

DoveTales

The stories of how we Celebrate, Share, Serve & Strengthen



Pastor's Message:

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! These words will echo off our sanctuary walls throughout the season of Easter. It is a common call and response refrain that we speak to remind ourselves of the wonder of Resurrection Morning. Easter at Prince of Peace (and many churches) is a celebratory Sunday which includes phenomenal music, delicious casseroles, children's egg hunts, and lots of visitors. Like Christmas, Easter is an energetic and exciting time to be at church. And I love it! But it is also interesting to me that, in the 4 stories of the morning of the resurrection, most of the news was met with a mixture of fear, apprehension, terror, and sadness. And in the gospel of John, the first story of the disciples gathering shortly after the resurrection included huddling in a locked room, afraid for their lives and uncertain of what was to come (chapter 20).

Do you relate to that feeling, these sentiments? Are you worried about our world, our children, our nation? Are you confused and frustrated about how we are treating one another in social media and in the public realm? Are there times when you want to lock your doors and huddle with your closest friends and family until it is all over? While there are certainly times when we need to take breaks and regroup, times when we need to be careful about who we spend our time with, especially if we are feeling vulnerable or troubled; it is also in those times when we need a bit of Christ's holy breath to breathe on us and speak "Peace be with you." We need to see Jesus' wounds to be reminded that the cross is not a beautiful artifact to ponder, but it is a sign that Christ is with us and will be with us, even when the times are fearful or our neighbors drive us crazy. Our

call as followers of the Risen One is to be the voice that says "Peace be with you." To show up in those closed off places and spaces and be a non-anxious presence.

Thomas (often called the Doubter) needed to see the hands of Jesus in order to believe that it was really the Risen Jesus and not just some look-alike or imposter. I can relate to Thomas because, I too, often cry out to God in need of proof and a boost of faith when times are fearful or grief-laden. It is my prayer for us, this Easter season, that when we exclaim "He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!!" that we might join voices with all of the witnesses of Resurrection including the Doubters (Thomas), the Deniers (Peter), and the Ardent Believers! so that we might live and bring that Peace of Christ to all of the places we live and breathe. This, I believe is one of the ways that we continue to be a people of the Resurrection; a people who retain a hope and confidence even when we can't imagine what is coming next. May this Easter season be one of a holy and hopeful imagination!

~Pastor Sara

Celebrate
EASTER

at Prince of Peace

Worship Services

8:45 & 10:45

propeace.org

Breakfast
9:15-10:45

Egg Hunt
10:15



Office News

COMMUNICATIONS FROM PRINCE OF PEACE

Prince of Peace has multiple ways to share information. Some of these are duplicate efforts to reach multiple audiences, while others have a different purpose altogether. Here is a short description of what each communication piece will contain.

Peace Notes – the piece of paper in your weekly worship bulletin. Peace notes has a list of dates to note for the distant future, and short explanations of events and ministries that are happening soon.

E Peace Notes – the email version of the Peace Notes. E-Peace Notes is sent on Friday morning so you have a reminder before weekend events.

Facebook PAGE: facebook.com/popsaratoga/ the public representation of Prince of Peace on Facebook. On this page we post events, like special worships and game nights, invitations, news about the greater church and more. On the public page we are cautious about what we post.

Facebook GROUP: Prince of Peace ELCA – Saratoga this is a private group for members and regular attendees. You must request access or be invited to participate. On this group page we can share more personal news, request help for Sunday jobs or even post something for sale.

DoveTales: our every-other monthly publication. This is a chance to hear a more personal message from our Pastors, as well as get further in depth with our ministries.

Propeace.org: the Prince of Peace website is a great way to learn more. The homepage features images of upcoming events. The ministries pages describe all of the projects that are on-going. The calendar page is constantly synced with the office calendar to ensure the latest events are listed. Give a financial gift through our donations page. Read past issues of DoveTales and its predecessor, the Peace Messenger on Newsletters.

PASTOR RESPONSIBILITIES CHANGES

Pastor Nate and Pastor Sara have been at Prince of Peace for two years. When they started Prince of Peace had different needs than it does now. See below for an update on their responsibilities and roles.

The chart may look uneven, but the time spent is similar.

Two Pastors: Who does what?

2018/19 edition

Pastor Sara

Leading Worship
Evangelism
Outreach
Fellowship
Social Ministry
Pastoral Care
Synod & Local Churches
Community
Women's Retreats
Adult Education
Finance
Personnel Management
Vendor Relations

Pastor Nate

Leading Worship
Worship & Music
Stewardship
Pastoral Care
Visitation
Men's Retreats
Property Management
Children
Youth

While the lists are uneven, the time spent is equal. Changes are in **RED**.

AUTOMATED AND ELECTRONIC GIVING

Looking for a way to automate your giving? Transfer from your checking account by sending your contribution through GIVE +. Prince of Peace pays just 20 cents per donation. Because of the low cost, this is the best way to give electronically on a regular basis. Contact the office to set up E-giving, or search "Give+" in your app store. Once the app is installed you can input Prince of Peace's zip code "95070" to find us.

To donate with credit card go to

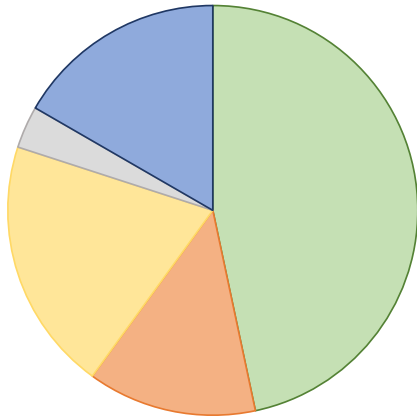
<https://squareup.com/store/prince-of-peace/>

Survey Says...

Thank you to those who filled out our ministry check-in survey. 75 people participated. Here you can find a few of the key results as well as some commentary.

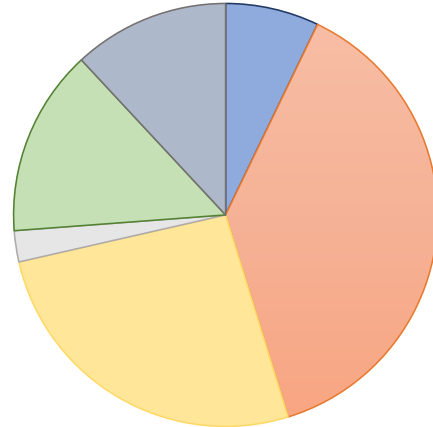
WORSHIP TIME PREFERENCES

8:45 Regulars Prefer:



Time Music Worship style No Pref Other

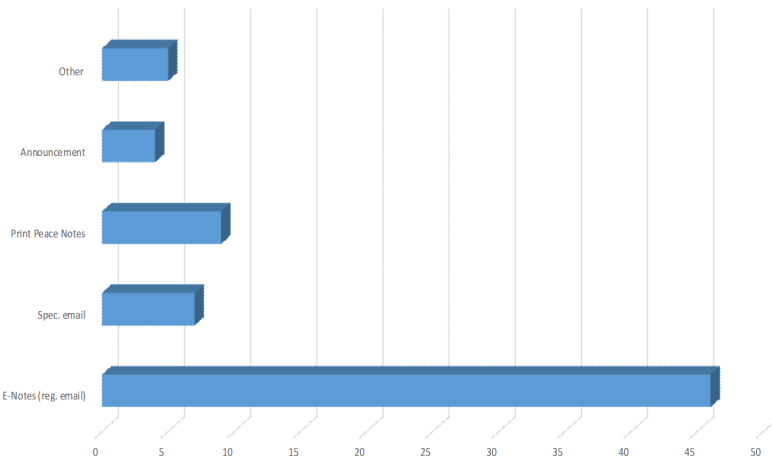
10:45 Regulars Prefer:



Time Music Worship style No Pref Other Participate

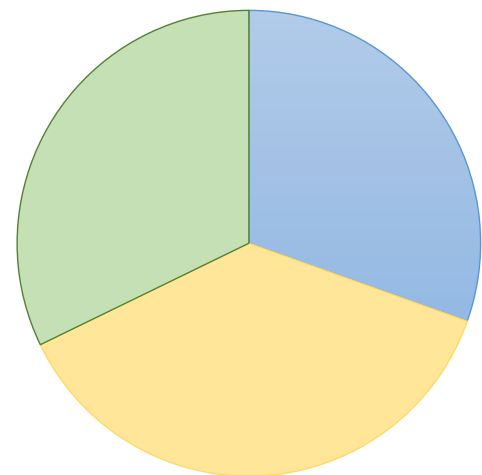
COMMUNICATION METHODS

What is the best way to communicate changes?



The weekly email is clearly the BEST way to inform PoP attendees about both changes to the schedule and FED topics. But PoPpers prefer to be informed in a variety of ways about everything from events, to ministries, and time changes. Announcements in church are just as important as the email reminder.

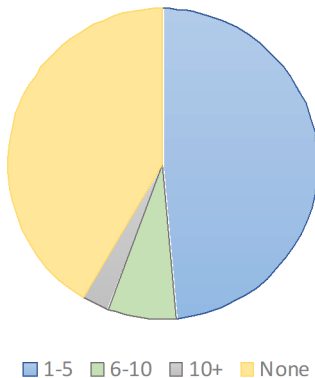
How do you hear about everything going on at PoP?



Weekly email Announcements Print Peace Notes

FELLOWSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, & EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

How many FED times have you attended in the last year?



While a majority of respondents had participated in FED at least once in the last year, the main reasons for not participating were around timing and family life, with a few uninterested in topics.

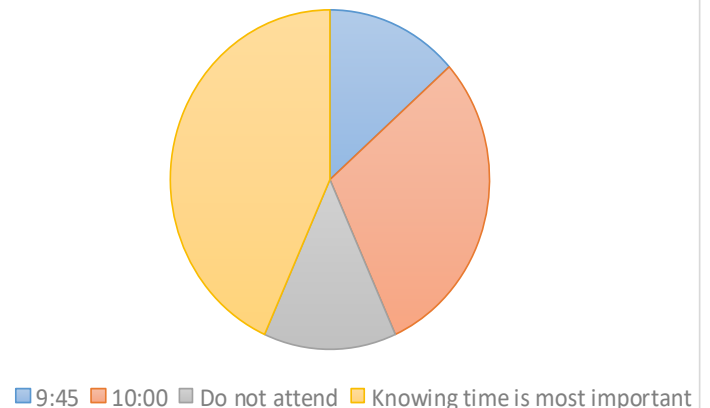
ONE COMBINED WORSHIP

The majority of Prince of Peace attendees enjoy one combined worship service for part of the year. You can see from the worship time preferences, that there are distinct differences between why most people choose one service over the other. To switch to only one service permanently would likely have a negative impact on total attendance.

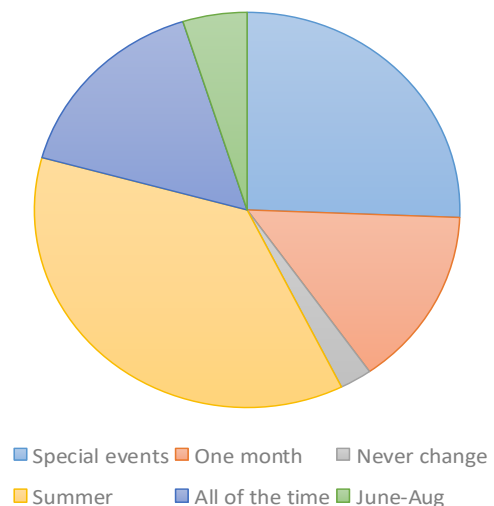
There are several benefits to running one service all summer. It brings individuals from the two services together to get to know each other. There is also an operational benefit. The summer is extra busy for our Pastors between Bible school, youth trips, and special events plus working in their own family vacations. One service is more attractive to guest speakers. It is also easier for our own volunteers to manage operations when they are here to both open and close.

Last but not least, the band and choir are on vacation too. When we have only one service, they can take turns providing music so we all get some variety and the chance to participate in another worship style.

Most often attend one service:



When to change to one worship



Coming Soon:

There is always a lot going on at Prince of Peace, even in winter. Please note the special events and changes to our calendar in the next two months. You can find all of these, plus our regularly occurring events, on our website at: propeace.org/news--calendar. Get weekly reminders, details, and photos by signing up for our email list (through the office or website) or “Like” our Facebook page facebook.com/popsaratoga.

April Special Events

1	Su	EASTER! Worship 8:45 & 10:45 Breakfast 9:30-10:40, Egg Hunt 10:15
2	M	Office Closed for Easter Monday
2-8		Pastor vacations
14	Sa	Adopt-a-Highway clean-up, 7am start
18	W	Fellowship Lunch, Noon, Hall
21	Sa	Youth Fundraiser Dinner
22	Su	Kids to Camp presentation, Pet Blessing, Earth Day events
29	Su	Make dinner for Family Shelter

May Special Events

2	W	Theology Pub
11	F	Game Night, 6-9 pm
13	Su	Happy Mother's Day!
16	W	Fellowship Lunch
20	Su	Confirmation Sunday ONE Worship 9:45 am
27	Su	ONE Worship 9:45 am/Summer schedule
28	Mo	OFFICE CLOSED—Memorial Day

April & May FED Topics

Sunday Education and Fellowship for everyone past Confirmation. Meet @ 9:45 in Conference Room

1	Easter breakfast & Egg hunt
8	Science & religion: How do we get along?
15	Science & religion, part 2
22	Earth Day/Pet blessing—bring your pet to FED time
29	Zion Godsend Taskforce update
May 6	Finances, Faith & Futures: Guest Speaker Josh Kerney from the ELCA Foundation
13	Last FED time of the school year

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 19TH: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

There are four open positions in the election. Please prayerfully consider supporting Prince of Peace in this way.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT PoP: JULY 9-13

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." –Ephesians 2:8

Led by Mt. Cross, the Prince of Peace summer Bible camp will have the same theme as our National Youth Gathering: "This changes everything."

Ministry Profile: Kids to Camp

Giving San Jose Family Shelter children a week to experience God's love, make new friends, and be free of the homelessness burdens they face day after day.



"Fun, amazing, cool J - How to praise God - Getting to know everyone - Bike riding - the Trading Post - I loved everything!" These were some of the responses made by a shelter child when asked about their Mt. Cross Ministries' camp experience, what they learned and their favorite camp activities.

Kids to Camp is a team outreach ministry that began in 2002 between Prince of Peace and Mt. Cross Ministries to support Family Supportive Housing's mission to end family homelessness. Our 16 year partnership has given over 400 shelter children the opportunity to attend a fun-filled, spiritually moving, 1 week overnight camp at Mt. Cross Ministries located in the Santa Cruz mountains. Many times this is the first overnight camp these children have ever experienced. Mt. Cross does their part by discounting the shelter kids' camp fees and our congregation generously funds all the fees through their Sunday offerings, beginning at the April "Kids to Camp" kick-off day.

This year's Kids to Camp day will take place on **Sunday, April 22nd** at both services.

Speakers from Mt. Cross and Family Supportive Housing will share their stories of how the shelter kids have benefitted from this ministry. Our goal is to send 35 shelter children to summer camp July 8-13. Family Supportive Housing has remaining funds from last year to send 15 children. POP's goal is to sponsor the additional 20 kids by raising \$6,000.

The "per camper" fee is \$300, but any donation amount is welcome, whether it be the full camper fee, half, or even \$25. Donations can be made **starting now** and anytime **through the end of May**. For cash or check contributions, please designate the amount for "Kids to Camp." Donations can also be made on our website: www.propeace.org/donate.html.

Please consider being one of the many Prince of Peace families that will join hands to give 35 children in need a chance to experience God's love.

With great appreciation,
Cathy Schroeder



Ministry News



Safe Car Park

THE SHELTER WILL OPEN!

Safe Car Park is a new ministry at Prince of Peace aimed at giving our homeless community members who sleep in their cars a safe

place to park overnight.

We have enough volunteers to get started, but it is not too late to get involved. Safe Car Park is still targeting a May launch (but maybe not the first of the month.) If you have not been involved, or you just want to see how it is going to work before you commit, that is OK! The SCP committee will be making announcements and sharing info throughout the process.

The committee has put a lot of thought into logistics to minimize disruption to Prince of Peace building renters.

The Safe Car Park will only be located in the Prince of Peace parking lot for 30 days. The committee and Pastor Sara have been busy recruiting other parking lots in the area for the rest of the year.



Youth

YOUTH FUNDRAISER DINNER: APRIL 21

Tickets are on sale now for our youth fundraiser dinner. \$20 per adult,

\$10 per child or \$50 per family. The ticket gets you an evening of Star Wars themed entertainment and a sumptuous meal. Andrea Puck is our chef once again. This year dinner will be served buffet style. Purchase tickets Sundays or online at: <https://squareup.com/store/prince-of-peace/>

YOUTH DIRECTOR POSITION POSTED

The Youth Director Task Force created after Kendall's departure recommended to the Council that Prince of Peace hire a part-time Youth Director. The job description has been refined and posted.



SARATOGA WEDNESDAY FARMER'S MARKET MOVES TO PRINCE OF PEACE

Prince of Peace was approached by the manager of the Saratoga Wednesday Farmer's Market to relocate the weekly event from Saratoga Village to our parking lot. The proposal is for the small, mid-week market to be a walk-only zone on the Cox avenue side of the building Wednesday afternoons. Prince of Peace will be paid a small weekly fee, but more importantly we will gain visibility. We can offer activities and events that invite the community in, as well as advertise our worship services, children's programs, and more. In the future, there is potential for more ministry centered around food security, as we will be able to glean unsellable product from the market vendors.

Start date is April 25th. We will keep you posted. In the meantime you can get news about the market from their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SaratogaVillageFarmersMarket>

Welcomes & Farewells



The Hoehler family:
Ulrike & Rainer
David & Ann-Kathrin

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS!



The Kruse family:
Anett & Jörn
Children Martha, Ida, & Lasse

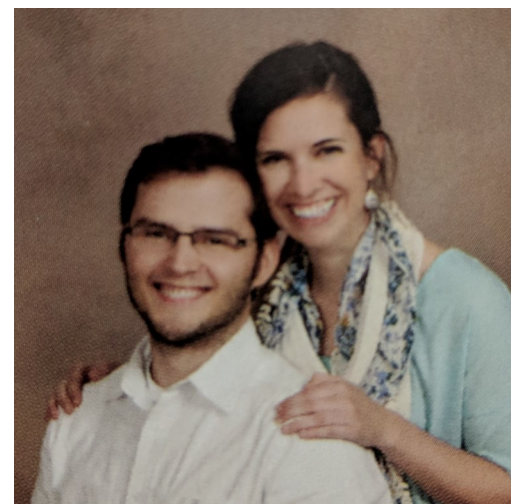


Marilyn Nirschl

FAREWELL :-)



The Tews family:
Inka & Michael
Children Cassandra & Aeneas



Jana Schwartz and Ricky Williams are moving to San Diego for job opportunities. Will miss their work with youth and Ricky's singing voice.