

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

Life in the Church – September 6, 2020

Virtual Communion Today! POP is celebrating "virtual" Holy Communion, and all are invited to participate in their homes! ***If you don't have bread or juice/wine, don't worry!*** The sacrament is about communing together in the saving grace of Jesus Christ, not about the elements themselves. This is a meal about how God made the ordinary holy as a means of reminding us daily that God is with us. Therefore, if all you have is crackers and orange juice, or something else on hand, you can still participate. If you share and eat your elements with the intention of communing with God and the larger community, we are confident that God has the power to bless your feast, and would want to do so.



Worship Committee Plans Outdoor Worship!

Great news! After weighing the state of Covid-19 in Anne Arundel County, the regulations for religious institutions, the survey results from the congregation, and the weather, the Worship Committee and Session have decided to try holding **Kick-Off Sunday next Sunday, September 13th**, with outdoor worship in our church parking lot. POP is excited for the opportunity to gather together in some form in person, and believe we have worked out a way to do this safely and meaningfully.

Here's what you need to know:

- The service will take place in the parking lot from the top part of the circular drive to the upper lot by the labyrinth.
- Congregants who want to participate will be required to bring folding chairs of their own, to maintain six feet or more of physical distance from others at all times, and to wear masks over their noses and mouths.
- The number of participants will be limited by space and regulations.

Everyone who wants to attend will need to reserve spots by each Friday at noon with the church office (church.office@popchurch.org or 410-721-2313). Spots are available on a first-called, first-served basis for members and non-members alike.

- *****If the weather on Sunday mornings does not allow for outdoor worship because of rain or heavy winds, services will be 100% virtual for everyone.*** We will not be moving worship inside for those who have reservations at this time.
- Outdoor worship will not include congregational singing, and most likely will not include congregational responses in unison either. But there will be prayers, scripture, sermon, and music like a typical service. We will try to live-stream this service. If it turns out that we cannot maintain adequate sound quality, we will explore doing a separate live-streamed service inside as usual and moving the outside service to an earlier time of day.

Questions:

- **What if I can't or don't want to wear a mask?**
Masking of nose and mouth is mandatory for everyone over two. If you cannot mask for health reasons or do not want to wear one for ideological reasons, we invite you to join us for worship online through the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). A limited number of masks will be available for people who accidentally forget to bring theirs from home, but we ask that you bring your own if possible.
- **What if I have an underlying condition that makes me high risk for COVID-19?**
We do not want worship to be a source of harm for anyone. ***If you are at high risk, please stay home and join us for worship online.***





- **What if I make a reservation but have a cough or don't feel 100% on Sunday morning?**

Please do not come to the church if you are not feeling well, even if you think your symptoms might be allergies or just the common cold. Although we do not have plans to conduct temperature checks, no one with a fever or symptoms associated with COVID-19 (cough, headache, fever, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, odd bruising, or rash pattern on toes) should attend in person. It is safer for all of us if you join us for worship online.

- **What happens when it gets cold?**

The Worship Committee has not yet decided when we will stop outdoor worship and/or when we will open indoor worship. We have to take these things one step at a time because circumstances are changing all the time.



- **Will there be childcare?**

No. We are not able to provide childcare, so we ask families to be responsible for ensuring their children maintain social distance and wear masks if over two years old.

- **Will there be Communion?**

At this point we plan to include the sacraments in some form in our outdoor worship services. We have prepared, sealed Communion cups that come with wafers that we will distribute on Communion Sundays, and we will bring a bowl of water outside for baptisms.

- **What about people who show up without a reservation?**

Although it is our desire to be inclusive and welcoming of everyone who wants to worship God with us, for the time being and by necessity, our inclusivity will have to come from our being available to all online. *Non-registered congregants and visitors might be turned away and asked to return home to worship online if the maximum number for safe social distancing has been met or masks are not worn.*

- **Can I use the church bathrooms?**

The handicapped accessible family bathroom will be available for emergencies only. We ask that most people use the facilities at their homes before or after worship.

- **What happens if someone who attends gets sick?**

If you test positive or have been diagnosed as presumptively positive with COVID-19 after having worshiped in person on a Sunday, please contact POP immediately. *We will notify those who made reservations for that day of their potential for exposure.* This is another benefit of reservations; they will help us initiate contact tracing. If we discover people are getting sick, we will reconsider our decision to do in-person worship and alert the congregation if we will be discontinuing outside worship.

Stewardship in a Time of Crisis!

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 or Special Giving Fund (*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, available from the Apple App Store and on Google Play!



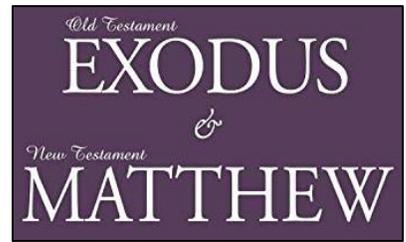
We appreciate any way you give! Continue to give via automated payments through your bank or mailed checks. (*Our mailbox is locked and checked regularly for your security.*) *Please give regularly and generously so that we can continue to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

Spiritual Nurture and Formation Opportunities



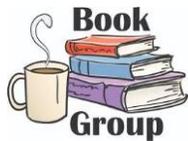
Virtual Choir Rehearsals! Gather together and join the POP family virtually every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. for 40-minute rehearsals! POP's virtual choir rehearsals are a time to learn and sing hymns in your home while being able to interact with others from a safe distance. Rehearsals will be conducted via Zoom. Contact the church office or **Suzann Barthold** for the **new, updated Meeting ID and Password**. *All are welcome!*

The God Who Liberates! One of the overarching themes of the Bible is that we worship and serve a God who wants very badly to set us free from the internal and external forces that enslave us. Thus the story of the Exodus is retold by Matthew in his account of how God came to liberate the world through a second Moses figure, Jesus Christ. **This fall, Pastor Elizabeth will offer *The God Who Liberates* which will lead participants through an exploration of the key stories in *Exodus* and *Matthew*.** Through lecture and conversation, participants will learn many of the major themes in these important biblical texts, and consider what they mean for us today. **This 11-week class will be offered virtually through Zoom on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. beginning September 15th, and going through November 24th.** For those who are not available to participate during that time, the class will be recorded and posted to Facebook and the church's website. **To participate in the Zoom class, please register with the church office by Monday, September 14th. All are welcome!**



Upcoming Confirmation! Three confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, September 27th. The confirmands' families will be given reservation priority for outdoor worship.

Faith 5 Scripture Study! POP's Faith 5 Scripture Study is currently on a short break but will virtually return soon on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. for participants of all ages. **All are welcome!**



Book Group! POP's Book Group meets next on Wednesday, October 7th, at 7:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#), and will discuss *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt! **All are welcome!**

Mission and Outreach

Sarah's House! POP's next Sarah's House dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th, and we will cater a taco dinner for the residents from Mi Casita.

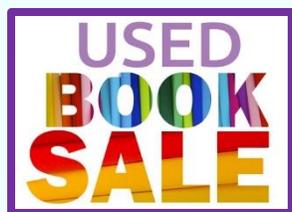


CCCC Food Pantry! The Food Pantry at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church is accepting food donations during their open hours only (Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.). If you have garden delights to donate, please drop off your produce closer to the opening time for same day distribution.



CCCC Financial Assistance! All five churches of the CCCC that see clients seeking emergency financial assistance for evictions, turnoffs, and prescription help are open on their respective days! (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Mondays, St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Tuesdays, **POP – Wednesdays**, Mid-Atlantic Community Church – Thursdays, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – Fridays). Those in need should call the churches first to schedule a visit. Masks are required. For questions, contact Elder **Beth Ross**.

Used Book & Media Sale! **Book collection ends tomorrow, Labor Day, so be sure to drop off any final book donations!** Please also gather and drop off your plastic grocery bags to be used at the sale. In addition, if you can help organize a few flats of paperback books at home or are able to help on the sale dates, please contact Elder **Lillian Van Rompay** as soon as possible! The sale will be held in the church parking lot, weather permitting, Saturday, September 26th, October 3rd, and October 10th. Each Saturday will have a different set of categories available. Instead of cashiers, we will have a suggested price list and ask shoppers to make a donation. **Spread the word!**



PDA's COVID-19 Response! The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) continues to be hard-at-work to rush critical aid to those who are suffering as a result of COVID-19, providing vital provisions where needed. If able, please support PDA through a [donation](#). Call 800-872-3283 and designate gifts to E052197 – Matthew 25.



POP Updates

POP Office Closed! The church office will be closed tomorrow, September 7th, in observance of Labor Day. Please enjoy a safe, socially-distanced, and blessed holiday!

Contact POP! Although the physical church buildings remain closed and staff continue to work remotely, POP is very much alive and available to all! **Please contact the church office anytime.** Messages are checked daily and promptly returned. If you are in need of an in-person meeting, please let us know! We are happy to accommodate meetings with proper social distancing and safety. Also, **Pastor Elizabeth** and the **deacons** are always available for pastoral care by phone!



Bathroom Update! The POP handicap bathroom now has a new toilet lid installed. A seemingly small change that will make a big difference in terms of everyone's health. **The simple act of closing a toilet lid before flushing greatly reduces the spread of Covid-19 and other germs.**

Worship Chairs Update! POP's new sanctuary chairs will be delivered this month. **Once a delivery date is known, volunteers will be needed to unload from the truck.** The new chairs will be stored until after the pandemic ends and normal worship resumes.

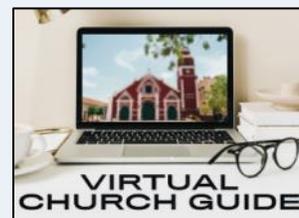


POP Community Support! POP encourages all to call each other regularly and support one another in prayer. **If you are a Facebook member, consider joining the private "Friends of POP" group.**

Like Us on Facebook! If you are enjoying worshiping online with us on Sundays, please do more than say "hello" in the comments section. "Like" us as well and that will make our posting go farther!

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! Your continual feedback is extremely important and appreciated.



- † **Facebook Members:** Please log into your Facebook account and then simply go to the Prince of Peace page to watch the live broadcast.
- † **Non-Facebook Members:** Please go to the Prince of Peace [website](#) and then simply click on the first picture regarding live streaming. Computer users may also click the  button in the upper right-hand corner or 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.
- † The live stream will start around 10:25 a.m. with organ music, but **be sure to "refresh" the page occasionally if you don't see the service.**
- † For those without printers but still would like to be able to view the live stream service while looking at the bulletin, you unfortunately might need two devices—one for the live streaming and another for the bulletin. Computer users might try opening two different windows.

Missed the live stream? Our worship videos are available to view on our [website](#) and on our Facebook page afterwards. **Please also "share" the services on your own Facebook page for others to enjoy!**

Calendar for September 6, 2020

Today	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
Monday		POP Office Closed
Tuesday	11:00 a.m.	Worship Committee meeting – Held via Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	CCCC at POP Church – Narthex
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Virtual Choir rehearsal – Held via Zoom
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Parking Lot (<i>Reservations Required</i>)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
	4:00 p.m.	Sarah's House dinner – Catered
	6:30 p.m.	God Squad youth group – Held via Zoom

HELLO *September*