

# MESSENGER

A Newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church & Preschool

“WORSHIP ❖❖❖ CONNECT ❖❖❖ SERVE”

July 2021

## A New Life Burgeons!

*“Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.” 2 Corinthians 5:16-18 (The Messenger)*

Burgeons (verb) — begin to grow or increase rapidly; flourish.

We find ourselves in a fascinating moment as followers of Jesus, individually and as a community.

After one of the most profoundly disorienting years of our lives, we now have the scary and beautiful opportunity to orchestrate new chapters in our stories. Finding the right language to describe this moment is difficult for all of us. Are we returning to normal? Are we rebuilding? Are we restoring what we have lost? I hope not. While the “normal” of 16 months ago seems comfortable in hindsight, it included unique joys and challenges that cannot be fully recreated now. Both rebuilding and restoring imply putting something back together just as it was, an impossible task after the seismic shifts we have experienced. Locking our focus on the past as a road map to the future is both unproductive and just plain boring. Each of us is a different person now, for better or worse. For all its hardships, one of the most incredible gifts of our pandemic period was accelerated growth. We were all forced to learn more about ourselves, and those close to us, in a relatively short amount of time. Now we are well positioned to dream new dreams and begin putting those dreams into action.

In almost every way, we emerge from the past 16 months with clean slates, empty white-boards and the

enticing prospect of many fresh starts. I love how this is described in 2 Corinthians: “The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!” That is step one — recognizing the opportunities before us. Step two is trusting that the future God has prepared for us, our new life, burgeons. What a perfect word for this moment! Like a new plant peeking its first green shoot out of the ground, God promises that we will grow rapidly with positive perspectives, peaceful hearts, inquisitive minds and boundless energy as we lean into the new lives God has given each of us. While shaking off the pain of the past, we can embark on new adventures with a definitive hope that we will flourish. That is simply the way God works.

For Prince of Peace, here are the first lines I would write in our new chapter together. I encourage you to come up with your own list or find your place to jump in and contribute.

**1. Welcome/Worship.** These two actions are tightly linked. God invites us to receive divine encouragement on a weekly basis and inspires us to widen the circle by welcoming everyone. We need everyone to work to make this happen on Sunday mornings, from greeters at the front door to a team to run the video system to a team dedicated to discovering new ways to sing, pray and preach.

*Potential Actions: Launch worship ministry team(s) in August, launch worship renewal team in September, launch new*

*member recruiting process in October*

**2. Community Building.** Simply put, we need each other. This hunger for togetherness that each of us feels is more acute than it has ever been before. By creating pathways for people to share life together once again, by truly welcoming those who are now looking to find deep connections and by creating pathways to serve other people together, we will find strength.

*Potential Actions: Launch coffee and conversation after worship in August, launch re energized children/family ministry in September, launch new discussion/action groups in October*

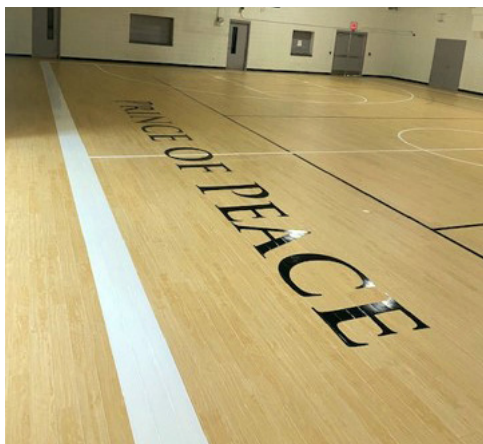
**3. Strengthen Our Partnerships.** No person is an island and no church is either. Partnering with other energized people and organizations is one of the strongest moves we can make to make Jesus visible in our world. *Potential Actions: Launch youth theater program in August, launch crossover ministry plan with Shepherd of the Hills UCC in September, launch preschool partnership with Hospice of the Valley in October*

While this is an ambitious list, it is achievable when we are focused on God’s promise to deliver burgeoning new life. I look forward to taking the first steps in Prince of Peace’s next chapter together. Here we are, God! Send us!

Peace,

*Pastor Rick*

## ***Gym Project Completed!***



The gym project is complete! Earlier this year the walls were painted, basketball backboards were replaced along with new frames and breakaway rims which had been damaged. The old floor was replaced due to warping and lifting and was replaced with a multipurpose floor that will not be affected by moisture and will require less maintenance! New tile was added to the south entryway and under the drinking fountain to match the north

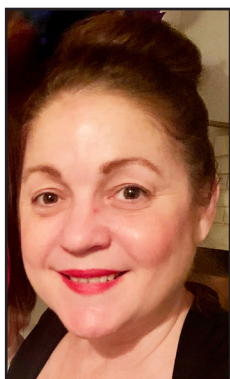
entryway. 'Prince of Peace' was painted along the sideline and looks fantastic! We will have a celebration soon to show it off!

## ***Youth Ministry Hiring Team Update***

An awesome team of people has come together to coordinate the hiring of POP's next Director of Youth and Family Ministry. The team is comprised of Stephanie Beebe, Dena Welch-Rowland, Phil Pierce, Susan Robinson, Tracy Fish and Pastor Rick Sherrill. The team has finalized a new position description, posted the position in several online locations, created an interview process, and divided up tasks to keep our youth ministry vibrant until our new staff person arrives. Thank you to the team! If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for the position (even someone looking to change careers), please contact Pastor Rick ([pastorrick@popphoenix.org](mailto:pastorrick@popphoenix.org)).

We said farewell to Sam Garcia on May 23, 2021 and pray that his new path will bring him joy and purpose moving forward. Sam has returned to central California and will be enrolling at Luther Seminary (St. Paul, MN) this fall to pursue a master's degree in youth and family ministry.

## ***Welcome to Our New Accountant***



**Kriscina Guana**

Kriscina Guana comes to Prince of Peace with many years of accounting experience plus an MBA degree. She brings a fresh perspective to this role, her values are in line with POP, and she is extremely excited to be part of this team! Being a problem solver as well as being detail oriented are two qualities she possesses that have made her successful in her career. She loves to solve puzzles in her personal time and in accounting, too, because it is like a large puzzle. Kriscina is a mom of two girls, 14 and 17, who will be a freshman and senior at Arcadia High School this fall.

THE MESSENGER is printed monthly for the purpose of informing members and friends of upcoming events, for sharing good news about our members and for sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through word and action.

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### **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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Tony Hammond, Treasurer  
Laurel Edgar, Financial Secretary  
Jan Beebe, Brenda Johnston  
Gwen Jacobs, Josh Hoffner  
Members-at-Large

Please see the website for individual staff e-mail addresses.

## *Graduating high school seniors celebrated in worship in May*

Prince of Peace congratulates five members of our community who graduated from high school in May and were honored with prayers and gifts in worship on May 16. All five have been active participants at Prince of Peace throughout their teenage years and have given of their talents to make our community shine. A huge thanks to Carol Kaufmann,, Penny Sandstrom & Janet DeJonge for the quilts and to Susan Robinson for the photo books that these students were given on behalf of Prince of Peace. Please continue to pray for these wonderful young adults as they continue to learn and grow in God's world.



**From left, Abby Creedon, Blayke Hammer, Madison Sherrill, Susan Robinson, Jacob Lara, Jordan Lara.**

**Abby Creedon** – Saguaro High School, will be attending University of Arizona  
**Blayke Hammer** – Saguaro High School, will be attending Scottsdale Community College  
**Jacob Hale Lara** – Saguaro High School, will be attending Arizona State University  
**Jordan Hale Lara** – Arcadia High School, will be attending Northern Arizona University  
**Madison Sherrill** – Saguaro High School, will be attending University of St. Thomas (MN)

*And presented with individual quilts sewn by Penny Sandstrom and Janet DeJonge with Carol Kaufmann in the making of the quilts for the graduates.*



# Confirmation 2021



**W**e celebrate with and offer our congratulations to eight amazing kids who affirmed their baptism at Prince of Peace on May 23, 2021. After 2-3 years of classes, retreats, summer camps and service projects, these faith-filled students stood before the congregation and delivered their very own faith statements. Thank you to the confirmation mentors who provided listening ears and advice to our students as they prepared their faith statements. Here is a glimpse:

## **Who is Jesus and what does he have to do with your life?**

◆ **Lana Rowland.** Jesus is the son of God; the one who came to show that there is hope; the man who died for all of us, for our sins to be forgiven. He shows me that there is always a different path to choose, that there can be hope in the most hopeless of times; that there can always be even a little bit of light in the darkness.  
**Gwen Kainass.** When I think of Jesus

I think of the person who sacrificed himself for humanity, and later returned from the dead. To me Jesus is a role model or someone I can look up to. He sacrificed himself for humanity, and that's something I can kind of relate to my everyday life. Sure, I'm not sacrificing my life, but knowing what Jesus did is a constant reminder that it is always good to do things for others.

## **What gifts has God given you? How can you use them to serve God and others?**

◆ **Tyler Beebe.** God has given me the ability to be strong and adventurous. He has taught me to be forgiving and encouraging to others. With God, I have conquered my fears, and look forward to challenging adventures.  
◆ **Phoenix Jose.** God has given me a voice. A lot of people with cerebral palsy can't talk. I thank God that I can use my voice to talk, sing and hopefully inspire.

## **What is your most meaningful spiritual experience to date, and why?**

◆ **Kaylin Sherrill.** My most meaningful spiritual experience was at Rock 'n Water two years ago. Our counselors told us to go find a quiet place in the forest to just sit with our thoughts. I decided to lay down on a big rock. I remember the sun shining through the leaves and the peaceful sound of the trees rustling. I just laid there letting the calmness run through my veins. I felt like God was there with me. He was with me in the place of calm. It felt amazing. I remember this moment because it felt like he was there with me through the experience.  
◆ **Austin Pierce.** As a Lutheran I believe that God is a big part of acceptance as God accepts everybody. My faith and acceptance moment was when I first came to Prince of Peace. I felt this because it was a very fun day and I actually enjoyed church and also

*continued on next page*

Confirmation - continued

felt welcomed. Going to church every weekend was very helpful because it taught me a lot about treating people the same and being respectful because that is how everyone at Prince of Peace is. When I started going to church I didn't understand it. I thought we were getting dressed up for no reason and going to this place but as I learned and listened to what was going on, I understood we were not just there to be there but we were there to spread love and kindness. Throughout church and Sunday school I have had many questions. I really think hard about this stuff and I think that is faith.

**If you could ask God three questions, what would they be and why?**

◆ **Ben Ayala.** Why do bad things happen to good people? What is your favorite thing to do? How did you feel when you were betrayed at the table with your friends?

**How will you use your faith to change the world?**

◆ **Brody Kainass.** I will take my faith to change the world by seeing how fortunate I am and how unfortunate other people in the world are and donate money and take trips to places and try to make a difference.

**Rock-N-Water**

From June 19 to 26, a group of 20 teens and 5 adults from Prince of Peace ditched the scorching hot weather in Phoenix and traveled to Northern California to participate in a week of camp at Rock-n-Water. The group had many God moments while camping on the banks of the American River, white water rafting, rock climbing, canyoneering, and worshipping around the campfire. A huge thanks to Angela Sherrill (trip leader), Stephanie Beebe, Tyler Wagner, Samantha Ayala and Pastor Rick for serving as adult sponsors. And thanks to the people of Prince of Peace for their support of our amazing youth. For more information about Rock-n-Water, visit [www.rocknwater.com](http://www.rocknwater.com).



**Bashas' & Fry's Programs**

Our Fry's rebates for 12/1/2020 - 5/31/2021 totaled \$86. Our rebates from reloading Bashas' cards during January through May totaled \$147.

Instructions for participating in the Fry's program are posted on the church's website ([www.poppheoenix.org](http://www.poppheoenix.org)) under the Serv-ing tab. If you need a new reloadable grocery card from Bashas' (which is also accepted at AJ's Fine Foods and Food City), please let me know.

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[Stephen.Crofton@gmail.com](mailto:Stephen.Crofton@gmail.com)

**Packathon Nov. 6!!**

The Sixth Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon will take place on our campus on Saturday, November 6. Sign up online starting in early September. Help with setup on Friday Nov. 5. More details will follow in the coming weeks.



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**Women's Bible Study (M&M's) Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.**

Mary and Martha's Bible Study continues to meet this summer, Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. with a study of the Psalms. In addition to the Bible study, the time is used to visit and support each other with caring prayers. If you have questions about the meeting location, e-mail Paula Sturgeon at [thegimpygal@gmail.com](mailto:thegimpygal@gmail.com). We would love to have you join us!

## *A New Day for AMA (Arcadia Music Academy)*

Prince of Peace is pleased to announce a new partnership with Temple Music and Performing Arts to lead the Arcadia Music Academy into a bright future. Beginning later this summer, Temple Music and Performing Arts will oversee all day-to-day operations including scheduling, billing, recruitment of top-quality instructors, and excellent customer service. AMA's current instructors have been invited to continue teaching, joining Temple's staff of professionals. We are excited to continue and expand AMA's mission to provide top-level music training in the heart of Arcadia.

Temple Music and Performing Arts has been in the Valley since 2009 and has a long track record of training and preparing young musicians and performers to pursue their aspirations wherever their paths may lead. As owners of Temple Music Studios in Scottsdale, Terry and Ginny Temple have unique expertise in leading a vibrant music training center. In addition, Terry Temple is the current Managing Director of Desert Foothills Theater in North Scottsdale.

As well as overseeing the Arcadia Music Academy, the staff of Temple Music and Performing Arts will begin producing full-scale musicals on the Prince of Peace campus that will be open to all young actors in the Valley and provide performing arts classes and performance opportunities throughout the year. Our dream is to become an energetic hub for performing arts in our area.



**Top: Students gather around the piano with Terry Temple at the piano.  
Below: Prince of Peace hosted a summer performing arts camp, June 7-18, led by Temple Music and Performing Arts.**

### *A Message from Kevin Wooden*

Hello friends and family,

I have made it to Kosovo and we are starting our training week. The total travel time was broken up between 14 hours of flights, 8 hours of layovers and a 2-hour windy drive to the ski resort where we are attending training. We have most of our missionaries here but are waiting for 13 more to fulfill the total of 51 participants. Please pray for safe travels for our remaining participants. God is so present within the community of participants, the surrounding nature, and the daily moments. I am excited to see how the Lord will work this summer and I am so grateful for your support through prayers, finances, and encouragement. Thank you again for your support and I will keep you updated with how God is moving here in Kosovo.

Please pray for myself and the other GEM missionaries with strength and encouragement to pursue God's will. Additionally please pray that the Kosovoan people will have their hearts softened for us to share the gospel with them.

Short term missionary, *Kevin Wooden*

## My Vaccine Journey

by Lynne McGinley

We've all been navigating our way through this Covid-19 pandemic for over a year now. For many it has meant job changes, isolation from loved ones, learning how to do personal interaction virtually, and ... lots of television time! For some, it meant contracting the virus with various degrees of suffering. Late last August, I received a letter in the mail asking if I would like to participate in a Covid-19 vaccine clinical study. At the time, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were just starting to make the front page news. Not sure why I got the mailing, but I logged onto my laptop and selected an interview time for the following week. My history of shots, and medical care in general, is minimal. I had all the required infant vaccines and a couple of tetanus shots in my life. Never a flu shot. But I decided, if selected, I could be part of a cure.

The initial Zoom interview was scheduled for 5:10 a.m. on a Monday in early September. An LPN explained that Johnson & Johnson was developing their own vaccine. She asked basic health questions and described the goals of the study in more detail. After the call I was green-lighted for an in-person exam in October at the medical lab that would be doing the testing. I was asked to read and consent to a 38-page document that explained everything about the study — number of visits, procedures to be used, who the participants were (60,000 of us worldwide!), and the risks. My actual injection appointment was then scheduled for late November.

I only told a few people what I was doing, eliciting both support and questioning comments. I really hadn't thought that much about the risks until my scheduled "vaccine day" was approaching. In that two-month period, the other vaccines were approved for use and the number of COVID cases and deaths continued to climb. I decided praying about it would give me answers, help and protection. Hey it's Johnson & Johnson ... they make baby products, what could go wrong, and it's only one shot! I was nervous driving there that day and decided that I would opt out. This just wasn't going to fit into my schedule, I was scared about the

risks, couldn't get sick, and the list went on. As part of the study, I was required to monitor my oxygen level, body temperature and injection details and load the data into a study app. Well, on that particular day, the app was unable to load onto my I-Phone and I thought — God gave me my answer! I was asked to return a week later. Good, I'll have time to rethink this whole thing. That next week I asked God to give me a sign. My Bible studies and daily devotional readings have said to listen what God is telling you, feel the nudges. But before I knew it, I was raising my sleeve for the injection. The app was now on my phone. Everything went smoothly. However, it is a double blind study — did I get the placebo or vaccine?

For fourteen days I reported my symptoms or, in my case, non-symptoms. I felt great! I continued to social distance, wash my hands and mask up. My January and February visits consisted of more nasal swabs and blood draws. The visits were to become less frequent, but I had committed to a 24-month study. On March 16 I got a phone call telling me the pharmaceutical company had decided to "unblind" the study. Since the other two vaccines were now being administered to so many people, I'm sure they felt they had an obligation to let participants know their status. On Friday, March 19, I sat in a sterile medical room waiting for the answer. After more nasal swabs and blood draws, ten minutes waiting for the doctor seemed like an eternity. Please God, let it be the vaccine, I repeated many times. But I had felt so good, no symptoms, it's probably the placebo.

On December 7, 2020, I DID receive the actual Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine. And I have the card to prove it! What a relief, although we all still must maintain the protocols for now. I decided to sign another consent to continue with the study for five years. This will enable further research into the effectiveness of the vaccine and help prepare the world for (gasp!) future pandemics. I realize that getting the vaccine is a personal choice, but I believe it is my faith that guided me through this journey.



## Roses to...

- ◆ **Nancy Stevens** for her long service to Prince of Peace in the role of financial secretary. In her position Nancy oversaw offering counting, bank deposits, check signing and so much more. Nancy's service to our community has been an amazing gift.
- ◆ **Laurel Edgar** for assuming the role of Prince of Peace's new financial secretary.
- ◆ **Maria Renovato** (campus manager) and **Keri Herding** (former accountant) for their years of service coordinating the Arcadia Music Academy (AMA). Please see the article on page 8 about the new partnership with Temple Music and Performing Arts who are assuming management responsibilities for AMA this summer.
- ◆ **Carol Kaufmann, Penny Sandstrom, Janet DeJonge and Susan Robinson** for providing gifts to our recent graduates.
- ◆ **Loren Woods** (friend of POP) for giving his time and boundless energy to help coordinate the Gangsei Hall reflooring project.
- ◆ **Jack Ranby** for his tireless work every week setting up and tearing down the sound system for our outdoor worship services from October to April.
- ◆ our talented musicians **Dr. Allen Quie, Lynne McGinley, Dave DeJonge and Harper Denhard** for producing hymns for online worship.
- **Gwen Jacobs** for taking on the position of usher/welcome coordinator for our worship services and for the **members of the Church Council** who are serving as ushers/welcomers on Sunday mornings.

## News of Members and Friends

### DEATHS

2/19/21 Carol Jensen

4/6/21 Phyllis Mackenzie

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to sign up for our news, e-mail us at office@poppheoenix.org email.***

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