

# Peace Connection

MARCH 1ST, 2023

Wednesday March 1st  
12:00 pm Lent Soup and Study

Thursday March 2nd  
FLO is Canceled  
Sexton's Day Off  
10:00 am Western Conference Clergy  
and Lay Leaders  
3:00 pm Communion Ministry Team  
Meeting  
3:00 Organ Practice  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday March 3rd  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday March 4th  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday March 5th  
In Person Worship 9 & 11 am  
10:00 am Christian Education  
10:00 am Adult Gospel Study  
10:10 am Blood Pressure Screening

Monday March 6th  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
1:00 pm Comfort Quilters  
2:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:00 pm SOAP Bible Study

Tuesday March 7th  
7:00 pm CrossFire Rehearsal

Wednesday March 8th  
12:00 pm Lent Soup and Study  
7:00 pm Council Exec Comm

Thursday March 9th  
Sexton's Day Off  
11:00 am FLOW  
3:00 pm Organ Practice  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday March 10th  
Pastor Charlie's Day Off

Saturday March 11th  
2:00 pm Organ Practice

Sunday March 12th  
In Person Worship 9 & 11 am  
10:00 am Christian Education

*Grow in Faith \* Serve In Love \*  
Live In Peace*

## S.I.S. = Sisters In Spirit

Join your fellow Sisters In Spirit on Saturday April 1st at 6:00 pm in the Prince of Peace Narthex.

Please bring your favorite photo (and the story behind it) along with a snack to share. Feel free to invite a friend or two as well.

RSVP to Monica Dragony 216-702-7334 or [mkmonica66@gmail.com](mailto:mkmonica66@gmail.com)

## Thank you, Cindy Strieter!

Cindy has served as the Director of Contemporary Worship for 15 years. She has brought a great deal of creativity, joy, great music and leadership to our worship community. We have been blessed by her talents and musical gifts and partnership in ministry.

When I arrived at Prince of Peace nearly 2 years ago, Cindy shared her desire to retire from the position in the coming couple of years. It took quite a bit of time and effort to honor that request. I am thankful to Cindy for staying on until the position

has been filled. My hope and desire is that after some time off, Cindy will be back with the band playing and singing with the rest of the group.

On Sunday, March 12 at 10 am, we will thank Cindy for her years of service to God here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Watch for more information about this soon.



# Contemporary Worship Leader Hired

After several months of searching for a new director of Contemporary Worship, I am pleased to announce that we have hired Edward “Chip” DiFiore for this position. Chip comes to us with a great deal of experience and connections to the music community of Cleveland. He is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church and currently plays in the Saturday night service there. He also has been working with a mission church in Elyria developing their contemporary service. This position at Prince of Peace will not interfere with either.

Chip also has many years’ experience in music equipment sales and merchandise. As I mentioned, Chip has many music connections – he has a network of musicians and vocalists he can tap to help in the leadership of the band. This is something Chip has done for years.

Chip is a drummer. We may see more than one drummer up front on Sunday mornings from time to time – one on the drum set and one on congas! He has a passion for worship. He knows the Lutheran faith. He brings his own gifts, as well as resources for the places that could use some help.

Chip will begin on March 1 st , observing the band rehearsals and worship as Cindy transitions out of that position (see the note below). Please join me in welcoming Chip DiFiore to the Prince of Peace community!



# Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop

- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, March 19 at 10 am

What happens when you die? It may not be what you want to talk about, but it needs to be talked about.

Pastor Charlie can have the theological conversation with you about this, but what about the logistics? Who is contacted? How are funeral plans made? What are the details?

On Sunday, March 19 at 10 am, Pastor Charlie will be leading workshop on funeral pre-planning. A packet of materials will be given to each participant for guidance in making plans for funeral or memorial services and other details.

Your pre-planning of details will be a benefit to your loved ones as well as the church. Once the document is completed, a copy can be kept on file at Prince of Peace, and can be updated at any time. An additional copy can be kept with your other important document. Come join us for this information workshop.



## Altar Flowers



## Altar Flowers

For \$24 you can purchase an arrangement for every Sunday service to honor a family member who has passed, an anniversary, birthday, or any other event.

You can sign up in the lower Narthex on the sign up sheet! You can pick any date, as often as you'd like!

# Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

28455 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, OH

## ~ HOLY WEEK ~

*Come and Join The Journey to The Cross and Tomb*

**Palm Sunday, April 2**

9:00 am Contemporary † 11:00 am Traditional

**Maundy Thursday, April 6**

† Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

**Good Friday, April 7**

† Good Friday Service 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 9**

† 6:58 am Sunrise Service at  
Evergreen Cemetery

† 9:00 am Contemporary Service

† 11:00 am Traditional



ALL ARE WELCOME

# Lent Soup & Study

Beginning on Wednesday, March 1st, we will gather for Soup and Study at noon in the Fellowship Hall through the season of Lent.

The video series “The Way” by Adam Hamilton will be our study focus for Lent. Pastor Charlie Woodward will lead the discussions.

## Prayer Wall

If you ever make it to Jerusalem, a must-see site is the Western or Wailing Wall. The wall has stood for over 2000 years. The wall surrounded the Temple in Jesus' day. The Temple was the place where God dwelt. Seated on the Ark of the Covenant, the Temple was the place God resided. It is the closest that the Jewish community comes to the former Temple site.

Pilgrims from around the world come to the wall to pray. These old stones show their age, with many nooks and crevices from a couple inches to several feet in size. These pilgrims often will bring written prayers and place them in crevices as an offering to God.

When we were visiting our exchange student in Germany, we visited his family's church. Inside the doors, there was a table set up with bricks – a prayer wall for the church. I brought that idea home to us at Prince of Peace for Lent.

In the narthex, a table with a brick wall will greet you at the entrance of the sanctuary. Pieces of paper and pens will be there for you. Take time to write a prayer – joys and sorrows. At the end of Lent, we will take all these prayers and burn them in our fire pit outside – an offering to God. Pr. Charlie



# PASTOR CHARLIE'S BLOG



From PC's PC (Pastor Charlie's Personal Computer!)

Psalm 105:1-11,37-45

God's Faithfulness to Israel

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.
- 3 Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.
- 5 Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
- 6 O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
- 7 He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.
- 8 He is mindful of his covenant forever,  
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
- 9 the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- 10 which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
- 11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

- 37 Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold,  
and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.
  - 38 Egypt was glad when they departed,  
for dread of them had fallen upon it.
  - 39 He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.
  - 40 They asked, and he brought quails,  
and gave them food from heaven in abundance.
  - 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.
  - 42 For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.
  - 43 So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.
  - 44 He gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,
  - 45 that they might keep his statutes  
and observe his laws.
- Praise the Lord!

Welcome to March!

Garrison Keillor said that the reason God created the month of March is for people who don't drink can experience what a hangover feels like! Oh my.

Happy March.

I actually like the month of March because there is a sense of hope that fills the air. I can look at the calendar and see the first day of Spring is coming. I look forward to the college basketball tournament. And as the days progress, we get closer and closer to Holy Week and Easter. There is hope!



Where do you find hope today?  
And are you willing to share it?

The first verse of today's psalm can be a sermon in itself. The old adage was that a good sermon has three points. Here it is.

Point 1 - Give thanks to the Lord.  
Point 2 - Call on his name.  
Point 3 - Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Point 1.  
It begins with God. Always a good place to start. I would suggest that if you are ever asked to be the one to offer a prayer (a request that can cause fear and trepidation in many a soul), keep it simple, and say thank you.

So it is a family gathering, and you are asked to offer the prayer. Here is an example – “Dear God, thank you for the meal today. Thank you gathering us together. Amen.”

An aside – I remember at camp one day, one of my campers volunteered to pray for the meal – I didn't expect him to be the one to do it. He was very proud of his prayer, and I will never forget it. It went like this: “Father, Son and Holy Ghost, first in line gets the most. Amen!”  
But I digress.

If you feel you need to kick start your prayer life, this can be a good place to start. At the end of the day, look back and give thanks to God for what God has given you that day. Its kind of like a child sharing with a parent what they learned in school that day.

Point 2.  
Give thanks for the gift, AND remember the giver. God is the giver of all that is good.

If you ever go to buy a car, the first thing the salesperson will want to do is know your name. In offering the name, you provide that salesman access to you.  
The blessing we have in our faith is that we DO have a name. We have access. We can call on God and God is ready to listen. Jesus is asked by his disciples how to pray. In response, Jesus said, “When you pray, say ‘Our Father...’”  
We have access. We have a name.

God created us to be in relationship with God (and with others too). The best way to continue to be in relationship is to communicate with one another. Call upon the name of the Lord.

Point 3  
Make known his deeds.  
This may be the one that makes us nervous.  
But if there is something good in your life, don't you want to share it?  
I didn't hesitate to post on Facebook the good news that THE University of Michigan beat a team from Columbus, Ohio!

Why not do the same with what God has done and continues to do in our lives?  
These are the stories that I love to hear.

We are called in 1 Corinthians 12 to rejoice as a community when one rejoices and suffer together when one suffers. We do well with sharing prayer concerns with each other. We don't do so well when it comes to times of joy. It was a difficult several weeks at the church I served. Over and over again, I was receiving phone calls from people asking for prayers on the phone prayer chain – illnesses, surgeries, broken relationships and more.

And then I got a phone call from Betty. A widow who came to church by herself for many years. She was calling to ask me if I would officiate at her wedding. She and John were getting married. John was a widower who served as an usher ever Sunday. He spent every Sunday out in the narthex guarding the coat rack and belongings (that was what he told me he was doing).

I suggested that we needed to add this GOOD news on the prayer chain. It was a joy, and a surprise to many because no one had ever seen the two of them together! In fact one woman called me to verify that this news was true before she would share it with others.  
What is the good news you could share today?

*Let us pray: Almighty God our Heavenly Father, we give you thanks today for this new day, this new month, this new opportunity to live in your creation and love. Empower us to share the blessings you have given us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen*

*"Prince of Peace History 101"*  
*This Week's Feature:*  
*Janet and Gary Allie*



Janet was born in Saginaw, Michigan and grew up in Lansing, MI along with her sister Cindy. The family moved to Bay Village in 1970 where she graduated from high school. After searching for a new church, they felt at home and became members at POP in 1970. Cindy and Janet were both confirmed here. She attended Cuyahoga Community College for a few years but then decided to begin working. Gary was born in Cleveland where he attended school as well as Bedford, OH. His focus of study was math and history. He grew up with a sister and brother that have since passed away. He has 3 children: 1 son is 54 years old, another son is 53, and his daughter is 41 years old.

Janet has been employed in a variety of positions including retail at May Company, operations manager at Mallard Bay Gift Company, distribution at a local company, and the recreation center in Middleburg Heights. Gary has focused his work as a semi truck driver. As Janet was running a warehouse in 1995 in Westlake, Gary was making a delivery. They began to talk and exchanged phone numbers. Janet and Gary were engaged shortly afterwards. They were married on Gary's 48th birthday at Prince of Peace on July 1, 1995!

Janet has related many stories to me of her experiences at Prince of Peace when the congregation was just getting started. Some members may remember her parents, Joe and Carole Newman, who had served on most committees during the time they attended. With Janet and sister Cindy, they were all very involved in many missions. Her father was on Council and the Stewardship Committee. In the early days only the office and nursery building existed, so she remembers the work done to add the new additions of the sanctuary, the fellowship hall and education wing.

Several other things bring joy to her as she recalls a 4 sided display in the narthex that had pictures her father took when a new member joined. Westlake also had a church softball league that many participated in. Janet's mother was in charge of the Christian Education program for many years and became the Parish worker. She became a longtime member of the Choir and the Altar Guild. Her mother passed away in 1982, and several items have been donated in her memory that are still in use. The Eternal Candle at the back of the sanctuary was provided by the church Choir. Two Candelabras given by the family are used by the Altar Guild for special occasions. Her father is now living at the O'Neill Nursing Home in Bay Village.

Gary's interests include softball and exercise. Janet enjoys gardening, crafts, and photography. She is a devoted Michigan sports fan, which certainly makes Pastor Charlie happy! Gary and Janet have been away from POP for a period of time and are living in Middleburg Heights. They are no longer members, but in the last 6 months Janet has returned to attend services and is renewing old friendships and making new ones. Say hello to Janet as she worships at the contemporary service. She wants to offer a Thank You to all for making her feel welcome and home again. The early members had planted a mustard seed that has grown Jesus's Kingdom!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter



- February/March - Cleveland School of the Arts Black History Month choir performance, details TBA
- Feb - May- Guardians, Charge, and Cavs games for youth and CE - Outside events for little kids (Skyzone, Jumpyard, Play CLE, Bowling, etc.)
- June 26 - July 3rd - Cultural Immersion trip to El Salvador for upper high school and college students and graduates/young adults

# General Endowment Grant

The Endowment Committee has established the General Endowment grant availability for 2023 at \$20,000. Applications will be considered from Prince of Peace members, regular visitors, or staff members. Applications received before May 1 will be held for group review and approval by the Endowment Committee. Applications received after May 1 will be reviewed for approval on a "first come first serve" basis.

Grant applications must be completely filled out and meet one or more of the "approval factors" shown on the Procedures and Guidelines for the General Endowment Funds. Both can be found on the church website under "Resources" and then "Endowment".

**INTERNATIONAL DINNER SERIES**

**CAMBODIAN DINNER**  
**THURSDAY APRIL 27TH**  
**AT 6PM**  
 27080 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH 44070

**Phnom Penh**  
 restaurant  
 Cambodian and Vietnamese Cuisines

Please text Hilary to  
 sign up 216.258.1639  
 All are welcome

# Easter Garden Plant Sale--March 5 - March 26

Altar Guild is looking forward to arranging our traditional spring garden for Easter--with your help by providing the plants! Easter lilies, tulips, hyacinths and hydrangea plants will be ordered from Dean's Greenhouse. Take your plant(s) home after the Easter Sunday service. Place your completed order form and check/cash for flowers for our Easter Sunday Garden in the basket at the high table in the narthex. Order forms are available at the order table. We can take your order through Sunday, March 26. Questions? See Dineen Terstage.



# Prayer Concerns for the week of February 15th

*Please join us in praying for members and friends with recent needs:* Benjamin, Deb Winar, DJ's wife, Michelle, and her two children Sophia and DJ Jr., Dr. Phil Blitz, Donna Kucera and family, family and friends of Carl Karp, Gloria Starr, her daughter Angie, and the family, Joe Kazak, Judy and Jim Santora, June Zweidinger's family and friends, Laura, Mary Kay Balch, Morgan Jarvis, Ron Claus, the students and faculty at Michigan State University, the victims of the earthquake and the relief workers.

*Also, we pray for chronic, long-term care needs:* Charlotte, Renn, James Arrigo, Stephanie Bailey, Tony Cacciatore, Don Chrismar, Patty Doran, Marcia Drysdale, Dawn Higgins, Jayne Kramic, Deanne Lahner, Angela Missig, Jenn Pitts, Eric and Nicole Quinn, Lois Reichert, Howard Ricke, Pam Rotella, Bill Sweeny, Robert Sieving, and Al Tielke.

*Prayer requests submitted after Thursday at Noon will be posted the following week. Please notify the office of prayer concerns. These names will be shared with our prayer chain ministry & remain on our prayer list during Sunday worship for 3 weeks.*

All Peace Connection requests will need to be submitted with 3 days notice (the Sunday prior) to be included in the weekly post. Thank you for your understanding!

## Attendance at Prince of Peace

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Total</u>
02/26/2023	32	136	168
02/22/2023	11	52	83
02/19/2023	25	128	153
02/12/2023	37	138	178



## Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st

A big thank you to members who have already designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to POP. The 2022 Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2023. If you own any Thrivent Financial products or services you have a choice in directing where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. We really appreciate those who direct those Choice Dollars to Prince of Peace. To direct Choice Dollars log on to Thrivent.com (<https://www.thrivent.com>) or call (800) 847-4836. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about Thrivent, please contact Tim Regan at 440-227-9593 or at [timothy.regan@thrivent.com](mailto:timothy.regan@thrivent.com).

# Happy Birthday

03/01 Judy Cuciak  
03/01 Mary Olah  
03/01 Rusty Blakeslee  
03/01 Sandra Zanders  
03/07 Isaac Worsencroft  
03/07 Shawn Merhaut  
03/08 Mark Drobnak  
03/10 Jim Jaracz  
03/12 Lisa Arrigo  
03/13 Brooke Kovach  
03/13 Judy Kazak  
03/14 Karen Givens  
03/15 John Bontempo  
03/16 Jon Wilhelm  
03/19 Carter Bruneau  
03/20 Emma Goggin  
03/21 Richard Balch  
03/21 Sandy Connell  
03/22 Lisa Woodward  
03/23 Dale Mortensen  
03/24 Xavier Worsencroft  
03/27 Fran Wilhelm  
03/27 Judy Heimbuch  
03/27 Kyle Hallowell  
03/27 Pamela Ventimiglia  
03/28 Joseph Fortuna  
03/28 Zack Dragony  
03/29 Dominic Carimi  
03/29 William Franz  
03/31 Doug Leavens  
03/31 Linda Baumbach

## Prince of Peace Staff

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Cindy Strieter, Contemporary Music Director  
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Ruth Williams, Organist  
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Dave Covell, Church Council President  
thecovells@gmail.com



### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9-3

28455 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, Ohio 44145  
440/871-5565 • www.princeofpeacewestlake.org

### Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am in person.

[Livestream](#)

Christian Education - Sundays 10-10:50 am

Adult supervised child care for children 5 and under is  
offered for both services and during

the Christian Education hour between services.

## Follow Us!

