



Sun, July 7, 2024

**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

- Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case
- \*Songs of Praise *Medley: Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*
- \*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Amy Delgado
- Song of Response *Firm Foundation*
- Moment of Prayer Beth Case
- Song of Preparation *Build My Life*
- Message **Unshakable Truth: Death and Salvation** Alf Halvorson  
[Col. 1:19-22 & John 3:16-18, 36 NRSV](#)
- Song of Response *O Come to the Altar*

**9:45 SERVICE**

- Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez
- Opening Songs *Battle Hymn/My Country/America the Beautiful/God Bless America*
- Songs of Worship *Take You at Your Word/Build My Life*
- Moment of Confession & Assurance Laurien Hook
- Songs of Worship *Firm Foundation*
- Message **Unshakable Truth: Death and Salvation** Alf Halvorson  
[Col. 1:19-22 & John 3:16-18, 36 NRSV](#)
- Song of Response *O Come to the Altar*
- Moment of Prayer & Connection Clay Brown

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

**11:15 SERVICE**

- Prelude *God of Our Fathers* arr. Ron and Linda Sprunger
- Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case
- Choral Introit *The God Who Gave us Life Gave Us Liberty* Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
- \*Hymn of Praise #561 *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* Vs. 1, 3, 4 | AMERICA
- \*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Marcus Vajdos
- \*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed
- \*Congregational Response #579 *The Gloria Patri*
- Anthem *An American Hymn* arr. Cecil Effinger (1914-1990)
- Moment of Prayer Beth Case
- Anthem of Preparation *Look, Ye Saints!* arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
- Message **Unshakable Truth: Death and Salvation** Alf Halvorson  
[Col. 1:19-22 & John 3:16-18, 36 NRSV](#)
- Hymn of Response #383 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Vs. 1, 2 | OLIVET
- Postlude *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* Camil Van Hulse (1897-1998)

Musicians at 11:15: John-Alan Gouridine, conductor; Linda McKechnie, piano; Kathryn White, organ/piano

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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



## Wed Evenings, Sep 18-May 14

If you are a professional ready to seek God's purpose for your career, apply to be a Faith & Work Fellow today. Contact Jeremiah Collins for info: [jcollins@mdpc.org](mailto:jcollins@mdpc.org)

Donations Needed!



Please consider donating soda, water, and individually packaged snacks (no nuts) for volunteers, and plain white or wheat sandwich bread for the Kids' Meals project. Drop off by the Front Office.



## Wed, July 17 • 3pm • Amphitheater

Beat the heat with a FREE movie screening! The next movie up is *Golda* (2023, PG-13). See the full schedule and learn more at [movies.mdpc.org](https://movies.mdpc.org).



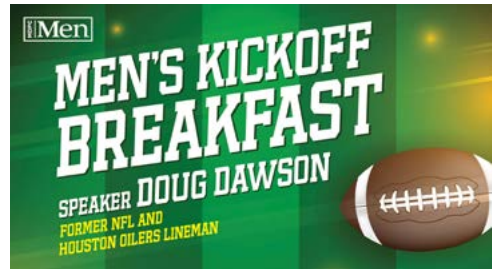
## Sundays • 9:45 or 11:15am • Amphith.

Come enjoy Biblical teaching with a pastor or staff member with seminary training. No homework, no pre-registration or class roll, but always donut holes!



## Tue, Aug 6 • 6-9pm • HRC

Join us at the Houston Racquet Club for sports on the big screen, drinks, and Tex-Mex. Invite a friend, you don't want to miss it! RSVP: [mensnight.mdpc.org](https://mensnight.mdpc.org)



## Sat, Aug 24 • 8am • Fellowship Hall

Join MDPC Men for an entertaining Kickoff Breakfast with former NFL and Houston Oilers lineman Doug Dawson! Learn more and RSVP: [breakfast.mdpc.org](https://breakfast.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)



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)

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

**Week 28 Question:** What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith??

**Answer:** At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favorable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.

[John 3:16-18, 36 NRSV](https://www.bible.com/bible/1/John/3/16-18)

The New City Catechism

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

## Financial Update as of June 30, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 6,373,459
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 7,350,218

## Births and Deaths

Tom W. Terrell passed away June 14.  
Doug Pond passed away June 17.  
Kay Ward passed away June 23.  
*More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).*

## Unshakable Truth • [Col. 1:19-22](#) & [John 3:16-18, 36](#) NRSV

This is the sixth in our 14-week summer sermon series on the New City Catechism. Thanks to Brett, Luke, Laurien, and Almir for the great job they have done since I kicked off the series on June 2nd. As we said from the beginning, a catechism reveals the core aspects of the faith that, if understood, believed, and walked out, build a solid foundation for individuals and churches. But they also at times answer some of our biggest questions of faith, at least indirectly. Two of the biggest I have been asked repeatedly over my ministry are: *Aren't all the religions basically the same, just different paths to the same mountain-top goal?* And, *How could a loving God send people to hell?* Questions 24-29 of the catechism, on Christ's Death and Salvation, address those two huge questions if we are savvy enough to ponder and process carefully.

1. Did you grow up asking those questions yourself? What provisional answers did you come up with on your own? Did anyone or anything help you think through those crucial questions? What was helpful or not helpful?
2. Questions 24-26 deal with Christ's death for our salvation. Question 25 says, "Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?" The answer from the catechism is "Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more." Ponder that question and answer using Col. 1:19-22 and 2 Cor. 5:21. What is your takeaway about God's love and Christ's sacrifice from these verses and this catechetical question?
3. I talked in my sermon about some of the similarities and differences between several of the major religions of the world; that they affirm contradictory things and disagree about who Jesus is and what He accomplishes with His life and death. Then I shared three quotes from C. S. Lewis to discern our own response to other faiths. What was helpful from that discussion? Are there still questions that you might discuss in the group or ask a friend or pastor?
4. Question 27 and 28 deal with the idea that even though Jesus is the Savior of the world, not all will be saved. Read Rom. 5:17 and John 3:16-18, 36. How do those verses, as well as my discussion in the sermon and quotes shared on the screen, suggest that our response, our "yes," our trust, our belief matters? God preserves our autonomy, independence, and freedom to follow or reject Jesus. "Those who believe in Him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already," John 3:18 says. Does that comfort you or upset you that God "only woos us, never forces us"?
5. Question 29 asks, "How can we be saved?" Answer: "Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in His substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in Him." Have you repented and believed? Have you trusted in Him? Why not trust Him today? Affirm the promise of Eph. 2:8-9 personally.