

CONNECTIONS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

VOLUME XIII, ISSUE I
FEBRUARY 2020



Important Contact Information

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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www.poplutheranchurch.org

- Pastor Amber Craig -
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- Parish Administrator Melanie Edwards -
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- Newsletter Editor Jennifer Van Ort -
newsletter@poplutheranchurch.org

EMERGENCY PHONE INFORMATION:

If you have a pastoral emergency when the church office is closed, call the church number, 371- 2226, extension 324. Leave a message and phone number where you can be reached. Immediately after you hang up, a designated *on call* pastor or deacon will receive a call that there is an emergency message. He/she will retrieve the message from the mailbox and call you back.

Community in Change

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. ~ Hebrews 10:24-25



Change can be hard. On a whole, we don't really like it much. It makes us uncomfortable, means we are uncertain about things, and forces us to find new ways of being. Change means making hard decisions and making mistakes. It means choosing a path and sometimes letting go of things that have been so good for us. Change can be hard.

Prince of Peace is facing some changes. We are saying our farewells to Pastor Jeff. We are talking about how our church will function with just one pastor. We are asking ourselves who we are in this time and place and is that the same or different than previous times. We are looking at how we can fill the gaps, solidify the sagging parts, and grasp the things we wish to keep. It isn't easy, and we want to hold on to anything that will help.

It is important to remember that we are not alone. We have a whole community of people doing the same thing with us, struggling and making progress, questioning and guessing, searching and finding things. We are not individuals alone in this change. We are a community of faith weathering and mastering these changes together.

The verse above reminds us that we are to encourage one another, build each other up, keep each other faithful. We are to be here as supports and guards for our fellow community members. We are here to work together and serve one another.

But it isn't just each other we can lean on. God is here. God is with us in our most scary moments, in the times we just don't know what will happen next, or when we feel all is lost. God is here. God is with us as we work to bring about the change we want to see, as we struggle to see that change clearly, and as we act together to see where that change brings us. God is here, as we mourn what is lost and as we celebrate what has been. God is here, and God has promised to never forsake us or leave us. God is here, loving us, caring for us, keeping us, teaching us. God is here, to help us make the changes we need to make to be more and more the community that God has called us to be.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Amber Craig

January 27, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace,

From the bottom of my heart I want to say "Thank You" to each and everyone of you. The celebration luncheon was fantastic. Even though I had envisioned something more low-key I enjoyed every minute of it, and it marked a fitting conclusion to my ministry with you.

*Thank
You*

The generous gift from the congregation was more than we ever dreamed. Thank you so much as it will reduce the stress level as we embark on our 5-week retirement road trip.

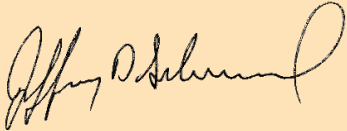
I also want to thank everyone who has sent me a card or an email of congratulation thanks and remembrance, and to those who expressed those thoughts to me personally.

It has been a privilege to be invited into all the places in our lives together that ministry has taken us. I was reminded of that especially as I distributed communion on my last Sunday. We have entered sacred spaces in our lives together.

It is though, as I said in the story on the one relay race I was ever in, time to pass the baton. I pass it on not just to Pastor Amber but to each and everyone of you. You are called and you are equipped to follow God's lead to share the love and caring of Jesus, in the congregation, in the community and in the world.

Thank you again and I will always hold you in my heart and in my prayers.

Blessings in Christ,



Pastor Jeff Silvernail



FUTURE REACH OFFERINGS

February 23rd

Veterans and Community Housing Coalition -Michelle Viola Straight

Veterans and Community Housing Coalition provides housing and support services to homeless veterans and their family in 7 counties. Veterans raised their right hand and took an oath to serve and protect our country... come find out what we can do to make sure they have the supports they fought for. Michelle will be sharing information on VCHC and their mission.



POP Eastside Vegetable Gardens Need a New Owner

Short on sunny space for a garden at home? Are you interested in taking over the raised garden beds at POP? Contact the POP office office@poplutheranchurch.org OR leave a note in the Facilities mailbox. If no owner is found by April 30th, we will return the area to lawn.

YOUTH NEWS

FOR FEBRUARY 2020

CLOWN TROUPE

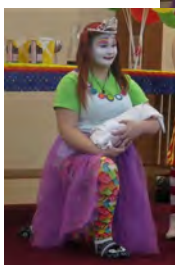
Clown troupe is in full swing! Rehearsal times are from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on

Sunday evenings unless otherwise noted. We are beginning to plan a new service and getting creative.



Rehearsals

February 23



Sr. High Youth Group

We will be planning **at least one youth event each month** through the school year. These events will fall on a variety of different days and will often be fun activities or service opportunities. All youth in 9th through 12th grade are welcome to attend!



February Activity

Ice Skating ~ We will meet at church on February 18 at 1:00pm to ice skate at the Empire State Plaza rink.

We will return to church by 4:00pm. Skating is free. Ice skate rentals are \$4. You d need a picture ID to rent skates, and if we have time for a snack afterwards, you will need some spending money. Please RSVP to Pastor Amber so we know who to expect and can plan rides.

We are also in need of some drivers and chaperons. If we do not have at least 1 adult to chaperon and drive we will not be able to go.

Looking forward to seeing all the youth and starting up with youth activities again!



YOGA WITH JOELY

Mondays -
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Welcoming Area
FREE!!
Bring a yoga mat
and
water



Little Food Pantry Thank You

I just wanted
to say thank
you. This
little pantry has
allowed my 3
children to have
full bellies,
and me to have my
dignity, and peace
of mind.
Merry Christmas!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES



February 26th

Ash Wednesday

Worship @ Prince of Peace



April 9th

Maundy Thursday



April 10th

Good Friday



April 12th

Easter

February Holidays & Events

- **February 14:** Ferris Wheel Day; National Organ Donor Day; Valentine's Day
- **February 15:** Singles Awareness Day; Susan B. Anthony Day
- **February 16:** Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- **February 17:** President's Day; Random Acts of Kindness Day
- **February 18:** National Battery Day; National Drink Wine Day
- **February 19:** National Chocolate Mint Day
- **February 20:** Cherry Pie Day; Love Your Pet Day
- **February 22:** George Washington's Birthday; Be Humble Day; International World Thinking Day; National Margarita Day; Walking the Dog Day
- **February 23:** International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day; Tennis Day
- **February 24:** National Tortilla Chip Day; World Bartender Day
- **February 25:** Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday
- **February 26:** Ash Wednesday; National Pistachio Day
- **February 27:** Polar Bear Day
- **February 28:** National Chili Day
- **February 29:** Leap Day



ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

FAIR TRADE

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, WE OFFER:

COFFEE

Organic Breakfast Blend
Regular
Organic Breakfast Blend
Decaf



TEA

Organic Chamomile Decaf
Organic Rooibos Decaf
Organic Earl Grey
Organic Chai
Organic Green Tea



CHOCOLATE



Organic Very Dark Chocolate
Bar (71% Cocoa)
Organic Milk Chocolate w/hint of hazelnut
(38% Cocoa)
Organic Dark chocolate Minis (55% Cocoa)
Organic Hot Chocolate Mix



OTHER

Organic Mixed Berry Chewy Cereal Bar
Organic Cashews
Organic Almonds



All Fair Trade products buy direct from small farmers who grow products using ecologically sustainable farming practices. Their trading partner, Equal Exchange, donates \$.20 for each pound of Fair Trade coffee, tea, & cocoa we sell.

LEAP OF KINDNESS February 3rd - 29th



Visit the Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library to give in support of Leap of Kindness Day and make a difference in our community this Leap Year! Your

donation supports: Care Links & Wellness Senior Service Programs; Cheryl's Lodge Outreach Center in Halfmoon; Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter; and Street Outreach Project for Homeless Youth. For more information, call 518-731- 8622.

“LET’S TALK ABOUT IT NOW”

Please join Kathleen A, Sanvidge, licensed funeral director and owner of Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home in Ballston Lake, NY for an informative presentation and luncheon about the advantages of taking charge of your final arrangements. Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Place: Glenville Public Library, 20 Glenridge Rd, Schenectady, NY 12302 RSVP: Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home (518)-399-5022

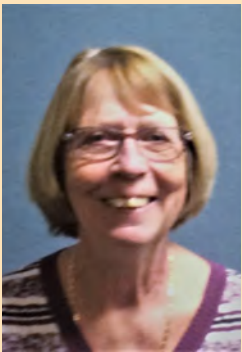
2020 ALTAR CANDLES

February, March and June are still available. They are \$17 per month-Please see the information on the wall across from Pastor Jeff's office. Sign the sheet on the appropriate month, take the corresponding envelope, fill it in, enclose payment and place it in the offering on Sunday. For more info, contact Winnie Petterson, wpetterson@nycap.rr.com.

2019 Sunday School Christmas Pageant & Rehearsals



Faces of Faith



For this month, we are recognizing Nancy Kowalski as our Faces of Faith person. Nancy was born in Buffalo and raised in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Nancy comes from a line of multi-generational Lutherans. She was baptized at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Buffalo and confirmed in Cleveland Hill Lutheran Church in Cheektowaga. She attended the Cheektowaga Schools through the ninth grade.

Her family moved to Erie, PA where she graduated from McDowell High School. In Erie her family attended an LCA church. After high school she worked a summer as a lifeguard and camp counselor at Camp Lutherlyn in PA. Nancy went on to continue her education at SUNY Brockport near Rochester, graduating with a degree in sociology and elementary education.

She moved to Saratoga Springs in late 1971. The following year, Nancy began work as a temporary clerk at the NYS Tax & Finance. She later worked in the Education Department and Department of Social Services, retiring from State service from the Department of Health in 2003. She had three sons by her first husband, Brian, Rob and Evan Cherry. Evan has a son, Jaxson. Nancy's family has lived in Ballston Spa since 1978 and joined PoP in 1981.

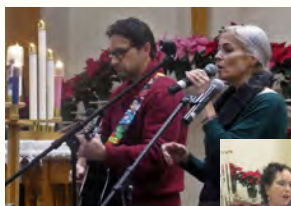
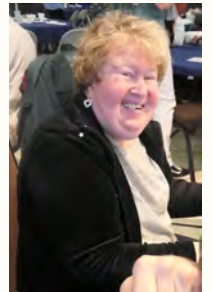
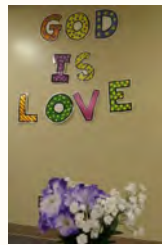
Nancy met her second husband, Bernhard Kowalski, in 1990 in Portugal on German Unification Day. After a long long distance courtship they were married at Prince of Peace in 2001. When Nancy retired she moved to Berlin, Germany to be with Bernd until he was able to retire. While there she was active in the American Church in Berlin and the Berlin International Women's Club. Bernd and Nancy moved back to the US at the end of 2010. Bernd passed away unexpectedly in late 2011.

At POP, Nancy has been a Sunday school teacher, Church Council member, and a member of Worship & Music. She has helped with the former Advent Fairs and Lenten Soup Suppers. She participated in the church's mission trips to Berlin and Ireland. Nancy currently serves as an Offering Counter and a member of the Social Ministry and Environmental Teams.

Outside of POP, Nancy loves to cook and also to read. She belongs to two book discussion groups. Nancy states that "when I pick books to read on my own, they are often biographies--which is nothing new since as a kid I read pretty much every biography in the juvenile section of our town's library". Nancy also enjoys traveling and geocaching activities. Her most recent trip of five weeks was with her sister, for a trip to Vancouver via the Panama Canal. It began with arrival by train to Fort Lauderdale, then a 20 day cruise through the Panama Canal, with 12 ports of call, mostly along the Pacific coast of Central America and Mexico, up to Vancouver. The return trip was by train and bus, through the Canadian Rockies to Toronto and back home. Ask her about her trips and activities.

Prince of Peace In Photos!

December 2019 & January 2020





Celebrate!

February Birthdays

1st - Ron Gadwah, Rachel Parsons

3rd - Debbie Pezzolla, Keith Roberts,
Alexandra Harkins, Michael Lamm,
Jakob Quail

4th - Katie Reimers

5th - Carol Sheedy, Joshua Foote

6th - Logan Merkt, Kara Tedrick

9th - MaryBeth Dunn

10th - Darlene Benner

12th - Kelly McDermott, Shirley Phillips,
Justin Henges, Anna Coffey

13th - Ryan Albagli

17th - Elsie McGlone

18th - John Welter, Robert Bodien

19th - Douglas Alcorn, Catherine Sager

20th - Audra Wassenaar, Jennifer Bennett

21st - Kelsey Hagen, Molly Prybylowski,
Sarah Price

23rd - Adrien Bollow

24th - Richard Walker, Amanda Gibson,

26th - Rebecca Opitz, Kyle Huss,
Linda Manosh

27th - Stephanie Behrens, Carole White

28th - Susan White



PRINCE OF PEACE FOOD PANTRY
The 1st Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday.



We now have some people who will be helping this ministry which involves checking the food for expiration dates, organizing the food on shelves, and checking to see what items we can use in the pantry and notifying the congregation to the needs.

The FBI has work hard to stencil cloth bags for the congregation to use to bring the food to church. Our goal to decrease the use of plastic bags. At the entrance of church, you will find a clothes pole with empty bags. Please take one bag home with you. Fill it with food to bring to church on Food Sunday. Place your full bag on the cart at the entrance and take a bag home for the next month. **Every time you bring food to church take an empty bag home to fill for the next month.** If we use the cloth bags we help our world in two ways...one by feeding the hungry and one by helping our environment.

Items We Need:

- ⇒ Cereal/Oatmeal
- ⇒ Canned Veggies/Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Soups/Stew
- ⇒ Coffee/Tea/Juice
- ⇒ Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Floss.
- ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner

Items that are not needed (These items don't go):

- ⇒ Cans of Crushed tomatoes.
- ⇒ Vegetable soup.
- ⇒ Diced Tomatoes.
- ⇒ Pinto beans.
- ⇒ Tomato soup

Note: Pop-top cans are helpful for those without access to a can opener.



February Server Schedule			
February 16 - 8:00am Bread: Pam Cook Coffee: Mark Steele Reader: William Price Ushers: Price Family	February 16 - 10:30am Bread: Valerie Shaw Coffee: Dee Bennett Reader: Susan Zappen Ushers: Wayne Petterson Travis Lundin	February 23 - 8:00am Bread: Susan Anderson Coffee: Ann Crivello Reader: Dorothy Stuart Ushers: Price Family	February 23 - 10:30am Bread: Debbie Waugaman Coffee: Janet Green Reader: Jean Morehouse Ushers: Wayne Petterson Travis Lundin
Counters: Christine Sheppard Hisgin Laura Johnson Deacon: Donna Turner		Counters: Janet Green Judy Rogers Deacon: Nancy Hoelzer	



New "OFFERING COUNTERS" WANTED - Offering Counters count the offering immediately after the second Sunday service. Counters work in pairs and are generally scheduled to count 5 or 6 times during the year. If you are interested in becoming a regular Counter or would like more information, call Steve Dzembo at 371-2551 (email, sdzembo@nycap.rr.com).



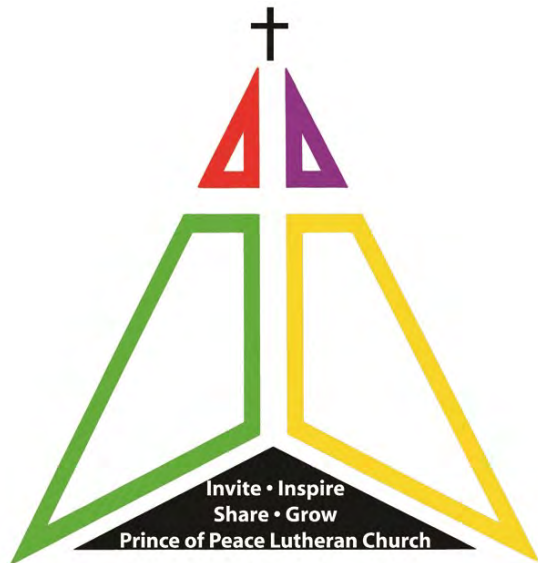
The new Offering Counter Schedule will be developed soon for April 2020 through March 2021.

Claimed by Grace,
We seek to
Welcome All, Worship Joyfully,
Grow Spiritually
And Share God's Love



**PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4 NORTHCREST DRIVE
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065



**We sincerely hope you enjoy
CONNECTIONS!**

**If you know of any friends or neighbors
who might be interested in learning about
Prince of Peace, please feel free to forward
the electronic copy to them.**

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*Contemporary worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

CONNECTIONS is the monthly newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In an effort to be more fiscally & environmentally conscious, we send the newsletter electronically to as many people as possible. You can help by e-mailing the church office to give us your current e-mail address or calling the church office if you don't use e-mail (we'll be glad to put your copy in the mail).

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

February Daily Activities

2/16 *Worship:* 8:00AM & 10:30AM -
Contemporary

Reach: 9:30AM

2/17 *Yoga:* 6:00PM

2/19 *Confirmation:* 6:30PM;
Choir Rehearsal: 6:30PM

2/20 *TMWF:* 9:45 AM

2/23 *Worship:* 8:00AM & 10:30AM
Clown Troupe Rehearsal: 6:30PM

2/24 *Yoga:* 6:00PM

2/26 *Ash Wednesday*

2/27 *TMWF:* 9:45 AM (Offsite)

February Weekly Activities

Sundays: *Worship* - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School - 9:15 AM

(Not on 2/16 or 2/23)

Mondays: *Yoga* - 6:00 PM

Wednesdays: *Choir Rehearsal* - 6:30 PM

Confirmation - 6:30 PM

(Except 2/26)

Thursdays:

Thursday Morning Women's Fellowship - 9:45 AM

