522.

Expenses

Total expenses were \$25,007 against a plan of \$26,858, under planned expenses by \$1,851, but also over our total revenues by \$260. There were no exceptional expenses in October and no benevolence payments were made.

Deficit

With the slight revenue shortfall, our surplus/deficit gauge moved in the wrong direction again last month. The \$9,365 deficit from the end of September increased to \$9,625 at the end of October.

Fund Balance Report

The General Operating Fund stands at \$105,620, a slight decrease of \$261 from September and after a \$1,000 fund adjustment was made in September. The Building Fund had total receipts of \$535, no disbursements, and an ending balance of \$161,541. The Debt Reduction Fund was unchanged at \$1,000. The plan going forward in 2024 is to transfer the remaining balance to the Feast Fund and retire this fund. The Feast Fund had contributions of \$2,393, no disbursements, and an ending balance of \$33,919. Total revenues/contributions/transfers to all funds from all sources were \$28,845. All other Fund Balances are positive and in good standing.

Cash Activity Report

The adjusted beginning cash balance on October 1, 2023 was \$388,916 and the ending balance was \$383,656 as of October 31, 2023, a decrease of \$5,260 from the end of September 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

TJ Forish, CPA
MD Lic. No. 32759

Monthly Actual Contributions Percentages

Q1	Actual Annual Contributions	January		February		March		Weekly Avg		% of Actual Contributions		Qtrly % of Contributions	Jan - Mar 25% of Year	Quarter Total	YTD Total
		Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	% of Actual Contributions	% of Actual Contributions				
2023	\$295,450	5	\$3,643	4	\$5,146	4	\$24,363	4	\$6,091	7.0%	8.2%	21.4%	21.4%	\$63,166	\$63,166
2022	\$294,613	5	\$4,602	4	\$5,806	4	\$23,965	4	\$5,991	7.9%	8.1%	23.8%	23.8%	\$70,197	\$70,197
2021	\$320,982	5	\$4,332	4	\$5,487	4	\$24,767	4	\$6,192	6.8%	7.7%	21.3%	21.3%	\$68,375	\$68,375
2020	\$339,849	4	\$6,047	4	\$8,216	4	\$33,697	5	\$6,739	9.7%	9.9%	26.7%	26.7%	\$90,751	\$90,751
2019	\$374,185	4	\$5,528	4	\$5,510	4	\$37,749	5	\$7,550	5.9%	10.1%	21.9%	21.9%	\$81,899	\$81,899
5 Year Avg		4	\$4,747	4	\$6,033	4	\$28,908	5	\$6,570	7.4%	8.9%			\$74,878	\$74,878

Q2	Actual Annual Contributions	April		May		June		Weekly Avg		% of Actual Contributions		Qtrly % of Contributions	Jan - June 50% of Year	Quarter Total	YTD Total
		Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	% of Actual Contributions	% of Actual Contributions				
2023	\$295,450	5	\$7,175	4	\$7,062	4	\$22,215	4	\$5,554	9.6%	7.5%	29.2%	50.6%	\$86,337	\$149,502
2022	\$294,613	4	\$7,833	5	\$4,606	4	\$24,452	4	\$6,113	7.8%	8.3%	26.8%	50.6%	\$78,814	\$149,011
2021	\$320,982	4	\$8,047	5	\$5,861	4	\$25,365	4	\$6,341	9.1%	7.9%	27.1%	48.4%	\$86,855	\$155,230
2020	\$339,849	4	\$6,449	5	\$5,973	4	\$26,359	4	\$6,590	8.8%	7.8%	24.1%	50.8%	\$82,020	\$172,771
2019	\$374,185	4	\$7,670	4	\$7,489	4	\$28,607	5	\$5,721	8.0%	7.6%	23.8%	45.7%	\$89,243	\$171,142
5 Year Avg		4	\$7,422	4	\$6,104	4	\$25,399	5	\$6,047	8.6%	7.8%			\$84,654	\$159,531

Q3	Actual Annual Contributions	July		August		September		Weekly Avg		% of Actual Contributions		Qtrly % of Contributions	Jan - Sept 75% of Year	Quarter Total	YTD Total
		Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	% of Actual Contributions	% of Actual Contributions				
2023	\$295,450	5	\$4,473	4	\$4,743	4	\$19,378	4	\$4,844	6.4%	6.6%	20.5%	71.2%	\$60,714	\$210,216
2022	\$294,613	4	\$5,906	5	\$3,369	4	\$20,527	4	\$5,132	5.7%	7.0%	20.7%	71.3%	\$60,995	\$210,006
2021	\$320,982	4	\$6,203	5	\$5,061	4	\$23,796	4	\$5,949	7.9%	7.4%	23.0%	71.4%	\$73,913	\$229,143
2020	\$339,849	4	\$5,709	5	\$5,407	4	\$24,845	4	\$6,211	8.0%	7.3%	22.0%	72.8%	\$74,713	\$247,484
2019	\$374,185	4	\$6,173	4	\$5,171	4	\$29,652	5	\$5,930	5.5%	7.9%	20.1%	65.8%	\$75,026	\$246,167
5 Year Avg		4	\$5,635	4	\$4,732	4	\$23,640	5	\$5,628	6.7%	7.3%			\$69,072	\$228,603

Q4	Actual Annual Contributions	October		November		December		Weekly Avg		% of Actual Contributions		Qtrly % of Contributions	Jan - Dec 100% of Year	Quarter Total	YTD Total
		Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	Wks	Weekly Avg	% of Actual Contributions	% of Actual Contributions				
2023	\$295,450	5	\$4,804	4	\$0	4	\$36,103	4	\$9,026	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	79.3%	\$24,022	\$234,238
2022	\$294,613	5	\$4,575	4	\$6,407	4	\$39,080	4	\$9,770	8.7%	12.3%	28.7%	100.0%	\$84,607	\$294,613
2021	\$320,982	5	\$6,071	4	\$5,601	4	\$43,051	4	\$10,763	7.0%	12.2%	28.6%	100.0%	\$91,839	\$320,982
2020	\$339,849	4	\$5,700	5	\$5,303	4	\$77,269	5	\$15,454	7.8%	12.7%	27.2%	100.0%	\$92,365	\$339,849
2019	\$374,185	4	\$6,243	4	\$6,444	4	\$48,876	5	\$11,500	6.9%	20.6%	34.2%	100.0%	\$128,017	\$374,185
5 Year Avg		4	\$5,436	4	\$5,901	4	\$48,876	5	\$11,500	7.7%	15.0%			\$84,170	\$312,773

Notes:

% of Actual Contributions for current year are estimates based on "Expected" Annual Contributions for current year

Accounts Included:

	YTD	Curr. Month
Current Income	\$23,880.44	\$23,880.44
Lenten Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00
Benevolence	\$20.00	\$20.00
Undesignated Income	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vanco Offset Processing Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Flower Income	\$121.06	\$121.06
Initial Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$24,021.50	\$24,021.50