

Sermon Notes

Ruth 1:1-22 | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the second in our four-week fall series on how God joins us in the joys and hardships of life and offers us hope. Chapter two of Ruth is divided into three parts: Ruth with Naomi; Ruth in the field with Boaz; and Ruth back with Naomi at the end of the day. The flow moves from desperation to perspiration to inspiration. For those walking through hard times, may we—like Ruth and Naomi—find ourselves brought to the same hopeful conclusion.

1. Have you ever faced a moment of physical desperation — when you were fiercely hungry, painfully thirsty, or even under attack and your very life was at risk?
2. Read Ruth 2:1-23. Part one, as I shared above, includes verses 1-2. What new name is introduced into the story? What do we learn about Boaz? About the relationship between Ruth and Naomi? And what do we learn about Ruth? Why does she try to stave off starvation, but Naomi doesn't?
3. Focus on verses 3-17. In chapter one, I suggested that there were at least 7 strikes against Naomi in the first few verses of the chapter. In chapter two, there are at least 7 blessings that Ruth encounters during her hard work in the field. What would your list of blessings be, and why? How does the relationship between Ruth and Boaz change from start to finish? What names do each give to the other? And why are they significant?
4. Draw your attention to verses 18-23. How does the news from Ruth about her day begin to change Naomi from being *bitter* to being *sweet* again, from being *empty* to becoming *full* once more? This harvest season for barley and wheat probably lasted around 7 weeks. This gives Ruth and Naomi some short-term relief, but there is still no permanent solution to their plight. Do you think they have their next moves planned?
5. I mentioned from verse 20 that the NRSV word 'our nearest kin' is much richer than just being a relative; that the word talks about this person being 'a kinsmen redeemer.' I explained the concept briefly in my message. How does Boaz foreshadow the redemption we can experience through Christ? How can we learn from Ruth and Naomi how to more fully receive the blessings our Savior intends for us as followers?

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Financial Update as of Sep 7, 2025		
2025 Annual Budget		\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date		7,953,768
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget		6,249,524



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch
Mon, Sep 15 | 11am-1pm
Connect and enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch. No reservations required! Order your food in MDPC Café and bring to our group's tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more at seniors.mdpc.org.

Children's Choir
Wednesdays | 4:30-5:30pm
It's time to sing! Rehearsals for elementary-age students have begun, preceding our already thriving elementary Bible study, Blast Off. Learn more and sign up: childrenschoir.mdpc.org

Blast Off
Wednesdays starting Sep 17 | 5:30-7pm
Hey elementary kids! If you love running around, making crafts, playing games, and talking about Jesus, you've gotta be at Blast Off. Sign up at blastoff.mdpc.org - and bring a friend!

Hot Topics
Thu, Sep 25 | 6:30-8pm
"Keeping Kids Safe in this Digital Age." A presentation by our friends at Street Grace on how to recognize the various kinds of online predators and how to work with our kids (both girls and boys) to protect them.



Give Online
give.mdpc.org

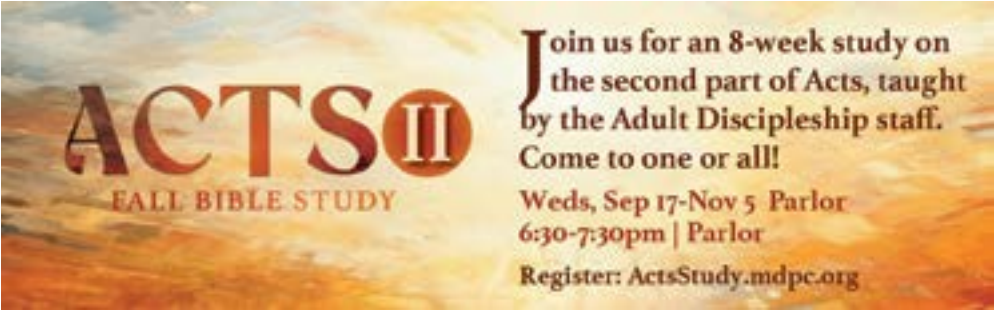
To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

Sing with the Sanctuary Choir this Fall
Do you love to sing? Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or new to choir, join us for inspiring music, fellowship, and worship. Flexible, low-commitment options. Come add your voice! Find the best way to get involved at choir.mdpc.org.

Change the Life of a Child!
It takes only a small investment of time for YOU to change a young person's life! All it takes is 30 minutes, one day a week at our partner, Spring Woods Middle School. Training is easy and the impact is real! Learn more at impact.mdpc.org.

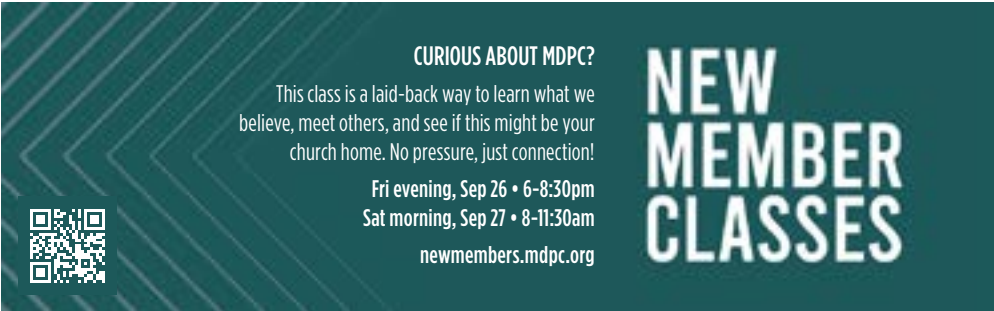
Marriage Retreat
Sat-Sun, Oct 4-5 | Noon-Noon
Couples, pack your bags: we're headed back to Moody Gardens in Galveston! It's a weekend full of teaching, rest, and reconnection with each other and with God. For more details and to register, visit marriageretreat.mdpc.org.

Lunch & Learn
Sun, Oct 5 | 12:30-1:30pm
Come learn about Stephen Ministry and how to potentially become a Stephen Minister. Current Stephen Ministers will share about their experiences, and answer questions you may have. There's no obligation, just an opportunity to hear about this special ministry.




ACTS II
FALL BIBLE STUDY

Join us for an 8-week study on the second part of Acts, taught by the Adult Discipleship staff. Come to one or all!
Weds, Sep 17-Nov 5 Parlor
6:30-7:30pm | Parlor
Register: ActsStudy.mdpc.org



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

CURIOUS ABOUT MDPC?
This class is a laid-back way to learn what we believe, meet others, and see if this might be your church home. No pressure, just connection!
Fri evening, Sep 26 • 6-8:30pm
Sat morning, Sep 27 • 8-11:30am
newmembers.mdpc.org





8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Brett Hurst
*Worship Songs	How Great Is Our God Because He Lives	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Dan Aikins
Worship Song	10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)	

HEARING THE WORD

Sermon	Known & Unknown Ruth 2:1-23 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	
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SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Amanda Grace Morris
*Worship Songs	Freedom in this House King of Kings	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Matthew Adair
*Worship Song	Who Else	

HEARING THE WORD

Sermon	Known & Unknown Ruth 2:1-23 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Great Is Thy Faithfulness	
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SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; JJ Blanco, keys; Coppelia Acevedo & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	The Prayer with How Great Thou Art	arr. K. White
Call to Worship		Brett Hurst
Choral Introit	The Lord Is Great (from Creation)	Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)
*Hymn of Praise	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Vs. 1, 2	#281 CWM RHONDDA
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8		
*Congregational Response	Psalm 34 - I'll Bless the Lord from Day to Day	AZMON

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	Trust in the Lord	Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)
Sermon	Known & Unknown Ruth 2:1-23 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	On Eagle's Wings Vs. 1, 2	Michael Joncas (b. 1951)
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Amy Delgado
Anthem of Response	God Is Our Refuge and Strength	Allen Pote (b. 1945)

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	Choral Song	Samuel Wesley (1810-1876)

Musicians: Cassandra Black, Chris Childress, Antoine Griggs, Riley Vagis, soloists | Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist/pianist



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For more details and to register: marriageretreat.mdpc.org.





WEDNESDAY
NIGHT DINNER

Wednesdays, 5-7pm
Dine in or order online: cafe.mdpc.org

If you're attending one of the many fall programs for children, youth, and adults on Wednesday nights, we hope you'll join us for dinner. Or just come for the food and fellowship!



Save the Date for Outreach Sunday on Sep 28

Join us at the 9:45 service to worship alongside many of our mission partners. It's a special opportunity to meet and hear from the men and women serving on the front lines of ministry.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out! Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.