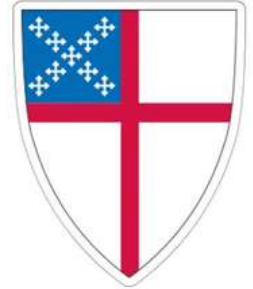


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2026

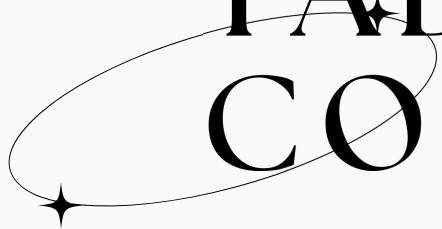
THE EPISCOPAL EPISTLE



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FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

Rejoice in the Lord Always: Idealism, Realism, and the Work Before Us



Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4: 1-9 – Common English Bible)

Finding Tension in Ancient Ruins

When Howie and I visited the ruins of Philippi, it was hot—and entirely thrilling. Paul's letter to the Philippians is my favorite "genuine" Pauline epistle. Written from a Roman imperial cell while Paul was physically and spiritually struggling, it offers a deep appreciation for a community undergoing its own persecution. The letter creates a unique tension between idealism and realism: How do we hope for God's Reign to come while suffering the world's daily realities? Paul founded the Philippian community around 50 CE among almost exclusively Gentile believers. By ~60 CE, their long-standing relationship of prayerful and financial support gave weight to Paul's tense wisdom: he petitions them (and himself) to rejoice regardless of circumstances and focus on what is pure.

Global Visions and Institutional Realities

This tension feels remarkably current. In a recent Substack piece titled *Reinventing Christianity*, The Rev. Amy Pringle explores her desire to "take over the religions" to serve as the inspirational arm and advertising budget for the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—global aims like ending poverty, improving health, and eliminating violence. Pringle notes that while international organizations lack an enforcement or inspirational arm, religions have centuries of experience organizing civil societies. She asks: "Let's just please focus on shoring up human society, in its hour of need. Whadda ya say?"

It is an inspiring, idealistic concept. The Anglican Consultative Council even passed resolutions encouraging member churches to support the SDGs. But why is achieving widespread headway so difficult?

REALISM VS IDEALISM	
REALISM	IDEALISM
Meaning Focuses on reality as it actually is → Practical, factual, grounded	Meaning Focuses on how things should be → Visionary, value-driven, imaginative
Mindset "Let's deal with what's possible." → Accepts limits → Sees the world objectively	Mindset "Let's create a better world." → Believes in possibilities → Thinks beyond limits
Use (Example) "We don't have enough resources, so we need a realistic plan."	Use (Example) "Let's build something revolutionary, even if it seems impossible."
Tone / Feeling → Practical → Logical → Sometimes pessimistic	Tone / Feeling → Hopeful → Inspirational → Sometimes unrealistic
Strength ✓ Makes achievable decisions ✓ Avoids false hope	Strength ✓ Drives innovation ✓ Inspires change
Weakness ✗ Can limit creativity ✗ May ignore big possibilities	Weakness ✗ Can be impractical ✗ May ignore reality

The challenge lies in the enormous presence of realities. A fundamental tension exists between how the world ought to be (idealism) and how it actually functions (structural constraints and self-interest). As I responded to Amy+: "I love your idealistic vision... And, as a coincidental realist, I view tribal and doctrinal religious walls as much too high. It is at least slightly more likely that establishing islands of sanity in partnership will endure the tsunami of humanity's unwillingness to share in moving toward idealist objectives."

There is frequent misalignment between idealism and realism because a fundamental tension exists between how the world ought to be and how the world actually functions. Idealists focus on moral principles, ultimate values, and long-term aspirations. Realists focus on structural constraints, human self-interest, and immediate survival.[1]

[1] I've heard a great analogy that a group cannot accomplish a project without first considering the essential plumbing to get the work done.

Grounding Our Mission at Prince of Peace

As Prince of Peace dives into stewardship and outreach in the coming weeks, we face this exact balance. Once upon a time, our parish was much like Philippi. Today, we are a revitalizing community striving to live into the theme of Many Gifts, One Spirit, holding local needs right alongside global ones.

Einstein famously noted: "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." We desire a transformed world, but we cannot just wish away its symptoms or cast our nets unwisely. To actually achieve our Christian goals, we must address the root mindsets that we do and don't have control over. May God's Spirit be ever present in the work given to us to do. May we courageously stretch ourselves to expand the fences around our portion of Christ's vineyard in prudent and prophetic opportunities.

Blessings along The Way, Jim+ (Assisted in editing by Gemini)

[1] I've heard a great analogy that a group cannot accomplish a project without first considering the essential plumbing to get the work done.



The celebration of our Stewardship season at Prince of Peace begins on Sunday, October 4th with the first distribution of pledge cards at both services and a special coffee hour after both services. We hope this year's theme – Many Gifts, One Spirit – will guide us as we move forward with our campaign goal of \$190,000 in pledges. Through visual representations, special events, and fellowship, we want to build a sense of community and commitment as we work to maintain the financial security of our parish.

Stewardship, of course, is about much more than pledging financial support to Prince of Peace for the coming year. It is also a time to offer thanks for God's many gifts and to reflect on how we can use them to grow in service to our beloved parish and to the broader community.

**Here are a few important stewardship dates to keep in mind:
(Details will be announced at services and in Sunday bulletins)**

- October 4th – First distribution of pledge cards at both services and special coffee hour
- October 11th – Second distribution of pledge cards at both services and Dove Day part 1
- October 12th – November 15th – Stewardship Committee members will distribute and collect remaining pledge cards
- October 18th – Dove Day part 2
- October 25th – Special Celebration at Coffee Hour (It's a surprise!)
- November 1st – Ministries Fair and Church Supper (details to follow!)
- November 15th – Blessing of the Pledge Cards
- January 2027 – Silent Auction to support the campaign (specific dates TBD)

Throughout this period, we will also be inviting parishioners to participate in conversations and activities related to our theme! In the spirit of fun, please let us know if you have any ideas for incentives along the way to our goal of \$190,000.

Stewardship Committee Members: Sarah Bair (co-chair), Don D'Annunzio, Joe Donolli, Olive Donolli, Eve English, Charles Saltzman, Cornelia Saltzman, Ed Sonnenberg (co-chair), Heather Swope, Sandra Williams, and Ken Williams. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions

BUILDING USAGE

A Friendly Reminder: Please Book All Meetings Through the Parish Office

We are so blessed to have such an active and vibrant community here at our parish! From book club, to quilting group, and ministry gatherings to fellowship events and outreach projects, our church building is a place where God's work is alive and thriving.

To help keep everything running smoothly, we kindly ask that all meetings and events be scheduled through the parish office. This ensures that we can avoid any conflicts in building space usage and make sure every group has the time and place they need.

We are always happy to accommodate everyone's needs, but having all bookings go through the office allows us to:

Keep an accurate calendar of events

Prevent double-booking of rooms or resources

Ensure spaces are prepared and ready for your group

If you're planning a meeting or event, please call or email the parish office before making arrangements. Together, we can keep our church a welcoming and well-organized home for all.

Thank you for your cooperation and for all you do to make our parish a place of faith, fellowship, and joy!



HOLY STROLLERS



Join the Prince of Peace Holy Strollers on Saturday, November 7 for their final stroll of the year. We will be walking in Pine Grove State Forest from Fuller Lake to Laurel Lake, an approximately 3 mile round-trip route on a shady, level path. Along the way there is a natural spring with potable water. Weather permitting, bring a picnic lunch if you wish.

We will meet at and leave from the church at 9 AM to depart for the site. You can also meet us at Fuller Lake in Pine Grove State Forest at around 10 AM. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Sonnenberg.



EPISCOPALS



We are delighted to announce that our Fall Episcopal Gathering will take place on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the home of Joe and Olive Donolli. This special evening will be co-hosted by Jeff and Sarah Bair, and we look forward to welcoming you for a warm, fellowship-filled celebration.

While more details about the program, refreshments, and participation will be shared in an upcoming bulletins, we encourage you to mark your calendar now. This is a chance to connect with the parish community, enjoy a shared meal, and be part of a season of gratitude and fellowship.

More information will follow in our next update. Please stay tuned for updates on location details, RSVP, and a sign-up sheet for a dish to share.

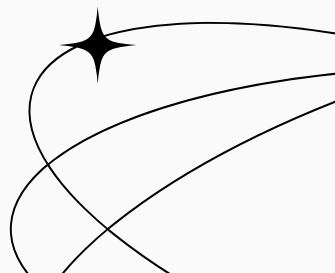
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children's Sunday School will begin September 27th at 9 am to 10 am downstairs in the undercroft. This fall, sessions will be scheduled, please see below. Keep an eye on the bulletin announcements and information board in the hall for updates. Additional or guest teachers are always appreciated. Please let us know if you would like to be part of our small but excited group. Please contact the office or Margeret for more information.

Our schedule is subject to change without announcement only direct contact to regular attendees, especially in the case of illness and weather.

September 27: class
October 4: class
October 11: NO class
October 18: class
October 25: class
November 1: No class
Following Sundays TBD



ANIMAL DONATIONS



We continue our monthly ingathering of pet food and supplies for the two no-kill shelters in our area that we support: Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause Animal Foundation in Dillsburg.

The next time you're at the grocery store, please think about God's little ones and consider picking up a can or two, or a bag of cat or dog food. Your generous donations help these shelters provide food and care, rehabilitate animals, and give them the opportunity to find loving families and their forever homes."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone for the incredibly generous outpouring of support on Sunday, September 27th. Once again, the collection bin was filled! Lee has picked up the donations and will be delivering them to the shelters. He sends his sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. The collection bin will be in place again for our next scheduled intake on October 25th.

Thank you for helping us continue this ministry of kindness and compassion to God's little ones.



Curious about what's been happening in our Vestry meetings? The latest Vestry minutes are always available for you to read in the binder located in the parlor. We encourage you to take a look and stay connected with the work we're doing together as a church community.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns—or just want to chat—please reach out to any Vestry member. We're here to listen, share, and serve alongside you.





NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



CHOIR REHEARSALS

"Sing with all your heart, for in your voice, the love of God finds expression." The Prince of Peace Choir is ALWAYS looking to welcome new members into the fold. For those who may have sung in a choir in the past, or would like to consider singing in this choir at the present time . . . please consider yourself warmly invited to join us! Choir Rehearsals are held each Thursday evening at 7:00 PM upstairs in the choir room. Please come and bring a friend as we "Sing and make melody unto the Lord" – all are welcome!

Sacred music is an integral part of the liturgy.

"When we sing together, our hearts become one, and our praises reach the heavens." – Anonymous

"The choir is not just a group of voices, but a vessel through which God's message of love is delivered." -Anonymous

"Music, indeed, is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration, In particular, music expresses the affective dimension of prayer, as St. Augustine says: 'Cantare amantis est,' that is, 'singing belongs to those who love.'"

"Singing also fosters communion. It contributes to the unity of hearts, overcoming differences between people and bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices."- Pope Leo XIV

Mark Your Calendars: Lessons and Carols – December 5th at 4:00 PM

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented at Prince of Peace on Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 4:00 PM. Featuring the Prince of Peace Choir and the Gettysburg College Brass Quintet, the service celebrates the story of God's redemption of His people with the reading of sacred Scripture and the singing of traditional carols.

The Prince of Peace Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be included as one of the events offered by the Mainstreet Gettysburg Christmas Festival (December 4, 5, 6)

Rehearsals for Lessons and Carols will begin on Thursday, October 15th at 7:00PM – members and friends of the congregation are invited to participate as readers and/or singers in the choir.

Stewardship Offertory Hymn, "Many Gifts, One Spirit"

The hymn, "Many Gifts, One Spirit," will be sung as the Offertory Hymn throughout this year's Stewardship Campaign, also entitled, "Many Gifts, One Spirit." This contemporary hymn, celebrating the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit and unity within the Christian community., was composed by Alvin Allison "Al" Carmines Jr., in 1974, having been commissioned by the United Methodist Women for their General Assembly.

Carmines, a Baptist-Episcopal priest and influential figure in Off-Off-Broadway theater, sought to integrate music, drama, and contemporary language into worship, the text reflecting the church's diversity of ministries and emphasizing that all spiritual gifts contribute to the life of the body of Christ.

Educated at Swarthmore College and Union Theological Seminary, then serving as assistant minister at Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village, Carmines blended church ministry with experimental theater and music.

Because this hymn was commissioned for an assembly of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, it contains a strong emphasis on diverse gifts, shared ministry, and unity without uniformity. It was one of the first hymns to express inclusively the unity, creativity, and witness of the Spirit in the diversity of human gifts and conditions

The hymn draws heavily on 1 Corinthians 12, celebrating that Christians have different gifts but all share one Spirit, one love, and one purpose. Carmines reframes "change" not as something to fear, but as a sign of God's grace and a call to praise. He presents diversity as a blessing, urging the church to let love "cast out our fear" as old ways disappear.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dying: The Best and Final Going Home

There was an Andersen Cooper program not long ago called: Ben Sasse is Going Home: Lessons on Life and Death. As a priest who has long been involved in hospice, let me share a little of it. Ben has pancreatic cancer. He is on an experimental drug which gives him more time, but spares him little of the suffering. When his family first found out, it was a huge loss thinking of him not being there. They had had a similar scare with his wife some years before. Fortunately, the Sasse family is one of great faith. Though death- and pre-death- is wicked-Death is not the final word. Christ saw to that. Still, some days are better than others. Being so close to death, we think everyday of how to spend our last days. We can't waste them. They are too precious. They are a gift. Of course, as believers of Jesus, the days after death, are even more precious and wonderful.

In the program, Ben said something that I used to say in every funeral sermon I ever preached- and that was a lot. Forgive me if your personal theology leads you to believe that the day of your death is written in a big book somewhere in God's heavenly office, so that when your number comes up, its time for you to go. My feeling- and my very simple theology as priest and hospital and hospice chaplain is- "We die when our bodies quit working." For all of you who have buried a loved one, when you tell me about them, you tell me what illness took them; what tragedy went wrong with their body when it quit working the way it was supposed to. It's the only way we can understand loss- medically- scientifically. And sometimes not even them. But what about after that? Yes, there are the funeral arrangements and celebrations of life- the marvelous assurances of the priests when they tell us that after death "LIFE IS CHANGED NOT ENDED."

But then everyone goes home. What about your loved one? Where are they when they are not here with you? I want to assure you, here and now, that they go home too. Not the street address where they lived before- but home from where they came before they started their sojourn here on earth. That's all Senator Sasse wants. Its all that I want. And I invite you to rest in that future journey for yourself. That when our journey in this life is over, we go home to meet our maker. Where Jesus has reserved a room for us. Has mapped out a path for us. Where all of our loved ones who we have loved and lost are waiting for us- the two legged and the four legged kind. I expect it to be messy and loud but beyond anything I could even imagine here on earth. It is our forever home. And it is our greatest gift from God. Trust in this gift. And, in the words my old diocese used to say, we will be "in the nearer presence of Christ." Hallelujah! Amen.

Wishing you the Greatest Love, Rev Cathy+

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the Animals

A collage of various animals including a parrot, a dog, a lizard, a chicken, a cat, a rabbit, and a pig, positioned around the word 'Animals'.

We'll gather outdoors for a time of prayer, thanksgiving, and individual blessings for each pet. Feel free to bring a photo if your animal friend can't attend in person. Come and share in the joy, laughter, and love that our furry, feathered, and scaled friends bring into our lives. All are welcome — two-legged and four-legged alike!

Franklin Friends continues to be a wonderful way for our church family to share God's love with our neighbors in need. Through your generosity, we've been able to provide essential items and encouragement to many in our community.

[illegible]



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

Sunday, Oct 4th: Distribution of Pledge Cards at both services.

Sunday, Oct. 3rd: Annual Convention
Book Club 11:00 AM

Sunday, Oct 11th: Dove Day Part 1
Blessing of the Animals 1:00 PM

Monday, Oct. 12th: Office Closed
5:00 Vestry Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 18th: Dove Day Part 2

Saturday, Oct. 24th: Women's Lunch: Hoss' Steak House 1:00 PM

Sunday, Oct 25th: Special Celebration at Coffee Hour

Sunday, Nov 1st: Ministries Fair & Church Supper



Service Schedule

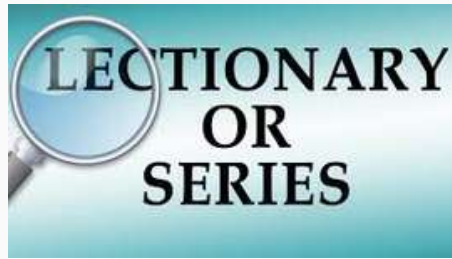
Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist



October 4

Pentecost 22

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
 Psalm 19
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Pentecost 23

Exodus 32:1-14
 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
 Philippians 4:1-9
 Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

Pentecost 24

Exodus 33:12-23
 Psalm 99
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Pentecost 25

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Matthew 22:34-46



The Rev. James Strader-Sasser
 Priest In Charge
 The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever
 Priest Associate
 The Rev. Pamela Cooper White Ph.D
 Priest Associate

Marrie Sanders
 Parish Administrator
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