

Prince fo Peace Brookfield Member Stories

	Date completed	What experience do you like most about Prince of Peace?	Can you share a story about your experience?	How does this look different now and how might this look different when we are able to gather in person again? If so, are there elements of the experience that you hope you remain?
1	7/15/2020	Weekly Communion, The choir and the sermon.	We were very involved with church and youth group while my son was a member until his confirmation. My husband built the fellowship hutch as a donation to the church. I served communion, worked on the setting up and breaking down of communion. setting up special affairs held at the church. It was a rewording experience. Now I help paint things at church that need being done.	I find it empty with out having the congregation around me nor having communion in virtual space. Have you considered drive through communion? you could use bread preferably or wafers and individual plastic cups for wine. The person preparing and cleaning up can wear gloves, and the people can let the person handle the bread and wine from the plates. Just a thought!!
2	7/12/2020	Fellowship, Sermons and feeling to Belong.	Previous Pastors and our current Pastor demonstrate excellent Liturgy during the Saturday and Sunday services that inspire and make us feel closer to God.	When we gather again, how will the seating be according to " Social Distancing" guidelines? How will Communion guidelines change? Elements of Christian/Lutheran Teaching and music makes us remain. Thank You
3	6/30/2020	Always liked the services	Actually remember many different services.	Really can't figure how this will work, or how to replace it.
4	6/30/2020	Pastor and the people who welcome you	When I first joined the church, Pastor Amanda made me feel welcome And felt comfortable	With Pastor Lutz he as so made it Comfortable for people and myself. To get everyone involved. I think we will be fine. We will listen to Pastor Lutz, Step-by-step as we open up our church again And following the guidelines
5	6/30/2020	Working together on projects, Altar Guild, Choir	We get to know each other better when washing dishes, because we share some of our concerns or worries	Phone calls are nice, but seeing a real person at the door last Sun (passing out ballots) was so much fun. We could actually talk about what we are concerned about. (Like at coffee hour)
6	6/30/2020	I like new Pastor Lutz	I left, then I came back. If you want to know more about why, we can talk about it either over the phone or via internet, or over coffee	I really like the streaming option and hope it stays. I would like to attend in person, but if I'm traveling, or sick, or unable to attend for some reason, I'd still like to be able to "be there"
7	6/21/2020	Sunday school, adult forum, Communion	I enjoy learning more about our faith and the history of it. I enjoy praying together.	I think we should continue the option of zooms and live streaming for people that are sick or uncomfortable when we gather in person again. We can zoom adult forums, social hour, and live stream the mass.
8		Coffee and fellowship in the Narthex following Sunday Church Services.	For 15+ years I have been quite involved with the Loaves & Fishes Outreach Ministry helping those in need in New Milford. It's been an important part of my life and faith story.	We will need policy and structure at Church that may make going to Church seem less personal. However, the Holy Spirit will move us all and the connection to God and each other will be strengthened.
9	6/19/2020	Working with others, like Altar care, or washing dishes after a big event. I miss working with the choir, since my voice left me. Music is important to me.	Our niece lived with us for a few years. She was raised in a Roman Catholic home and we had to promise to take her to St. Joseph's. One of her school projects was about Martin Luther. It inspired me to go see what Prince of Peace was all about. I had been attending the Episcopal church here in town which was beginning to disappoint me after 25 yrs. So the music got me hooked,	No people to share with. But lots of phoning is helpful. Singing at our dining room table just doesn't seem as melodic as with a group in church. I'm hoping we will stay in touch more than before, like phone visits or lunches out again.

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10	6/19/2020	I look forward to seeing our christian community of friendly people each week and miss them when they are not there. I know peoples lives change in time, but sharing these friendships is important to me (Memories)	the message from the Pastor and leaders is what I look forward to the most. Their words bring God's message to me - another realization of what God means to them in a way to connect to me. How I understand what is being said, how I agree with what is said. My understanding is different, but it opens my mind and makes me aware of something from a different point of view. It helps me be aware of how God is present in my life and in others.	Gathering together, Holy Communion and singing the hymns I hope will return soon.
11	6/19/2020	Interacting with my POP family: church services, bible studies, outreach projects and programs, plus social programs.	My closest friends are members of POP. They are extended family to my children and grandchildren.	We have to be much more careful distancing ourselves. We no longer are sharing dinners or vacationing together. We are thankful for Zoom. It is a blessing to have but not the same as personal contact.
12	6/18/2020	The worship experience with family and friends. Being in a beautiful space, sharing prayers, songs, and liturgy together as a congregation.	Prince of Peace is the third Lutheran church that I have been a member of as an adult. Since my early twenties, I have found worship services to be powerful, inspiring and consoling.	I have enjoyed the video services and have watched all of them with my husband and son. They are the best option for our church at this time. I look forward to being back in church with the rest of the congregation when we can reunite safely.
13	6/18/2020	Friendship with members	<i>left blank</i>	May change the ability to interact. The important element of friendship.
14	6/18/2020	Kneeling at altar rail to receive communion	While receiving the bread and wine my husband had dropped his bread in the chalice . No one paid any attention and just continued on. Our people are good and would not embarrass him.	I look forward to getting back to normal or near normal. I think we all will care more for each other.

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15	6/18/2020	People, the service, communion, beauty of property	<p>I served on the church council for many years. Was property chairman for 2 years and worked with Nancy Tomloff on the youth program for 5 years. I have seen many, many pastors go over the years for one reason or another, mainly, it seemed to me, because they did not please some of the "key" members at that time. I have stayed on with POP over the years because I feel I am a Christian and am not involved what I perceive to be the petty politics of a few members. I love POP as my church home and will stay there till my demise.</p> <p>i Have been with the church since 1973. I have seen many people come and go. I have been most disappointed by the growth of the church. We never seem to be able to work on obtaining new members. I spent years on the church council, Youth program, Property chairman and auditor of the two major audits we had. The first audit revealed gross financial incompetence and I was soundly criticized for it since the pastor who had been doing the accounting alone and uncontrolled was asked to leave. I have maintained my loyalty and dedication to POP. Although my current circumstances do not allow me to participate fully in the church's activities, I still give financial support and would be willing to work on short term projects.</p>	<p>I look forward to be able to experience worship with my brothers and sisters again and to experience Eucharist.</p> <p>From the number of members we have show up at the 11 service I do not see any reason that we could not meet right now. There is room for social distancing and if everyone wore masks and cleaning was done before the service there would be little risk of the virus spreading. I miss going to POP and would like to return.</p>
16	6/18/2020	Friday night Live, 11:00 service & coffee hour. Hearing the choirs even though I can't participate anymore. Music is very important.	Being able to spend some time with people who come with families from nursing homes during the coffee hour. Also catching up with people you don't see except at church	Not sure how coffee hour, choirs, would work now. Could have individual or small groups for music.
17	6/18/2020	Worship and coffee hour. Also when we have dinner together in the fellowship hall.	I love standing around at coffee hour chatting with Al and Diane Morey and the Carlsons and all the rest of the 815ers. We love that the kids get a chance to interact with a multigenerational group of people who love them.	I hope we will still have the opportunity to interact with others, perhaps in smaller groups or at a greater distance.

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18	6/16/2020	Gathering together as a Christian community sharing God's love in the liturgy, communion, singing and worshipping together.	Especially enjoy the special contributions of the choirs, bells, soloists, telling of the gospel in the expressions of their faith. Holy communion for me is the strong basis of my spiritual faith as we gather around the table the sacrament enriches my soul as I know God is for me, and I am in community with all others gathered together as faithful Christians.	I realize things will be different when we gather again in the physical sense of following protective guidelines. I now feel slightly disconnected - phone calls, zoom meetings are ok - i miss seeing real people. Most of all i miss the communion with the sacrament and with the people. Being together as a community can still send an aura of Christian unity - even with masks. Holy communion i would expect to be administered in a different way - but not eliminated. I am hoping ways can be found to still offer some musical elements to our service as we look to what some other churches have done successfully. What is a non-singing Lutheran?? Blessings - until we meet again!!
19	6/15/2020	Currently none. There is no "church"...just emails, online mimicry and requests for funding . By the way...speaking of surveys what happened to that Worship and Music survey? Why were those results never shared? Oh...that bad? Hiding those results have only made the situation worse.	It started in May 2019 with the arrival of the new man in black. Soon a dozen or more long time members quit. It's only gotten worse since then. It's not the Pastor's church it belongs to the Congregation. Unilateral decisions have driven away many members and disillusioned others.	Really? What a stupid question! Bring back the pre-May 2019 church. It's not only the "my way" Pastor issues. There is an ineffective Council that doesn't understand what leadership means.
20	6/14/2020	I miss being together at POP.	I don't have a specific story. It's that feeling of seeing each other and the smiles shared between us. It's going up to the altar and kneeling down next to each other and sharing in the bread and wine. It's the sharing of peace and touching each other. It's praying together as one and feeling the strength of our prayers together. These are just some of the things I miss	So yes I go to church on Sunday. But it's different as I don't have the feeling of comfort of all those around me. I know this is how it must be for us now. Moving forward I imagine we will be community in a new way and am open to these new changes. So how will we be together again - some thoughts- church outdoors for the next few warm months, communion is through individual package of bread and covered mini cups of wine, sharing of peace - waving at each other.
21	6/14/2020	Friendly service.	No	Idk
22	6/14/2020	Group worship and communion. Also, camaraderie of sharing with others.	The help received when in times of need. When I had surgery people offered food and helpful tools to see me through. Most appreciative of their generosity.	No interaction, no communion, no human physical connection. We prefer being able to gather together again.
23	6/14/2020	Sharing communion and fellowship.	A fellow congregant, a busy working mother, summed it up when she said, "I find peace here".	Peace can always be found wherever we are because God is always with us. We are looking forward to fellowship with fellow believers--lots of it!
24	6/14/2020	I like receiving weekly communion, congregational singing, the liturgies, a true biblical teaching, a strong biblical foundation.	<i>left blank</i>	I hope our church services go back to normal, other then social distancing (gather spaced apart a bit)for a short time , to see if Corona virus hospital #'s spike down the road.

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25	6/13/2020	We like inspirational preaching and uplifting hymns along with opportunities for conversation with other PoP members.	Two uplifting experiences for us were when our grandchildren got confirmed and Ned participated in the service.	We know handshakes and hugs will no longer be permitted. Holy Communion will be different, along with physical distancing. We trust PoP leaders will find creative ways to help us safely worship together. We are ready and willing to share our ideas in person if asked. Until then, we continue to pray for Pastor Lutz and all of PoP during these difficult times.
26	6/12/2020	Community in serving the Lord.	Early in the pandemic, I viewed a story about nurses who did not have personal protective supplies to prevent the transmission of Covid-19. A nurse said that cloth masks can be used to lengthen the life of the N-95 mask and she then demonstrated how to make a cloth mask. I went to my sewing room and made one. I then called a neighbor and PoP member to ask if she was willing to make some. Pastor told me that another member was making masks, as well. Several people from our church volunteered to help. We shared supplies with the other members and started to produce hundreds of scrub caps and masks each week. The other member's group numbered more than 25 and the church group was over 15. More than 40 people were providing hand made items to the Hospital. Some people don't sew but they donated fabric and elastic. We have two members who sews buttons on the scrub caps. An Emergency physician, a member of PoP, became an advocate for us at Danbury Hospital and distributed needed supplies. Scrub caps and masks were donated to three departments in the Hospital, local nursing homes, Regional Hospice, Food banks in Danbury, Brookfield and Bethel, Greenwich Hospital, Bridgeport and Yale Hospitals. We now have cards to accompany the donations, identifying them to Prince of Peace. Numerous masks have been distributed to members, friends and other individuals. Sometimes, we are asked about the price of the masks. The answer is, "they are free". I honestly believe that the masks and scrub caps are from God. It's been a mountain top experience for me. I've become acquainted with people I did not know previously and hope to see them in church when it opens	We've used email, and telephone communication and worked in our own houses. This has been very effective. We may be able to meet at church and increase the relationships which have formed. I'd like to see this group have another mission, after Covid-19 becomes less of a threat. Perhaps we can use our heads and hands for something else. As synod says, "God's work, our hands"
27	6/12/2020	Worship & Fellowship, Sharing Communion at the Altar, Musical Service	After long months at sea and then returning felt like not having left at all.	While watching a service on video may be ok in an emergency; it does not take the place of worshipping together as a congregation. Led of course, by our Pastor. We need to get back to church together. Sooner rather than later.

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28	6/12/2020	Communion (kneeling at the altar), a musical liturgy, singing of new and familiar hymns, in short everything the bishop wants to take away!	I have been a member for over 30yrs. We have lived through good times and not so good times but PoP was always a blessing,	Now the on line services are stimulating but I miss communion. I assume until there is a vaccine, we will practice social distancing, and using masks when not communing, I certainly want Pastor Paul leading the service and not a lay minister.
29	6/12/2020	I have enjoyed getting to know members of Prince of Peace and hearing their stories. However, we are new to this church and since the arrival of Covid-19, this experience had stopped except for some time with members via Zoom.	Getting to know other POP members and hearing their stories gives me a sense of belonging and a way to connect with them.	Because of the closure of the POP church building we can no longer see one another and worship in the same way. I hope and pray that we will soon be able to safely open our church doors again and be able to worship and continue to build relationships with members of our faith community.