

Dear Prince of Peace Congregation,

Last week, as we learned of Pastor's retirement, the news brought forth mixed emotions and sentiments. We are excited for Pastor to move forward and experience new opportunities in his retirement with family and friends. We are sad because Pastor and Janet have been a tremendous source of light and joy in our congregation. We also may feel a bit uncertain, what is the next phase for Prince of Peace?

First, we would like to thank Pastor Paul and Janet for their journey with Prince of Peace over the past three years. We appreciate the work and service they have provided for us all during this time. They have brought us through an integral transition of uncertainty, change, and hope, and have offered comfort and support to not only our congregation but to Brookfield community members as well. Pastor Paul's dedication to his pastoral mission has helped strengthen the bond with the members of our growing congregation. We wish Pastor Paul and Janet the best of luck in their retirement.

After many changes and uncertainty, in January 2021, Pastor and Council were committed to and focused on exploring and finding our "why?" By conducting small group discussions, our Council and Forward Leadership committee members heard about the needs, desires, and what is important to congregation members at Prince of Peace. Using the words of our congregational members, we have been able to identify the core values of our new church's mission and vision. We are excited to present these statements to you at the upcoming congregational meeting in June.

During the last three years, Prince of Peace has been very busy working on strengthening our ministries. We have welcomed a new Music Director to lead our worship and music ministry. Our faith formation has provided options to our youth to participate in Sunday school and youth group. We have brought back many of our beloved social events and traditions. Many of our social ministries have communicated their support by broadening our community outreach to needs in our own congregation, to local communities, as well as spreading our love to worldwide support. We have welcomed a new Church Treasurer to help lead us on the finance committee. Our property committee has been busy with the sale of Misty Hollow and other daily and more imminent upkeep of the church. We continue to explore more actions of demonstrating our love to serve others.

Over the last three years, Prince of Peace has both continued the work of God we are called to and transitioned to a new vibrant, and caring congregation. Together, we now face a new challenge to secure a new Pastor and continue moving forward in Christian faith and love. Together we can accomplish great things. Together we need to stay motivated and engaged.

To Pastor and Janet - We most lovingly bid you farewell and may your light continue to shine in Delaware along with sunshine on the beach!

To our beloved congregation - thank you for your continued support, love, and Christian faith. God will guide us as we move forward together. Please feel free to reach out to a Council member with any questions or concerns.

In Peace,

Your Prince of Peace Council