



Sunday, Dec 31, 2023

Rev. Beth Case preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship Clay Brown

Songs of Praise *Great Things / Joyful, Joyful*

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Leigh McLeroy

Songs of Response *Holy, Holy, Holy / Here I Am to Worship*

Moment of Prayer Clay Brown

Offertory *Gratitude*

Message **Benediction: A Good Word for 2023 ([Romans 15:13](#))** Beth Case

Song of Response *The Blessing*

Benediction Beth Case

9:45 SERVICE

Meet and Greet (In person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Leigh McLeroy

Songs of Praise *Great Things / Joyful, Joyful / Holy Forever*

Moment of Confession Miah Collins

Song of Worship *Gratitude*

Message **Benediction: A Good Word for 2023 ([Romans 15:13](#))** Beth Case

Offering *The Blessing*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Leigh McLeroy

Benediction Beth Case

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys;
Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Meliza Gómez, worship leader

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Greensleeves* arr. Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Welcome and Call to Worship Clay Brown

Choral Introit *Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light (from Christmas Oratorio)*
J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Hymn of Praise *As With Gladness, Men of Old* #63 Vs. 1, 2, 4 | DIX

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Brett Hurst

*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed

*Congregational Response *Angels from the Realms of Glory* #22 Vs. 4 | REGENT SQUARE

Anthem *Star of Wonder* Alan Bullard (b. 1947)

The Lord's Prayer Clay Brown

Offering *Light of the World* arr. Karen Marroli (b. 1975)

Message **Benediction: A Good Word for 2023 ([Romans 15:13](#))** Beth Case

*Hymn of Response *Go Tell It on the Mountain* #29 Vs. 1, 2, 3 | GO TELL IT

Benediction Beth Case

Postlude *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* arr. Clay Christiansen (b. 1949)

Musicians at 11:15: Choral Ensemble; Steffanie Dean, conductor; Rob Landes, guest organist

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at events.mdpc.org.



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Sat, Jan 20 • 9-11:30am

Speakers and fast-moving breakout sessions offer tools to use right away, plus techniques for better relationships in the long term. Learn more: dadpal.mdpc.org



Sat, Jan 6 & Jan 13 • 9am-1pm

MLP combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research in a FUN environment! Learn more and register for free at mlp.mdpc.org.



Fri-Sun, Feb 9-11 • Iron Horse Ranch

Connection, gourmet food, and a chance to rest in the presence of God with others. Last year's retreat sold out - reserve your spot today! getaway.mdpc.org



Registration Opens Jan 16!

Get to know your MDPC family while helping some of our local ministry partners! Mark your calendar and check out what we're doing in 2024: citic.mdpc.org



Jan 1-31, 2024

Why not set a New Year's Resolution now and kick January off with prayer? Join MDPC Women in a 31-day prayer journey. To learn more, visit 31days.mdpc.org.



Sun, Jan 21 • 10:45-11:10am

Join us in the Sanctuary Lobby for a chance to get to know MDPC through a conversation with one of our pastors. Learn more at discover.mdpc.org.



Recruiting Now!

Get to know our ministry partners AND make a significant impact on the Kingdom through just one monthly meeting, March-Oct, and a handful of site visits. Learn more at outreach.mdpc.org.



Youth Sports Sign-ups Open Jan 7

Make your plans to be part of spring season baseball, softball, and volleyball through MDPC! All teams engage in ministry and outreach opportunities. Register at sports.mdpc.org.



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.

Births and Deaths

Eden McMullen was born Dec 20 to **Hillary and Alex McMullen**.

More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Dec 24, 2023

2023 Annual Budget	\$ 13,175,787
Income to Date	\$ 12,227,051
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 948,736

Benediction: A Good Word for 2023 • [Romans 15:13 \(NIV\)](#)

The English word benediction has roots in Latin: *bene* (well) + *dicere* (to say) = “to speak well of, to bless.” What word of blessing would you place on 2023? Is there a word of blessing that might anchor your faith and practice into 2024?

1. Maybe the most well-known benediction is found in Numbers 6:22-27 as Moses blesses Aaron and his sons: *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine up on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.* Can you recall a ceremony or worship service when this Aaronic blessing was spoken? How did these words apply to and/or enhance this event?
2. Romans 15:13 contains another benediction, this one filled with many of the great words of the Christian faith: *hope, joy, peace, trust, power.* Why does it matter that Paul ends his theological treatise with this “good word” full of “good words”?
3. The book of Romans includes much theological treatise. But in Romans 15:13, the human author, Paul, packs a powerful punch with this benediction. Perusing the first part of Romans 15 (verses 1-13) what reason(s) might he have for inserting this “good word” here?
4. It’s been said that humans can live about 40 days without food, about 3 days without water, about 8 minutes without air, but only for 1 second without hope.” Do you agree? What would it be like to live without any hope at all?
5. Sketch a picture – even if you aren’t an artist – the God of Hope pouring peace and joy into a life! (If you need a place to begin, think of a pitcher pouring into a glass!)
6. Do you think it’s possible for someone to *overflow* with peace and/or joy? Defend your answer.
7. As we move from 2023 into 2024, to whom could you offer a “good word”? Where might you need to hear a “good word”? How might you receive a “good word” (or the Good Word!) already spoken?