

A Cause for Celebration!

The Baltimore Presbytery statistical reports that are completed each year offer interesting information about our local congregations. Among the bright spots:



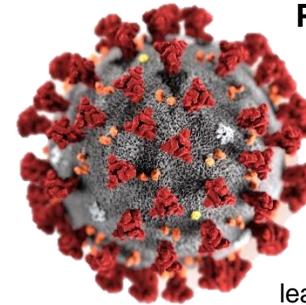
† Collectively, Baltimore Presbytery churches gave \$2,021,909 to missions.

† The following Baltimore Presbytery congregations are truly multi-cultural with significantly more than 10% of their membership representing racial and ethnic groups different from the dominant group: Babcock, Faith, Hunting Ridge and Kenwood.

These two statistics reveal the impact of faithful ministry across Baltimore Presbytery in positive and impactful ways!

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

Life in the Church – March 22, 2020



POP's COVID-19 Response! On March 13, 2020, Prince of Peace Church made the very difficult decision to close the church for a minimum of two weeks, which includes all March in-person Sunday worship services. Other church programs—such as God Squad, Book Club, Book Sorting, *Faith 5* Scripture Study—and outside groups using the church, with the exception of AA and AI-Anon, are also cancelled for the time being. Meetings will be conducted via Zoom whenever possible, and Pastor Elizabeth will still be available to offer pastoral care by phone, as well as the deacons. The church office remains open remotely, so continue to email or leave phone messages! ***During this difficult and uncharted territory of social distancing, POP encourages all to call each other regularly and to support one another in prayer.***

Stewardship in a Time of Crisis! Session originally voted to close POP through March 29th. That was before Governor Hogan issued a rule that groups of 50 or more are prohibited from gathering because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, Session has been closely monitoring the situation, but in many ways the decision when to reopen is out of our hands. We do not know when the church will be able to be open for in-person worship. Recognizing that, Worship & Music is exploring ways to make virtual worship meaningful for Holy Week; Mission & Outreach is exploring ways to postpone and reschedule our Used Book and Media Sale and to feed the Lighthouse shelter and more; Building & Property is continuing to ensure that our church buildings remain clean and safe; and Christian Education is getting creative with Zoom.



We may not know the timing, but we do know that when the time comes when we can gather safely together again, we, and the community, will need the church more than ever. People will be suffering from the isolation, as well as from the effects of the coronavirus. ***It is critical therefore, for our sakes and the sake of our ministry to the world, that Prince of Peace Church stays strong. That requires your help.*** Every Sunday the church is closed, we will lose the "loose plate" income that is a big part of our budget. This time of year especially, we usually have very healthy collections which carry us through other parts of the year. Not having that, we need your help. Please keep up with your pledged stewardship. We are exploring ways to do online bill-pay. But for now, you have the option of mailing in your regular giving or using automatic bill-pay through your bank. If you are worried about sending money in the mail to a closed church, Session is taking steps to make your money secure. Our church mailbox is locked for security and will be checked consistently throughout the week. ***Please give regularly and generously so that we can continue to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ during this time when people need that witness more than ever.*** Right now, we are loving our neighbor by staying closed. The time will come with God's grace when we will need to love our neighbor by resuming the public life of the church. Thank you for ensuring that we will be ready!

Spiritual Nurture and Formation Opportunities



Zoom with Us for Soup & Scripture! POP's Soup & Scripture series continues for two more Wednesday nights via Zoom technology. The *Holy in the Ordinary* delves into the Bible to learn the stories ordinary objects (*figs, oil, coats, sandals, thorns*) tell. In the last class, all objects will be revisited in the context of the Bible stories about the last week of Jesus' earthly life.... Zoom is a meeting platform that is easily accessible by clicking on a link in an email or by calling a phone number. So, if you have a computer or a phone, you can participate without having to be a tech wizard. **POP's Facebook page has a helpful video link on joining a Zoom meeting!** Those who have already attended a Soup & Scripture meeting will be automatically emailed with the access details; however, if you would like to join, please let **Pastor Elizabeth** know ASAP. **And participants are encouraged to enjoy their own soup safely at home!**

Inquirers/New Members Class Offered! Are you interested in learning more about Presbyterianism? Are you feeling ready to become a member of the church? If you answered yes to one or both of these questions, then please speak with **Pastor Elizabeth**. She will be offering an Inquirers/New Members class for those interested. **All are welcome!**



Cancelled Book Group! The April book group, originally rescheduled for Tuesday, March 31st, has been cancelled. Stayed tuned for details regarding the May book group!

Mission and Outreach



One Great Hour of Sharing! Each year, POP's participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Offering helps the PC(USA) provide for those who need our assistance. Natural disaster, hunger, poverty, and oppression—our OGHS offering combines with those of Presbyterians around the world to help our neighbors-in-need overcome

the challenges associated with these issues. Please consider giving to this ministry and help the PC(USA) respond lovingly and with practical assistance to God's call to serve those in need and struggling. POP will gather the OGHS offering until Palm Sunday, April 5th. If mailing a check, please make your check out to Prince of Peace Church, notating "OGHS" on the memo line. **Or, consider an online donation!** Visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/> and designate Prince of Peace Church as the congregation. **It's that easy!**

Support POP's Missions from Afar! During this time of loving our neighbor from afar, it is difficult to know how to help and support those that need it the most. **As you are social distancing, consider spring cleaning and pulling aside those items that may be donated once POP is back up and running.** Potential items to donate include books, used media, eyeglasses, travel-sized toiletries, new and gently used shoes and clothing, old musical instruments, used household batteries, newspapers, and used oral care products (toothbrushes, empty floss/toothpaste containers, etc.). And, if you are able to shop online for groceries or in your limited trips, please consider added a few baby items (diapers, snacks, or wipes) or food items (cans of tuna or plastic jars of spaghetti sauce).



POP Updates

How to Live-Stream Worship! Join POP online on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. to live-stream the liturgy and Word and to join together in prayer, contemplation, and praise!



To access the live-stream worship service, you can do one of two things:

- 1) If you are a member of Facebook, simply go to the Prince of Peace homepage and watch the live broadcast, which will appear on the page where a post normally would at 10:30 a.m.
- 2) If you are not a member of Facebook, go to POP's website, www.popchurch.org. Simply click on the first picture regarding live-streaming. **(Note: If it disappears to another picture, wait approximately 5 seconds, and it will reappear.)** Computer users may also click the  button in the upper right-hand corner, which links to our Facebook page. For mobile users, the  button is located at the very bottom of the homepage. You do not need to sign up for Facebook to watch, so please ignore or close the pop-up box which invites you to join.



Pastoral Care Reminder! Though the physical church building is closed, Pastor Elizabeth and the deacons are still available for pastoral care by phone. Please leave a message at the church office (410-721-2313) or email the pastor or your deacon with any needs.

Worship Chair Campaign Update! **We have met our goal, and thank you to all that have pledged!** The new worship chairs and two storage carts will be ordered in the near future; however, we do not expect them to be delivered until mid-summer. As a reminder to those who have pledged, money is due by December 31st. Checks should be made payable to Prince of Peace Church, notating "Worship Chairs" in the memo line. It should also be noted that any additional money pledged will be used for Worship & Music items.



Calendar for March 22, 2020

Today	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture – Held via Zoom
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook



All are
WELCOME HERE.