



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 3

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

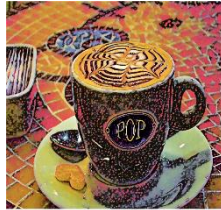
April 2024

Ukraine Special Presentation

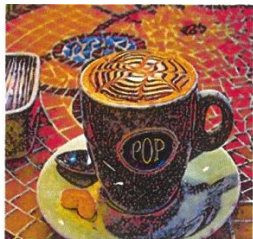
Mark your calendars for a special presentation on April 7th in the POP sanctuary during the 11 am Sunday School hour! Join Alex and Yasya Yanevskyy who are going to tell us about Ukraine, its history, and news from their family members who still live in the country. Enjoy Ukrainian treats, too. [View the trailer by clicking here!](#)

SAVE THE DATE: April 20th at 6PM

- Coffeehouse Live and Silent Auction
- Raise funds for Gaithersburg HELP
- Food, drinks, and live music
- Sponsored by Social Justice Ministry and Fellowship
- For more information contact [Cherie DeGeorge](#) or [Joan Kowalik](#)



We are still in need of donations for the Live and Silent Auction. Please contact [Cherie DeGeorge](#) or [Joan Kowalik](#) if you would like to make a donation or if somewhere you frequent would like to make a donation. Donation forms and flyers are on the credenza in Narthex.



Gaithersburg
HELP
Neighbor Helping Neighbor



Use the QR Code to donate online.

Coffeehouse

Live and Silent Auction

April 20th at 6pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Rd, Gaithersburg

*All proceeds go to Gaithersburg Help
Come to hear live music, mingle with friends, and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages – wine, beer and soft drinks while supporting a life-giving cause.*

Questions-email gpocoffeehouse@gmail.com

Sacred Grounds

Thursday, May 2nd from 7:30-9pm on Zoom - NWF will be presenting a virtual workshop on "How to Create a Native Plant Garden at Home" that will include all the congregations that are participating in Sacred Grounds with Prince of Peace. This is a great time to get questions answered about plants that are deer resistant, how to help caterpillars thrive (to provide needed food for birds) while keeping your plants and trees healthy, and about good understory native plants that are ideal for planting under trees. Please register at <https://bit.ly/howtoplantmay2> and the Zoom link will be sent to you. Thank you!

For more information, see pages 5 - 6.

Yard Sale - June 1 from 8 am – 1 pm!

It's our annual opportunity to grow closer while reaching out to the surrounding community. The Yard Sale Committee has been planning for a smooth prep week (May 26 - May 31) and sale day since February. (Contact [Lisa Conary](#) to join us!)

Please look now for items you can donate before the last-minute rush. The [Yard Sale 2024 Handbook](#) provides some guidelines for donated items. Half of the sale's net proceeds will benefit a social justice organization, and half will go to the Feast Fund for church special projects.

See more detailed information on page 6.





From Pastor Steve...

Pastor Steve Buechler
(pastor@poplutheran.org;
301-869-3666)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! This is the refrain with which we begin and end each worship service during the season of Easter. It's a joyful acclamation that seems so appropriate after the somber season of Lent.

And yet, it also seems strangely out of place with many of the Easter Gospel readings! In so many cases, the disciples do NOT run around shouting joyful acclamations. Instead, they're afraid. They're in hiding. Indeed, as the Gospel of Mark tells the story, the women run from the tomb not only with "amazement" but with "terror"!

Why are they afraid? What do they fear? Initially of course, many of the disciples didn't believe Jesus was actually alive, and perhaps they were afraid they were being led into a trap. Also, the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested, and perhaps they were afraid of Jesus' reaction to that. But even after they see Jesus - and find that Jesus clearly isn't angry at them - there's often still a sense of fear and unease. What's that all about?

I remember years ago at a continuing ed event that one of our presenters made the observation that "people don't fear change - they fear loss." And I think that's really true. If someone tells you that your life will change in a way that will make you fabulously wealthy and happy, you probably won't fear that. But if you sense that a change will bring about loss - physical loss, or even the loss of the way things had been going in your life - that may bring about a sense of fear or at least unease as you wonder what will happen next.

And I think that was also part of the Easter experience for the first disciples. Jesus was alive and that was great! But now what? Life wasn't going back to the way it was before. They were going to have to "see" Jesus in new ways. They were going to have to "follow" Jesus into times and places they hadn't been before. And even their outlook on life - that death was no longer the end - had changed how they were going to live in ways that they couldn't fully comprehend.

And for us, too, the new life we have in Jesus - if we really think about what it means - can be scary sometimes. Like those first disciples, Jesus is alive among us and ushering us into new life. But that new life also means we're being called forward into times we haven't experienced before. That new life sometimes means giving up old things and old attitudes with which we had become comfortable, even if we knew they weren't quite working! And the new life to which Jesus calls us also sometimes means being open to doing things we hadn't considered before. All of that can and should scare us a little.

But if we're a little scared - and not just singing "alleluia" - perhaps it means we're getting the message right! If we're a little uneasy with the journey forward, maybe it means that we really are following Jesus into new life, instead of just settling back into the way things used to be. And if we're open to the stories of Jesus' Resurrection bringing both "amazement" and "terror" to us, then perhaps those stories will become real for us in our lives in ways that also transform us and bring us into the kind of new life that Jesus promises.

Yours in Christ,

April Highlights

Every Sunday

10:00 am Worship live and streamed on our
Facebook Page
11:00 am Sunday School

Every Monday

6:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal

Every Tuesday

10:00 am Quilters
12:30 pm Women's Bible Study

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 service will be on Sat., April 13. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.

COMING UP...

April

- 1 Easter Monday
- 9 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Women's Book Group (pp 8, 9)
- 13 Saturday Worship Service (pg 2)
- 14 Yard Sale Team Meeting
- 14 Confirmation Meets
- 15 Tax Day
- 16 Men's Book Club (pg 8)
- 18 Theology on Tap (pg 7)
- 20 PoP Coffeehouse & Auction (pg 1)
- 22 Earth Day
- 28 VBS Committee Meeting

May

- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 2 Sacred Grounds Event (pp 1, 5, 6)
- 4 Shredding Event (pg 4)
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5 Confirmation Meets
- 9 Ascension Day
- 9 Women's Book Group (pp 8, 9)
- 11 Stepping Stones Meal Prep (pg 8)
- 11 Saturday Worship Service
- 12 Mother's Day
- 12 Sacred Grounds Event (pp 5, 6)
- 14 Church Council Meeting
- 19 Pentecost
- 21 Men's Book Club
- 27 Memorial Day
- 27-31 Prep for Yard Sale (pp 1, 6)

June

- 1 Yard Sale (pg 1)

For a current calendar, see:

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



COUNCIL CORNER

March 2024

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the March Church Council meeting.

Finances: Giving continues to be okay; although we are currently operating with a small deficit. (Council notes)

Solar panel project: Has been completed and we are now using solar power.

Feast Fund: The bathroom refresh is happening soon.

Besecker: The roof appears to have been successfully repaired. We are getting quotes on the repair work and some tree removal.

VIEWES

While it is just the beginning of Easter, meetings are already ongoing for Yard Sale, (Saturday, June 1) and VBS (July 21-25). VBS will again be in the evening with an adult discussion concurrent with the VBS program.

Please consider signing up to help with the yard sale.

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on March 12. 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, Madelyn Berkeley-Miltzer, Elizabeth Langum Chung, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Carmen Hooks-Hill, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Kathy Mellott, Dick Moore, Steve & Jan Plewes, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Mike Shell, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson, Chet Wolejsza

Sympathy

Family of John Blondell

(stepfather of Susan Weiner)

Family & friends of Elonda

(friend/sister of Carmen Hooks-Hill)

Family of Hun Fong Lew (mother of Zena Huen)

Thanksgiving

Birth of Emmett Von Pieper

(son of Melissa Von Wald & Kyle Pieper)

Ongoing

The people of Ukraine and all those who are suffering due to hatred, war, and acts of violence

For racial justice and equality

All those struggling with Covid-19 and their Caregivers

All those impacted by nature

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHREDDING EVENT

Patriot Shredding will be at Prince of Peace on May 4th from 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM for a shredding event.

There is no charge for the event as it is being sponsored by Judy Martin, Real Estate Agent C21 Redwood Realty.

For security all shredding will be done on the premises.

VBS & Adult Bible Study

July 21-25, 6-8:30 pm

More information to come.

OTHER EVENTS

Haven Universe “Saturday Night Alive!”

These events are hosted for individuals with special needs and their families and friends, many of whom are adults that attend with their caregivers. “Saturday Night Alive” event assistance is welcome on the following dates from 4:00-7:00pm at [Lakelands Park Middle School](#): April 13, May 11. This is a chance to see God’s work through our hands. (High school students can also earn SSL hours by volunteering.) Contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle for questions. We hope you can join us to be a witness of Christ to others!

Mar-Lu-Ridge is Celebrating Its 65th Anniversary



Mar-Lu-Ridge
Camp & Retreat Center

Anniversary

On June 7-8,
join them for

hiking and swimming. Enjoy good company and meals, with Bible lessons and more. Overnight accommodations are available. Come celebrate 65 years of serving Maryland at the popular Bible-based camp. Click [here](#) to register.

Honduras Mission Trip 2024!

Prince of Peace will partner with non-profit, Haven Universe on a mission trip to serve various communities in Honduras from [June 6-16](#). The itinerary will include planned construction projects, medical brigades, and a local VBS camp. Donations are being accepted to support a construction project to build a cinder block home for a family in need, as well as latrines for a remote community. Thank you for all the generous donations thus far! If you are interested in learning more about how to contribute to this year’s trip, please contact [Ric](#) or [Sherry](#) Kienzle.



SPOTLIGHT

This month in Spotlight we are looking at the Sacred Grounds project and the Yard Sale.

Sacred Grounds
Caring for people and wildlife

How To Garden With Native Plants
A Virtual Workshop for Sacred Grounds Gaithersburg/Rockville Congregations
Learn how to garden and care for Native Plants. Come with your questions!
Thursday, May 2, 7:30-9pm

Register for the zoom link here:
<https://bit.ly/howtoplantmay2>

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Interfaith Power & Light

Native Plants for Pick Up Day



Many congregants of Prince of Peace find joy, peace, and inspiration outdoors. By planting native plants, we can be good stewards of God's creation which nurtures us and our neighbors. **Join us virtually from 7:30-9 PM on May 2, 2024** to learn from experts about how you can create wildlife habitat and protect our local streams by planting native plants.

Tips will be shared on the following:

- What are the best native plants for my yard?
- Where can I buy them?
- How will they help prevent flooding and pollution in our local streams?
- Designing a garden with native plants
- Other features to help birds and butterflies thrive near our homes
- Local municipal financial aid application/rebate information
- And any other questions you may have!

Register and receive the Zoom link here:
<https://bit.ly/howtoplantmay2>

Planting native plants conserves God's creation for our children and future generations. *Everything growing on earth, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever. Daniel 3:76*

Sacred Grounds Thank You's and Next Steps

Thank you to our 30 Prince of Peace members who came to the native plant presentation on Sunday, 2/25 during the Coffee and Conversation hour! Dr. Mirele Goldsmith, an environmental psychologist who works with the National Wildlife Federation on implementing the Sacred Grounds program, gave us a great overview of why native plants are so important to protect birds, pollinators, and wildlife and how native plants can thrive in container gardens, patios, and smaller spaces (even next to a parking lot!). If you weren't able to attend the talk, check it out on our Prince of Peace Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/PoPGaithersburg/videos/1440822790160558>

Pledge to Plant Native Plants At the end of the talk, participants were given a pledge to complete, to plant native plants. (The pledge can be found at <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantPledge> - be sure to select Prince of Peace as your congregation!) Completing the pledge helps NWF follow up with recipients of native plants to make sure they have the information and support needed to help their plants thrive, it helps show the impact of Sacred Grounds so that grant funds can be secured for other congregations in the future, and it helps make sure that we have plenty of native plants available for our Mother's Day giveaway. (More on that below - this makes it very easy to stick to your pledge to plant!)

What's Next? There are several great events coming up at Prince of Peace as part of Sacred Grounds. The National Wildlife Federation is bringing the plants and expertise, and we'll provide the people power!

Sunday, May 12th at 11am - On Mother's Day, NWF will be giving away FREE native plants at Prince of Peace during our Coffee and Conversation hour, for individuals to take home and plant in their yards, gardens, and patio containers. (They will be in smaller "plug sized" containers for easy planting.) Planned species will include Golden Ragwort, Butterfly Milkweed, Black-eyed Susans, Coral Bells, and Zig Zag Goldenrod. Completing the native plant pledge at <https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantPledge> and selecting Prince of Peace as your congregation will help ensure that we'll have enough plants available for everyone!

Resources If you can't wait to get started with native plants, here are some great resources to guide you:

<https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/> NWF's native plant finder helps you search for plants that are local to your area, by zip code and eco-region

www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife NWF's program to certify your backyard as a wildlife habitat has lots of tips on choosing plants that are friendly for wildlife

<https://mdflora.org/gardening> - the Maryland Native Plant Society has wonderful tips on gardening with native plants and resources to locate nurseries that carry plants that are locally native.



Yard Sale Saturday, June 1 8 am – 1 pm!

Here is the extra detailed information referred to on page 1.

What We Need

Several department heads or co-heads, people to help advertise, volunteers to sort and price during prep week, volunteers for sale day and, of course, donations.

Department Heads Needed

Linens and towels; Furniture; Hardware, Tools, and Misc.; Lamps and Small Appliances; Clean-up. Contact Lisa Conary (lconary@prodigy.net) to sign up or for more information.

Sign Up to Volunteer and Donate

Committing early to help is necessary for the sale's success! Sign up either online or on the lists in the narthex to help.

To volunteer for prep week, lend items (such as tables), help advertise by posting the donations and sales flyers on your Facebook page and local Nextdoor group, donate cash to the Yard Sale, use the SignUp Genius [PoP Yard Sale - Preparation Help](#).

To volunteer for sale day, use [PoP Yard Sale - Dept Volunteers for Saturday, 6/1](#).

To donate food for prep week suppers, donate food or cash for the Snack Bar, use [PoP Yard Sale - Food Donations](#).

Check back on the sign-ups for new opportunities to help.

SSL hours are available for Middle and High School students.

Links for Donations and Sales Flyers

[Flyer Soliciting Donations](#)

[Flyer Advertising the Sale](#)

Church Hours

The church will be open for donations, pricing, and sorting from:

Sunday, 5/26, 11 am - 6:30 pm,

Monday, 5/27, 10 am - 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 5/28 - Thursday, 5/30, 5 pm - 8 pm

Friday, 5/31, 5 pm - 8 pm, pricing and sorting only

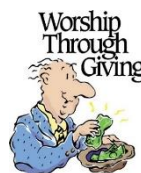
Computer and Electronics Department Information

Please see accompanying article for information unique to the Computer and Electronics Department, regarding items we can take, drop off dates, and other instructions.

There is a role for each of us. Please join us in this memorable annual event!

STEWARDSHIP

Church Giving Envelopes



Envelopes are available to all who would like them. They are located on the donation table in the Narthex.

Please contact [Helen Griffith](#) if you have any questions.

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!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

Date Change: Last Sunday School Class

The last Sunday School class is shifting one week earlier to **May 12**.

Preschool and Elementary Classes

In March, we covered the events of Holy Week and Easter. We assembled two weeks of Easter snacks,

including empty-tomb donuts



and a Bible-verse-based snack mix.



The Elementary Class celebrated Easter by painting spring flowers.

In April, we will delve into the Old Testament stories of Joseph, with the Bible point that God is good no matter what. Our Bible memory verse will remind us that "The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes." (Nahum 1:7)

In May, we will learn about the importance of native plants, create art to support environmental causes through Students Rebuild, and celebrate the end of the Sunday School year with ice cream sundaes.

ADULT EDUCATION

Coffee and Conversation

Coffee and Conversation is the adult version of Sunday School. It is held at 11:00 am, after the service. Descriptions of the upcoming "lessons" follow.

April

7 History and Background on Ukraine with Yasya (plus snacks!)

14 TBD

21 What on Earth am I Here For? *Ministry*

28 What on Earth am I Here For? *Mission*

May

5 TBD

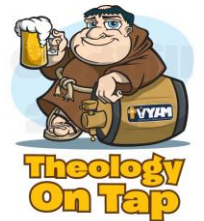
12 TBD - Last day for Sunday School

To be added to the email list and get notifications of upcoming programs, please send an email to pop_adult_sunday_school+subscribe@googlegroups.com.

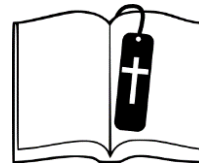
To sign up to lead a session or activity on an upcoming Sunday, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/PoPAdultEd2023> We are using the [Sparkhouse Animate: Bible](#) series.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will be back on **Thursday, April 18 from 6:30 - 8 pm** in the Fellowship Hall! Pastor Steve will lead a discussion looking at Matthew's Resurrection Narrative (Matthew 28:1-20). BYO food and drinks and come join us!



PoP Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 12:30-2pm. We are currently discussing

Joshua.

Questions? Contact [Pastor Wendy Deeben](#).

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

Our POP Coffee House and Auction is coming on Saturday, April 20, to benefit Gaithersburg HELP. Please welcome some of the active volunteers who plan to join us that evening and find out more about what they do for the organization and our community. The event will help replenish the shrinking reserves, due to continually increasing demand coupled with high food prices.

All nonperishable, nutritious foods are in constant need, with tuna, peanut butter and cereal high on the list of favorites. Please continue adding donations to our buckets for happy re-homing.

For questions or to volunteer, please contact your POP Delegate, [Hope Walker](mailto:Hope.Walker@GaithersburgHELP.org), Hope.Walker@GaithersburgHELP.org. If you would like a tour of the Pantry on Muddy Branch Road, that can easily be arranged.

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 also can use donations of cloth (cotton preferred). **We are changing**

the world one quilt at a time!

Contact [Lisa Conary](mailto: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](mailto:Lisa.Conary).

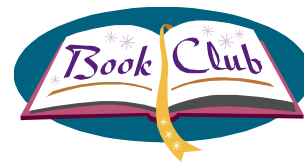
Social Justice Ministry News Steppingstones Shelter Dinner Preparation

On Saturday, May 11, we will be making another dinner to take to Steppingstones Shelter, a family shelter in Rockville. This is one of the only places that homeless families in our area can find a place to find a temporary home and rebuild their lives. They need a nutritious meal for about 26 people, most of them children, every night. We're going to prepare a meal of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and a dessert. The lasagna will be already prepared, so we will mostly be assembling the salad and garlic bread. It's a fun way to spend some time together, as we chop vegetables, and spread some garlic butter on the bread. If you would like to join us in this project, **we will gather at the Church around 2:30 to assemble the dinner**. If you would like to make a dessert to donate, please make it peanut free, as some of the residents are allergic to peanuts. We also need a case of bottled water to take with the meal. If you have questions, or would like to donate to this project, please contact [Jane Sahmel](mailto:Jane.Sahmel). Thanks so much for your support.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

Announcing the restart of the Men's Book Club on Tuesday, April 16th at 7PM at Mike DeGeorge's house, 11332 Freas Drive, North Potomac. The book is *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. Please call Mike at 301-512-0095 or email mpd1023@aol.com if interested, light refreshments will be served. Please join us, all are welcome!



Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet on Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Prince of Peace. The book selection is *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict.

If any PoP member would like to join the Group and isn't currently on the e-mail distribution, notify Kathy Mellott at ufda_gal@yahoo.com.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

May 9 *Gardens in the Midst of War*
by Karen Kaiser
host Alice Benson

June 13 *The Making of Another Motion Picture Masterpiece*

by Tom Hanks
host Susan Victor

July 11 *A Woman Is No Man*
by Etaf Rum

host Nancy Morton

August 8 *The Thursday Murder Club*

by Richard Osman
host Nancy Wolejsza

RECENT EVENTS

Youth Sunday School

The ladies discussed the empty tomb, made a snack of the empty cave out of donuts and made pipe cleaner butterflies to represent Jesus' resurrection.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation class studied "Deliver us from Evil" from the Lord's Prayer. People are going through a maze blindfolded. They have 2 guides that are giving them instructions to keep them on the right path, while many other voices are trying to lead them astray.



All the confirmands put on a skit in the sanctuary.



Large Turnout and Community Support for Anti-Defamation League Speaker in February

On Tuesday evening February 27th, [Meredith Weisel](#), the regional director of the [Anti-Defamation League's](#) Washington DC office, gave a talk in Prince of Peace's sanctuary, covering the local and national work undertaken by the ADL to counter all forms of antisemitism, bias, and extremism. The talk was jointly sponsored by Prince of Peace, [Shaare Torah](#), and [Fairhaven UMC](#) and was attended by approximately 60 people from the sponsoring congregations, members of the Route 28 Quince Orchard Interfaith Team, and the larger community. Meredith is a dynamic and engaging speaker, who talked clearly and directly about growing threats from antisemitism and the effect it has on our schools and in our community, and also how she has been personally affected in her life. (The [vandalism of Shaare Torah synagogue in 2015](#) was one of the major drivers behind the founding of the annual September [Montgomery County Interfaith 5k](#) by Shaare Torah, Prince of Peace, Interfaith Families Project of Greater Washington, the Islamic Center of Maryland, and the Islamic Society of the Washington Area.) Prince of Peace's fellowship team did their usual amazing work of making everyone welcome in the sanctuary and providing coffee and desserts after the talk. Thank you to all who attended and supported this event!



Did you miss one of our recent speakers?

Not to worry - you can view a recording of the Sacred Grounds [presentation by the National Wildlife Federation](#) on Prince of Peace's Facebook page Also available to view online is the [Talk Saves Lives presentation](#) by Jennifer Murphy from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). AFSP reference material on how to recognize warning signs of suicide and how to help individuals who may be struggling are available in the narthex and [online](#).

THANK YOU!

Trash to Treasure - We Did It!

Thank you to everyone who saved up candy wrappers and brought them to church for recycling, through the National Wildlife Federation's [Trash or Treasure program](#). Thanks to you, all these wrappers will be given a new, useful life! The plastic from the candy wrappers will be used to create doggy bags for animal shelters, and the paper and aluminum wrappers are recycled using traditional methods. Thank you for supporting this recycling effort!



Lenten Sharing Bags Delivered to Stepping Stones Shelter



We delivered 5 Lenten Sharing Bags to Stepping Stones Shelter this week. Among the items collected were cleaning supplies, laundry detergent pods, flip flops and robes for the shower, and several Uber Gift Cards. The Shelter has 8 adults and 18 children right now. The Volunteer Coordinator, shown in the photo, was thrilled to have the items that we donated. She said that they will soon have two families moving on, which means that they will have two new families moving in soon. They will use the items that we donated to supply the new families when they move in, and make sure everyone has cleaning supplies and transportation. Thanks to everyone who filled the Lenten Sharing Bags, and made this donation possible.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (barn coin box collection).

The Sunday School students have chosen projects to fund with the proceeds. The preschool and elementary students chose to help fund an irrigation project and purchase water filters and a mosquito net; all items essential to good health. The high schoolers selected animals - goats, piglets, honeybees, and livestock that will provide food and income for families. Every project starts with listening; that is why these projects reflect the needs and priorities identified by the community as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact.



Thanks to all who supported the Lenten Sharing Bags collection

Thank you to Rachel Carreras for coordinating the project, and Cherie and Mike DeGeorge and Jane Sahmel for delivering the donations. POP donated 193.1 pounds of food to Gaithersburg HELP and multiple bags of needed items to Stepping Stones Shelter.

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



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 Extras

Prince of Peace is in full bloom with fresh flower arrangements on Sundays!! Please help us by ordering an arrangement.

The cost will be \$40.00. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Cook at 301-806-8016 (call or text).



Snack after Sunday Service is 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).

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, the war in Ukraine, and all others who are suffering due to hatred, war, and acts of violence. 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

Like spring, a new season awaits.
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

If we are going to wait until every possible hindrance has been removed before we do a work for the Lord, we will never attempt to do anything.

--T.J. Bach

Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

--John Wooden

Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars.

--Les Brown

Take calculated risks. That is quite different from being rash.

--George S. Patton

Jesus' resurrection makes it impossible for man's story to end in chaos - it has to move inexorably towards light, towards life, towards love.

--Carolo Carretto

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