



Sunday, May 26, 2024

**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

\*Songs of Praise *Everlasting God / How Great Is Our God*

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Brett Hurst

Song of Response *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Offertory *Bless God*

Message **UNexpected: The Persecuted** Alf Halvorson  
[Matthew 5:10-12 NRSV](#)

Song of Response *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Time of Grateful Remembrance Beth Case & Alf Halvorson

**9:45 SERVICE**

Welcome & Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Opening Song *How Great Is Our God*

Meet & Greet Michael Middleton

Song of Praise *Glorious Day*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Beth Case

Songs of Worship *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) / How Great Is Our God*

Message **UNexpected: The Persecuted** Alf Halvorson  
[Matthew 5:10-12 NRSV](#)

Song of Response *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Offertory *Bless God*

Time of Grateful Remembrance Beth Case & Alf Halvorson

Moment of Connection Amanda Shockley

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, bass; Daniel Martinez, keys;  
Tim Hughes, violin; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

**11:15 SERVICE**

Prelude *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Todd Billingsley (b. 1964)

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

\*Hymn of Praise #526 *For All the Saints* Vs. 1, 2, 3 | SINE NOMINE

\*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Leigh McLeroy

\*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Cor. 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20

Anthem *Ascribe to the Lord* Rosephanye Powell (b.1952)

Time of Grateful Remembrance Beth Case & Alf Halvorson

Offertory *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

Message **UNexpected: The Persecuted** Alf Halvorson  
[Matthew 5:10-12 NRSV](#)

\*Hymn of Response *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Vs. 1, 2, 3 | ASSAM

Postlude *Toccata from the Fifth Symphony* Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

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



# Today...

*We remember those in the MDPC family that we've lost in the past year. (May 2023 – April 2024).*



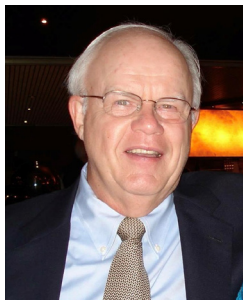
Sun, May 26, 2024



**June House**  
May 31, 2023



**Shannon Bennett**  
Jun 4, 2023



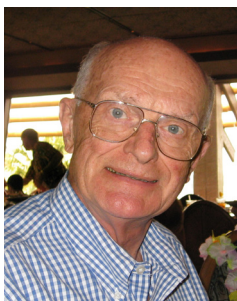
**Bill Fawley**  
Jun 8, 2023



**Peter Ham**  
Jun 8, 2023



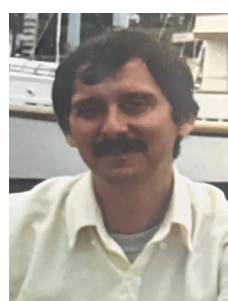
**Betsy Ache**  
Jun 23, 2023



**Brad Smith**  
Jul 16, 2023



**Sandra Dennis**  
Aug 13, 2023



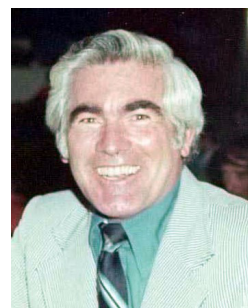
**David Woehr**  
Sep 3, 2023



**Jerry Fountain**  
Sep 14, 2023



**Janet Harryman**  
Oct 7, 2023



**John Simmons**  
Oct 22, 2023



**Sammie Booher**  
Oct 28, 2023



**Robert Chapman**  
Oct 30, 2023



**Frank Richardson**  
Nov 7, 2023



**Mary Lou Fowler**  
Nov 16, 2023



**Bob Cagle**  
Dec 1, 2023



**Fred Whitty**  
Jan 25, 2024



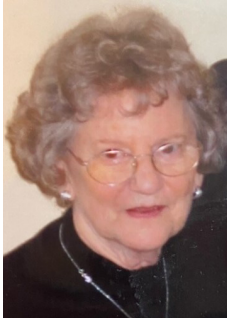
**Joe McMillan**  
Jan 11, 2024



**John McGowan**  
Feb 3, 2024



**Melba Bates**  
Feb 21, 2024



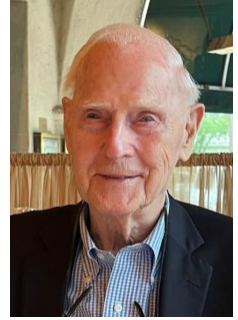
**Carolyn Hathorn**  
Feb 23, 2024



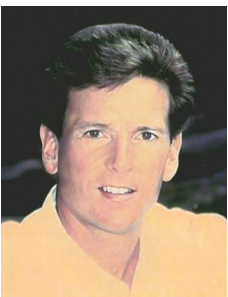
**Jim Shatto**  
Feb 24, 2024



**David Black**  
Mar 10, 2024



**Paul Richard Edinger**  
Mar 14, 2024



**Jody Jordan**  
Mar 24, 2024



**Yvonne  
Dupuis-Perkins**  
Mar 25, 2024



**Larry Biestek**  
Apr 3, 2024



**Kathy Manley**  
Apr 11, 2024



**Jack Barry III**  
April 14, 2024

**MDPC's** Caring Ministries staff also had the honor of participating in memorial services for these individuals.

**W. Ray Marshall**  
May 4, 2023

**Peggy Shockley**  
May 8, 2023

**Stuart Lang IV**  
June 22, 2023

**Frederick Barrett**  
August 12, 2023

**Patricia Mood**  
August 24, 2023

**Rick Martin**  
September 9, 2023

**Bill Thrasher**  
September 20, 2023

**Keith Blecher**  
January 6, 2024

**Janice Kringel**  
February 11, 2024

**Brett Anderson**  
March 22, 2024

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).



Give Online  
[give.mdpc.org](https://give.mdpc.org)



## Opportunities start Wed, Jun 12

Ladies, check out these sweet summer opportunities to seek Jesus, find friendship, and love others! Learn more and sign up at [slice.mdpc.org](https://slice.mdpc.org).



## MDPC Officer Nominations Are Open

Do you know someone perfect to step into a leadership role at this church? Nominate them today! The nomination process is fast and easy: [nominate.mdpc.org](https://nominate.mdpc.org)



## Sun, Jun 2 • 11am-1:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall today after services next Sunday for **All-Church Lunch** with your MDPC family! To see the menu and pricing, visit [acl.mdpc.org](https://acl.mdpc.org).



## Honduras in Aug • Germany in Sep

Two eye-opening mission trips are coming up in just a few short months! To see all the details and learn how to register, visit [trips.mdpc.org](https://trips.mdpc.org).



Stephen Ministers listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. To learn more about receiving a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Beverly Fluke: [bfluke@mdpc.org](mailto:bfluke@mdpc.org)



## Wed, Jun 12 • 3pm • Amphitheater

Beat the heat with a FREE movie screening! The first movie up is *Ordinary Angels* (PG). See the full schedule and learn more at [movies.mdpc.org](https://movies.mdpc.org).



## Sundays starting Jun 9 • 6pm

Incoming College Freshmen! You're invited for dinner and conversations to get you ready for this new chapter in your life. Learn more: [college.mdpc.org](https://college.mdpc.org)



## Thursdays this Summer • 6:30-9pm

Come connect and play some pickup sports. We'll focus on two things: growing spiritually this summer, and having a good time. Dates and loc: [college.mdpc.org](https://college.mdpc.org)

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

52

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**Week 22 Question:** Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

**Answer:** That in human nature He might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that He might sympathize with our weaknesses.

*Hebrews 2:17 NRSV*

The New City Catechism

Learn more: [52Gs.mdpc.org](https://52Gs.mdpc.org)

## Financial Update as of May 19, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to date	\$ 4,927,911
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 8,795,766

# UnExpected

## SERMON NOTES

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

### UnExpected: The Persecuted • [Matthew 5:10-12 NRSV](#)

This is the eighth and final in our post-Easter Beatitudes Series from Matthew's Gospel. Some scholars say verse nine is the eighth beatitude and verse 10 is the ninth; but I am just combining these verses and beatitudes because they both deal with persecution, suffering, pain, and trials for those who follow Jesus.

1. When, if ever, have you seen someone suffer for their faith in Christ? Have you ever experienced trouble or persecution because of your fidelity to Jesus? Why do you think that the Christian faith has grown the most in times of trials and tribulation?
2. Read Matt. 5:10-12. Is Jesus saying that if we are merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers, that we will be persecuted? Are the phrases/words 'for righteousness' sake' and 'falsely' significant? Discuss.
3. Why do you think Jesus moves to the second person 'you' and 'your' in verses eleven and twelve? Is that comforting to you that Jesus gets that personal and intimate or troubling to you? Why or why not?
4. I shared that New Testament Scholar, Dale Bruner, says that there are seven commands by Jesus in the rest of Matthew chapter five after the Beatitudes that will probably result in suffering for Christians. Here is his quote: *In obedience to Scripture, we will be called factious; in seeking reconciliation, called cowards; in struggling for sexual purity, considered Puritans; in fidelity to our marriage partners, called foolish or out of date; in speaking only the truth, considered obstructionists; in responding non-violently to provocation, called disloyal; and in loving enemies, considered traitors.* Is he right? And are there other circumstances or issues that might cause persecution of Christians today?
5. I shared in my sermon the circumstances behind the deaths of Stephen--the first Christian Martyr in Scripture, Polycarp, Apostle Peter, Bartholemew, William Tyndale, and Thomas a Becket. I shared about what happened to Christians in Nigeria recently. I shared the Scriptures 2 Tim. 3:10-12, 1 Pet. 2:19-21 & 4:12-16, 2 Cor. 1:3-7, and Heb. 11:32-12:3. What did those word and examples teach you about Christian persecution? And how can you 'rejoice and be glad' if something unpopular happens to you because of your faith?
6. What is your overall takeaway from the words of Jesus in Matt. 5:1-12 and his life, death, and resurrection for you?