

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church Life in the Church – May 24, 2020

Congratulations to POP's 2020 Graduates!

During **today's** *Life of the Church*, we will recognize our 2020 college graduates! Although we cannot honor them in person as usual this year, if able, we ask that you please help us to congratulate them on their accomplishments by sending congratulatory cards. Addresses can be found in the church directory or by contacting the church office.

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



Other POP family graduates include Suzann Barthold's grandson Charlie (WestPoint Military Academy), Karen Kasner's grandson Colin (Bachelors in Business & Technology Administration, University of Maryland, Baltimore County), Betsy Lord's son Bruce (Masters in Library Science, University of North Carolina at Greensboro), and Thomas Lo and Brenda Bulich's son Sam (Virginia Commonwealth University).



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

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!**

Virtual Choir Rehearsals! Gather together and join the POP family virtually every Thursday night, beginning this Thursday, May 28th, at 7:00 p.m. for choir rehearsals! POP's virtual choir rehearsals are not rehearsals in the traditional sense; however, they are a time to learn and sing hymns in your home while being able to interact with others from a safe distance. Rehearsals will be conducted via Zoom. The Meeting ID and Password will be available soon, and current choir members hoping to participate should pick up their copy of the *Glory to God* red hymnal from the church prior to rehearsals if possible. **All are welcome!**



June Book Group! POP's book group will meet next on Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#). The group discuss *Evvie Drake Starts Over* by Linda Holmes. Order and read your copy today! **All are welcome!**



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! **...In the meantime, 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? All are welcome!**

Parents of Young Children! Please let **Pastor Elizabeth** know what would be helpful to you during this crisis. You are providing day care, schooling, and emotional support to your children all the while working from home or worrying about not working, and we want to make sure that you feel supported and strengthened. **While it is hard to have a classic children's time during worship without having the ability to interact with your children, Pastor Elizabeth will be uploading special messages for our children!** Be sure to check them out on POP's Facebook [page](#) under "Videos" and on website under "Resources – [Children's Messages](#)."

Mission and Outreach



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.

CCCC Food Pantry Needs! If you are able to buy and store some food for a short period of time, the Crofton Christin Caring Council (CCCC) Food Pantry needs your help. The Food Pantry is hoping to reopen sometime in June with new safety procedures approved by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, which houses the pantry, the diocese, and the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Currently, the Food Pantry has enough food for 150 bags; however, it will not take long before they run out of certain food staples—**pasta, tomato sauce in plastic jars, macaroni and cheese, and cereal.** In addition, the Food Pantry can no longer order in bulk from the local supermarkets and must abide by the number limits put on these staple items while shopping. **Therefore, when you are shopping and able to pick up some extras of the above items, please do so and hold onto them until we notify you that the food can be dropped off at the Food Pantry.** If you have questions, contact **Beth Ross**.



Confirmation and Confirmand Mission Projects! Unfortunately, we will not be holding our upcoming confirmation service next Sunday, the Day of Pentecost. We want to be able to celebrate our confirmands in person, with family and friends! Therefore, we have postponed our confirmation service until the fall sometime, when we can all meet again in person! In the meantime, POP's confirmands will be completing mission projects this summer, and stay tuned for more information. Regarding **Louisa Van Rompay's** project, please fill out this form, <https://tinyurl.com/viola-mission>, if you would like her to call friends and family and play a short viola tune for them, or yourself!

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 and stay tuned for information on how the book sale will be modified in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

POP Updates

Memorial Day is Monday, May 25th.

The church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of this hallowed day.





Where do we go from here? – A Letter from Pastor Elizabeth!

Now that Governor Hogan has loosened some of the quarantine restrictions in Maryland, you may be wondering what that means for Prince of Peace. Will we be resuming worship in the sanctuary, hosting outside groups, and doing mission the “normal” way soon? Unfortunately, the answer is no. Worship is still not allowed in Anne Arundel County, and even if it were, the Session of the church and I do not feel that it is safe yet to reopen the building given our facilities and the vulnerability of much of our congregation. Everyday there are stories about people getting sick because they worshiped in person in their churches. The number of cases of Covid-19 is still growing. The last thing we want is for people to come to church seeking

God and leave with the virus. So, the Session voted this week to continue to keep the church on lockdown at least until the end of June. We will evaluate on a month-to-month basis how to proceed based upon the legal limitations and scientific recommendations to minimize harm to the weakest in our community.

In the meantime, the Session is working on plans for what reopening will look like, knowing that our practices will evolve over the course of months and years as the danger lessens. Here are some things we already know:

- 1) We will continue live-streaming worship even after we open the building so that no one who is vulnerable, afraid, or sick has to miss worship. To that end, we need to create a rotating “technology” team which will help [Jeff Gibbs](#) with videotaping. We are hoping to acquire technology which will enable us to incorporate more recorded music and our screens. If you are willing and able to be a part of this team, please contact Jeff or the church. Everyone on the team will be taught what he/she needs to do. You do not need to be an expert at technology to participate.
- 2) In-person worship will be open to only a limited number of people at first to preserve social distancing. This means that we will most likely have to ask people to make reservations for the Sundays they would like to attend worshipping person to ensure that everyone gets a turn. If we can get the technology to work, a certain number of overflow seats will be available in Fellowship Hall for those who arrive without reservations and want to watch live-streaming there. Masks will be required for everyone 2 years and over. Ushers will seat family units together to preserve social distancing. Unfortunately singing will not be included in worship because scientists have confirmed it is too potent of a virus spreader. We also may have to modify some of our liturgy to address this concern as well.
- 3) We will not be able to provide nursery care or coffee hour initially, and most likely will modify how we do Communion. We will no longer pass offering plates or fellowship pads. All physical contact (handshaking, hugging, elbow bumping, etc.) between visitors and congregants will be prohibited. How we do mission, including the book sale, will most likely have to be modified too.

Reading this list may make you say, “That’s not church!” If so, I understand. All of us yearn for the days when we could greet each other with a hug, lift our voices in song together, and pack the sanctuary with visitors and members alike giving glory to God. It is my fervent prayer that we will be able to do this again sometime in the future. But it looks likely that before that will happen, we will have to travel together through a wilderness of “doing church” in different ways, some of which may feel odd or lacking to us, whether we want to or not. So hear the good news of the Gospel: the practices we will have to change, however beloved they are, are not really what makes us a church. God is. We are a church because of Jesus Christ. Christ has gathered us together, and even now is leading us into this new era of doing church in the 21st Century during a pandemic. That means we have every reason to believe that the time will be filled with valuable learning, sustaining grace, and unexpected blessings we never would have discovered without going through this together. That’s the way that God works.

If you would like to be part of the team planning all of the modifications that need to happen to keep everyone safe, please contact [Pastor Elizabeth](#). As the body of Christ, we all have different experiences and gifts to bring to the situation. Session members would be grateful for your input and help. You do not need to be a formal member of the congregation to participate.

Until we can meet together, and even after we can, we hope to continue to expand our online presence. So, watch for new classes, different ways of interacting in worship, and more as we move forward in faith. Technology may not be perfect or always easy, but right now it is both preserving and growing the Church. Thanks be to God!

In Christ, Pastor Elizabeth



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. **Try clicking onto our "Videos" page on the left-hand side first instead of scrolling down to the live streaming post. And be sure to "refresh" the page occasionally if you don't see the service.** We will also 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!

Phishing Scam! 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. Scammers are using her name and a fake email. 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 24, 2020

Today	9:15 a.m.	Faith 5 Scripture Study – Held via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
Monday		POP Office Closed
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Choir rehearsal
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.

