

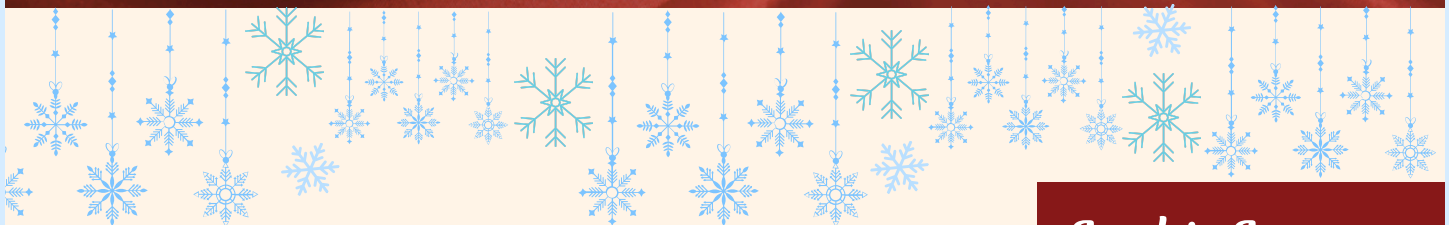
# PRINCE OF PEACE

Est. 1998



Families following Christ

## January - February 2026 Newsletter



### *A Letter from the Pastor...*

#### **Happy New Year!**

Welcome to 2026! It's hard to believe that another year is past and a new one has begun. Time marches on.

As we begin a new calendar year in January, we begin a new season in the church – the season of Epiphany. The season of Epiphany focuses on the manifestation or “making known” or the “revealing of” Jesus to ALL people. The scripture readings reflect this starting with first Sunday of Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord. You can't get much clearer “making known” that Jesus is the Son of God than by God Himself speaking “THIS IS MY SON.” Then, for the next 5 Sundays, the readings make known that Jesus is the Son of God by the things Jesus says and does.



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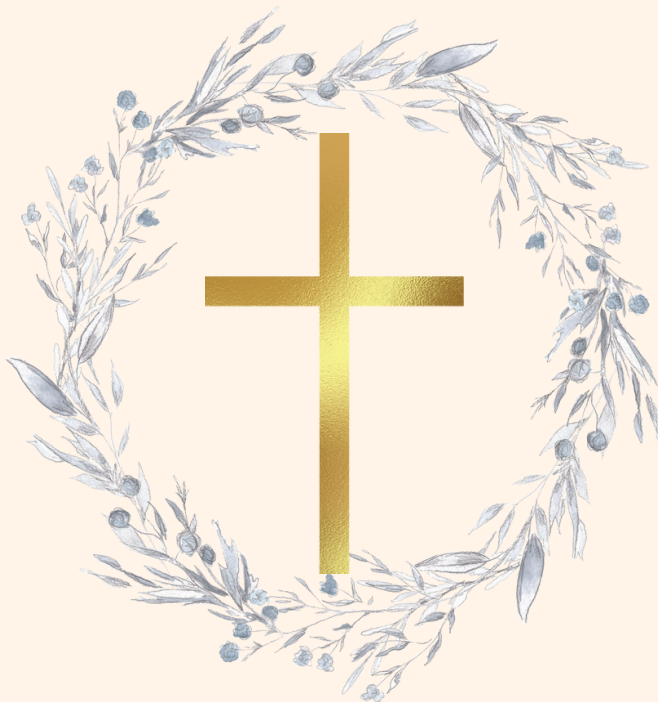
Epiphany then leads to the season of Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday on February 18. It is a time marked by reflective, solemn, penitential repentance.

While these dark winter months are made even more so during this season, we're also reminded that just as Spring is coming with its new life, so also is new life coming as we await the coming celebration of the resurrection at the Easter celebration on April 5th!

And so, we endure in Christ and in the place where He promised to meet us – in His word and sacraments in His church where His word is proclaimed and His sacraments are received.

May the God of all hope find you blessed in Christ in the year of our Lord 2026!!

Pastor Randy Sakach



*Isaiah 60:1*

*Arise,  
shine, for  
your light  
has come,  
and the  
glory of the  
Lord has  
risen  
upon you.*

# New Member's Spotlight

## Millie East

Millie, originally from East Nashville, was baptized at First Baptist on Broad Street and graduated from Hume-Fogg High School. She worked in various secretarial roles while attending Volunteer State and raised two children, Kelly and Kevin. She later enjoyed her favorite job as a child support caseworker for the Warren County Prosecutor in Bowling Green, KY.

Now retired and living in White House, Millie stays active with ukulele and singing groups, senior volleyball, Mahjong, and travel—soon heading to Martha's Vineyard and Aruba. Invited by her daughter Kelly Romines, she quickly felt at home at Prince of Peace. We're so happy to welcome her into our church family!



## Tom and Connie Graef



Tom and Connie have been worshipping with us for some time and are now officially members of Prince of Peace. Connie, from Franklin, KY, graduated from Franklin Simpson High, studied secretarial courses at WKU, and now works at Franklin Bank. Tom, from Portland, TN, is an East Robertson graduate with a business degree who works at Tri Green. He grew up on his family's dairy farm—milking up to 100 cows until 9-11-11—and now raises crops with one of their sons.

Married since 1979, Tom and Connie have three children and five grandchildren, including Josie and Eli, who are in confirmation classes at POP.

Longtime Lutherans, they previously taught Sunday School and led youth at their church in Franklin. They were drawn to Prince of Peace by Pastor Randy's messages and the warmth of our congregation.

We're delighted to welcome them to our church family!



## Birthdays this Month

Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>  
• Peggy Morgan

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>  
• Vicki Lemmon  
Mowatt

Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>  
• Casey Davis

Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>  
• Debbie Hartwig

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>  
• Daniel Sherley

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
• Georgia Brasher  
• Daniel Guill

Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>  
• Vic Filgueras

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>  
• Michelle Sakach

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>  
• Debbie Filgueras



## Anniversaries

Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
• Gerald and  
Georgia Brasher

A calendar is displayed in front of the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall. Feel free to add your special day there or text it to Tiffany at 512.998.9430



# Longtime Members

## Mike and Donna Shepherd

One of the founding members of Prince of Peace is the Shepherd family. Donna's father was a Marine so they moved quite a bit but she lived most of her years in the Hendersonville area where she graduated from high school. She began her career working at Opryland Hotel but used her bookkeeping skills to work for Kroger Company, P&S Transportation and Lipscomb University before retiring.

Mike lived in Hendersonville but spent his teen years in Sarasota, FL where he graduated from high school. He joined the Navy upon graduation. Mike worked in the construction and remodeling business for many years until retiring.

A mutual friend introduced Mike to Donna as he stopped by on his way to Florida. The introduction interrupted his travel plans. After a rapid courtship, they were married on 9-4-1982. Mike's sister was a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, they went through marriage preparation class with Pasto Callis, and he did their marriage ceremony there. Donna had been raised Baptist and was baptized but Mike had not been baptized. They became members at attended Ascension where Mike was baptized and Donna confirmed.

They bought a home in White House and added to their family with their son Michael born in 1990. They changed their membership to Trinity Lutheran in Gallatin until being commissioned along with others to help plant Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in White House.

As Prince of Peace grew and changed locations, the Shepherds were very active. They taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible Schools, led the youth ministry including youth conferences; lock ins, mission trips, puppet ministry etc. Mike used his construction skills to renovate the church facility with each move. Donna used her skills in decorating with the hospitality ministries and worked in the church office.

Now both retired they continue to serve but enjoy camping and anything involving Michael and wife Kristen and their grandchildren, Maddie and Mason.

The church family at Prince of Peace today are reaping the rewards of their labor of love and service over the years. We are grateful and thankful for their vision and investment of time and talent.



*Matthew  
2:10*

*When they  
saw the  
star, they  
rejoiced  
exceedingly  
with great  
joy.*

# Youth Ministries

## Sunday School Teachers

A heartfelt thank you to our Sunday school teachers who generously give their time and care to help shape the future of our Lutheran Church. Your steady guidance supports our children as they grow into the people they are meant to be. We are truly grateful for your kindness and dedication.

Thank you Rene Blomberg, Sarah Berrett, and Amy Conner!



## Gathered by Grace

Join us **every 3rd Thursday 6-8pm** to spend time learning more about God and what it looks like to follow Him daily. We will talk, have fun, play games and eat. This is open to all **middle and high school kids**.

This month, it will be hosted **at church, and we'll begin a 4-part series on the Wisdom books**.

We would love to see you there!

Reach out to Sarah at (615) 429-9908 for any questions.



## Did you know?

Our Pastor shares personal church updates and some upcoming events through an email list.

*rmsak@comcast.net*



Our Deacon, Bob Allen, emails a daily Bible verse and prayer for our church family.

*rjallen@prodigy.net*

Send an email and you'll be added to the list!



# Adult Classes



## Sunday School

Gather with us in the Sanctuary following Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings for a group devotional study.



## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

All are welcome to attend our Wednesday Bible Studies at 6:30pm hosted here at church.



## POP News

### POP Choir!

If you love music and fellowship and want to glorify God through song, we'd love for you to join us!

Our goal is to sing about **six Sundays this year**, including Easter and Christmas. There's **no big commitment**—come when you can! **Rehearsals will be limited and beginner-friendly, so no need to read music.**

Please call or text me (Hal Hartwig) at 615-490-4620, or email me at [halh2002@yahoo.com](mailto:halh2002@yahoo.com) or call or text Peggy Morgan at 931-624-3312 or email [peggmorgan4@icloud.com](mailto:peggmorgan4@icloud.com) and let us know your level of interest and what evening(s) or days would work best for you when we do schedule rehearsals.

**We hope to hold our first “meet and greet” later this month. We’re also looking for members who play instruments—let us know if that’s you!**

God’s richest blessings for the year ahead!



*Matthew  
3:17*

*“This is my  
beloved  
Son, with  
whom I  
am well  
pleased.”*

## Directory

Our church directory is being updated!  
This is a great opportunity to ensure your contact information and family details are current. Please review your listing and make any changes in **address, phone number, and/or email.**

**If you are not listed, please add your information in any blank space along the right side column.**

Keeping our directory accurate helps us stay connected as a church family.



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## Member's Photo Wall and Mailboxes

Our church family is growing!  
With the increase in members, our mailboxes and photo slots quickly filled up.

A heartfelt **thank you** goes to **Larry Ochs** for generously expanding both. **Your hard work and dedication are a true blessing to our congregation!**



**Pastor Randy will bring his camera the next few Sundays, so if you'd like your picture updated, now's your opportunity!**

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## POP's on Google!

POP's google business profile has been updated, and we now need YOUR help.

**Please give us your honest review** and feel free to include relevant photos. This can be done by finding us on google maps or following [this link.](#)



## Did you know?

Our church has 2 facebook pages!

click here!

One for updates from Pastor Randy

And

One for members to share updates, photos, and good times!



click here!

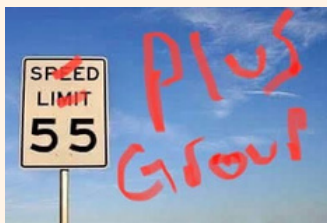
# Fellowship Opportunities



Are you interested in knitting or crocheting? Whether you're a seasoned pro or just beginning, we warmly invite you to join us **every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at church.**

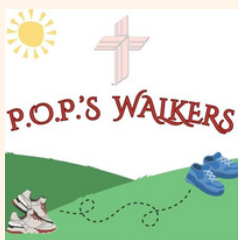


Our group met Tuesday and shared great ideas for the year ahead. We'll plan events earlier and schedule more on **Saturdays or Sunday afternoons so everyone can join in—no age limits, and family and friends are welcome!**



February's plans are still being decided, but Hal Hartwig's group is set to entertain us for March.

Other ideas include a visit to Paul Hefner's farm, a summer swim day at Hal and Debbie's, movie and dinner outings, a goat farm trip, caroling, adopting a nursing home resident for Christmas, a spring/summer cookout, and even lunch at Bass Pro to enjoy the aquarium!



Soon enough, we'll be walking outdoors again! Until then, they are still being held at the **White House Recreation Center.**

- **Wednesdays 9:30 for chair yoga followed by an indoor track walk.**
- **Fridays at 10am for an indoor track walk.**

There is a fee to walk there during those times and for classes. Please visit the website below for their rates and address.

[Click here for their website!](#)

Vanessia Oochs (785.248.3851) can answer any questions.  
Hope to see you there!

*Matthew  
4:17*

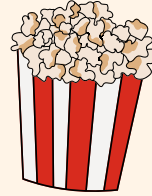
*“Repent,  
for the  
kingdom  
of heaven  
is at  
hand.”*





Motherhood wasn't meant to be done alone. Come join other Moms of every stage for playdates and beyond! We **meet 1 or 2 times a month, typically on Saturdays.**

The gatherings will be posted to the church member's Facebook page and a group text. Feel free to bring along family and friends! Contact Nicole Goolsby (618.367.0965) or Tiffany Plant (512.998.9430)



**In February, we are planning a family-pajama-pizza-movie-night HERE at church! Date and time TBA- so stay tuned!**



## Community Outreach

*From our Outreach leader, Liz Rohl...*

Another year of planning our Outreach Community Events is underway.

I want to thank everyone who has supported us and showed up for the events in 2025. We all make a difference to building our community and you are the BEST.

To start off 2026 we look forward to:

Represent Prince of Peace at the Middle Tennessee strawberry festival. The event meeting will be announced soon.

A Red Cross Blood donation is scheduled for March 10, 2026 from 2-7.

Sign up at [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and use POP as location.

I have been considering scheduling my meetings during the day and will announce that soon. All are welcome to attend!

Thank you for allowing me to represent Prince of Peace as the Outreach Chairperson.

Blessings,

Liz Rohl



## *Want to Create a Group?*

Prince of Peace is YOUR church and welcomes fellowship opportunities among our Church family outside of Sunday morning.

Bring your ideas to Pastor Randy or any servant leader!

# White House Nursing Home

2871 US-31W, White House, TN 37188

[Click here for Directions!](#)



## Tuesday Ministry

Every Tuesday from 10:30-11am, Bob Allen leads a Bible study session at the nursing home, welcoming everyone to participate - children are especially adored!



There will be another fingernail painting party in January and February. Date and time TBA (to be announced).  
All are welcomed to attend.



As always, all supplies are provided. For any more info/questions, contact Tiffany Plant or Bob Allen.



## 2026 Mission trip to Tanzania

We're planning a mission trip to Tanzania for May 2026! Bishop Yohana Nzelu has suggested May 18-24th (travel May 14th, optional safari May 26-27th), but we're open to alternative dates due to graduation conflicts. We'll serve in the remote villages of Mwamadulu and Mihama, focusing on church planting and visiting ministry sites including the Buhangiji Albino Center.

Interested? Email or call me with your preferred dates.

Bob Allen  
270-535-7370  
[rjallen@prodigy.net](mailto:rjallen@prodigy.net)

[Click here for more info!](#)

## February Birthdays

Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Bob Broker

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Leesa Haydock

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>

- Larry Ochs



## February Anniversaries

Feb. 21

- Greg and Leesa Haydock



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