

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church Life in the Church – May 17, 2020



Today, POP welcomes our Parish Associate, Rev. Dottie LaPenta, back to the pulpit! Please help us thank Dottie for her spiritual guidance during this difficult time.



Stewardship in a Time of Crisis!

We may not know the timing, but we do know that when it is possible to gather safely together again, we, and the community, will need the church more than ever. It is critical that Prince of Peace Church stays strong. Please keep up with your pledged stewardship.

There are many ways to give at POP, including online giving!

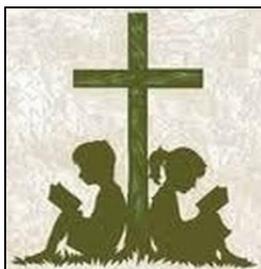
Visit <http://popchurch.org/give/> and click on the "Give Now" button to access POP's online giving portal. Once there, you may give towards the POP General Fund. The POP Special Giving Fund is for our *One Great Hour of Giving* and *Christmas Joy* collections. You may also choose to give an additional 2% to help offset our processing fees, and this optional amount is calculated automatically. For smartphone users, download the **GivePlus** Mobile App for even easier giving! (*The app is available from the Apple App Store and on Google Play.*)



We appreciate any way you give! Continue to give via automated payments through your bank or mailed checks. (*Our mailbox is locked and checked regularly for your security.*) **Please give regularly and generously so that we can continue to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ during this time.** 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

Growing in Faith through Online Education! Pastor Elizabeth is exploring the idea of offering an adult education class this summer (*instead of waiting for the fall*), since so many people will still be homebound. If you would enjoy participating in either a Zoom-based class to allow for conversation, or watching a live-streamed lecture, please let **Pastor Elizabeth** know. Feel free to also suggest topics that would interest you. **Are you looking for an in-depth Bible study, a class on theology or discipleship, or something else? Would evenings or daytime classes work best for you?** Thank you for your input! **All are welcome!**



Dear Parents of Young Children... *I miss your children and our weekly time together. I also wonder how you are holding up having to provide day care, schooling, and emotional support to your children during this crisis all the while working from home or worrying about not working. It is hard for me to do a classic children's time during worship without having the ability to interact with your kids. But I do want to provide programming that strengthens both you and your children in faith. **That means I need your input! What would be helpful to you?** I could set up a zoom time when parents could gather for peer support and to trade ideas about how to manage. I could set up a separate zoom time to talk to your children, or try to do some more video lessons for*

them that they could watch outside of the worship hour. Are you all trying to watch worship as a family? If not, have you been able to use the materials the Christian Education Elders have sent around for your children as lessons? We are somewhat limited by technology and copyright laws in what we can and cannot offer, but I wanted you to know I am thinking about you and don't want you to feel left out if worship with minimal music hasn't been working for your little ones. Please email me and let me know what you wish we were offering and I will see what I can do. ~Pastor Elizabeth

SCRIPTURES

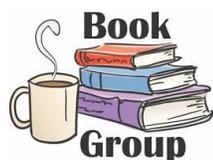


Faith 5 Scripture Study! POP's *Faith 5* Scripture study group meets virtually on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. To join, go to [Zoom](#) a few minutes before 9:30 a.m. Click on "Join a Meeting" and type in **Meeting ID: 556 753 635** and **Password: 4aa8Rk** (same ID and password every Sunday). **All are welcome!**

Graduation Party Tonight! POP's God Squad youth group is hosting a virtual graduation party for our recent college graduates tonight at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Cupcakes will be delivered to all participants ahead of time, and the youth are asked to think about questions (*both silly and serious*) for the graduates.



Spiritual Potluck Break! POP's Wednesday night virtual potluck is taking a break. Stayed tuned on whether we will continue to offer this on a monthly basis or offer something new!



June Book Group! POP's book group will meet next on Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#). The group will not discuss *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson as planned, but will instead choose something "lighter" in light of the pandemic. Stay tuned for the new book details. **All are welcome!**

GA2020 Prayer Room! For the upcoming General Assembly (GA), there will be a virtual prayer room. "In" the room, one of the activities will be to view some pictures from Baltimore Presbytery of things that remind us that God is with us or give us hope. POP will submit some of our Earth Day slideshow pictures; however, if anyone would like to submit other photos, please email them to [Steele Glenn](mailto:SteeleGlenn50@gmail.com) at SteeleGlenn50@gmail.com by Friday, May 22nd. **And please stay tuned for other GA2020 updates!**

Mission and Outreach

Sarah's House Update! Approx. 30 people dined on enchiladas, tacos, chips, and salsa from Rinconcito Mexicano, with brownies and ice cream for dessert, at POP's Sarah's House dinner on Sunday, May 10th. The staff and residents were appreciative of our providing dinner and other supplies! **Our next dinner is scheduled for July 12th.**



Confirmand Mission Projects! POP's confirmands will be completing mission projects this summer. Stayed tuned for more information, but in the meantime, check out this message from [Louisa Van Rompay!](#)

I am doing a mission project to cheer people up in this difficult time. I am going to be calling people and playing a short tune for them on my viola. I would like you to submit family members, friends, and/or yourself to be called by filling out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/viola-mission>. Thank you! ~Louisa



CCCC Updates! It is great news that the Crofton Christian Caring Council (CCCC) Baby Pantry continues to serve existing clients as needed while still being able to practice social distancing. While the Food Pantry has been closed since the last week in March, they sent grocery store gift cards to families on their rolls in April and plan to do so again this month. To help fund the grocery gift card distribution, the Food Pantry is currently accepting monetary donations. **Checks should be made out and mailed to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (1800 Seton Drive, Crofton, MD 21114) with "Food Pantry" notated on the memo line.**

...Other Ways to Help! If able, consider donating directly to the following groups.

- † Internationally: **CARE** (www.care.org)
- † Regionally: **SOME** (www.some.org)
- † Locally: **CCCC Food Pantry**

PDA Update! The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is currently hard-at-work to rush critical aid to those who are suffering as a result of COVID-19. Thanks to the longstanding generosity of the whole Church and from generous Presbyterians, PDA is providing vital provisions where needed—food and water, hygiene and sanitation supplies, training and more. If you are able, please support PDA through a [donation](#). Call 800-872-3283 and designate gifts to E052197 – Matthew 25.



Hilos de Plata! Donations from Crofton Community Missions enabled the Hilos de Plata (Silver Strands) mission to recently buy a hand truck to make deliveries easier. If interested in donating to this POP-supported mission, please donate directly to Crofton Community Missions via their Facebook page or speak with **Peggy Elliott**.

Book Sale Update! POP's Used Book and Media Sale has been rescheduled for **Friday, September 25th** (5:00–9:00 p.m.) and **Saturday, September 26th** (8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.). Please mark your calendars!



Support POP's Missions and More! As you are social distancing, consider spring cleaning and pulling aside those items that may be donated once POP is back up and running. As you are out shopping, please consider added a few baby items or food items to be donated. Or, if able, donate directly to nonprofit organizations online. Consider shopping for your neighbors as well. And if you sew, consider making and donating homemade fabric face masks!

POP Updates

Celebrating POP's College Graduates! Although we cannot honor our college graduates in person as usual this year, POP is still celebrating them and showing our support of their accomplishments! ***If able, we ask that you please send congratulatory cards to our graduates.*** Addresses can be found in the church directory or by contacting the church office. Also, join us for online worship on Sunday, May 24th, where we will officially congratulate all!

Class of 2020

- † Katie Collins – St. Mary's College of Maryland
- † Julie Jensen – Loyola University Maryland
- † Stephen Smith – University of North Dakota
- † GG Tang – George Washington University



Betsy Lord's son Bruce also earned his Master's in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Sam Lo (*son of Thomas Lo and Brenda Bulich*) graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University....

And please let us know if we missed any college or high school graduates (children or grandchildren)!



Technology and Live Streaming Access!

POP is extremely thankful that we are able to worship virtually during this time; however, we realize that technology can also bring issues and frustrations for all! Your continual feedback is extremely important and appreciated. We hope that the following clarifications will help make your worship experience a little more user-friendly!

- † **Facebook members** accessing the live stream worship should first log into their Facebook account and then simply go to the Prince of Peace page to watch the live broadcast. ***Be sure to sign up for notifications from POP too!***
- † **Non-Facebook members** should first go to the Prince of Peace website, www.popchurch.org, and then simply click on the first picture regarding live streaming. Computer users may also click the  button in the upper right-hand corner (*at the bottom for mobile users*). You do not need to sign up for Facebook to watch, so please ignore and close the pop-up box which invites you to join.
- † Please realize that the live stream service might not be instantly available. ***Be sure to "refresh" the page occasionally if you don't see the service.*** To hopefully resolve this issue, we will start the live stream video earlier (around 10:20 a.m.) with organ music until 10:30 a.m.
- † For those without printers but still would like to be able to view the live stream service while looking at the bulletin, you unfortunately will need two devices—one for the live streaming and another for the bulletin. Computer users might try opening two different windows but no guarantees.

Missed the live stream? Our worship videos are available to view on our website and on our Facebook page afterwards. Feel free to also "share" the services on your own Facebook page for others to enjoy!



COVID-19 Update! Although our POP leadership would like nothing more than to have the community gathered together in worship again as it used to, we will not be having worship in person until Session deems it appropriate to do so, regardless of Governor Hogan's permission to do a modified service of some kind. Session will be discussing our strategy and timing for reopening over the course of the next weeks and months, taking into account the number of congregants who are at risk, the data on the virus in our county, and the adjustments that will have to be made to ensure that worship is legally compliant, medically safe, and theologically sound. Church should be a place of blessing not harm. *We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this new territory and try to make wise and faithful judgments!* In the meantime, we anticipate continuing live-streaming worship, and even after we open the building. So please keep joining POP online at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings to give glory to God and celebrate the church in us (*and not the building*).

An Uplifting Blessing! Recently a tree uprooted on the POP playground. While it will cost some to have it removed, we are thankful that it fell, completely missing the playground equipment and church, and did not cause any damage. *Praise be to God!*

Phishing Scam! Scammers are once again targeting POP. Please note that Pastor Elizabeth (*or staff*) will never send you an email or a text message asking you to do her a favor and purchase gift cards or send money on her behalf. These scammers are using her name and a fake email; therefore, this is not much we can do to stop them. Be vigilant, and if you receive such a request, please report it to the church office.



Pastoral Care Reminder! **Pastor Elizabeth** and the **deacons** are 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.



Community Support! 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" new friends.

Calendar for May 17, 2020

Today	9:15 a.m.	Faith 5 Scripture Study – Held via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
Monday	6:30 p.m.	God Squad Graduation Party – Held via Zoom
	7:30 p.m.	Session meeting – Held via Zoom
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Faith 5 Scripture Study – Held via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook

Here and There with POP Groups

Crofton Farmers Market! The Crofton Farmers Market is open on Wednesdays from 3:00–7:00 p.m. Please note their new, temporary location of the Crofton Bowling Centre (2115 Priest Bridge Drive, Crofton, MD). In addition, remember to show respect for your neighbors and Crofton Farmers Market members by practicing safe social distancing while you shop.



Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest! The Greater Crofton Chamber of Commerce (GCCC) is pleased to announce a new event, *Crofton Strong! The Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest*. The event is May 23rd, and there are 3 categories: 6 and under, ages 7-12, and Teens and Adults. You can register the whole family, and your category will be based upon the average age of your kids. The judges will tour and view entries from their cars, so this is a very safe program. Non-participants can get a list of addresses from the

GCCC website on the 23rd and take their own tour of the entries. There are awards and prizes, but registration is required. For more details, go to <https://croftonchamber.com/ChalkContest>.