



GLAD TIDINGS



Vol. 43 Iss. 5

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Gaithersburg, MD

June 2024



Yard Sale is June 1 from 8 am – 1 pm!

Come browse the different departments and purchase items to support.

COMING THIS SUMMER

VBS for Kids and Adults!



VBS for Kid and Adults is again being held in the evening this year from Sunday, July 21 through Thursday, July 25, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. For anyone who wishes to do so, dinner is

provided before the classes start (6:00 - 6:30 pm). Pr. Steve will lead the adults in a Bible study based on the same lessons the children are learning. Kids, come visit and participate in various activities at Camp Firelight. Adults, come whether you have kids or not. Keep your eyes open for information concerning registration which opens soon.

The Interfaith 5k walk/run sign up is open for Labor Day, September 2!

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!"



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, 2024**. 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.

Juneteenth Interfaith Celebration to be held Wednesday, June 19th at 6:30pm at Darnestown Presbyterian Church

The Route 28 Quince Orchard Interfaith Team (of which Prince of Peace is a founding member congregation!) will be holding their 2nd annual Juneteenth celebration at [Darnestown Presbyterian Church](#) this year, located at 15120 Turkey Foot Rd (overflow parking available at Darnestown Elementary). The theme of the celebration this year is "Lift up Freedom, Joy and Justice in Words and Song". There will be lots of music, history, and fellowship, with light refreshments to follow the program. We had an amazing inaugural celebration at Prince of Peace last year, and are looking forward to an even bigger turnout this year. If you would like to be a reader for the celebration or help with the reception, please contact [Jamie Pflasterer](#). Come and learn about Juneteenth and connect with members of other local faith communities in the Route 28 area.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Some events occurred before printing this issue. However, they were kept in for archival noting.



From Pastor Steve...

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

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” These are words from an old, familiar Christmas carol, and we hear them around Christmas. But that jingle has also been the music over back-to-school sales as parents look forward to kids heading back to class! And I suspect that altar guilds hum it to themselves beginning in June - as we enter the long, “green season” in the Church year and the altar guild doesn’t need to worry about changing the parament colors for over 4 more months!

It’s a wonderful time of the year for altar guilds! But this long, “green season” of Sundays after Pentecost is also supposed to be a wonderful time of the year for all of us. It’s during these Sundays that we read the stories of Jesus traveling to and from the villages in Galilee; we listen to the teachings and sermons of Jesus; and we read about the ways in which, through miracles or simply through befriending people, Jesus changed lives.

We don’t have to get ready for high intensity celebrations around Christmas or Easter. We can simply do what the early followers of Jesus did: listen, learn, and grow. And often, it’s wonderful to have the opportunity to do those things when you don’t have a big dinner or party to plan in the next few weeks. You can simply be open to what God is doing in your life and reflect on ways that Jesus may be calling you to think, speak, and live in new ways.

So, even if you’re not on the altar guild, may this long “green season” we’re entering be a wonderful time of the year for you, too. Use this opportunity to listen, to learn, and to grow, so that like the many “green” things that are now growing all around us, you can be strengthened to bear the fruits of the Spirit in the world around you.

Yours in Christ,

June Highlights

Every Sunday

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

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., June 8. This service will have the same sermon and readings as the Sunday service but will not be livestreamed.



COMING UP...

June

- 1 Yard Sale
- 8 Saturday Worship Service
- 11 Church Council Meeting
- 13 Men’s Book Club
- 13 Women’s Book Group
- 14 Flag Day
- 16 Father’s Day
- 19 Juneteenth Interfaith Celebration
- 20 First Day of Summer

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 9 Church Council Meeting
- 11 Women’s Book Group
- 13 Saturday Worship Service
- 21-25 VBS and Adult Bible Study

For a current calendar, see:

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

COUNCIL CORNER

May 2024

News and Views from the PoP Church Council

NEWS

Here are the updates from the May Church Council meeting.

Finances: Giving continues to be okay. ([Council notes](#)).

Feast Fund: While not as visually appealing as the patio or the bathroom refresh, we need to invest in the heating system for the main building and BYC. In addition, we had some landscaping performed to approve the outside appearance of our facilities.

Besecker: The repair work in BYC is complete.

Native Plants/Trees: We have received a grant for a native plant / rainscape garden and for some native trees. Meetings and discussions are ongoing and the planting area is being prepared.

VIEWS

Yard Sale is over. Weather wise it was a lovely day and we had a large and consistent flow of customers.

VBS: VBS is about a month away. It will be in the evening with a meal before and once again there is an adult class.

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

Respectfully,
Jon Conary

Council met on May 14. 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, Lisa Conary, Brittany (DeGeorge) Daniel, Sherry Fischer, Laura Hampe Garofalo, Roy Johnson, Mike & Remi Langum, Janet Levine, Anne Lomperis, Kaitlyn McGurgan & her family, Kathy Mellott, John Miltzer, Dick Moore, Steve & Jan Plewes, Heather Robinson, David & Martha Rogers, Sherry Schiebel, Denny Tritinger, Laura Wilson, Chet Wolejsza

Sympathy

Family of Dory Harfenist (friend of Tracy Solomon)
Family of Taylor Neltner (Jamie Pflasterer's coworker's daughter)
Family of Pat McDanel (aunt of Tonya Meyer)

Missions

Honduras Mission Team: Ric, Sherry, & Sydney Kienzle

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.



SPOTLIGHT

The Prayer Ministry and associated Prayer List meet an important need here at Prince of Peace. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes activity that occurs to maintain the Prayer List and publish a current list each week. Hopefully, understanding a bit of the process will be helpful. All are encouraged to make use of our Prayer List both by submitting prayer requests and by praying for those on the list.

Prayer Requests: Anyone may request prayers for self, family, or friends (with permission from the person being listed). Prayer requests can be submitted to the Office, Pastor, or a Prayer Team member; or recorded in the Prayer Book located in the narthex. A specific reason is not needed but it is helpful to have a general category (health, hospital, accident, job, family, etc.). All information is kept confidential unless we are explicitly told otherwise; no details are published or shared with the congregation. Most new requests will be listed under **Recently Added**, but we also have sections for **Sympathy**, **Thanksgiving**, and **Military Deployment**. In order to keep our Prayer List to a manageable size, we request that each church member attempt to limit their number of current entries on the Prayer List to 5.

Prayer List Process: The two main sections of the Prayer List are: **Recently Added** and **Continuing Prayers**. Most new prayer requests are placed on Recently Added where they remain for 4 weeks. After 4 weeks, the entries are automatically moved to Continuing Prayers. At that time, a Prayer Team member will contact the requester for an update. If prayers are still needed, the person is left on the Continuing Prayers list; if not, the person is removed. Most entries remain; there is never any pressure to remove anyone from the Prayer List. Continuing Prayers are divided into PoP Members and Family & Friends; this is to facilitate communication of needs within our Congregation. Prayers of **Sympathy** and **Thanksgiving** are listed separately and appear for 2 weeks before being removed.

Accessing the Prayer List: PoP's Thursday Weekly Email Includes a Prayer List section with the **Recently Added** and **Continuing Prayers - PoP Members** sections, along with a clickable link to the full Prayer List. There are printed handouts of the Prayer List on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

Maintaining the Prayer List: In order to keep the Prayer List up-to-date, the Prayer Ministry team follows up about once a quarter, reaching out to all those who have requested prayers. If prayers are still needed, the person is left on the Continuing Prayers list; if not, the person is removed. There is never any pressure to remove anyone from the Prayer List.

New Prayer Concerns: If someone on Continuing Prayers faces a new concern or surgery, please contact the Office or a Prayer Team member to have them moved up to Recently Added.

Urgent Prayer needs can be directed to Nancy Swanson. If desired, she will share these with the Prayer Team members.

The Card Ministry is an extension of our Prayer Ministry, sending cards for PoP members and their immediate family members who have been added to the Prayer List. An appropriate card is sent to the individual requesting prayer. If the prayer request is for someone other than the requester, then a card may be sent directly to the prayer recipient (if desired, please provide the office with an address). Each card sent has a personalized message and indicates that it is from Prince of Peace. Cards are sent at the discretion of the Card Ministry volunteer.

Care Team Ministry: An important partner with our Prayer Ministry, the Care Team, brings support and compassionate care to members of the congregation who are ill, grieving, feeling overwhelmed, lonely or challenged by responsibilities of parenthood or care giving.

Prayer Team: Nancy Swanson, Cherie DeGeorge, Gerry Pfaff, Donna Von Wald, and Nancy Wolejsza
Card Ministry: Susan Weiner

Care Team Ministry: Sharon Wahl

PoP Office: And we couldn't do it without Martha Rogers maintaining the info and putting together the Weekly Prayer List!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Caroling

Are you interested in sharing some Christmas Joy by singing your favorite Christmas Carols at the Lutheran Home/Villas? The time frame is post-Thanksgiving to December 15th. Let [Sherry Schiebel](#) know what dates work best for you.

OTHER EVENTS

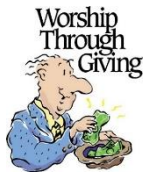
Mar-Lu-Ridge is Celebrating Its 65th Anniversary

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.



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](#)) 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

Thank you!

Thanks to our dedicated Sunday School leaders for sharing God's love with our learners!

Leaders for Preschool and Elementary Classes - Lisa Conary, Janet Levine, Jamie Pflasterer, and Anne Witten

Elementary Shepherd - Trish Taylor

Preschool Shepherds - Debbie Chan and Cherie DeGeorge

Middle School Leader - Lauren Gibson

High School Leader - Jon Conary

Sunday School Superintendent - Janet Levine

The leaders thank our kind learners for their thoughtful discussion and participation. We look forward to seeing you at PoP this summer and back in class in September!

Thank you to all the youth learners who were able to join us for the last day of Sunday School before summer break! We had over a dozen youth learners join us (from preK through high school). After a devotion together, the youth decorated plastic plant pots with colorful sand designs and clay pots with acrylic markers. (Conveniently, the native plant giveaway after church was held the same day!) After decorating was finished, everyone enjoyed delicious ice cream sundaes with lots of syrups, sprinkles, and toppings to choose from. We had a great year together, and we look forward to coming back together again in the fall after Labor Day.

However, there's lots more fun for youth happening during summer break at PoP!

- Regular monthly SSL opportunities are provided for youth - check the bulletin and Glad Tiding for details. (Rising 6th graders can start earning SSL hours in the summer!)
- Vacation Bible School will be held this year in the evening from Sunday July 21 through Thursday July 25th, from 6-8:30 pm. The [Camp Firelight](#) theme should be lots of fun - we'll enjoy s'mores, campfire songs, and more! PreK through rising 5th graders can attend as VBS campers. If you are a rising 6th grader on up, attend as a crew leader or station assistant (crafts, snacks, theater, opening/closing). SSL hours will be available.



ADULT EDUCATION

Help Guide Planning For the Fall

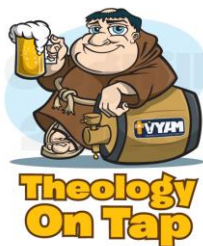
Adult Coffee and Conversation Hour

Coffee and Conversation is the adult version of Sunday School.

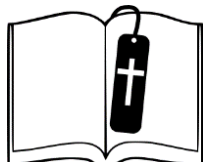
Although our Adult Coffee and Conversation Hour will also take a break for the summer, planning for fall has already begun! Please give us your thoughts and feedback on the guest speakers, adult Bible study discussions, and various activities that took place for adults during the Sunday school hour this year on our [survey](#). Thank you for helping us make the coffee and conversation hour a time of learning, community, and fellowship this year.

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!



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



School will be out soon, with hungry eaters looking for lunch at home. All nonperishable, nutritious foods are in constant

need, with tuna, peanut butter and cereal high on the list of favorites. Donations to our buckets are deeply appreciated.

For questions or to volunteer, please contact your POP Delegate, [Hope Walker](#). 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](#) for more information.

Fabric Donations Needed



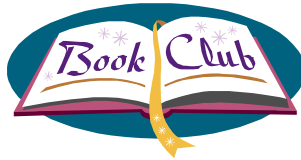
Do you have some fabric in your home that you are not going to use? The PoP Quilters are in need of fabric and sheets for quilts. We use sheets for the backing and other pieces of cloth for squares. Cotton is best but blends work as well. Please leave any fabric donations in the church office or music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

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

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club will next meet at Dick Moore's house on Thursday, June 13 at 7 PM. The book is the *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. All are welcome. Give Dick a call at 301-509-6169 if you plan to attend.



Women's Book Group

On May 9, the Women's Book Group welcomed author Karen Kaiser to join them in person. Karen, a friend of Nancy Wolejsza, wrote *Gardens In The Midst Of War* in which Karen writes about her experiences living in wartime Saigon during the 1970's. It was an enjoyable evening talking with Karen about her book and sampling Alice Benson's authentic Vietnamese appetizers and desserts.



The Group has chosen *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* for Thursday, June 13, 7:30 pm, at the home of Susan Victor & Joan Kowalik.

Future Book Selections and Hosts

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

September 12 *Killers of the Flower Moon*

by David Grann
host Debbie Chan

October 10 *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*

by Christy Lefter
host TBD

November 14 *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow*

by Olivia Hawker
host Alice Benson

Tables For All

Tables for All has been resurrected after a long hiatus that began with Covid. This is a fun adult fellowship program in which meals are shared with other members of Prince of Peace. The meals are hosted at the homes of church members who provide the main course and drinks. Guests provide a side dish, salad, bread, and dessert as assigned. The usual size of the group is 8 people. This year we will have two rounds, June/July and September/October.

After you sign up, you'll be provided with an email letting you know the groups of hosts and guests. The food assignment is also specified: main dish (host), side dish, salad and bread, or dessert. The hosts will contact guests to find a mutually agreeable date for dinner.

Tables for All is a wonderful way to meet others at Prince of Peace and to reconnect with old friends. If you have not already signed up but would like to participate, contact [Nancy Wolejsza](#). The June/July round has already been set up, but the September/October round can easily accommodate more people.

RECENT EVENTS

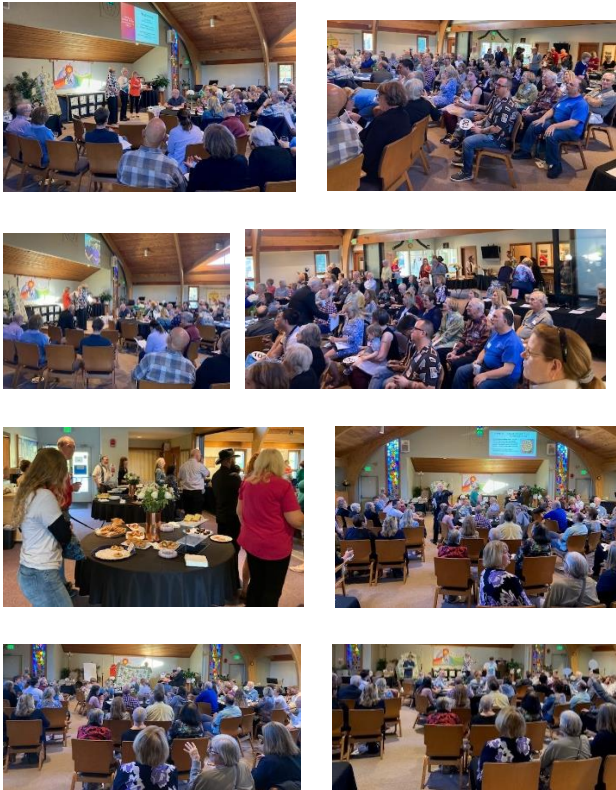


Tree trimming in April on the picnic tables tree.

Did you miss one of our speakers in April?

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](#).

**Coffeehouse Live and Silent Auction
Saturday, April 20**



**Dinner Prep for the Stepping Stones
Family Shelter, Saturday, May 11**



**Solar Panel Ribbon Cutting and
Native Plant Giveaway Event on
Sunday, May 12th - Thank you Prince
of Peace!**

We had an incredible turnout and fantastic Mother's Day event at Prince of Peace, celebrating our Creation Care successes and plans for the future. If you have been at church lately, you may have noticed our sleek new solar panels on the roof. (Check out PoP's listing on Interfaith Power and Light's solar congregations map at: <https://ipldmv.org/go-green/congregation/solar>)



On May 12th, we held a special ribbon cutting event after morning services to officially mark this major milestone in improving our environmental (and financial) stewardship by using more clean power and lowering our energy bills.

Laura Dillon, who spearheaded the solar panel project as part of her work with the church council, kicked us off with a short summary of the project, the power and benefits we expect to see from the panels, and the work with the [Montgomery County Green Bank](#) to make it all happen. At-Large Montgomery County Council Member Evan Glass then talked about the support the county provides for green initiatives for nonprofits and businesses, and opportunities for residents to use clean power at home. The Council Member also presented a congratulatory plaque to Prince of Peace from the Montgomery County Council, celebrating our commitment to creation care and environmental stewardship. Finally, Naomi Edelson from the [National Wildlife Federation](#) talked about the [Sacred Grounds](#) grant that Prince of Peace is a part of, and the native plant giveaway that will help our members support pollinators and native wildlife. Pastor Steve led us



all in prayer and gave a blessing for the solar panels and the future site of the Sacred Grounds Garden. After that, all attendees

enjoyed cake and cookies (thank you Laura for the amazing cake!), picked up native plants (thank you to the PoP green team!), [learned about local solar opportunities](#), and received some fun giveaways from the Montgomery County office of recycling.



Other special guest attendees included Joelle Novey from [Interfaith Power and Light](#), Sharee Wharton - the Director of Education & Community Engagement at Potomac United Methodist Church, Kit Gage - the Director Of Advocacy at Friends of Sligo Creek and a Master Watershed Steward, and a representative from [RE-volv solar for nonprofits](#) who helped with the funding for the panels. (Council Member Glass's [bi-weekly newsletter](#) featured a great writeup about the event as well!)



The native plant giveaways included Golden Ragwort, Butterfly Milkweed, Black-eyed Susans, Coral Bells, and Zig Zag Goldenrod, in compostable bags for easy planting. Be on



the lookout for more information in late summer and fall, as we plan to plant our native pollinator garden at



church with support from the Sacred Grounds grant. The garden will be located near our stained-glass windows and have a "smile" shape that will follow the shape of the curb and extend the length of the building. By keeping the bed long and skinny (~7ft wide) we'll be able to easily plant and weed. Plants that provide color all year long are being selected for the area.

THANK YOU!

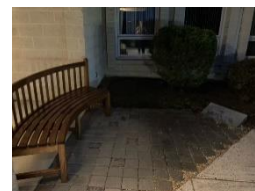
Lots of work is taking place to spruce up our grounds!

A big thank you to the many people who spend lots of hours behind the scenes helping Prince of Peace look its best!

- Sam Bornhorst, for his many years coordinating with the mowing team and snowplows
- Joan Kowalik and Jennifer Maloney, for their care of the Memorial Garden

- Wendy Dinova-Wimmer for always keeping the entrance planters full of beautiful flowers Thank you, Wendy, for also giving Ian's bench (at the front entrance) a refreshed coat of wood stain
- Sherry Schiebel for her work with the arborist to take out diseased and dying trees, and to brace and bolt trees that still have lots of life and shade to provide. (New trees are also in the works!)
- Debbie Chan for her work with the landscaping team to thin out overgrown plants and do a huge cleanup of the flower beds and shrubs around the building

Apologies if we missed a project in the list above - all the work to beautify the grounds is very appreciated!! Be on the lookout for more ways to help with the grounds and landscaping later this summer and in the fall.



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 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, 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

Thank you, God, for all of the fathers!
(*Psalms 103:13*)

Glad Tidings is published monthly (July/August and December/January issues combined) by:
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878-2210
Email: office@poplutheran.org
Web: www.poplutheran.org

Senior Pastor Steven Buechler
Council President Jon Conary
Glad Tidings Editor Martha Rogers
Production Martha Rogers
Photography TBD

Articles for the July/August issue of *Glad Tidings* are due **June 16**. Please email articles to Martha Rogers at GladTidingsEditor@gmail.com. Photos and/or graphics are welcome!

Glad Tidings is online at www.poplutheran.org

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