



PRINCE OF PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# LIVING OUR FAITH

(203) 775-9070



[PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org](http://PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org)



119 JUNCTION RD, BROOKFIELD, CT

## REINVENTING BLUEPRINTS!

We're refreshing our communications! Our monthly newsletter, Blueprints, is now **Living our Faith**.

While you'll still receive the usual event updates, this new direction focuses on our core mission. Each issue will feature new articles designed to help you dive into Scripture, explore spiritual resources, and connect more deeply with our community.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- \* [From Pastor's Desk](#)
- \* [Wednesdays in Lent](#)
- \* [Book Club](#)
- \* [Adult Bible Study](#)
- \* [Jazz Vespers](#)
- \* [Souper Bowl of Caring Update](#)
- \* [New - Meet a Member](#)
- \* And so much more!!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 2 - [Ladies Night Out](#)
- Mar 10 - [Book Club](#)
- Mar 15 - [Jazz Vespers](#) at Congregational Church
- Wednesdays - [Lent Soup & Service](#)
- Sunday Worship at 10:00am in-person or on Zoom (link on our website homepage)



## Lenten Journey

**What is this journey about?** It's about reflection and prayer. It's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and accepting that through Jesus' death, they are dead. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.



### 15 minutes in the Bible

Life is busy. It's hard to set aside 5 minutes let alone an hour. But... what if you found 15 minutes this month to pause and reflect on a story in the bible.

**Don't have 15 minutes now? Write a post-it reminder or put it in your calendar. If you write down a goal, you are more likely to do it!**

### Bible reading

Matthew 4

### Reflection

The disciples left their nets "immediately" to follow Jesus. What "nets" or comforts in your life hinder you from following Him fully?

**Financial Summary**  
**January 2026**

	Jan 2026.		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget*	Actual	Budget*
Income	33,900.93	29,461.50	33,900.93	29,461.50
Expense	20,412.14	31,875.02	20,412.14	32,721.37
Net	13,488.79	(2,413.55)	13,488.79	(3,259.87)

\* budget numbers are based on 3-year average % of the annual budget

**Financial Narrative**

January donations are on target.

January expenses should be at least \$4,825.00 higher, as the following January expenses were not paid until February: oil, snow removal, and cleaning. This should be caught up in February.

Additionally, all salary expenses will appear under budget for two reasons. First, the proposed payroll increases have not yet been implemented, as we are waiting for the budget to be approved; these adjustments should be reflected in the March reports. Second, the reversal of the accrual for the final December payroll (paid in January 2026) reduced expenses by \$4,702.00. This accrual was recorded to ensure that the portion of payroll attributable to December was properly reflected in December, and the same process will be followed at the end of this year.

We are recording a monthly provision for capital expenditures to ensure we remain within the approved budget.

**Attendance**

**February 2026**

	In Person	Online	Total
2/1/26.	53	11	64
2/8/26.	41	15	56
2/15/26.	52	12	64
2/18/2026 Ash Wednesday	46	4	50
2/22/2026.	47	10	57



**PRINCE OF PEACE**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**A Fresh Look for Our Mission: Announcing Our New Logo!**

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our Prince of Peace family! As we continue to grow and evolve in our ministry here in Brookfield, the Church Council has officially approved a brand-new logo for our congregation.

This new visual identity isn't just about a fresh coat of paint; it's designed to align seamlessly with our recently launched communications site and our upcoming new website. Our goal is to ensure that the message of our mission is clear, modern, and welcoming to everyone - whether they've been with us for decades or are finding us for the first time.

**Get Involved!**

Looking to do more at Prince of Peace to grow your faith and support our mission? Here's a few opportunities to consider:

- Share your computer skills as a **Zoom Service Tech**
- **Teach or assist in Sunday School** - both the K-5 or 6-12 classes are looking for more leaders!
- **Serve as a worship leader** - we've got spots for acolytes, lectors, ushers, communion assistants and more
- **Help plan an event** with Parish Life

## GOOD TIDINGS!...FROM PASTOR MICHAEL ANDERSON

*Take me to your river  
I wanna go  
Oh, go on  
Take me to your river  
I wanna know*

### **Chorus from the song, *River*, by Leon Bridges**

Copy and paste the URL into the search bar on your internet browser or simply click to watch his fantastic performance of the song on Austin City Limits in 2016:  
[https://youtu.be/s\\_paZpQvca0?si=QULVVHygseIWcJAR](https://youtu.be/s_paZpQvca0?si=QULVVHygseIWcJAR)

Lent is such a gift. Let's call it a season of spiritual housekeeping - a whole 40 days of intentional time (not including Sundays) to sort through our jumbled lives and our discipleship. In its entirety, Lent is about investigating our connection to God. Or, maybe said better: it's about sensitizing us to God's unbreakable connection to us and living in the tension of our resistance to God amid the blessing of God's grace pummeling us with mercy, forgiveness, healing, and love. Lent is for being shaped by the gracious intensity of God's desire for us. Lent is the wilderness of our destitution without God. It is the river of grace in our aching to know the lover of our souls.

Lent is for asking questions about what helps sensitize us to the gracious mercy, forgiveness, healing, peace, and love God is pouring out on us. What are the means of God's grace for you? On one hand, we all know them and encounter them in our evangelical Lutheran worship - they are word and sacrament. In scripture, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion God's grace is freely given to us. Now how about in our day-to-day living? What touchstones of grace do you observe? Is there a prayer practice that tunes your sensitivity to the presence and grace of God? Is it a beloved act of service? In Lent our assembly's gospel acclamation (the verse we sing prior to the reading of the gospel) changes from an exclamatory "Alleluia," to the invitational, "Return to the Lord your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." What does "returning" to God look like in your life?

The good news is that the invitation of Lent is just that, an invitation. It has no power to influence God's care for you. But, Lent is **available** to you as a season of sensitization, clarification, and Christian practice. So much that is not life-giving works tirelessly to name and claim us. Why not expose these charlatans to God's purifying light and reveal their impotency. May you be blessed this Lent and coming Holy Week in being tuned to gifts and life of God revealed in Christ.

Peace,  
Rev. Michael Anderson



# Wednesday Lenten Soup



Please use the QR code below to sign up for a date to provide soup and bread for our Lenten Soup Meal. As you sign up, let us know which soup you'll be bringing so we can enjoy a nice variety each week.

Wednesdays: 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25  
Lenten Soup at 5:45pm



## LENTEN EVENING PRAYER at Prince of Peace

Wednesday Evening Prayer  
March 4, 11, 18, 15 at 6:15pm



# Holy<sup>+</sup> Week and Easter

## SCHEDULE

---

**March 29 Sunday of the Passion**

Holy Communion with the  
Procession of Palms

10AM

---

**April 2 Maundy Thursday**

Holy Communion with  
Foot Washing

TIME TBA

---

**April 3 Good Friday**

The Passion of our  
Lord Jesus Christ

TIME TBA

---

**April 17 Easter Sunday**

The Resurrection of our Lord

10AM

---

## BOOK CLUB UPDATE

Book Club will meet **Tuesday, March 10 at 1PM in the office conference room.** Our book choice was *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole, which won the Pulitzer Prize. *A Confederacy Of Dunces* is a laugh out loud comic novel set in New Orleans. We hope you will come and share your laugh out loud experiences. Reading the book is not a requirement for attending. We would welcome your participation even if you have not finished or read the book. If a particular book does not appeal to you, do not feel you need to read the book. Come and join us. We plan on meeting once a month.

If you have difficulty reading and have a diagnosis, you can apply to Library Service for the Blind and Handicapped for audio books. You may contact your library for more information.

If you have any questions you may contact Anita at [anitastolle@gmail.com](mailto:anitastolle@gmail.com).

Organized by Nancy Tolmoff, Laura Duffy, and Anita Stolle

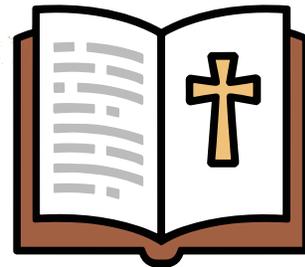


## BIBLE STUDY:

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

SUNDAYS FOLLOWING WORSHIP

COME ANY WEEK,  
YOU CAN JOIN AT ANY TIME!



## POP INTO LADIES NIGHT

JOIN THE LADIES OF POP  
**MONDAY, MARCH 2ND**  
**MICHAEL'S TAP ROOM IN BETHEL @ 7PM**

FOOD \* FELLOWSHIP \* FUN

RSVP USING THE QR CODE  
TEXT/CALL LORRAINE  
WITH QUESTIONS  
845-416-0900



# PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH LIFE SURVEY

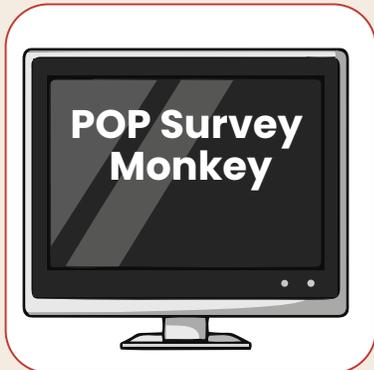
THE PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE'S MISSION IS TO SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY. COMPLETE THIS SURVEY BY MARCH 15, SO WE UNDERSTAND HOW TO SUPPORT YOU. THIS SURVEY IS ANONYMOUS. RESULTS WILL BE SHARED IN LATE MARCH. SEE BELOW FOR THE 3 EASY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE. TAKES LESS THAN 10 MINUTES.

1



COMPLETE A PAPER COPY FOUND ON THE NARTHEX TABLE. WHEN COMPLETED, PLACE IT IN THE DESIGNATED BOX ON NARTHEX TABLE.

2



GO TO  
[WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/POPPL](http://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/POPPL)

3



SCAN THE QR CODE

We want to hear from you!!!

## ANNUAL CAMP CALUMET RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Women of Prince of Peace....Our **next retreat at Camp Calumet is scheduled for April 17-19, 2026.** The cost will be approximately \$190 and that includes, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and snacks. You will make that payment directly to Calumet when you arrive.

Calumet is a wonderful experience and that's why the women of POP go back year after year (and have done so for 30+ years. We know that there are some women at Prince of Peace that would love to go but the expense is just not in their budget...SO...our Women of the ELCA would like to offer a Fellowship to cover the expenses at Calumet to one woman from POP that would like to attend. Please let me know if you are interested in receiving this Fellowship.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on a table in the Narthax in March. Friends are welcome as well as any POP woman. Questions, please call me at (203) 947-4413. If you are riding with someone else, it would be nice if you chipped in at least \$15.00 for gas to your driver!

A Saturday morning program hasn't been decided as yet. In addition there will be free time to relax, shop, etc ...of our own choosing. I'm sure we will have "movie time with popcorn" in the evening.

We will plan to leave the area on Friday morning. We can check in any time in the afternoon and our first meal at Calumet will be dinner on Friday

Thanks!  
 Marci Sharp  
 (203) 947-4413 (cell)  
 Or email: marcisharp703@gmail.com



## MEET A MEMBER

### HEATHER PONTONIO

#### How long have you been a member?

Since 2013. We joined right after moving to CT from Charlotte, NC.

#### What's your favorite event or worship service?

I love the Triduum - Maundy Thursday through Easter Vigil. I have lots of memories, from every church I have been part of, that ground me in the depth of these days and tie my faith together across my life.

#### What brings you joy?

Putting a smile on someone else's face - whether it be through a gift, an action, or lifting a burden.

#### What's a fun fact that others don't know about you?

I used to work in theatre house management in NYC and London.



Congregational Church of Brookfield presents

# Jazz Vespers

an inspiring service  
of music & word

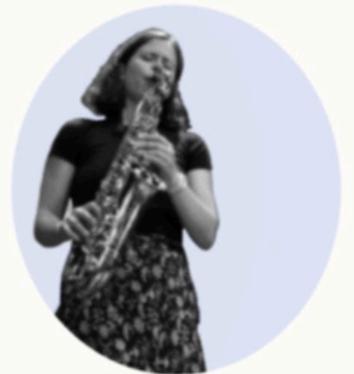
with musicians

Malin Carta, saxophone

John Hoddinott, guitar

Matt Dwonszyk, bass

Conor Brennan, drums



Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> 4pm

160 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

Free will offering to support



# PRINCE OF PEACE PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

March is set to be an exciting month for the preschool.

*Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet & Voice*



On March 4th, The Newtown Centre for Classical Ballet and Voice will be presenting the ballet 'Peter and the Wolf' to our students.



Later in the month, members from the Danbury Hatricks hockey team will be reading to our students.



Also in March, the preschool is running its annual Butterbraided pastry fundraiser. For anyone interested in ordering, order forms can be found in the church narthex.

Of additional note, State licensing visited the preschool in February and found the preschool facility to meet state standards 😊



**Youth Group painted soup bowls that were raffled at church on Feb 8th.**

**The \$300 raised will be directed to a nonprofit reducing food insecurity.**



**Congratulations to all the Raffle Winners!**



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

## “Living Our Faith”

### Monthly Consent Agenda:

- Motion to approve the Meeting Agenda, January Financials, and January Minutes was made by Johnny and a second by Lorraine. Council unanimously agreed to approve.

### For Information/Discussion;

#### Pastor’s Report

- Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 18, 2026 @ 6:30pm. Wednesday Lenten Services and Soup Supper will be held at 6:15pm.
- Maundy Thursday Service on April 2, 2026 will include washing feet. Council will plan the details for this part of the service.

### New Newsletter

- Council reviewed the draft form of the new newsletter “Living Our Faith”. The newsletter is scheduled to rollout in March. Heather is working with Rene on the program and formatting.

### Congregational Meeting

- The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2026, following the worship service. Council reviewed the packet of information which will be distributed for the meeting and previewed the presentation. Council members will be speaking about committees as part of the meeting.

### Council Annual Check-in

- The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (First Inaugural) Annual Check-in forms were distributed for all members to complete for the March 2026 Council Meeting.

### Votes:

- A motion was made by Meg and seconded by Johnny to approve the following nominating Committee at the Congregational Meeting.
  - Lorraine Lavery - Chair, Laura Duffy Tina Giubileo, and Steve Kleppin
  - Council unanimously approved.
- A motion to approve the Congregation Meeting voting ballot was made by Monica and a second by Debbie. Council unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Karen and a second by Lorraine to approve Meg and Monica to represent Prince of Peace at the annual Synod Assembly. Council unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Lorraine and a second by Karen to approve Prince of Peace participation in the Brookfield Block Party. Council unanimously approved.



## THURSDAYS IN LENT

(March 5, 12, 19 & 26) at 7:00 PM

Bishop Piphon will discuss the ELCA's Faith and Civic Life Social Statement More information (links, etc.) will be coming out on this, but Bishop Piphon will be walking with participants through the recent Faith and Civic Life Social Statement approved at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. The meetings will be online and on Thursdays in Lent.

## FAITH FORMATION FOR LENT: 40-DAY JOURNEY WITH PARKER PALMER

Few Protestant writers today can match the influence of Parker Palmer on American spirituality, contemplative practice, and Quaker values. Palmer, who is founder and senior partner of the Center for Courage & Renewal, a non-profit organization that provides support for people in the service professions, has published dozens of poems, essays, and seven books, including the bestselling *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life*.

Drawing from his published works, series editor Henry French here selects 40 inspiring passages from Palmer's writings that reflect Palmer's spiritual journey and invites readers to explore their own spirituality under the guidance of this noted author, educator, and activist.

*40-Day Journey with Parker J. Palmer* opens with a short introduction to the life of Parker Palmer and then offers forty chapters, each of which includes a reading from his writings, related Scripture passages, questions to ponder, journal-reflection exercises, and a prayer. The book also includes helps on how to use the book and hints on keeping a journal along with ideas for further reading. Each chapter in the book includes space for notes.

For a bit of a twist, all participants will be paired with a Reflection Partner for a weekly check-in on the week's readings (check-ins are at the discretion of the Partners - send emails, hop on a phone/ Facetime/ Zoom call, go out for coffee, chat during Sunday morning hospitality time, grab a pizza, or walk some laps at Danbury Fair Mall!).

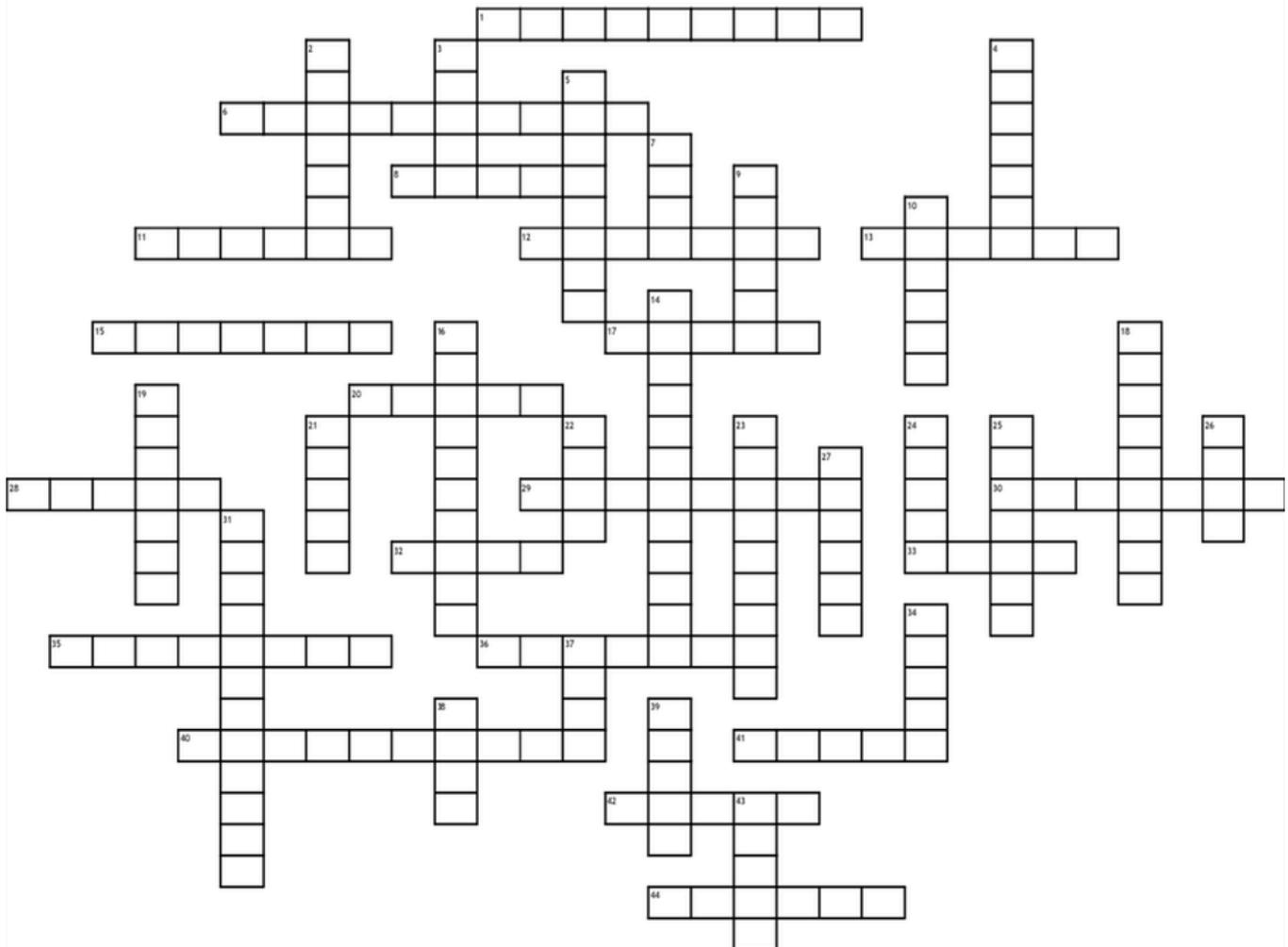
**Sign-up**



**Order the book**  
hard copy or Kindle



# Lenten Season



**Across**

1. "Restore unto me the joy of Thy \_\_\_\_\_, and up hold with Thy free spirit."
6. "and lead us not into \_\_\_\_\_, but deliver us from evil."
8. "Lord have \_\_\_\_\_, Christ have \_\_\_\_\_, Lord have \_\_\_\_\_." (one word)
11. On this Night Jesus instituted "a memorial" of his Passion in the Lord's Supper. \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday.
12. The word Septuagesima means \_\_\_\_\_ days before Easter.
13. "I, a poor, miserable \_\_\_\_\_,"
15. What is often practiced by individuals during the Lenten Season?
17. "Create in me a clean \_\_\_\_\_ O God,"
20. The color representing Good Friday is?
28. The Triduum consists of \_\_\_\_\_ days.
29. What word is not said during the Lenten season
30. "I said, I will \_\_\_\_\_ my transgressions unto the Lord.
32. The Day of Christ's Crucifixion. \_\_\_\_\_ Friday
33. "I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of \_\_\_\_\_,"
35. "He \_\_\_\_\_ and was buried."
36. Traditionally we leave Good Friday service in \_\_\_\_\_.
40. Lent is the season of \_\_\_\_\_
41. How many days are observed in Lent (not including Sundays)
42. The word Quinquagesima means \_\_\_\_\_ days before Easter.
44. The word Lent means?

**Down**

2. New \_\_\_\_\_ that I give to you.
3. Pre-Lent focuses on this theme. (hint: free gift)
4. Palm Sunday is also known as Sunday of the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What comes after Lent? (2 words no space)
7. How many Sundays are "in" Lent but not "of" it.
9. "I believe in on God, the \_\_\_\_\_ Almighty, maker of heaven and earth"
10. What is the "color" of the Lent season?
14. Easter is the day acknowledging Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.
16. "Sola Gratia" translated in english means? (2 words no space)
18. "and the lifting up of my hands as the evening \_\_\_\_\_!"
19. "So Jonah arose and went to \_\_\_\_\_, according to the word of the Lord."
21. "\_\_\_\_\_ be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
22. Holy Week begins with \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday
23. "and was \_\_\_\_\_ also for us under Pontius Pilate."
24. What is drawn on your forehead by Pastor on Ash Wednesday?
25. "Let my prayer be counted as \_\_\_\_\_ before you,"
26. "Remember: You are \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ you shall return" (one word)
27. Lent is "a time to reflect upon baptism, a time for rebirth and renewal in preparation for the celebration of \_\_\_\_\_."
31. What is the first day of Lent? (2 words no space)
34. The word Sexagesima means \_\_\_\_\_ days before Easter.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ one another as I have \_\_\_\_\_(ed) you. (one word)
38. Ashes come from \_\_\_\_\_(s) that were blessed on \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday the year before. (one word)
39. The day before Easter is called Easter \_\_\_\_\_.
43. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ day He rose again according to the Scriptures"

---

---

# DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity with food and other items for the recipients. Here are a few numbers about the Food Pantry on Park Avenue in Danbury and at the original location at St Andrew Episcopal Church. Over 4,900 unique households were served (or 17,150 unique individuals) welcoming them for a total of 33,000 visits. Shoppers carried away \$2.5 million of food of their choice. 501 Volunteers worked 27,500 volunteer hours.

A visit to the food pantry is a wonderful experience. Volunteers are helpful and smiling. Translators are available. There's an activity center for children to stay as adults shop.

Food is presented as people shop for their food preferences in a path around the building. Nutritional food is valued in a point system where fruit and vegetables are more available in lower numbers and ultra-processed and high fat items "cost" more. The Nutritional Department of UConn has established a program to teach clients about the benefits of basic nutrition.

## How can we help?

The best donation is money that food can be bought at lower prices and purchase foods that are not available through donations.

- Consider donations of low sugar and salt content.
- Consider nonperishables with current expiration dates in non breakable containers.
- Cereals, tea, coffee, baby food, condiments like ketchup, mustard, hot sauce.
- Baking supplies like flour, sugar, cake mixes.
- Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent.
- Soap, paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies.
- Used books for children. Portuguese, Spanish.

Thank you for your donations.

Remember to pray for food insecure people.

Nan Carlson



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



- 5 Jacob Berendsohn & Philip Burdick
- 7 Willy Wagner
- 10 Logan Lavery & Heather McLoone
- 13 Noah Lepler & Clare Zimmitti
- 18 Paul Adam
- 21 Barbara Dulko
- 22 Kevin McLoone
- 24 Conor Stuhrcke
- 27 Adam Zimmitti
- 31 Christopher Mattera



- 8 Kim & Pete Gerardi
- 11 Lorraine & Marc Lavery

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like it to be please contact Rene at the Church office.

## 2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL



If you have a question about finances please contact  
Priscilla Rivas  
203-830-9016 or  
guanacaste@snet.net

Back row (L-R): Pastor Michael Anderson, Lorraine Lavery (Vice President), Tim Brumbaugh, Meg McLoone, Heather Pontonio (President), Christine Buzzell, Deb Nobes (Secretary);  
Front row (L-R): Paul Adam, Kim Gerardi, Karen Frank, Monica Walsh (Vice President), Johnny Halas, Jim Sharp

---

---

## CONTACT US

princeofpeacebrookfield.org  
www.facebook.com/popbrookfield  
rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org  
Phone: (203) 775-9070  
Fax: (203) 775-9573

Email for Rev. Michael Anderson:  
pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org.  
Cell phone: (203) 794-4694

Prince of Peace PreSchool: (203) 775-0140

*The church office is open most weeks Mon-Fri, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call first.*

**OUR VISION:** Centering ourselves in God's word, we are open to the Holy Spirit's call to inspire faith in our changing world. As children of God we strive to share and spread God's love in the world.

**MISSION:** A welcoming community gathering together in God's Word to serve others.

**CORE VALUES:**

- Building & sustaining relationships
- Being accepted
- Engaging with others in Christ
- Contributing to a greater purpose through social ministry
- Being grounded in the teachings of Jesus

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 5184  
119 JUNCTION ROAD  
BROOKFIELD, CT 06804

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE DELIVER  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED