



THE PROCLAIMER

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
4155 PICKLE ROAD + OREGON, OH 43616

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February 2024

Reflections on Worship Attendance

By Pastor Emeritus, Donald E. Weiss

*[Based upon thoughts from a book by Eugene Peterson, translator of **THE MESSAGE**; and found in Chapter 2 "Christ Plays in Creation"]*

As I attend worship services at Prince of Peace, I miss seeing many of our friends who attended regularly over the past 12 years. My heart is troubled, and I yearn for fellowship with the very folks who encouraged us in our faith when we faced the death of our daughter and as I adjusted to the new life of being a "retired" pastor. Because of health reasons and circumstances in churches that I was helping to pastor, I am now more regular in attending at POP. Seeing so few people at Thanksgiving Eve worship, and even at Christmas Eve worship has me concerned for you, my brothers and sisters, whom I have not seen for some time. I talked with Pastor John about how the Spirit of God seemed to be nudging me to speak up about the feelings of emptiness and loneliness at worship. He encouraged me to put my thoughts on paper. This came to climax when I was reading a book entitled: **CHRIST PLAYS IN TEN THOUSAND PLACES**. I realized that with so many of our congregation not attending worship like they did before the Covid-19 crisis, I did not see the rich fellowship of friends in Christ. Reading about why Christians worship and what we hope to see happen in our walk with Jesus made me want to share some of what God is saying to me with as many as possible. **I HOPE YOU WILL SPEND A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR BUSY TIME, READING THESE MUSINGS.**

Why do we gather at the church for worship? Is it to "get something out of it," or is it to give something to each other? Are we just trying to obey a Commandment the Lord has given: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy?" Or are we trying to be faithful to our Creator? As Christians, we have a long-standing history of gathering on The Lord's Day, specifically on a day scheduled by our church, i.e., Saturday or Sunday. The church sees this as a fulfillment of Genesis, chapters 1 and 2, where God intends that each of us are to find our purpose for living in the pattern of His Creation.

There is concern in Christian congregations across our country for the pattern of worship attendance that has developed through the Covid-19 protocols. At the time, they were regulations that were intended to save us from the evil of disease and death, but the result is that through the cancellation of many things, even our times of worship, it has caused many people to ignore the pattern that God established in His Creation: "Six days you shall work, but the seventh day is a SABBATH unto the Lord."

The Church has always understood that we live not only in thanks to God, but that we live with a healthy fear and reverence. It is the way we show God that we know ALL Creation is His, and that we will use it well and use it meaningfully. This involves all of life: our growth, our learning, our working and our play. And yes, our worship of the Lord who makes all things possible for us.

The Church, in doing its mission, cultivates the truth that "We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." How do we do this? How do we live so that the wonder and astonishment of being God's children is not taken lightly, but with awe and reverence? (Exodus 20:8-11)

We do it by "keeping the Sabbath." The early Christian Church put its stamp on the Third Commandment by the translation: "Keep the Lord's Day." The striking thing about keeping the Sabbath is that it begins by not doing anything. The Hebrew word SHABBAT, which we take over into our language untranslated, simply means: **Quit...Stop...Take a break.**

The word, as it exists, has no religious content. It says: Whatever you are doing, stop it...whatever you are saying, shut up...sit down and look around you...Don't do anything...Fold your hands and take a deep breath. That is what **shabbat** means. God rested as part of His creation work, and so should we.

God has done and IS DOING; so, begin by not doing anything: Just **ATTEND, ADORE, and AMEN**. Genesis 2:1-4 reveals the 7th Day not-doing, in other words, took place in the context of much-doing. God had created US, and "ALL that we have in support of this body and life," to quote Luther in his explanation of the 1st Article of The Creed. We do well to enter into an appreciation of our created work and life, by just stopping on a Saturday night or a Sunday morning and watch and listen to our Creator. Let HIM equip us for the rest of our week in HIS Creation.

Human not-doing became a day of God-honoring. SABBATH is a deliberate act of interference, an interruption of our work each week. It is a decree of no-work, so we are able to notice, to attend, to orient OUR WORK in the WORK OF GOD.

It looks very much as if Genesis points to the Sabbath Day as the clue to the MEANING OF CREATION. Reading the Genesis account, we notice how different the 7th Day is described in contrast to the first six Days. In the narration of each of the first six Days, the first line and the last line are the same for each of those days. There are frequent repetitions of familiar words and phrases in each day's description.

Both of these features are abandoned in the describing of the 7th Day. Here the day's number is repeated three times—Seventh...Seventh...Seventh. That has not happened before in the creation account. The evidence accumulates that if we are to live out the reality of and the meaning of Creation, we are going to be greatly involved in Sabbath-keeping.

God thought it was important enough to be included in the 10 Commands. They are recorded two places in Scripture. The wording is similar in both places, but the reasons supporting the commands, is different. The reason given in Exodus is that this is what God did. He worked 6 days and quit working on the 7th. (Exodus 20:8-11) The reason given in Deuteronomy is that when God's people were slaves in Egypt it was work, work, work, work---incessant, unrelieved work; they must NEVER THEMSELVES perpetuate such oppression; they must quit work each 7th day so that their slaves and livestock and children will get a day off. (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

The Exodus reason supports a life of believing in God—Sabbath keeping is a way of getting in on what God does. We keep time with God. Sabbath keeping preserves and honors time as God's gift of holy rest: it erects a weekly fortress against the idea that WE made time, against reducing time to money, against reducing time to what we can get out of it, against leaving no time for God or beauty or anything that cannot be purchased. It is a defense against the hurrying that desecrates TIME.

The Deuteronomy reason supports a life of love---Sabbath keeping is a way to love your neighbor, a simple act of justice. This command to observe the Sabbath is backed by a sense of social justice and neighborhood. We remember the Sabbath and rest on it in order to enter into and maintain the freedom of creation, to experience and share God's deliverance of others and love for others. Sabbath keeping preserves and honors TIME as God's gift of holy freedom. It erects a WEEKLY FORTRESS against our laziness and procrastination, that lets injustice flourish because we are not attending in holy obedience and adoring love to the people and animals and things God has placed around us for our blessing.

We are in the **process of building** a place for God's work to be done, both for the "Exodus Reason" and the "Deuteronomy Reason." It will be a place for Family equipping and for us to live out the mission God has given to us. The point of building a place of worship is to realize and extend Creation through human reenactment. This is done not only by prayer and praise, but by rehearsing and embracing the Commandments and promises and blessings in order to put them into the creation in which we live. That's why Pastor John has done a series of sermons on The Apostles Creed, and why his next series will be on the Ten Commandments. **Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday mornings are times when you can determine to embrace these Words of God. These are IMPORTANT TIMES for EACH of us. Please join your brothers and sisters in the FAITH by making the decision to gather in the Lord's House each Lord's Day.**

Your Brother, Pastor Don

THE WORD IN FEBRUARY

2/4/2024	2/11/2024	2/18/2024	2/25/2024
Joshua 24:14-18	Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 29, 32-33	Genesis 1:31-2:3	
James 21:16-25		Acts 2:42-47	Ephesians 6:1-9
Matthew 7:24-27	Mark 9:2-9	Luke 10:38-42	Mark 7:9-13

WORSHIP THEME IN FEBRUARY

***"What We Believe" and
"Living the Law of the Lord"***

February 4 – Living What We Believe –
Living the Law of the Lord
February 11 – Transfiguration– Only God
February 18 – The Lord’s Name and Sabbath
February 25 – Under Authority

BIBLE STUDY IN FEBRUARY

*Invite your friends and neighbors to Sunday morning
Bible Study – we have coffee and goodies*

Sunday 9:15 am

What Did You Say?” – Unpacking “Churchy” Words

Beginning February 18:

Repentance and Restoration: The Book of Joel

Official Acts January
None

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES!!

Thank you so much to those who have volunteered and taught Sunday School so far this school year! I think the kids are enjoying our guest teachers and the different activities they have gotten to experience. We appreciate your support!
Make sure you ***sign up to teach Sunday School for one week***. No experience necessary and we give you all the supplies and lesson materials! Find a friend and teach together! Thank you!



Catechism – Walking in the Promises of God First Communion and Confirmation classes at Prince of Peace are for all students entering 4th -8th grade. **First Communion** is a two-session class for students and parents. Contact Pastor John to schedule class. **Confirmation** is a two-year class for families with students 6th-8th grade. Student Confirmation classes are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Families meet once a month.

Talk to Pastor John if you need to get connected!!



Adult Bible Studies:

- ✚ **SUNDAY** Adult Bible Study – Sundays, 9:15 a.m. – Unpacking “Churchy” Words
(*Repentance and Restoration: The Book of Joel* begins February 18)
- ✚ **TUESDAY WEEKLY READINGS STUDY** – 9:00 a.m. at PoP – and on Facebook Live
- ✚ **THURSDAY MEN’S BIBLE STUDY** at 7:00 p.m.
The men will resume the study *Respectable Sins* in January
- ✚ **THURSDAY WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY** at 7:00 p.m.
The women are studying *God’s Relentless Love: The Book of Hosea*
- ✚ **MEN’S BREAKFAST** 1st Saturday of the month 8:00AM
- ✚ **NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS** – Would you like to talk about what it means to be a Christian, Lutheran, and member of Prince of Peace? Contact Pastor John and watch for details on a new class coming soon!



Raising Kids God’s Way – An opportunity to get together with other parents – sharing ideas on how to raise kids to know Jesus in today’s society!

We will be meeting on **Sunday, February 25 at 9:15** in the library. We will be starting a Bible study book called ***Parent Differently***. Cost is \$15. Come to discuss parenting as a Christian. Talk to Amy Genszler or Jordan Jones for more information!

SHARING JESUS WITH ALL GENERATIONS – BUILDING TO REACH MORE:

Expanded Family Ministry at Prince of Peace

Watch for exciting progress as the Lord leads us in
Sharing Jesus with All Generations, Building to Reach More!



If you missed attending a presentation, watch a recording on our Facebook page with a link to the YouTube video: *PoPCampaign*.

LITTLE FREE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: If anyone is a Thrivent member and would like to apply for a \$250 Action card, we would greatly appreciate it. It will be used to provide personal care products to help people in need in our community.

POP is hosting a **once-a-month food pantry** through Seagate Food Bank. It is on the **last Saturday** of the month from 10-11am. If you would like to help with the Saturday distribution, or the Friday pick up and packing of food, please contact Cathy Reichow.

MISSION UPDATES:

For updated news on all our missionaries and Adopt-a-Students, check the Missions Wall at Prince of Peace.

Stewardship Team: Would you like to be involved with the stewardship team? Cathy Reichow has taken this leadership position and would love to talk to you about what all this team is up to! Contact her at 419-392-1468, or at creichow1958@gmail.com.



Online giving just got easier! **Download the Vanco app.**

Search for “Prince of Peace” (be careful there are many of us!) or use the invite code: GDFARS

Properties Team: Check the bulletin board to sign up for minor repairs. Please contact Dan or Cathy Reichow with any questions at 419-392-1470 or creichow1958@gmail.com.

The
Property
Team

We are taking orders for pavers for the Memorial Garden. There are two sizes - 4x8; 2 lines; \$75 and 8x8; 2 lines; \$125. Additional lines can be added for \$10. You can do up to three lines on the 4x8 and 4 lines on the 8x8. All proceeds will go into the Memorial Fund. Questions? Contact Cathy Reichow at creichow1958@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE!!! Easter Egg Hunt!!! Saturday March 23 at 11:00 AM!!

THERE'S A BOOK FOR THAT...

As we enter the New Year of 2024, allow me to encourage you to visit our Library at Prince of Peace to check out the many books and DVD's that are on the shelves for your use and edification. The shelves are marked with the subjects. For instance, there is one shelf with many books that give you ideas for devotions as well as printed out devotions you can use with your family or in your personal devotion time with Jesus.

LOOK AT THE CATEGORIES ON THE SHELVES.

PICK OUT WHAT LOOKS INTERESTING.

BORROW IT FOR A TIME.

BRING IT BACK AND PUT IT ON THE SHELF FOR THE NEXT PERSON.

Women of the Church:

THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY is on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. We are studying "*God's Relentless Love: The Book of Hosea*". Contact Jodi Halka or Amy Genszler for information.

MITE COLLECTION

Please remember to bring in your MITE boxes at any time and drop them in the "big Mite Box" at the Information Table in the lobby! A supply of new Mite Boxes will be here soon. Watch for them on the table next to the large mite box in the narthex.



OLD GLASSES and CASES [an LWML project]

There is a box on the table near the entrance in which you can place any old eyeglasses and cases that you would like to discard. (One person's junk is another person's treasure.) These items are donated to MOST [Mission Opportunities Short Term], a LCMS Ministry working with many congregations in Michigan and Ohio, who fit them with new lenses and take thousands of pairs of glasses giving them to many folks, in countries where optical services are non-existent. This is an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Knit and Pray:

Do you know someone who is going through a hard time and would appreciate knowing that Jesus is with them? Please give them one of the prayer coverings and a printed prayer paper to let them know they are not alone. The closet is full of yarn for you to take to create prayer blankets.

Thank you to all those who have donated yarn the past couple of months! We appreciate the support and prayers!



Looking for Christian Fun and Fellowship? *Join the PoP Dartball team.*

No experience required.

What is Dartball?

Talk with Ron Wells (419) 320-0490 or contact Pastor John!

Men of the Church:

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST



Join us at 8am on the 1st Saturday of every month for a time of fellowship around good food, a study from God's Word, and time for prayer together. You will meet brothers from other congregations who visit us. You will be uplifted and blessed. Why not invite a friend to come with you? [We plan to finish by 10am].



This year we are starting to watch the Episodes of the Gospels from the TV Program known as THE CHOSEN. We watch a video and have time for questions and responses to the lessons that are taught. The men who have been attending these past months say that these are very helpful in encouraging them to search the Scriptures. We would love to see our numbers grow, so plan to attend February 3, at 8:00.



Please be aware while entering and exiting the parking lot.

February will prove to be so much fun! The children will make Valentine boxes with their families and pass out Valentine cards to their friends. We will also celebrate Grandparents Day. The room will be busting with excitement, hugs, and love! We will end the month with crazy mixed-up backwards day. The crazier the better! The children will make Valentine cards for their Prayer Pals so please check your mailboxes.

An item that the preschool is looking for is PVC pipe and connectors. They will work at putting them together and then running water through them at the water table. Fun! Fun! Fun!

We are looking for substitute teachers

(needed periodically throughout the year).

Anyone interested should contact Miss Wendy.

Preschool will pay for your fingerprinting and background check.



Director/Teacher – Wendy Kelly

Teachers – Marianne Kelly and Jamie Campbell

Sub – Erin Stine, Madison Campbell

Preschool Phone: 419-693-8661

Would you like to see students in our area be able to study the Bible DURING SCHOOL HOURS?

If you haven't yet, show your interest at LifeWise.org/interest. Signing the list at this time is simply a statement of support – it will not obligate you or PoP to anything.

All those who sign will be notified when the Community Meeting will be. We are in need of a Community Coordinator.

Please share this link with friends and family who would love to bring a LifeWise program to our Oregon City school district. If you need help accessing the website, ask Pastor John.



Would you be interested in meeting for prayer time once a month?

Contact Pastor John.



ELDERS IN TOUCH.... our Elders Ministry Team is organized to be in touch with our members. They are working at contacting all of our members on a regular basis. Here is a listing of our elders and the alphabetical groups to which they are assigned. Feel free to contact Pastor John, or one of our elders if we can serve you.

a. Tom Smith	419-343-8553	(Alder > Coffey)
b. Joe Daniels	419-266-5426	(Cornell > Geldien)
c. Mark Sattler	419-699-7723	(Genszler > Jones)
d. Lyle Stine	419-340-7818	(Keiser > Maletich)
e. Gary Garbers	419-693-7651	(Mayer > Peters)
f. Jim Bragg	419-690-2608	(Pfefferle > Sarns)
g. Don Halka	567-377-2248	(Sattler > VanCamp)
h. Phil Miller	419-691-7727	(Vanderhorst > Zieroff)

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

If you need prayer (or know someone who does) contact the Prayer Chain. If you would like to join the Prayer Team in praying for our brothers and sisters regularly, join the Prayer Chain. Contact Tina Daniels at tinajoebobb@gmail.com

Remember in Your Prayers:

+for healing – Gertrude Brant, Chuck and Charmaine Brinkman, Carol Cicak, Pam Downour, Mary George, Bob Haas, Deb Hartke, Robin Hill, Tom Jones, Phil Miller, Ron Oldenettel, Philip Shasteen, Paige Smith, Deanna and Richard Snyder, Kym Snyder, Jacob Stine, Lily Stine, Mike Thanasiu

+for your church – our vision and leaders and the commitment to follow God's will

+for those serving in the armed forces –

Ty Garbers, Ricky Pratt, Cole Pollex, Andrew Genszler, Stacy Galla, Nate Millard, Andrew Pindor

+for our missionaries –

- Pastor Tim Heiney,
Global Lutheran Outreach in Guinea, West Africa
- Pastor Dave Erber, LCMS missionary in Nigeria, West Africa
- Mike and Becky Kuelker, IAM missionaries in Mexico
- Joe Boway, New Life Lutheran Church
missionary to the children in Liberia
- POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach),
a mission to Muslims
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- The Pregnancy Center, Toledo (Bella Vita Network)

+our 'adopted' seminary students –

- Deaconess Intern Amy Genszler

Deaconess Intern Amy has a new email: deaconessamy@princeofpeaceoregon.com





IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER INSTEAD OF THE PAPER COPY BEING SENT TO YOUR HOME, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE SO WE CAN ADD YOU TO THE LIST WHO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SAVING US COST – POSTAGE, PAPER, INK, MACHINE USE – AND TIME TO ASSEMBLE! **ADDITIONALLY, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. THIS WILL ALSO SAVE US EXTRA POSTAGE COST.**

LENT begins Wednesday, February 14

Lent is a time when we reflect on some basic truths of life:

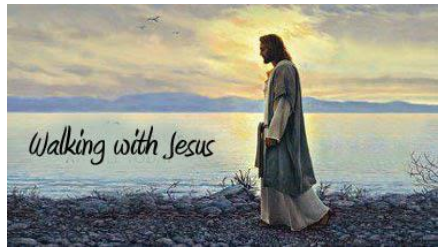
- **God loves you**
- By our choices, we reject God's love
- Because of our choices, we are broken
- We cannot fix ourselves on our own
- God has provided His son, Jesus, to act for us
- **Jesus' death is the payment for us**



Easter (and every weekend) we celebrate God's gifts:

- Mercy –**
He took our punishment for our rejection
- Grace –**
He gives us His eternal promises of love and life

Wednesdays in Lent



What Witnesses Saw

Each Wednesday:

Soup Supper provided at 6pm
(Hymnsing begins at 6:45)
Devotional Service at **7pm**

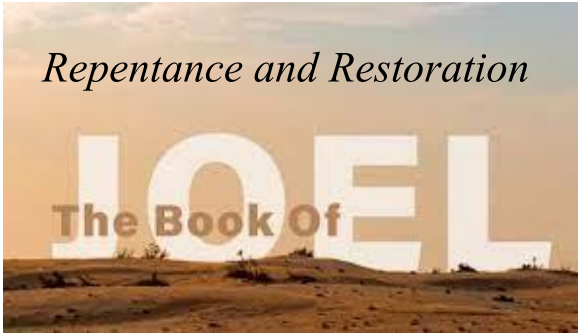
- 2/14 – At the Water (Matthew 3:1-17)
 - 2/21 – On the Way (Mark 8:31-33)
 - 2/28 – At the Temple (John 2:13-22)
 - 3/6 – At Night (John 3:1-21)
 - 3/13 – In the Thunder (John 12:20-36)
 - 3/20 – On the Donkey (Matthew 21:1-11)
- (Preschool children will sing during the 3/20 service)**

The **Sunday Series** is



- 2/11 – Transfiguration - Only God
- 2/18 – The Lord's Name and Sabbath
- 2/25 – Under Authority
- 3/3 – In the Body
- 3/10 – With Our Neighbors
- 3/17 – Needs and Wants
- 3/24 – Palm Sunday – The Mighty Jealous God
- 3/28 – Maundy Thursday – Is it I?
- 3/29 – Good Friday – Walking to the Cross
- 3/30 – Easter Vigil – Waiting, Theirs and Ours
- 3/31 – Resurrection Day – Living Lord

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:15am



February Activities at PoP

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
Every Saturday/Sunday Schedule 5:30 PM (Saturday) Worship 8:00 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Youth Time 2:00 PM A.A.				1	2	3 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
4 9:15 AM Budget Meeting 3:00 Faith and Family at Toledo Walleye	5 7:30 Dartball - home	6 9:00 AM – Weekly Readings Study 7:00 Elders Meeting	7 7:00 pm choir practice	8 7:00 PM Men's and Women's Bible Study & Confirmation Class	9	10
11 12:00 PM Family Confirmation Meeting	12	13 9:00 AM – Weekly Readings Study	14 Ash Wednesday 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service	15	16	17
18	19 7:00 PM Mission and Ministry Meeting 7:30 Dartball - Away	20 9:00 AM – Weekly Readings Study	21 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service	22 7:00 PM Men's and Women's Bible Study & Confirmation Class	23	24 10:00 AM Drive-Through Food Pantry
25 9:15 AM Raising Kids God's Way	26	27 9:00 AM – Weekly Readings Study	28 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Service	29		

2024

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
28	29	30	31	1 Brennan Roe	2 Charles and Kathy Fletcher	3
4	5 Jason Smith Richard Snyder Sr.	6 Stephanie Shafer	7	8 Ron and Kelli Wells Zander Keller	9	10
11	12	13 Ann Thanasiu Jonas Roe	14 Jessie Lants	15 Addison Stine Ben McCoy Chelsea Vogelbacher DJ Miller	16	17
18	19 Kelly Lorah	20	21	22 Abby Laurell	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Emily Mendoza	1	2



Volunteer Schedule for February 2024	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Greeters	All God’s people!		
Ushers	Talk with the Elder for the service		
Projection			
Camera			
Sound Board			
Readers	John Ewald	Jodi Halka	Charmaine Brinkman
Acolytes			
Elder	Lyle Stine	Gary Garbers	Joe Daniels
Communion Servers (Wine)	Talk with the Elder for the service		
Altar Guild			
Pew Care			

We have many faithful people at Prince of Peace willing to serve in many ways.

How has God gifted you to serve in His Church?
 Can you pour a glass of juice? Can you read?
 Can you pick up papers? Do you know anyone
 else with "special skills" like these?
 You can serve your church family!
 Contact Pastor John at any time!

Discipleship at Home and in Community



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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

4155 Pickle Road
Oregon, Ohio 43616
(At the corner of Pickle and Lallendorf Roads)
Phone: 419-691-9407

Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM
Sunday School: 9:15 AM
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM
"Discipleship at Home and in Community!"

Check us out on the web at: www.princeofpeaceoregon.com

