

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church
Life in the Church – December 20, 2020

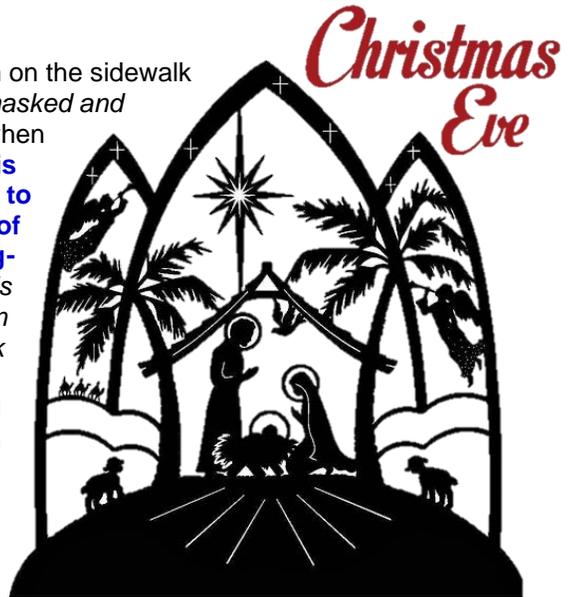
	<h3>Advent Worship Schedule</h3> <p>4th Sunday of Advent: TODAY Carols and Candlelight: December 24th; 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve: December 24th; 7:30 p.m.</p>
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Christmas Eve Celebration: Carols and Candlelight!

For many of us, Christmas Eve worship is extra special because of the opportunity it brings to sing carols joyfully together, and to pass the light of Christ on candles as we sing *Silent Night* together at the end of every service. This year, the pandemic has forced us to change our traditions because we cannot have indoor singing or large crowds. But we can still celebrate the coming of Christ into the world with joyful song and candlelight.

Here's our plan:

- ✿ **4:30 p.m.** – Everyone is invited to gather outside the church on the sidewalk and patio for carols. We will sing several carols together (*masked and socially distanced, of course!*), culminating in *Silent Night*, when we pass the light of Christ on candles as we always do. **This is a wonderful chance for families with young children to help them experience some of the mystery and beauty of Christmas, and will serve as Prince of Peace's living-Christmas card to the community.** **Note: This event is weather-permitting. A decision will be made by noon on Christmas Eve and posted on our website and Facebook page if the event is cancelled due to inclement weather.*
- ✿ **7:30 p.m.** – All are invited to join POP online for virtual Christmas Eve Worship. **This service will be filled with music and the lessons that teach us the story of Jesus' birth.** Pastor Elizabeth will deliver the message as always, and we will give glory to God from all of our homes for the coming into the world of God-with-us-Emmanuel. **Note: Our worship services are live-streamed on our Facebook page. You may watch live at 7:30 p.m. or any time after that at your convenience.*



GIVE NOW

Stewardship in a Time of Crisis!

There are many ways to give at POP! 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 our Special Giving Funds. You may also give an additional 2% to help offset our processing fees, and this optional amount is calculated automatically. Smartphone users can download the **GivePlus** Mobile App for even easier giving. **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 Prince of Peace Church can continue to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ.**

Spiritual Nurture and Formation Opportunities

Faith 5 Scripture Study! Join Elder **Mark Weadon** virtually every Sunday morning for a lively discussion of each week's Lectionary readings, from 9:30–10:15 a.m. Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81207192738> to join (**Meeting ID: 812 0719 2738**). **All are welcome!**





No Virtual Choir Rehearsals! There will be no virtual choir rehearsals this Thursday, Christmas Eve, or the following Thursday, New Year's Eve. Enjoy your holidays, and then gather together and join the POP family virtually on Thursday, January 7th, at 7:30 p.m. for a 40-minute choir rehearsal. **All are welcome!**

January Book Group! POP's Book Group will meet next on Wednesday, January 6th, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, and will discuss *It's Not Supposed to be this Way: Finding Unexpected Strength when Disappointment Leaves You Shattered* by Lisa Turkeurst. **All are welcome!**

Last Class – Advent Bible Study! All are welcome to participate the last virtual Bible Study class that explores the glimpses of Mary in the *Gospels of Matthew, Luke, and John*. Led by Parish Associate Rev. Dottie LaPenta, the last class occurs on Tuesday morning, December 22nd, from 9:00–10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Please contact **Dottie LaPenta** at dorlap2451@gmail.com for more information. **All are welcome!**



Elders' Hand Prints Needed! In order to safely ordain new officers in January, we are asking all active and past Elders to trace their hand print and drop off or mail to the church prior to Friday, January 8th. **Be creative!** Use colored construction paper or write a message of love, and please be sure to include your name somewhere on your hand print. **Thank you in advance!**

Mission and Outreach

A Christmastime Thank You – POP would like to thank everyone for their support and love during the 2020 Christmas season. Whether you donated to our Angel Tree, Christmas Joy, Heifer International, or one of our other missions, helped deliver Christmas gifts, helped decorate, or helped behind the scenes or in any other way, it was all greatly appreciated!



Light House Lunches! This month's bag lunch supplies for the Light House Shelter of Annapolis were purchased and delivered by the Mission Committee on Saturday, December 19th, with proceeds from this year's book sale. **Thank you for your support of this mission throughout the year!**

POP Updates



POP Community Support! **If you are a Facebook member, consider joining the now 100% private "Friends of POP" group!** It has always been our intention for the POP Facebook page to be public and our "Friends of POP" group to be private; however, we recently noticed that this was not the case anymore. We apologize and have rectified the situation last Monday, which should now be in effect. Current "Friends of POP" members should have seen a notice from Pastor Elizabeth regarding the change. Please know that your posts—*pastoral concerns, joys, passwords, and whatever you don't want the whole universe to see but your POP family*—are entirely private and seen by the members of the group only. **Thank you, and if you are not yet a member, please join! ...And 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!

Scam Alert! There has been a rise in scams from African nations, and POP would like to remind all our members and friends to please don't give money or personal information to people you meet on Facebook. If you are unsure of the legitimacy of email or message or phone call but want to help, consider directing the person(s) to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/>, or consider a direct donation to PMA yourself. PMA helps in many countries, and you can feel good about helping but not compromising your personal identity and safety.



Contact POP! Although the physical church buildings remain closed and staff continue to work remotely, POP is very much alive and available! **Please contact the church office anytime!** Messages are checked daily and promptly returned. And if requested, we are happy to accommodate meetings with proper social distancing and safety. **Pastor Elizabeth** and the **deacons** are always available for pastoral care by phone!

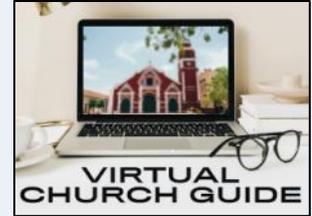


Christmas Closures! The church office will be closed on Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th.

Available Chairs! POP's old sanctuary chairs are in need of a new home. If you or someone you know of could use these chairs, please contact Elders **Carlene Craytor** or **Ellen Mitchell** to arrange pick up.

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 view both the live stream service and the bulletin, you unfortunately might need two devices. 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!**



Pledge Card Reminder! **If you have not already done so, please take the time to complete and return your pledge card by the end of the year.** Pledge cards are available on our website under the "Give" tab. (Click <http://popchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Pledge-Card.pdf>.) When mailing, please address your card to "Attn: Finance Officer."

"We Are POP" Project! **To remind us of the beloved members of the POP family, and about what we love about POP, the deacons are launching the "We Are POP" project!** The goal of this project is to gather and show videos of as many members and friends of POP as possible. **It's simple!** Just say who you are, how long you have been at POP, and what you love about the church. **Participation is voluntary, but please submit your videos ASAP!**



Calendar for December 20, 2020

Today	9:15 a.m.	<i>Faith 5</i> Scripture Study – Held via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook
Monday	7:30 p.m.	Session meeting – Held via Zoom
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Advent Bible study – Held via Zoom
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	CCCC at POP Church – Phone Calls Only
Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Carols and Candlelight Celebration – Church Grounds
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service – Online via Facebook
Friday		Church Office Closed
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	<i>Faith 5</i> Scripture Study – Held via Zoom
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service – Online via Facebook

Here and There with POP Groups



Winter Farmers Market! The Crofton Farmers Winter Market will be open on select Saturdays from now through April 17, 2021 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church (1800 Seton Drive, Crofton, MD). For more information and exact dates, visit <http://croftonfarmersmarket.com/>.