

The Episcopal Church
in
Gettysburg, PA



The Episcopal Epistle

From the Priest In Charge

The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser

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“Those who receive you are also receiving me, and those who receive me are receiving the one who sent me. Those who receive a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. Those who receive a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. I assure you that everybody who gives even a cup of cold water to these little ones because they are my disciples will certainly be rewarded.” (Matthew 10:



Recent World Health Organization statistics document that more than 2 billion people around the world don't have access to safely managed drinking water. That works out to be about 25% of the world's population. (World Health Organization, 2025). This isn't just a developing nation

problem. Cari Shane documents that more than 45 million people in the United States live with water insecurity – either no running water or water that is potentially unsafe. (Shane, 2023). Offering a cup of water to someone who is dehydrated or lacks access to safe drinking

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water isn't just an act of righteousness, it is frequently a lifesaving act.

Jesus' brief words here in Matthew – Chapter 10 reverberate with at least two definitive themes in this Gospel. Those themes are prophecy and righteousness. New Testament scholars such as Bart Ehrman note that there are about a dozen instances in Matthew that offer “fulfillment citations.” In basic terms Matthew's author(s) link(s) prophetic statements from ancient Abrahamic prophets (Isaiah, Joel, Micah) with specific events in Jesus' life. For example, the prophet Micah predicts that the Messiah's (Jesus') birth will occur in Bethlehem. I should clearly mention that Micah doesn't specifically state that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. The synoptic Gospels assert that “truth.” Matthew analogizes Jesus with Moses. The daughter of the Pharaoh rescues Moses. Jesus' parents flee to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. Moses offers the Law to the Israelites following a mountaintop holy meeting w/ Yahweh. Jesus offers The Beatitudes and his Sermon on the Mount from a mountainous place. Jesus' incarnation on Earth as God's Son and the Messiah is all part of God's Divine Messianic plan. Connections between ancient Judaic prophetic declarations with Jesus' life and teachings offer a theological/religious basis,

if not a historically provable one, for proving that Jesus is “The Christ.”

Righteousness is, perhaps, more important than the prophetic theme. Matthew's Jesus uses the term “*dikaioisynē* ([δικαίος \(G1342\)](#)) seven times. Five of those instances occur in Jesus' Sermon on The Mount. Perhaps the most important instance is in Matthew 6:33:

“Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Kendall Healy suggests that there is a principled way that we can think of *dikaioisunē* (righteousness). In general terms, living righteously is to be alive in a state of being that is acceptable to God.

Righteousness is “correlated with characteristics such as “integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting.” (Healy, 2018). Righteousness is, simply put, abiding with Jesus' two great, if not next to impossible, commandments. Those are to Love God, and Love our Neighbors, as much (if not more?) than ourselves. Anglican theology suggests, quite wisely, that such righteousness is indeed impossible without God's Grace and Forgiveness. Righteousness equates with discipleship. Christian discipleship defines the manner in which we take in, and live out our faith and hope.

Back to my original theme. Offering someone a cup of water, literally or metaphorically, can be monumental. The United Nations, in 2024, developed a “System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation. (SWS)” The SWS’ goal is to:

“enhance United Nations system-wide coordination and delivery of water and sanitation priorities in support of countries to accelerate progress on national plans and priorities, internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, realization of human rights, and transformative solutions to current and future water and sanitation challenges for the benefit of all people and the planet.” (United Nations, 2025)

This goal is indeed monumental. It requires significant collaboration, billions of dollars in resources, and God knows what else. Yet, the global need for such a massive initiative is...existential. You can check out how to help with your cups of water the UN’s [“Get Involved.”](#) Website.



Conversely, there are simple day-to-day ways to act upon our righteous relationships. Here’s a very simplistic example. I was going through the drive-thru for coffee and a doughnut the other day. I was reaching for my wallet when the cashier said that the driver in front of me had paid for my order. I don’t know how she or he figured out how much my bill would be. ‘Does it matter?’

In any event, I thought that was cool; so, I gave the cashier the amount of money I owed plus a little bit to help with the bill of the person behind me in line. How long did that simple act of kindness resonate with people? Perhaps the car in front of me didn’t start the sequence. How did it end?

Believe it or not, there actually is a Random Acts of Kindness [Foundation](#). They offer an array of kindness resources for their website guests. Want a list of some joyfully kind things you can do, easily yet meaningfully?

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Here's [one](#). I really like – *“Find opportunities to give compliments. It costs nothing, takes no time, and could make someone's entire day. Don't just think it. Say it.”* I'd add give them a “Kind Bar” if you wanna bump it up a notch. The [Be-Kind](#) company cleverly markets their mission as:

“It's a state of mind. And a community. And a movement. And it's all born of our mission: to make the world a little kinder, one snack and one act at a time. Because we believe when we all act with kindness - when we help someone out, when we make a positive choice - we all have the power to change the world.”

I recently created a [“Welcome Video”](#) for our webpage. One of the things that I say about this awesome parish is that we “practice what we preach.” Some of the things we do are more magnanimous than other things. Some are simple yet potentially recreate a person's, family's, community's lives – even if just for a short period of time.

Jesus' prophetic and righteous words continue to bear fruit and offer water to hungry and thirsty people. May we keep feeding the hungry and quenching the thirsty as Christ has done and does for us.

Blessings along The Way, Jim+

Elevator Update

We wanted to let you know that our elevator is currently out of service for a complete rebuild. This important work is expected to continue through the end of June.

We understand this may cause some inconvenience, and we are truly sorry for the downtime. Please know that this upgrade is being done with your comfort, safety, and accessibility in mind. When the elevator is back in service, it will be better than ever—smoother, more reliable, and ready to serve our congregation for many years to come.

We'll keep you updated on the progress, and we appreciate your patience and understanding during this time. If you need assistance accessing different areas of the building, our sexton or other staff members will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your grace and support as we make this important improvement for our church home.





Reaching Out

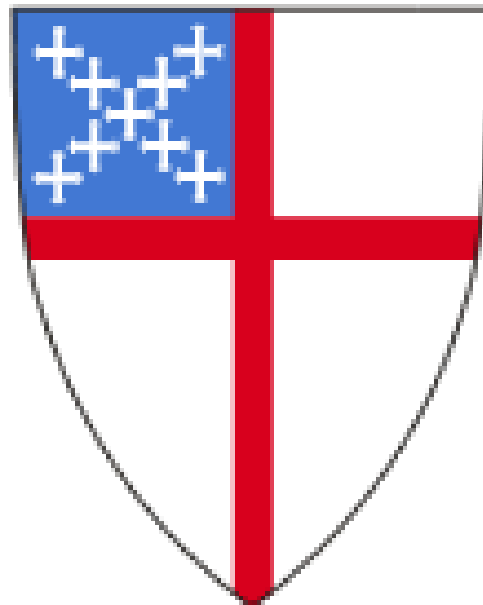
Last week while on the way to York, NPR was talking about an upcoming broadcast about Grandmas Reaching Out. It was about how all of us- with only the qualifications of being loving, caring humans-can help people fighting loneliness and anxiety with a simple conversation. By picking up the phone, and with a caring voice, let folks know *that they are thought of- that they are cared for- that they are missed- that they are loved.* A loving voice carries so much weight, but I can tell you that a text or a card helps too. Just show them that we care. At Prince of Peace, we are good at reaching out. But sometimes we miss.

The commandment to love comes from Jesus. Over and over he tells us to *“Love one another as he loves us;”* to *“Love our neighbor as ourselves.”* St. Paul said in Romans, *“Love one another with mutual affection.”* In his first letter, St. Peter said, *“Love one another deeply from the heart.”* There are many ways to express that love in our Church community. Mother Pam spoke about it on Mother’s Day.

The love Jesus has created and continues to nurture in our hearts is there for us to give away. A simple conversation is one way to do it. People are most in need of someone reaching out to them when they are going through life changes: a death in the family; moving to a new home; losing or looking for and starting a new job; problems with their kids. But don’t wait until things get overwhelming. Reach out when you feel the touch of Jesus tapping you on the shoulder. What may seem very small to us may seem large indeed to someone else. Trust me, everyone will feel better. Being occasional phone buddies can be very rewarding! And good phone buddies keep confidences. The Holy Spirit helps us with that.

You all are a wonderful congregation of ministers and I am privileged to serve with you.

God’s Blessings, **Rev Cathy+**





A Note of Thanks from the Gettysburg Civil Air Patrol Squadron

On behalf of our squadron, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire Prince of Peace family for once again welcoming us into your church home this year. I had the privilege of taking command on May 7th, and one of the first things I came to appreciate in this role is just how much your generosity makes our mission possible.

Your hospitality gives us a place to do what we love most — serving our community and investing in its youth. The young people who walk through your doors each week are growing into more capable, confident, and compassionate citizens because of the space you provide and the welcome you extend.

Gettysburg Brass Band



Festival June 10 - 14, 2026

The 2026 **Gettysburg Brass Band Festival** is on tap from Wednesday, June 10 through Sunday, June 14. 21 bands from 5 states will be performing in this free event, Visit www.gettysburgbrassbandfestival.com for a detailed schedule, The festival is made possible with individual and business donations and grants from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust, Pennsylvania Arts Council and the Adams County Arts Council Star Grant.

Thank you for being such steadfast partners. We are grateful to call Prince of Peace our home.

I've attached a picture from the trip we took in April to the WWII museum if you would like to attach a photo of some of the kids in our squadron.

Respectfully,

2nd Lt. Nicholas Hayes

PA Wing Group 2 IT Officer

Gettysburg Composite Squadron Commander

Civil Air Patrol | U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Franklin Friends

Thank you to everyone who supported our partnership with Franklin Friends this past year! Your generosity and consistent support allowed our parish to make significant contributions to the program each month from September through April. The food we gathered and delivered to Flohrs Lutheran Church in Cashtown helped supply weekend food for children needing extra food support throughout the school year at Franklin Township Elementary School. The program will resume in September 2026. We will post an updated list of collection dates and “items needed” in August.

The Franklin Friends group is hosting an appreciation gathering for its volunteers on **Thursday, June 4th from 4:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon**. If you have been a supporter of the program and are available that day, please consider attending the event.

Communication Update



As a loving community and thriving parish, Prince of Peace has much to offer. We want to spread the word! With this goal in mind, the vestry

supports efforts to increase our reach in the community using a variety of communications strategies.

These include, among others, traditional print sources (newspaper articles and announcements, messages in Sunday bulletins, Newcomers’ folders), improved sidewalk signage, and online strategies (website, social media, livestreams). Hosting more events in the church and publicizing those events is also part of this approach. Recent examples include musical events, church tours, etc.

Here are a few updates on our online efforts!

Website: The new website (www.gettysburgepiscopal.org) became public on February 2, 2026, and continues to be a work in progress. If you haven’t already done so, you might want to check out our *special services page* (it is a link off the *worship page*). This is where you will find slide shows from Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and Easter. These will be updated with each new service.

Pictures from large special events (e.g. pancake day, memorial garden celebration, etc.) are placed on the home page for a couple of weeks after they happen so look for photos as events happen throughout the church year. You will also find upcoming events on the home page and on the events page.

Please look at our *visit us page* (you can get to it in a variety of ways, but the simplest might be the “plan your visit” link off the home page or in “quick links” found in the footer of each page. If you notice anything that could be added to that page or to the FAQ page that would help new folks when they come to Prince of Peace, please email your suggestions to

communications@gettysburgepiscopal.org. Thank you!



Holy Strollers

Instagram: We started our first Instagram account for Prince of Peace on May 22nd. Unfortunately, just as we were starting to make some initial posts and to gain followers, our account was disabled by Meta. We are currently looking into this issue and remain hopeful that we will have it resolved soon. Stay tuned! For those who followed our Instagram, thank you! We'll be in touch once it is active again.



YouTube: We are livestreaming Sunday services which can be found on our new YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@PrinceofPeaceEpiscopalChurch/streams> We will continue to build content on this platform in the months ahead.



Join the Prince of Peace Holy Strollers on their next walk on Saturday, June 20 at Monterey Pass Battlefield Peak Trail near Blue Ridge Summit. It's a 1.6 mile loop with a fabulous view at the summit and includes two observation decks at the peak. Meet here at the church at 9:00 a.m., or meet us there (around 9:45 a.m. or so). From Gettysburg take Route 116 West through Fairfield to Route 16. Turn right onto Route 16 West and follow to Blue Ridge Summit. The Monterey pass battlefield is located on the right once you pass Happel's Meadow before you head down the mountain to Waynesboro. Weather permitting, bring a sack lunch.

Contact Ed Sonnenberg if you have any questions.

From the Organist and Choir

Director



Special Music for the Summer

The Prince of Peace Choir will sing at worship through Father's Day, June 21st. After which there will be opportunities for special music at our worship services throughout the summer months while the choir is on their well-deserved break. Those singers and instrumentalists of the congregation wishing to offer their unique musical gifts with vocal and/or instrumental solos, duets or small ensembles please speak with Cathy Elkiss to discuss possibilities. Thank you!



Many thanks to all our Prince of Peace Musicians!

A very special thank you to the members of the Prince of Peace Choir for their tireless and enthusiastic hard work in providing the music throughout this past year. They will be singing at worship through Father's Day – June 21st, then they will be off for the summer, returning again to the chancel loft after in September, after Labor Day.

A special thank you to Choir Librarian, **Jim Fouts**, for the incredible task of pulling, refiling and organizing all the choir music, seeing that each choir member has all the music they need when they need it. He makes it look so easy, but it takes quite a bit of time, and is a tremendous help. Thank you, Jim – you are a blessing to us!

Additionally, it has been a blessing to have our Choral Scholars, Ashley Gage - soprano, Rachel Nguyen - alto, and Ayden Pronovost - tenor, singing as a part of the choir this year. Students at Gettysburg College, we are most grateful to them for their faithful dedication, positive attitudes, and helpful musicianship as they add to the overall ensemble of the choir. Thank you, Ashley, Rachel and Ayden!



**Juneteenth Commemoration –
Saturday, June 20th, at 3:00 PM**

at Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg

The community is invited to a Juneteenth commemoration program on **Saturday, June 20th at 3:00 PM** at Christ Lutheran Church, 44 Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg.

The program remembers the events of June 19, 1865 when the last slaves of the Civil War were freed.

The church will hold a special open house from 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM, followed by a **Songs and Stories** program at 3:00 PM, the music of which will be led by a special ensemble of musicians directed by Cathy Elkiss. This performance will also include special guests portraying Mag Palm, Sojourner Truth, Thaddeus Stevens, interspersed by songs and poetry of the time. The event culminates with Dr. Nelson Stroebert reading the Emancipation Proclamation and leading the singing of *“Lift Every Voice and Sing.”*

All are invited to attend this free and historically informative event.

Prince of Peace Women’s Lunch

We invite you to join us in fellowship, conversation, getting to know each other, and a late lunch. All women of the Prince of Peace Parish are invited. Please come and share your stories and have some laughs. The meal is pay as you go.

Ladies Late Lunch

18 July 2026

1:00 (Back room)

Hoss’ Steak House

1140 York Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone: [\(717\) 337-2961](tel:7173372961)

Please contact Heather Swope at or Barbara House if you have any questions or concerns. We hope to make this a fun time for all!

EpiscoPals

EpiscoPals on SUNDAY, JUNE 28. 2026

The first of our cooperative church suppers will be hosted by Beth and Doug Smith at their home, 779 Long Lane, near the 'Rec' park, at 5 o'clock. 🌱 🍷 🌸

The hosts will provide the entree, beverages, cutlery, and dishes. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and let us know what you'd like to bring by way of an appetizer, salad/side dish, or dessert to share.

Cat and Dog Product Donations

Lee Baer Shull continues to deliver donations of cat and dog food to local no kill shelters. The local no kill shelters in the area are Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause Animal Foundation in Dillsburg. When you go to the grocery store think about “God’s Little Ones” and pick up a can or two or a bag of cat or dog food to help these shelters feed, rehabilitate and find good loving homes, “Forever Homes”. Donations may be dropped off at church in a designated container on the last Sunday of every month. Thank you to Lee for taking the lead on this opportunity to help “The Little Ones,” Lee’s “pet name” for these abandoned cats and dogs.

We thank everyone for the very generous outpouring of support this past Sunday, March 29th. Lee has picked the products up for delivery to the shelters. He expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who donated. The next intake will be on Sunday, June 28th and then again on July 28th.



Mark Your Calendars

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events at Prince of Peace:

Saturday June 6, 11:00 AM

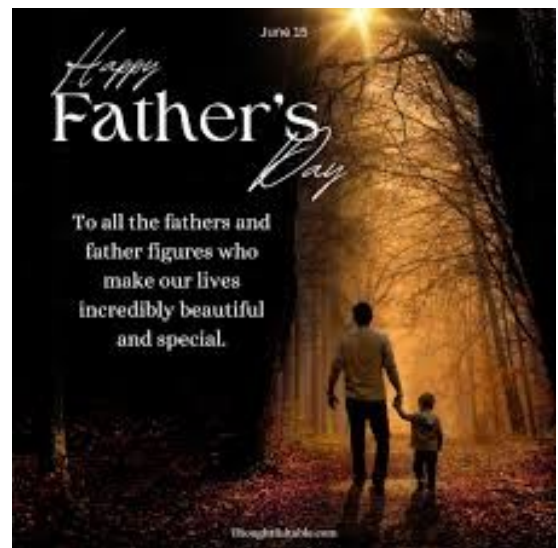
Book Club “ The Art of Gathering”

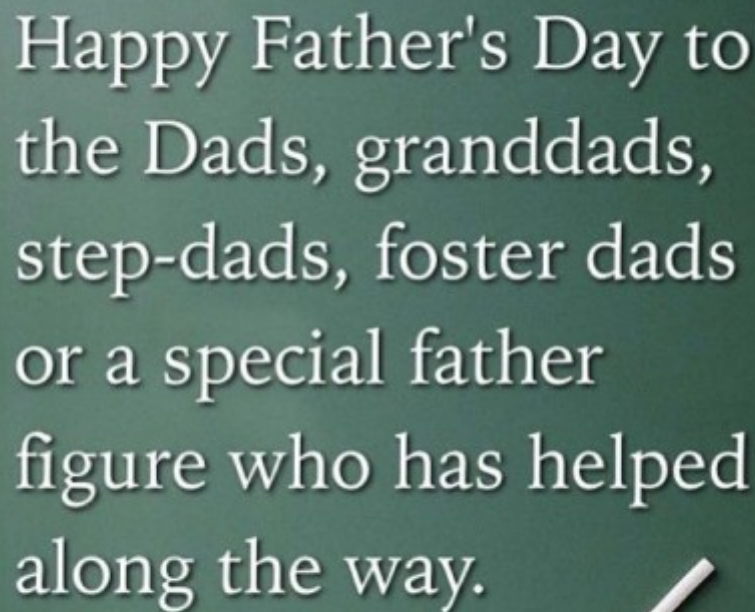
Monday, June 8 5:00 PM

Vestry Meeting

Monday, July 13 5:00 PM

Vestry Meeting





Happy Father's Day to
the Dads, granddads,
step-dads, foster dads
or a special father
figure who has helped
along the way.



LECTIONARY

June 8

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17, (25-27)
Psalm 104:25-35, 37

June 15

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15
Psalm 8

June 22

Pentecost 2

Isaiah 65: 1-9
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39
Psalm 22: 18-27

June 29

Pentecost 3

1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21
Galatians 5:1,13-25
Luke 9:51-62
Psalm 16

The Memorial Church of the
Prince of Peace

P. O. Box 3005, 20 W. High St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325-3005
Telephone: 717-334-6463

The Rev. James Strader-Sasser
Priest In Charge

The Rev. Pamela Cooper White Ph.D. Priest
Associate

The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever
Priest Associate

The Rev. Jan Heller Ph.D. Priest Associate

The Rev. Cathy McKinney
Chaplain for Pastoral Care

Cathy Elkiss
Organist and Choirmaster

Marrie Sanders
Parish Administrator
princeofpeace@gettysburgepiscopal.org

Tim Back, Sexton
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



July 5
Pentecost 6
 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
 Psalm 45: 11-18
or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12
Pentecost 7
 Genesis 25:19-34
 Psalm 119:105-112
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

July 19
Pentecost 8
 Genesis 28:10-19a
 Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

July 26
Pentecost 9
 Genesis 29:15-28
 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
or Psalm 128
 Romans 8:26-39
 Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

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