



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Love God. Love People.

October 4 – 5, 2025

**Promise**

Ruth 1:16-18 | Mark 8:34-35

# BENEVOLENT



**MUSIC THIS WEEKEND**

**CONTEMPORARY | SAT 5:30 pm**

Praise  
Build My Life  
Blessed Assurance  
Go, Make Disciples

**CLASSIC | SUN 9:00 am**

Here I Am, Lord  
Abide With Me  
BELLS: Be Thou My Vision  
Be Thou My Vision

**CONTEMPORARY | SUN 10:30 am**

Praise  
Trust In God  
Blessed Assurance  
Build My Life

MESSAGE: **Paul Dean**  
**Communion** (all services)

We offer sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Sharon Norrbom** as they grieve her death.

Upcoming Celebration of Life Service:  
**Joyce Smith** (October 11)

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

**Classic: Sun 9:00 am (sanctuary)**  
**Contemporary: Sat 5:30 pm (chapel) | Sun 10:30 am (sanctuary)**  
Resources, livestreams, playlists and podcast links: [popmn.org](http://popmn.org).

**JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY**

**Preserve • Open • Plant Inspiration Bag Pick-Up**  
Pick up your Inspiration Bag this weekend and learn about this exciting campaign! Find your bag at the table by the chapel.

**FREE Breakfast! | Sunday, October 5 | Community Room**  
Served by Men's Ministry, sponsored by the capital campaign.

**Mission Trip Informational Meetings**  
**Sunday, October 5 | Mission Outpost**  
**Dominican Republic: 9:00 am | Ilambo, Tanzania: 11:30 am**  
The Dominican Republic trip will take place February – March.  
The trip to Tanzania will take place July 8 – 23.

**New Member Orientation | October 12 | 11:45 am**  
Are you interested in becoming a Prince of Peace member? Join us for our next new member class. [popmn.org/register](http://popmn.org/register)

**Boo Bash | Family Ministry Event | October 25 | 10:00 – 11:30 am**  
Kids' outdoor activities! Trick-or-treats! Wear your costume!  
Sign up to host a trunk display at [popmn.org/register](http://popmn.org/register)

**Repurposed Adults | Sundays in October | Between Services**  
Learn about this group for empty-nesters, retirees and those taking care of aging parents. Visit our table in the community room.

**JOIN US IN GENEROSITY**

**Thank you for your gifts for mission and ministry!**



**Welcome to Prince of Peace!**

We are an open and affirming community, here to love God and all people.



**Connect with Prince of Peace!**  
Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.

Paper copies of this form are available at the Connect Desk.

**Nurturing a Growing Church**

For the next seven weeks, we'll consider our stewardship in daily ministry and in our response to care for and fully utilize the Prince of Peace building for God's mission. This spiritual journey will lead us to prayerfully consider how we can Preserve·Open·Plant.

[popmn.org/give/preserve-open-plant/](http://popmn.org/give/preserve-open-plant/)





## Trust the Story | Benevolent | Promise

The reading from Ruth contains one of the most beloved lines from the Bible: “Your people shall be my people and your God my God.” It is a declaration of devotion, solidarity, unity, commitment. Conflicts between Moabites and Israelites were common, so when Ruth leaves her family and her country to make an entirely new life in Bethlehem, she is giving up what little safety and security she has. Ruth puts every single thing on the line for her new, widowed, sad, hopeless and bitter mother-in-law who wants to leave her behind.

*What do you think about the lines in our reading from Ruth? Do they read like poetry? Do they feel inspirational? Why, or why not? Does anything about Ruth’s declaration of devotion for Naomi tug at your heartstrings?*

*What would it feel like to have someone express this amount of commitment to you? Is there something here that communicates a deeply human shared desire: to not have to go it alone? Think back over your life. Have there been times when sharing a burden like grief or loss, anxiety or fear, helped to alleviate it, or make it more bearable? How does Ruth help point us to a common humanity?*

In our reading from Mark, Jesus tells his disciples to deny themselves, to pick up their cross and follow him. Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for Jesus’ sake will save it.

*What do you think Jesus means by these words? What is the cross that we’re supposed to pick up? Is it the same for everyone? Is God’s call in our lives an invitation into willful suffering? Is Jesus telling us here that we are supposed to be miserable? In fact, the more miserable, the better? Are we commanded to put ourselves into life-threatening situations in order to be a “good Christian”?*

Many feminist / womanist theologians reject the spiritualization of suffering. God is supposed to liberate us from our suffering, not condone it. God is supposed to bring hope and freedom for the oppressed, not a glorification of all that pain.

*What do you think Jesus’ words in our reading from Mark mean in that context? What exactly is he asking his disciples to do? Is there more than one way to lose your life? Is there more than one way to save it? What does it mean to be saved from greed or self-importance? What does it look like to lay down your possessions, to lose your sense of “mine” when there is so much need in the world? What does it mean to lay down your comfort to share the burdens of your neighbor? Think of times in your life when you have been exceedingly generous, or welcoming, or open. Did you feel more alive in those moments, or less? What would living that way all the time save you from? What do you have to give up in order to live with truly open hands, with a truly open heart?*

*What changes when we read these two stories together? Is Ruth picking up her cross to suffer for the sake of suffering? Or is she choosing to carry the weight of relationship? How do things like community, loving our neighbors, and shalom intersecting with justice, shape the cross we’re asked to carry? Is there a purpose behind pouring yourself out in this way? Can this be a good thing? Does Jesus’ human-ness focus on concepts or people?*