



"Touched by the Gospel, we seek to be instruments of God's Peace, for the sake of the world."

Staff

Pastor: Ext 13

Rachel Laughlin

pastorrachel@popportage.org

Youth Minister: Ext 12

Megan Floyd

megan@popportage.org

Administrative Assistant: Ext 10

Tamara Preston

secretary@popportage.org

Bookkeeper: Ext 17

Sarah Maurer

Bookkeeper@popportage.org

Volunteer Coordinator: Ext 15

Mike Whately

volunteer@popportage.org

Director of Music:

Janet Hill

Worship Team Director:

Scott Walker

Custodian:

Steve Haddix

Custodian@popportage.org

Nursery: Ext 23

Amanda Bischof

Mariana Bringas Acevedo

Pastor's Page

In these days of distant socializing and isolation, I want to make sure you stay connected to our community of faith. This is all new to all of us and things keep changing. It can be overwhelming.

Here are some simple ways you can connect with Prince of Peace.

Use at home Worship Materials

- ◆ View worship videos on our church Facebook page, YouTube Channel, or website. New videos are posted at 10:30 AM on Sundays. You can see the worship video for 3/29 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM4BAcvc-3g>
- ◆ Request a Wilderness Worship box delivery by e-mailing Tamara (secretary@popportage.org) or Mike (volunteer@popportage.org) or calling one of them at home. We have boxes designed for families with children or for adults.
- ◆ Download the same materials that are in the Wilderness Worship Box from our website, www.popportage.org on the Wilderness Worship Tab.
- ◆ Discover more materials such as Prayers of the People videos, devotions, and story videos on our website and social media platforms.

Submit Materials for Use in Digital Worship

All digital material should be submitted to videographer Jim Miller at av.popportage@gmail.com.

- ◇ E-mail a video of yourself or your family lifting up a particular concern in prayer. Keep in mind that these prayers will be public. Do not use full names. Do not use names of anyone under 18 without permission. Submitting a video prayer request will serve as permission for us to include it in the weekly video and post it.
- ◇ E-mail a written prayer request or mail one to the church (we'll be checking the mail every day) and we will have someone make videos of your prayer requests.
- ◇ E-mail pictures of your family's home worship space, events you've attended at POP in the past, or other places, people, and things that are giving you joy during this time of isolation for use in our worship and prayer videos.
- ◇ Become a video worship assistant. Contact Pastor Rachel (pastorrachel@popportage.org) if you would like to make a video of yourself reading a lesson or saying a prayer for use in a worship video.

Video Tips: make sure you're looking at the camera, not at your own image on the screen if you're using a cell phone or computer camera. If possible, have someone else hold the camera to record. Record videos in landscape or widescreen mode, not vertically, to help the videographer.

Pastor's Page Continued

Participate in Special Holy Week Events

- ◆ Participate in the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Parking Lot Parades! A special drive through event will be set up in our parking lot from 10 AM - 3 PM on Palm Sunday (4/5) and Easter Sunday (4/12). You'll be able to encounter the story while maintaining a safe social distance. A worship video will also be provided on these Sundays for use at home.
- ◆ E-mail pictures of yourself and your family dressed up for Easter to be included in our Easter Sunday worship video. Pictures may be new or from a previous year and should be submitted no later than Wednesday 4/8 at 5 PM.
- ◆ Worship videos will be available at 7 PM on Maundy Thursday (4/9) and Good Friday (4/10).

Participate in Education and Fellowship Opportunities through Zoom

Zoom is a digital conference calling platform. You can connect with a computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking a link in the invitation e-mail OR you can dial a number from a regular phone. Please contact Pastor Rachel or Youth Minister Megan to get connected to one of the Zoom groups.

- K-12 Learning Hour classes each Sunday, contact Megan for the schedule at megan@popportage.org
- Fellowship Hour, Sundays at 7 PM
- Praises, Poses, and Prayers Yoga, Mondays at Noon
- Pastor's Bible Study, Wednesdays at 11 AM

Care for One Another

- ◇ Call, e-mail, or send cards to 2-3 people in the church directory each week.
- ◇ Pray for everyone on the prayer list in the Peace Proclamations each week.
- ◇ Post comments on the worship videos and other materials and/or share them to your own social media pages.

We are still God's people gathered in faith even when we can't gather in person. We have been touched by the Gospel. We are still striving to be instruments of God's peace for the sake of the world. We are in this together.

Shalom,
Pastor Rachel

What's Happening at POP!

Zoom Mid Week Bible Study



If you are interested in participating on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom. Email Pastor Rachel and she will send you an invitation.

They are using the Augsburg Adult Study.

This quarter the focus is *Justice and the Prophets*.

Praises, Poses, and Prayers Mondays at noon.

Join us by Zoom as we breathe, practice yoga, relax & meditate, all to contemporary praise & worship music. No previous yoga experience necessary. If you would like to join this group send Kelly Blair an email at kblair0702@gmail.com & she will send you an invitation to join





Social Concerns is still working hard during this important time of vigilance.

I, like you, are wondering what we can do. September 13, God's Work Day, will come sooner than we realize and we need to be ready to make our Health kits (towels, etc.), pack the backpacks (sewing the packs as well), finish tying the Quilts, and pack the Project Connect bags. But, of course, this takes the needed supplies. I have found many of the items we need online, Amazon, etc. In fact you can have them delivered right to your house and save them until you can make it to church!

Items that are much less expensive online, are nail clippers, towels, combs and toothbrushes. If you find good sources please let us all know so we can take advantage of the good deals too. All needed items can be found listed in the last two Tidings newsletters.

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes is a local community food provider that is currently responding to unprecedented need relating to the COVID-19 crisis.

The following food donations are in great need:

- Canned Fruit
- Ramen Noodles
- Main meal dishes (*easy to open – ex: Ravioli*)
- **Snacks for kids**
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Peanut butter
- Lactose-free, shelf-stable milk
- Boost or other high protein meal drinks



We will be having a food drive on Easter Sunday, you will be able to drive through and drop off food on Paul MacNellis's trailer in the back parking lot.

We will also have the first office doors open, we will have the wagon in the vestibule so you can drop the food off on Sundays between 1-3pm.

We also have had requests from Loaves and Fishes for supplies. We are trying to set up a drop off at Prince of Peace, but until then, you can drop food off at Loaves and Fishes, 901 Portage St., Kalamazoo, 8am-4pm.

Ministry with Community, YWCA, Open Doors and Kalamazoo Gospel Mission can all use financial help at this time to serve their compromised population. Please keep them all in your prayers, as well.

Thank you for all you Give.

Both Ascension and Bronson hospitals are asking the public for help with donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The following items will be accepted at five Bronson locations:

- Disposable face masks
- N95 masks, sometimes called respirators
- Eye protection, including face shields and safety goggles
- Disposable gowns
- Disposable gloves, especially non-latex
- Disposable surgical caps
- Disposable foot covers
- Wipes: bleach or antimicrobial
- Hand sanitizer
- Bleach

Bronson cannot accept medication, blankets, toys, clothing or other medical supplies.

Items that list expiration dates must be unexpired. Officials add that it is essential nobody involved in the distribution or delivery of new/unused materials have any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) or have recently been around someone who does.

We will collect the items at the church for distributions.

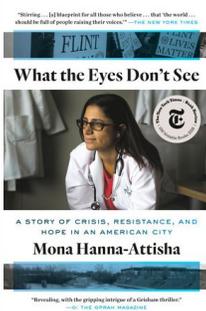
Contact Mike Whately to have someone to pick up the items from your house or Tamara Preston to arrange a time to meet at the church for drop off.

More of What's Happening

Book Club

Next meeting will be on April 15 by Zoom and we will be discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim M. Richardson

Email Megan at megan@popportage if you wish to join the Zoom discussion and she will send you an invitation



For May

What Your Eyes Can't See by Mona Hann-Attish

This is an inspiring true story of how Dr Mona Hanna-Attisha, along with several others, proved that the children of Flint were being exposed to dangerous levels of lead in their tap water. They battled the government to expose the truth. Dr Mona is a pediatrician, scientist, activist, wife, mother and now a writer who worked tirelessly to protect her young patients.

The government agencies tried to cover up their mistake. The good news is that this disaster shows how the misguided policies and bureaucratic governmental indifference can be overcome when citizens come together to fight for justice, self-determination and the right to build a better world for our children.

Prayer Shawl and More Project

Our Prayer Shawl and More group is taking on a new project. We are endeavoring to provide wash or dish cloths to the Project Connect Program.



We are needing 300 wash cloths. So if any one is interested in crocheting or knitting wash cloths we would appreciate your help. All that is required is using Sugar and Cream cotton yarn and using knitting needles size 7-10. If there is a particular pattern you like feel free to use it. Getting yarn right now could be harder. Now Meijers and Walmart do carry the yarn but many yarn shops are closed. Amazon, Amazon Prime, Walmart and Joanne's have on-line yarn you can order. So if you need something to fill your day as so many of us do during these troubling time we would appreciate your help.

For any questions call Dianne Hellman (269-323-9392) or Micki Holder (269-808-1781).

Join our Zoom Women's Small Group

Open to all Women.

Join us in on Monday, April 20 as we have our meeting via Zoom. If you wish to participate contact Diane Snyder (269) 375-0911 and she will send you an email invitation.

God Winks



There have been many, many God Winks or WIGIAT? moments for me in the last few weeks.

The biggest came just before the shelter in place order was announced, before we had to shut down the church office. Jason Davis stopped by to pick up a Wilderness Worship box and we talked about how he and Carly, who both work in the medical field, were having trouble getting the vital N95 masks to protect them while they work. There wasn't much I could do but offer a sympathetic ear at that moment and pray more masks would be available soon.

Not even two hours later I delivered a Wilderness Worship box to Dick and Patt Hewitt and they greeted me at the door with a bag full of gloves, disinfecting wipes, and, yes, a box of N95 masks they wanted to donate. They had no idea about my conversation with Jason. The Holy Spirit answered our prayer through their generosity. The picture is of the masks from the Hewitts and others that were delivered to Jason and Carly later that week and the WIGIAT? sign that is included in the Wilderness Worship boxes and available for download from our website to make it easy for you to share your WIGIAT? moments with our community as a reminder that God is always with us. You can share them on social media with the hashtag #popwigiato or e-mail them to me to be shared on the church page, website, or in future newsletters.



Council Corner



Council Corner for April Newsletter

In the month of February, the church had an income of \$59,149.37 and expenses of \$34,915.74, which gives us an overage of \$24,233.63.

We lost one member to death and had 16 new visitors.

We discussed how to best respond to Covid-19.

If you have any questions, please see any of the council members or see the minutes posted.

The Extended Ministries Endowment Committee is pleased to announce that \$5,922.78 is available in 2020 for disbursement to potential extended ministries beyond the operational budget of POP.

The committee welcomes written requests with the following information: 1) Name of requestor 2) Name of extended ministry 3) Brief description and potential impact of the ministry 4) Amount of monies requested. The Endowment Committee will then review the request and determine if monies will be distributed. Please contact Mark Clyne via email (markclyne@sbcglobal.net) or fill out a paper form available from the church office with any requests and place them in the Endowment Fund mailbox in the workroom.



Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee's focus for this year is to develop a template to streamline and standardize the approach to our annual fall campaign. We submitted a rough draft timeline to the Church Council for input and approval. Due to more pressing demands it will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting.

Our goal over the next few years is to transition to a broader, year-round view of stewarding all of our God given resources to increase our ministry opportunities, both internally and externally. We gladly accepted a new member to the committee this month and would love to have others join in our plans and actions. Please contact either Kathy or Don Eklov. Phone numbers and email addresses are correct in the directory.

Mowers Needed:

There is now a sign up genius for mowers to sign up. First time volunteers will be matched up with a veteran mower. The goal is to have enough mowers so that you will only be assigned two shifts during the mowing season.



Use this link to sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4CADAF23A1FA7-prince>

Is mowing not your thing? Volunteers are also needed to weed the landscaped areas. Seven areas have been divided up for weeding. Please consider adopting one of these areas and weeding these areas as needed.

- ◆ Both of these activities can be done with minimal contact with others, so if you are looking for volunteer opportunities consider mowing or weeding.
- ⇒ The mowing orientation for May 10 has been cancelled. Any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Karl Klemm or Pete Eldridge.

Thanks to John Thommen for getting the mowers and equipment ready for the season!

Facts and Figures

March Attendance:

3/1	138	First Sunday in Lent
3/8	161	Second Sunday in Lent
3/15	0	No church
3/22	0	Live stream worship from POP
3/29	0	Digital worship

Due to Covid-19, we were unable to worship in person after March 8.

Our digital worship on March 29 drew 125 households. Assuming an average of two in a household this would bring our worship close to 250, which is typical for this time of year.

General Fund	February
Contributions	\$ 37,909
Expenses	\$ 34,453
Surplus/deficit	\$ 3,626

SPECIAL GIFTS FOR PATHWAYS OF GIVING

Good Samaritan - Jim & Anne Vogt

Loaves and Fishes - Gail Hoover

ELCA World Hunger – Greg & Christine Guthrie, Brian & Karen DeVries, Pat Luma, Bob & Carla Hannemann, Dale & Micki Holder, Joyce Stout, Peter & Tammy Olsen, John & Gloria Beatty

In Memory of Francis Head, Laura MacNeill and Refugees - Claudia Lee

Lutheran Disaster– Dan & Shirley Thompson, Anonymous, Tamara Preston,



Use this QR code to make your contribution to Prince of Peace.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

4-1	Tom Webster Christine Guthrie	4-12	Ann DiJulio Anne Brown Jacob Super	4-19	Gregory Guthrie Jack Guthrie Dianne Hellman James Cooper	4-28	Emily Walker Roxanne Johnson
4-4	Noah Mickelson Jeffrey Olsen	4-13	Jeffrey Schuhknecht Adam Beuker Dennis Darling	4-20	Gretchen Clemans	4-29	Bev Schmidt
4-6	Michelle Eldridge Reagan Smith	4-14	Abigail Lassila	4-21	Justin Hannemann Mike Girand,	4-30	Carolyn Hart
4-9	John Beatty Kim Adams	4-15	Libby Erdmann Carole Nelson Patrick Dumler	4-22	Wade Lawrence	4-30	Amy Baumann
4-10	Callan Davis	4-18	Jim Douglass Trish Wiita	4-26	Peter Olsen Darcy Banitt		
4-11	Bill Floyd Mitch Maurer			4-27	Cindy Lamos		

Anniversaries

Rod and Helen Hokenson	4/3
Louis and Nancy Jean	4/5
Matt and Sarah Erdmann	4/5
Joyce and Gordon Hare	4/7
Ken and Cindy Lamos	4/19
Steve and Lisa Creed	4/25
Gregory and Christine Guthrie	4/26
Tom and Jennifer Palarz	4/29
Tim and Paula Kana'an	4/30



Worship in the Wilderness



The staff is working hard from their homes to keep everyone connected during this time in wilderness. Megan is making food deliveries through the school system and having zoom meetings for the kiddos and youth. Pastor is having bible study and making digital worship happen with Janet, Jim Miller & others. Mike has a team of volunteers just itching for things to do. Contact him if you need groceries or prescriptions and he will find somebody to shop and deliver for you.

We are apart but we are not alone!



Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study as a Zoom video conference.



Behind the scenes at Pastor's home studio. That's her camera penguin, Queen Lucy, Empress of the Lone Isles behind the camera!

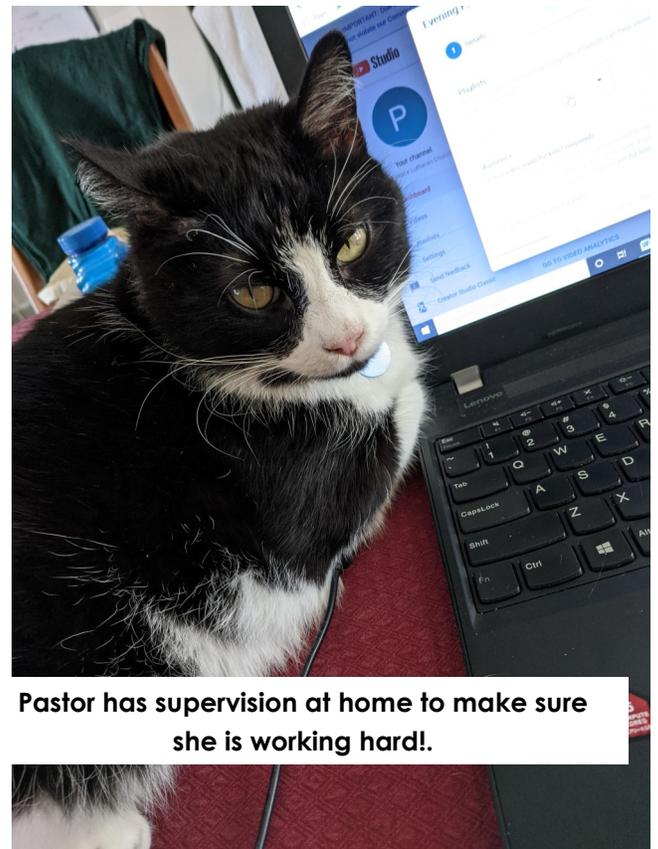
Worship in the Time of Covid-19

The worship team has discussed the church's outlook for the future, considering the shelter in place order by Governor Whitmer.

- Until the Shelter in Place order is lifted, we will not hold community worship. We are posting worship services on the church Facebook page, website, and YouTube channel. We still have Wilderness Worship boxes available on request for use at home. You can also access the materials on-line at: <https://popportage.360unite.com/wilderness-worship>
- When we are able to return to community worship, we will likely go to individual disposable communion cups. Someone has already offered to take the cups home to rinse them out and recycle them.

We look forward to seeing you all in person soon.

Thanks, Marilyn Storch, Worship Chair

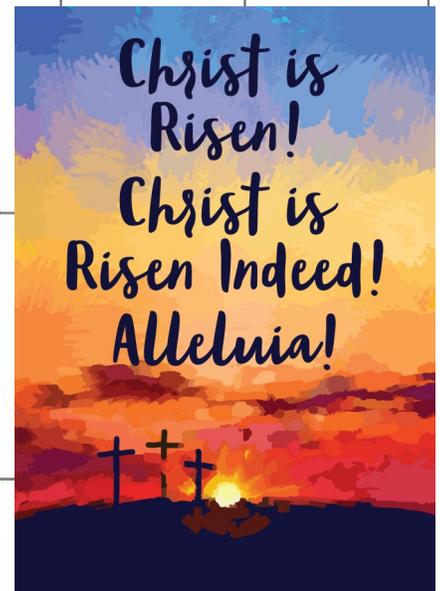


Pastor has supervision at home to make sure she is working hard!.

Prince of Peace Calendar

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30 AM Digital Worship	30 12:00 PM Praises, Poses & Prayers-Zoom	31 9:15 AM Staff Meeting - Zoom	1 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study- Zoom 3:30 PM Fellowship Committee-Zoom	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:30 AM Digital Worship 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 1:00 PM High School Discussion Group 3:00 PM Pre K & 1st-2nd 4:00 PM 3rd & 4th 5:00 PM 5th & 6th 7:00 PM Fellowship Time - Zoom	6 Spring Break 12:00 PM Praises, Poses & Prayers-Zoom	7 Spring Break 9:15 AM Staff Meeting - Zoom	8 Spring Break 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom	9 Maundy Thursday Spring Break	10 Good Friday Spring Break	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:30 AM Digital Worship 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 1:00 PM High School Discussion Group 3:00 PM Pre K & 1st-2nd 4:00 PM 3rd & 4th 5:00 PM 5th & 6th 7:00 PM Fellowship Time - Zoom	13 12:00 PM Praises, Poses & Prayers-Zoom 5:30 PM Finance Committee mtg. - Zoom 7:00 PM Executive Committee - Zoom	14 9:15 AM Staff Meeting - Zoom	15 10:00 AM Book Club - Zoom 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom 7:00 PM Church Council meeting - Zoom	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18
19 9:15 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Digital Worship 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 1:00 PM High School Discussion Group 3:00 PM Pre K & 1st-2nd 4:00 PM 3rd & 4th 5:00 PM 5th & 6th 7:00 PM Fellowship Time - Zoom	20 12:00 PM Praises, Poses & Prayers-Zoom 6:00 PM Social Concerns Meeting - Zoom 7:00 PM Women's Small Group - Zoom	21 9:15 AM Staff Meeting - Zoom	22 Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom	23	24	25
26 9:15 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Digital Worship 11:30 AM Confirmation Class 1:00 PM High School Discussion Group 3:00 PM Pre K & 1st-2nd 4:00 PM 3rd & 4th 5:00 PM 5th & 6th 7:00 PM Fellowship Time - Zoom	27 12:00 PM Praises, Poses & Prayers-Zoom	28 <i>Open Doors Men's Shelter Meal</i> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting - Zoom	29 11:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Zoom	30		



Legend:

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous ESL—English as a Second Language
 FA—Food Addicts in Recovery WMU—Western Michigan University

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

269/343-3453

www.poppottage.org

Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*