



Sunday, March 3, 2024 Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Miah Collins

Songs of Praise *Holy Forever / Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Christyn Knoop

Song of Response *I Surrender All*

Moment of Prayer Miah Collins

Song of Preparation *Lead Me to the Cross*

Message **Unhealthy Eyes** ([Matthew 6:22-23 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Just as I Am*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Songs of Praise *Open the Eyes of My Heart / Here I Am to Worship*

Baptisms Alf Halvorson
 Brooke Williams Guerre, daughter of Matthew & Nina Guerre
 Lottie Louise May, daughter of Mattison & Libby May
 Bennett Caroline Harris, daughter of Russell & Virginia Harris

Songs of Praise *I Believe / Holy Forever*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Sally Henien

Songs of Worship *Lead Me to the Cross / I Surrender All*

Message **Unhealthy Eyes** ([Matthew 6:22-23 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *Just as I Am*

Moment of Prayer and Connection Dan Aikins

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrot, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Nate Escobar, keys; Nani Nicole, Coppelia Acevedo, & Michael Middleton, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Meditation for Organ* George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

Welcome & Call to Worship Amy Delgado

*Hymn of Praise *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* #138 Vs. 1, 3, 4 | NICA EA

*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Marcus Vajdos

*Affirmation of Faith from the Heidelberg Catechism

Anthem *Light of the World* arr. Karen Marrolli (b. 1975)

Moment of Prayer Amy Delgado

Anthem of Preparation *Open Our Eyes* Will C. Macfarlane (1870-1945)

Message **Unhealthy Eyes** ([Matthew 6:22-23 NRSV](#)) Alf Halvorson

*Hymn of Response *Open My Eyes that I May See* # 324 Vs. 1, 2 | OPEN MY EYES

Postlude *Holy, Holy, Holy* arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Musicians at 11:15: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

For information about baptism at MDPC, visit baptism.mdpc.org.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Annual Meeting & All-Church Lunch

Sunday at 12:45pm • Fellowship Hall
MDPC leadership will conduct a business meeting to review the state of the church. Lunch will be available. Details, menu, and lunch prices at meeting.mdpc.org.



Sundays, Mar 3-Apr 14 • 11:15am
Join us in Summit Room for a six-week Ilok at God's ongoing, redemptive work in history. Led by our Adult Discipleship team. Details: bigstory.mdpc.org



Mon-Thu, Mar 25-28 • Chapel
Whether you are five or eighty-five, 15 minutes in The Spoken Word will enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at tsw.mdpc.org.



Mon-Thu, Mar 25-31 • Parlor
As you interact with Scripture and other tactical elements, you will experience different ways to engage prayerfully with God. Details at silentword.mdpc.org.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP LEADER SPOTLIGHT: ERIC KUHN

Why do you lead on the middle school mission trip to San Antonio (SATX)?

I started as a leader when my kids were in middle school. I felt it was my responsibility as a parent to support their faith journey. Now it is just what I do the first week of summer because it gives 8 more middle school kids and two

high school leaders a group a chance to go on the middle school mission trip.

What has been the most impactful thing about leading on SATX?

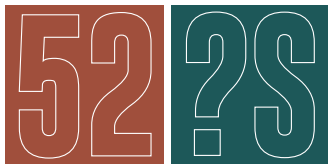
I feel it is very valuable for [the kids at MDPC] to see how the other half lives. They learn to serve others, they learn about unconditional love, they learn how to push a broom and swing a hammer, they learn that you don't die from sweating, and what I most hope they learn is that Jesus shows His love through the people who love Him.

Why should others lead on SATX?

Because they will get a chance to be in the game for Jesus. Whether it is helping kids learn faith and life lessons, or turning off technology and living in the moment for a whole week, or having an impact on a stranger's life, they will have a deep satisfaction that, by just being there, they changed people's lives in positive ways.

Ready to get in the game for Jesus? Be a Youth Mission Trip leader! Contact Mitchell to learn more: mkearney@mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Week 9

Question: What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

Answer: First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also His Word and works.

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 6:13-14 NRSV](https://deuteronomy.6:13-14)

Financial Update as of Feb 25, 2024

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2024 Annual Budget | \$ 13,723,677 |
| Income to Date | \$ 2,041,477 |
| Needed to Meet Budget | \$ 11,682,200 |

Births and Deaths

Jim Shatto passed away Feb 24, 2024.
Melba Bates passed away Feb 1, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

The Vines that Choke Out Life: Unhealthy Eyes

[Matthew 6:22 NRSV](#)

This is the third in our Lenten Series on the supposedly littler sins that can cause big problems in our lives. Or, as Solomon wrote about it in Song of Solomon 2:15, “Catch the foxes, the little foxes, that ruin the vineyards.” Today we focus on our eyes. Jesus thinks that what we focus on or possibly what is going on inside our lives will influence *what* we see or *how* we see. Do we have *sound eyes* or *unhealthy eyes*? And how might what we see change from darkness to light?

1. Physically, are your eyes strong or weak? Do you need glasses or contacts to correct your vision? Think about going to the eye doctor. Do you see that doctor visit as positive or negative?
2. Read Matt. 6:22-23. In this short paragraph, Jesus is trying to say something helpful and profound to us. What do you think He is getting at with these words? What questions do you have from the way he said what He said?
3. Read Matthew 5:27-28 and Psalm 119:36-37. How do these verses help either with needed context for Jesus’ words or an illustration of what He is saying?
4. If you look at Matthew 6:19-21 and 6:24-33, these verses provide the direct context in which our verses (vs. 22-23) are sandwiched. What does Jesus’s conversation about treasures (money & stuff) have to do with His discussion about eyes? When we worry about what we will eat or drink or what we will wear, how are we demonstrating that we have distorted eyes? In verse 26, why are we supposed to *look* at the birds of the air? In verse 28, why are we supposed to *consider* (view) the lilies of the field? How does verse 33 produce *healthy eyes* as opposed to unhealthy eyes?
5. I shared a story about the low tire pressure indicator coming on in my car and having to solve that problem early on Monday morning. But because I didn’t start my day as usual, I was unusually short with and insensitive to the lady who delivers our Houston Chronicle each day. My eye was darkness. Why and how does our devotional life, or worship or prayer life, give us perspective and help us have healthy eyes as opposed to unhealthy ones? How can you “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” each day so that your eyes are clear and not distorted?