

## Calendar for March 29, 2020

Today	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
	6:30 p.m.	God Squad youth group – Held via Zoom
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	<b>Tentative</b> Book Group meeting – Held via Zoom
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Soup & Scripture – Held via Zoom
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook

### A Letter from Barb Gross

Dear POP Congregation,

How can I adequately tell you how much you all mean to me? The kind “Goodbye” and recognition during the service on Sunday, February 23, was so unexpected and so touching. The reception after the service was very special. I am not so sure that it is any more deserved by me than all of you. I have witnessed so many “Mountain Top” moments through the goodness of POP’s congregation almost daily. There is no doubt that God is present in the wonderful people at Prince of Peace. You all do so much for each other and for so many others outside the church.

As difficult as it is to leave, it is time. I leave with a heart that “sings” for all of you and pray that the young families I have seen coming over the last few years continue to grow with this wonderful congregation. The children in this church are the future, and I have witnessed their love for their church family, for the natural world, and for service to others. It is a joy to see them grow up to reflect the love they experience at Prince of Peace. Continue the good work of nurturing their souls – it takes a whole congregation!

With much joy and gratefulness for being part of your family and love to all, Barbara Gross



## Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

Life in the Church – March 29, 2020



**COVID-19 Update!** While POP remains closed, the heart of Prince of Peace is not! Many church programs continue to operate via Zoom, Facebook, and other technology. Pastor Elizabeth and the deacons remain available to offer pastoral care by phone or email. The church office is open remotely, checking email, phone messages, and mail regularly. Our Sunday morning worship service is live-streamed on the POP Facebook page and then uploaded to our website to be viewed at any time. ***During this difficult time, POP encourages all to call each other regularly and to support one another in prayer. If you are a Facebook member, please join the “Friends of POP” group.*** (Search “Friends of POP” in the Facebook search box to join!) This group allows members to post private messages for the congregation (prayer concerns, scheduling, etc.). The POP page is very public, but we can still converse as a congregation safely on “Friends of POP.” Pastor Elizabeth will check the page daily to “accept” people who want to be on it.

**Stewardship in a Time of Crisis!** Session originally voted to close POP through March 29<sup>th</sup>. That was before Governor Hogan issued a rule that groups of 50 or more are prohibited from gathering because of the coronavirus 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. ***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

**Virtual God Squad Tonight!** POP's God Squad will meet tonight at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom\*. All church youth, grades 5 through 12 (and their friends) are welcome! We might not be able to convene face-to-face, but at least we can use technology to meet virtually. At 6:30 p.m. tonight, go to Zoom and click on "Join a Meeting." Then type in **Meeting ID: 369 910 813**. Use your laptop mic and camera to participate; it's that easy! Between now and then think about how enforced isolation has changed you.

What have you learned about yourself? What good can we take away from this ordeal? What can we do to help others during this time, even as we self-isolate?

**Zoom with Us for Soup & Scripture!** POP's Soup & Scripture series meets this Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, for one last class. Over the past four weeks, the *Holy in the Ordinary* delved into the Bible to learn the stories ordinary objects tell. In this last class, all objects will be revisited in the context of the Bible stories about the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Soup & Scripture meets via Zoom\*. 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. **Participants are encouraged to enjoy their own soup safely at home!**



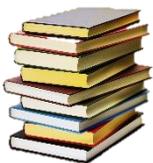
\*Zoom is a meeting platform that is easily accessible by clicking on a link in an email or by calling a phone number. So, if you have a computer or a phone, you can participate without having to be a tech wizard. **POP's Facebook page has a helpful video link on joining a Zoom meeting!**

## Mission and Outreach



**Two-Cents-A-Meal!** While our collection will not be taken in the usual way today, you can still support the groups that benefit from this collection despite not seeing the joyous faces of the children as they make their way through the sanctuary collecting your coins. You are certainly welcome to hold onto your coins and bring them in once we are able to meet in person again, or you could mail a check to the church notating "Two-Cents-A-Meal" on the memo line. However, in order to get your contributions to the groups more quickly, we encourage you to consider donating directly to the groups this month: **Internationally: CARE** ([www.care.org](http://www.care.org)); **Regionally: SOME** ([www.some.org](http://www.some.org)); and **Locally: Crofton Christian Caring Council (CCCC) Food Pantry** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church (<https://www.givecentral.org/location/454/event/11706>)

**Light House Lunches!** In lieu of packing bag lunches this morning, POP will send a \$150 donation to the Light House Shelter for them to use for their most urgent needs. We encourage you to visit their website, <http://www.annapolislighthouse.org/>, to donate directly and to see a list of their current needs.



**Used Book and Media Sale Update!** POP's Used Book and Media Sale has been rescheduled for the fall and will correspond with the Crofton Chamber of Commerce's Fall Festival on the Green. The new sale dates are **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** (5:00–9:00 p.m.) and **Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>** (8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.). Please stay tuned to when we will start collecting your used books and media again!

## Mission and Outreach Cont'd.



**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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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!**

**Earth Care Congregation Update!** POP has been recertified for our third year as an Earth Care Congregation by the PC(USA)! If you would like to become a member of POP's Earth Care committee, please contact Elder **Lillian Van Rompay**.



**Support POP's Missions!** 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, especially now that all CCCC assistance sites are closed. As you are social distancing, consider spring cleaning and pulling aside those items that may be donated once POP is back up and running. And, if you are able to shop online for groceries or in your limited trips, please consider added a few baby items or food items to be donated as well.



**Help our medical professionals!** Anne Arundel Medical Center is accepting donations of homemade fabric face masks! If you are able to sew some masks at home, please contact **Betsy Lord**. She has patterns with directions and might have some fabric for you to use also.

## 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](http://www.popchurch.org). Simply click on the first picture regarding live-streaming. **(Note: If the picture disappears, wait approximately 5 seconds, and the picture 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.