



PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LIVING OUR FAITH

(203) 775-9070



PrinceOfPeaceBrookfield.org



119 JUNCTION RD, BROOKFIELD, CT

IN THIS ISSUE

- * [From Pastor's Desk](#)
- * [Musings from the Bench](#)
- * [Brookfield Block Party](#)
- * [Chrismons Workshop](#)
- * [Camp Calumet Obstacle & Trail Challenge](#)
- * [July Calendar](#)
- * [Prayer Activity](#)
- * And so much more!!!



PoP Booth at the Brookfield Block Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 10 [Friday Night Live](#)
- July 12 [PoP Baseball Outing](#)
- July 13 [PoP Ladies Night Out](#)
- July 15 [Evening Prayer](#)
- July 19 [Bible Study](#)
- July 20 [Chrismons Workshop](#)
- July 21 [WELCA Bible Study](#)
- July 22 [Evening Prayer](#)
- July 23 [Ice Cream Social](#)
- July 26 [Bible Study](#)
- July 28 [Book Club meeting](#)
- July 29 [Evening Prayer](#)

Friends, nature is showing off right now and the forests, parks, and yards around us are bursting with summer green. And so are the paraments in Prince of Peace's sanctuary.

After the long, soul-softening seasons of Lent and Easter, the Holy Spirit has brought us into the bright sun of grace to stretch and grow and move and live in love. As you move through summer keep an eye out for what expressions of love the Holy Spirit are maturing, growing, and greening in you. Above all, no matter what you may or may not detect happening in you, the gift of God's evergreen grace, mercy, and love is always given "for you" in Jesus.



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!

Reading

Matthew 10:30-42

Reflection

- What are your most powerful memories of feeling welcome?
- What are your most powerful memories of not feeling welcome?
- What communities of vulnerable people are your heart tender for?
- What are the cups of "cold water" they are desperate for?

Financial Summary

	May 2026		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	46,239.56	18,582.00	175,445.68	150,148.00
Expense	30,829.10	33,015.05	152,915.77	168,164.14
Net	15,410.46	-14,433.05	22,529.91	-18,016.14

Financial Narrative for May 2026

Total year to date income exceeds budget by approximately \$25,300

Expenses Summary

- Total expenses were about \$15,250 under budget, with savings in property maintenance, worship supplies, and administration.
- Senior pastor salaries and related costs were slightly below budget due to timing.
- Program ministry expenses were under budget, with some categories like Christian Education and youth activities underspending.
- Property maintenance costs were lower, notably in supplies and air conditioning.
- Administrative expenses, including office supplies and insurance, were under budget.

Net Income

- The church reported a net operating income of approximately \$22,530, significantly above the projected loss of \$18,016.
- Overall, the church's financial position improved, with income surpassing expenses, resulting in a positive net income.

Attendance

	In Person	Online	Total
6/7/26	53	6	59
6/14/26	73	4	77
6/21/26	70	4	74
6/28/26	65	8	73



GOOD TIDINGS!...FROM PASTOR MICHAEL ANDERSON

On a recent Sunday the tension evident in the juxtaposition of scripture readings came in the form of a question: How do you know if someone is a credibly, trustworthy representative of God? One reasonable answer was that the person's witness was consistent with other historic witnesses accepted as reflecting God. Another reasonable answer (given by Jesus) was in sharing a cold cup of water with the "little ones" - graciously extending mercy to the vulnerable. The twist is that Jesus' answer exemplifies the first but in simple, concrete terms, and in doing so expands the teaching and raises the stakes. The gracious extension of mercy to the vulnerable is consistent with the longstanding witness of prophetic credibility and trustworthiness. But in truth Jesus' answer goes further. Jesus teaches that in extending mercy is receiving the reward of credibly and trustworthily reflecting God's own-self and that the receiving of mercy is to truly encounter and know God. Just as the summer flora erupts in its verdant display of life, being merciful is an eruption of Christ's life (faith) in us proclaiming God.

Noticing this go on in your life is bigger than acting in a way we think God wants us to act - it means that we are becoming attuned to the immediacy of God's presence in our lives. When mercy spontaneously erupts from your heart and is embodied in your serving you might risk pondering: In this experience what is God like? What is it like when a capacity for love you've never known expands inside you? What is it like when the calculus of your heart falls away so it can begin to beat again? What nurtures the love within you so that you learn to stay connected to it at all times?

We do not erupt, we do not bear fruit constantly - we live through dormant times, quiet times, still times - times when we are being prepared for a future burst of life. This is the baptismal life. The continual expanding and receding of our hearts and lives in communion with the one is the source of us and everything in us. There is no better life. It is the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the field, it is the coin we'd sweep the whole house to find, and by the grace of Jesus Christ it is trying to give itself to you.

I wonder if this summer you might spend some time reflecting on how the good news of Jesus Christ is calling forth an eruption of mercy in your life. What nurtures it? What are you doing with it when it's set loose through you for the world? We live in a thirsty world and if you have a cup of cold water to share, there are many whose hands are already open for it.

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Anderson



JULY EVENING PRAYER JULY 15, 22 & 29 6:30PM

July 22 is the Festival of Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

In the gospels of Matthew, John, and the longer ending of Mark, Mary Magdalene is the first to see the risen Christ, who commissions her to tell the other disciples the good news. In almost all the lists of women who followed Jesus, she is named first. Through the centuries, in the Western church she has been the object of misconceptions about her life and her relationship to Jesus. Now we recover her role as leader among Jesus' followers and as witness to the resurrection. Like Moses' sister, she came running with the good news that the one who had been given up for dead was restored to life.

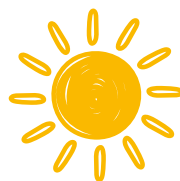
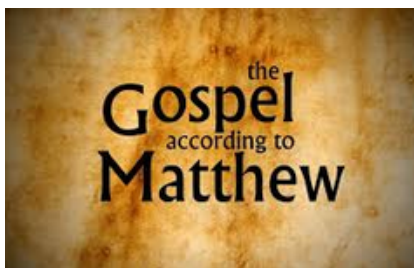
July 29 is the Commemoration of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

BIBLE STUDY

7/19 & 7/26

We will continue with the Gospel of Matthew on select Sunday mornings after worship.



WELCA ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

There will be a WELCA Zoom Bible Study on **July 21st** at 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Pastor Michael for study materials and the Zoom link.





GIVE ONE, TAKE ONE PRAYER ACTIVITY

Write a prayer request for yourself or someone you care about on an index card and place it on the bulletin board by the Green Room. Then take a different card, pray for that person, and continue to keep them in your prayers throughout the week.

Give a Prayer

Take an index card from the holder.

Write your prayer request on one side of the card. Place the card on the bulletin board with your prayer facing the back and "Please pray for..." facing outward.

Take a Prayer

Choose an index card from the bulletin board that has "please pray for..." facing outward. A prayer request will be on the other side of the index card.

Spend a few moments praying for the person whose card you received.

Throughout the week, continue to remember that person and their needs in your prayers.

"

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

MUSINGS FROM THE BENCH



Your Voice, Your Song!

Do you have a favorite Hymn?

I'm sure all of us have at least one hymn or song that we enjoy and so with that question, it is your turn ... your voice, your song. The worship and music committee are requesting that you consider submitting your favorite hymn or song once again this summer!

Request forms are available in the Narthex. All you need to do is fill it out and place it in the receptacle that can be found in the back of the Narthex. You may submit more than one as we will collect all submissions and use those hymns and/or songs as appropriate in the planning during the summer months.

Hymns and songs are not limited to the ELW or ACS worship book. If you know one that is not in there, submit it as well and we will do our best to find it and we'll present something new. As we go through the summer, we will also be publishing the hymns for each Sunday during the weekly update, so you'll know when yours is up!

Brian Muller
Music Ministry Director

2026 NEW ENGLAND SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2026 New England Synod Assembly on June 4-6 in Worcester, MA was represented by PoP members Pastor Michael Anderson, Monica Walsh and Meg and Colin McLoone (young adult representative). The theme was And the Word became flesh - living the story of Jesus. Budgets were passed and new positions were elected including familiar friends Cyrus Warner as youth representative to Synod Council and Pr. Mark Grorud to the Consultation Committee. Small changes were made to the Constitution and approved. And resolutions were made and approved on climate justice action and a call for boycotting. Several workshops were offered including mission updates in Honduras and Jerusalem & the West Bank and finding humor in the Bible among others. We discussed the ever changing face of the church in religion and how several churches have closed or transformed into other opportunities. We concluded with worship emphasizing the theme that all persons are loved by God.

In response to better accommodating working people and to cut costs, next year's assembly, Faith for Grace, June 11-12, 2027 will be condensed to two days starting with Friday night worship and followed by a full day of meetings on Saturday. Please feel free to ask any further questions to your church representatives or refer to the synod website at nelutherans.org.

BROOKFIELD BLOCK PARTY

POP participated in The Brookfield Annual Block Party on June 7. This was our 3rd year and once again it was a wonderful day of sharing God's love!

We had a huge group helping out at our POP booth- helping to hand out ice pops, providing face painting for the kids , and handing out bracelets and keychains we made with inspirational messages along with crosses. Thanks to Heather Pontonio; Kim, Olivia & Leo Gerardi; Chris, Shawn, & Kevin Buzzell; Kris, Victor & Wally Ladue; Meg McLoone, Karen Frank, and POP Preschool staff - Heidi Riddle & Kate Culbreth who reached out to so many attendees with big smiles!

We also once again offered those a chance attending to leave prayers in our prayer box so that POP could pray for their needs. This year the block party was celebrating our country's 250th birthday and encouraged each booth to decorate their space and happy to say we won Honorable Mention!



Friday Night Live

Friday, July 10 6:00 p.m.

**At the home of
Susi Lehmann**

**45 Aunt Hack Road
Danbury, CT**

A little about Friday Night Live....

FNL is an evening consisting of adult couples and individuals, with good food and fellowship. We usually meeting the 2nd or 3rd Friday evening of the month.

If you would like to attend, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex at the church or you can e-mail the host. Couples bring an entree to serve eight and either an appetizer, a side dish or a dessert.

Individuals bring one item.

Please join us for an enjoyable evening!

Get In Touch

Please sign up at the church or email Susi at lleh45@sbcglobal.net if you would like to attend and what you will bring.



POP INTO LADIES NIGHT

JOIN THE LADIES OF POP
Monday, July 13
Michael's Tap Room in
Bethel @ 7pm

FOOD * FELLOWSHIP * FUN

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



POP BASEBALL OUTING

RENEGADES

VS

ROME EMPERORS

**SUNDAY, JULY 12TH
AT RENEGADES
STADIUM
2:05PM GAME TIME**

**CURRENTLY TICKET
PRICES FOR RIGHT AND
LEFT FIELD ARE \$30 EACH.
RSVP USING THE QR CODE.
LORRAINE LAVERY
WILL CONTACT
YOU WITH
MORE DETAILS.**



CHRISMONS IN JULY

Monday July 20, 6 pm Green Room

It may be warm weather and long sunny days but it is a perfect time to work on a project for December. The beautiful white and gold ornaments on our tree each December have been made by church members. Let's get together to give some older ones a refresh and make some new ornaments.

No Experience Necessary

Contact Karen Frank with any questions
karendfrank63@gmail.com (959) 209-2123



POP BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet on **July 28**, 2026, the last Tuesday of July. We meet at 1:00 p.m. for one hour. The book choice will be ***The Art of Racing in the Rain*** by Garth Stein.

The book is narrated by a dog named Enzo. Car racing is a metaphor to understand the human condition, family, love, and loss.

In August we will read ***Culpability*** by Bruce Holsinger. Culpability is a suspenseful family drama exploring moral responsibility in the age of AI, centered on a family involved in a fatal accident with their self driving car.

We have chosen ***Theo of Golden*** for September 27, 2026. If you use the library, please request a hold for the book now. We have one copy of the book available to share. Theo arrives in the Southern town Golden, Georgia and begins a mission to buy portraits of the towns people from a local coffee shop and gift them back to the subjects asking only for their stories in return.

Please request a hold for Theo of Golden if needed, it is a very popular book currently. Enjoy your summer reading.

Anita Stolle, Laura Duffy, Nancy Tolmoff

MEET A MEMBER

ANTON MENRATH

How long have you been a member?

33 years!

What's your favorite event or worship service?

I like attending worship every Sunday that I'm able to.



What brings you joy?

My children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren bring me joy!

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

I'm am a New York Rangers fan!
LGR!



AUGUST 29
10:00 A.M.
CAMP CALUMET
1090 OSSIPÉE LAKE ROAD,
FREEDOM, NH, 03836

Prepare to challenge yourself at the all-new Camp Calumet Obstacle & Trail Challenge. From Jackman Ridge to the Outdoor Chapel to the shores of Ossipee Lake, you'll experience the full sweep of Calumet's property on a 5K course packed with adventure. Along the way, you'll take on a dozen obstacles designed to test your strength, endurance, and grit – all while supporting Calumet's year-round programs.

This year, we're offering two races on the same course – a walking option and a running race – so everyone can participate at their own pace. Whether you're racing for a personal best or walking to soak in the views, you'll tackle the same exciting obstacles and share in the same incredible finish line moment.

Climb the hay bale mountain, army crawl through canoe racks, and power through the Toboggan Run log carry – just a few of the challenges waiting for you.

Why are we doing this?

To come together as a community and help raise funds for Calumet's Annual Fund to support the many important programs they provide each year. No child should ever miss out on experiencing camp because of the cost. Your participation helps ensure we have the funds needed to make camp a reality for families and kids across the region.

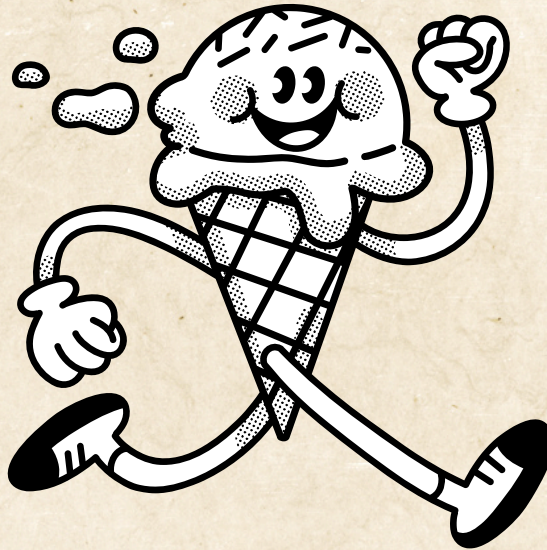
If you would like more information or to register to participate in this event, please go to <https://forms.gle/ZZe7PXMdCUykJ7Ze7>

If you would like to volunteer to help out at this event please go to: <https://myevent.com/calumetchallenge>

They are looking for volunteers on 8/28 & 8/29.

Push yourself. Have fun. Raise money. Make a difference.

SCOOP & STROLL ALONG THE PRINCE OF PEACE ICE CREAM TRAIL



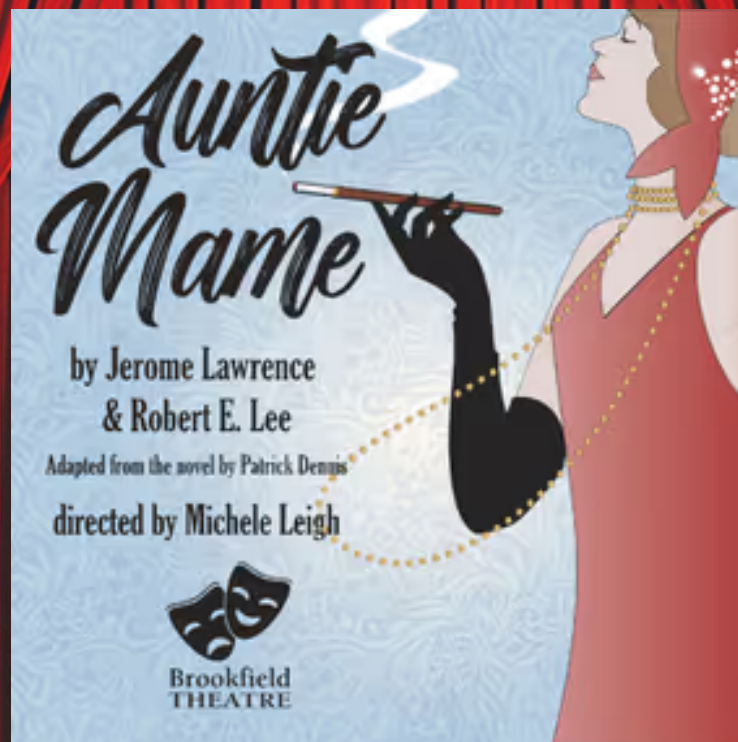
**JOIN US EACH MONTH AS WE VISIT A
DIFFERENT LOCAL ICE CREAM STAND FOR
A TIME OF SWEET TREATS AND EVEN
SWEETER FELLOWSHIP! BRING YOUR
FRIENDS AND FAMILY FOR A FUN, CASUAL
EVENING OF CONNECTION AND
COMMUNITY. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

SCHEDULE

**JULY 23RD
AUGUST 20TH**

**FERRIS ACRES CREAMERY NEWTOWN @ 6:30PM
DR. MIKES ICE CREAM SHOP BETHEL @ 6:30PM**

**Come see PoP's Colin McLoone
and Rebecca Pokorski
in Auntie Mame!**



AUNTIE MAME AT BROOKFIELD THEATRE

DATES: 6/26/2026 - 7/18/2026

184 WHISCONIER RD, BROOKFIELD, CT 06804

PHONE: 203-775-0023

TICKETS: \$25/\$30/\$35



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE

For Information/Discussion

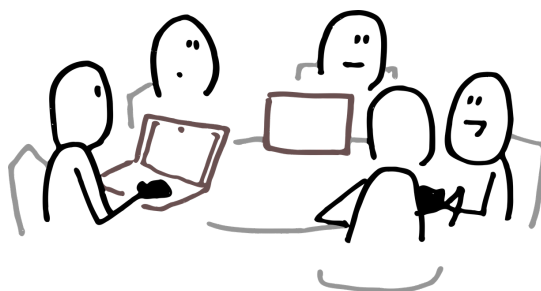
- June Congregational Meeting
 - Attendance – a quorum of at least 30 members is required. After brief discussion it was decided to hold the meeting in the Fellowship Hall along with coffee hour. This will allow for prior set up of AV equipment. The meeting will include presentation of the Pre-School budget and vote, a brief financial update by Pricilla Mancinone, and a presentation of the Nominating Committee candidates for Council.
 - Packet Approval – Council agreed to move the June meeting a week earlier (June 9, 2026) to allow council to review the Pre-School budget prior to the Sunday, June 14, 2026 June Congregational meeting.
- Council Summer Retreat – An off-site retreat is being planned for Saturday, August 22 or Saturday, September 12 from 9-3. More details and a final date will follow.
- Parish Life Survey Results were provided by Monica. The results will be shared with the Congregation and ideas were discussed as to how that may occur. Council agreed the survey was a good way to receive feedback and that it will be used to maintain awareness as PoP continues as a welcoming community gathering together in God's Word to serve others.
- An outdoor Sunday service and picnic are being planned for Sunday, August 23, 2026. Details to follow.

Votes

- Nominating Committee Update – The following members were nominated to fill positions and one opening for the 2026-2027 Council: Tim Brumbaugh and Chris Buzzell to serve a first term, Jim Sharp to serve a second term and Chris Ostergard to fill an open slot. A motion was made to approve the slate by Kim and a second by Johnny. Council unanimously agreed to approve.

Communication of June 2026 Meeting Dates and Times

Executive – Date and Time to be determined Council – June 9 @ 6:30 pm in person



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



JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Louise Riley
July 2	Dory Kutz
July 3	Gene Passarella
July 7	David Coogle
July 13	Daniel McLoone
July 14	Shawn Buzzell
July 15	Polly Groff, Mike Hallock, Eileen Muller
July 17	Sammy Lepler, Kim Maier
July 19	Pam McMillen, Ryan Zimmitti
July 20	Carolyn Palmer, Russell Walsh
July 21	Marcus Lavery
July 23	Victor Ladue, Alan Morey
July 24	Caleb Coogle
July 26	Laura Duffy
July 28	Madeleine Sanger
July 31	John Fegley

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 1	Inga & Stanley Bjurback
July 13	Cheryl & Michael Hallock
July 26	Michael & Kristen Mattera

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

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY
 To the family and friends of Hazel Pettit who passed away on May 31. Hazel was a charter member of PoP. A memorial service was held for Hazel at Prince of Peace on June 27.

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, 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
 not pictured: Chris Ostergard

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	3 10:00 a.m. Women's AA Church Office Closed	4
5 10:00 a.m. Worship	6 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	7 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	8	9 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	10 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:00 p.m. Friday Night Live	11
12 10:00 a.m. Worship 2:05 p.m. Baseball Outing	13 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 7:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out	14 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	15 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer	16 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	17 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	18
19 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Bible Study	20 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:00 p.m. Chrismon's Workshop	21 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 10:00 a.m. WELCA Bible Study	22 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer	23 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 6:30 p.m. Scoop & Stroll Ice Cream Meet-up	24 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	25
26 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Bible Study	27 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	28 10:00 a.m. Women's AA 1:00 p.m. Book Club	29 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer	30 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	31 10:00 a.m. Women's AA	

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**