



BLUEPRINTS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Newsletter

Volume 88, Number 2

February, 2026

January 22, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace:

You are invited to our congregation's Biannual Meeting, *Sunday, February 22, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.* immediately following our 10:00 a.m. worship.

I encourage you to attend our Biannual Budget Meeting so that you can be well informed about the proposed 2026 Program on Ministry. Following discussion, there will be a vote on the budget. There are other important items on the agenda for this meeting as well.

At this meeting we will vote on revisions to our Constitution as recommended and approved by the ELCA. A 3-page document is available in the weekly update highlighting the changes. A full 35-page printed track-changes Constitution is available to view on the Narthex table.

The proposed agenda for the meeting is printed below.

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of June 2025 Annual Meeting
- ELCA Recommended Constitution Revisions - **Vote**
- Living Out Our Mission
 - ◊ New Logo
 - ◊ Membership Report
 - ◊ Misty Hollow Outreach funds - **Vote**
 - ◊ Prince of Peace Financial Reports and the Proposed 2026 Program on Ministry - **Vote**
 - ◊ Election of Nominating Committee
 - **Vote** to approve Council's recommendation to temporarily suspend C13.02 of the Constitution requiring the Nominating Committee to have 6 members and proceed with 4 members for this cycle
 - **Vote** on Nominating Committee
 - ◊ Organ fundraising update
- Proposed 2026 Cemetery Association Budget - **Vote**
- Lord's Prayer
- Adjournment

You do not have to be a member of Prince of Peace to attend this meeting, but only members can make motions or vote. The congregational meeting packet will be available in the Wednesday email on Feb 18th and printed for distribution on Feb. 22nd.

If you need one mailed to you, please call Rene at (203) 775-9070.

In Peace,

Heather Pontonio
Council President

Sunday Worship in



We continue to worship together Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the building, in-person or on Zoom, Facebook Live, or webpage (princeofpeacebrookfield.org).

Please sign in upon arrival. A separate booklet will be produced for each service that you are welcome to take home with you.

The offering plate is passed during the anthem. Please help the ushers by passing the plate down your row.

Sunday's service is at 10:00 a.m. and it will also be on Zoom and streamed to our Facebook page.

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR



Most Sundays during the year, we have a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the altar that was created by the members of Altar Guild. Those flowers are dedicated and paid for by members of the congregation.

The arrangements costs \$25.00. If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in memory of a loved one, to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or event, you can sign up for your chosen date on the Flower Chart between the bathrooms in the Narthex.

You also need to fill out a flower request form, which is located next to the Flower Chart, and put it in Rene Tuccillo's mailbox.

Your name and dedication will appear in the worship bulletins. If two people sign up for the same date, flowers can be placed in other locations in the Sanctuary, such as on the organ or piano or at the baptismal font. We do not have flowers at the altar during lent.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church				
December 2025		Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	28,933.37	32,242.62	343,486.37	386,911.00
Expense	47,162.40	35,558.60	374,376.16	386,535.80
Net	(18,229.03)	(3,315.98)	(30,889.79)	375.20

ATTENDANCE IN JANUARY

	In Person Attendance	On-line Attendance	Total
1/4/26	64	9	73
1/11/26	65	10	75
1/18/26 (Snow)	21	28	49
1/25/26 In-Person Worship Cancelled—Snow		41	41



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

Monthly Consent:

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

For Information /Discussion:

Pastors Report

- Worship schedule and times for Ash Wednesday, February 18th and Holy Week are being discussed/set.
- Pastor shared a Lenten activity for the entire congregation to participate in around the book "A 40 Day Journey with Parker Palmer". This Lenten devotional activity is designed for prayer partners to discuss the book. More details to follow.
- The Wednesday evening Lenten services will not be offered on zoom.

2x2 Conversation

- Discussion on the "2x2" sermon format on Sunday, January 11, 2026 was favorable among council members. One challenge was for those on zoom and ways to make it engaging. A future sermon format Sunday will be planned after Easter.
- Timing for Council Serves Sunday were discussed.

Tithely Roll Out

- The new App rolled out on January 18, 2026. Tina Halas has volunteered to be the "tester" as details get "ironed out".

Communication of Congregational Meeting

- The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 22, 2026 after the church service.
- Lorraine is chairing the Nominating Committee and individuals are currently being asked to be on the committee. Council will approve the Nominating Committee at the February meeting.
- A letter/email goes out this week with Constitution amendments and a draft agenda.

Votes

- A motion to approve the council approved 2026 budget was made by Tim and a second by Chris. Council unanimously agreed to approve.
- A motion to temporarily suspend C 13.02 of the Constitution requiring the Nominating Committee to have 6 members and proceed with 3 members for this cycle was made by Johnny and a second by Karen. Council unanimously agreed to approve. This vote will also be presented to the full Congregation at the annual meeting. If approved Lorraine and three additional members would serve as the Nominating Committee for this cycle.

POP into Ladies Night

FOOD • FELLOWSHIP • FUN

Join the ladies of POP on
Monday Febraury 2nd at
Michael's Tap Room in
Bethel @ 7pm

No RSVP required
Text/Call Lorraine
with questions
845-416-0900



*Let's Celebrate
Valentine's Day and Shrove
Tuesday Together by:*

Flipping Hearts & Voices Before Lent



**FEB
15**

**Karaoke
Pancakes
Games**

**11:30 AM
TO
1:00 PM**

*Please RSVP by 12th Feb to ensure your spot at this
enchanting affair. Please use the QR code to sign up
or sign up in the Narthex.*



Thursdays in Lent

(February 19 & 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26) at 7:00 PM—Bishop Piphio will discuss the ELCA's *Faith and Civic Life Social Statement*

More information (links, etc.) will be coming out on this, but Bishop Piphio 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!).

Scan to sign-up
with Pastor Michael.



Scan to order 40-Day Journey
in hard copy or Kindle format.



Ash Wednesday Worship and Lenten Evening Prayer at Prince of Peace

Ash Wednesday, February 18
Noon & 6:30pm

Wednesday Evening Prayer
for Lent
February 25
March 4, 11, 18, and 25
6:15pm



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: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

Lenten Soup at 5:45pm and Service at 6:15pm



Good Tidings!...from Pastor Michael Anderson

John 1:35-38a

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?"

There has been a John the Baptist in our lives. By someone or something, we have been directed toward Jesus. Our sense that he means something to us has been kindled. In some way, perhaps at a distance and with trepidation, we have followed him. But now at the threshold of Ash Wednesday and Lent he turns and asks us, "What are you looking for?" What, indeed.

Individually and as a community, the answer could be anything. But on deeper reflection there *will* be an answer to that question. There always is. Walking the way of Christ and of the cross is a response to the invitation and inspiration of the Holy Spirit that has flooded our hearts, tugged us forward, and urged us onward. We do not resist it. Lent is many things, but chief among them is a season of preparation for baptismal renewal on the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. So, again, "What are you looking for?"

Simplest perhaps is just to say, "more life." Those two little words, "more life," are an umbrella covering infinite specifics about what they can mean. Yielding to the Spirit to learn what "more life" means for us is the faith of putting one foot in front of the other and receiving with an open heart the Life Jesus has to give you. It doesn't come to us all at once - it unfolds within us as only to...lead us further in the Way of Christ and his cross.

Lent is here as preparation for our yielding, for our walk, for our sensitivity to the working of the Spirit. Where these days deposit us is the only place that is our home: God's grace shown in watery font. May these days be a blessing for you as we anticipate the renewal of God's great salvation in Christ at the center of our lives.

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,
and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth,
its fullness, depth, and height.

4Then walk in love as Christ has loved,
who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive
as God in Christ forgave.

5For us Christ lived, for us he died,
and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,
and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House,
admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Peace,

Rev. Michael Anderson

BOOK CLUB IS COMING TO PRINCE OF PEACE

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Green room. We would love to have you join us. The group will choose our future reading and meeting date. Feel free to bring discussion topics on the novel. Reading the book is not a requirement.

We have chosen the first book for the February meeting.

The book is *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. The Round House is a 2012 National Book Award winning novel that explores themes of justice, vulnerability, and resilience through the lens of an indigenous family. This book does contain adult content. The book should be available at the public library.

If this novel does not appeal to you please come and help us choose the next read.

If you have any questions you may contact Anita at anitastolle@gmail.com.

Nancy Tolmoff

Laura Duffy

Anita Stolle anitastolle@gmail.com



NEW ON-LINE GIVING SITE

If you give online (one-time or pledges) we need you to create an account with our new system. Go to our website to link your credit card or bank account.

See instructions below.

Forget your pledge amount? Reach out to Heidi Adam at rmmomIOI@gmail.com and she can tell you!

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PLEDGE GIVING ONLINE

1. Go to our website - <https://princeofpeacebrookfield.org>

2. Click on Giving Tab or the Button on the page

3. Click

Pledge Payment Link

This will take you to a new screen.

The screenshot shows the online giving interface for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. It includes a header with the church name and a 'Sign Up' button circled in red. Below the header, there's a large display showing '\$ 0.00'. A section titled 'Fund Pledge 2025' offers options for 'One Time', 'Weekly', 'Bi-weekly', '1st & 15th', and 'Monthly'. Below this is a 'Contact Details' section with fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Phone, Street Address, City, State/Province, Country (set to United States), and Zip/Postal. A 'Payment Information' section has a button to 'Add a New Payment Method'. At the bottom, there's a 'Cover the Fee' section with 'No' and 'Yes' buttons, and a 'Give \$0.00' button at the very bottom. Red arrows point from numbered instructions to various parts of the interface.

4. **Create an account.**
Make sure to use the same email you have in the church directory so they link in the system. You can log back in at any time to see your giving and recurring pledge charges.

5. Enter for year pledge amount

6. Select your pledge payment frequency

7. Enter your information

8. Add a payment method – credit card or bank account.

9. Choose to cover fees
this only applies to credit cards

10. You must click this button to finalize the payment.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00-9:45am

Elementary

Pre-K - 5th Grade

Meets downstairs



Middle & High

6th - 12th Grade

Meets in the Green Room

Dig into Jesus' teachings
and questions designed
for teenagers!

Each weeks stand alone. Attend as your
schedule allows.

Parents - enjoy coffee and fellowship
while your kids are in class!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 10** Anthony D'Ausilio
- 11** Erik Zimmitti
- 20** Lorraine Lavery
- 21** Fred Herpel, Steven Kleppin,
Mary Peters
- 29** Cheryl Hallock

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

NOTE OF THANKS

January 5, 2026

Dear Ernest,

Thank you for participating in our Angel Tree Program at the Salvation Army this year.

Our donors this year were extra generous! The gifts just kept coming and coming! I wish you could have seen the expressions on the parents' faces when they came to pick up their gifts for their children. Many of them left in tears at the generosity of the donors.

Please thank everyone at Prince of Peace who participated and let them know how much we appreciated their generosity. I pray that you will all have a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to working with you again next year.

God bless you,

Major BethEllen Parkhurst
Corps Commanding Officer

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

2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL



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

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

Church Contact Information:

By email – rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

By phone – (203) 775-9070

Facebook Message – <https://www.facebook.com/popbrookfield>



The church office is open most weeks Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please call first.

Worship Services

Go to our website to experience our virtual worship and giving opportunities.

Sunday's February 1, 8, 15, 22

10:00 a.m. in person inside worship

10:00 a.m. Zoom service and streamed to Facebook

All services will also be a Zoom service and streamed to Facebook.

Contact Us

Website:

www.princeofpeacebrookfield.org

E-mail:

rene@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

Phone: (203) 775-9070

Fax: (203) 775-9573

Email for Rev. Michael Anderson:

pastor@princeofpeacebrookfield.org

Cell phone: (203) 794-4694

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

February, 2026