



Sun, Aug 18, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship Amanda Grace Morris

Songs of Praise *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death/Amazing Grace*

***Prayer of Confession & Assurance** Clay Brown

Song of Response *'Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

Moment of Prayer Amanda Grace Morris

Song of Preparation *Holy Forever*

Message **Unshakable Truth: Sacraments** Alf Halvorson
[Romans 6:4 & Luke 22:19-20 NRSV](#)

Song of Response *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Meliza Gómez

Song of Praise *I Believe*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Mitchell Kearney

Songs of Worship *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death/Holy Forever*

Message **Unshakable Truth: Sacraments** Alf Halvorson
[Romans 6:4 & Luke 22:19-20 NRSV](#)

Song of Response *Nothing But the Blood of Jesus*

Moment of Prayer & Connection Dan Aikins

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Andante Moderato* Frank Bridge (1879-1941)

Welcome & Call to Worship Amy Delgado

Choral Introit *Fight the Good Fight* arr. John Gardner (1917-2011)

***Hymn of Praise #442** *The Church's One Foundation* Vs. 1 & 5 | AURELIA

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Marcus Vajdos

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Apostles' Creed

Anthem *Beautiful River* arr. John Rutter (b.1945)

Pastoral Prayer Amy Delgado

Anthem of Preparation *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* Ryan Murphy (b. 1971)

Message **Unshakable Truth: Sacraments** Alf Halvorson
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***Hymn of Response #513** *Let Us Break Bread Together* Vs. 1, 3 | LET US BREAK BREAD

Postlude *Fugue in G Minor* Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Musicians: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ; Choral Ensemble



Officer Nominations Close Soon!

Do you know someone perfect to step into a leadership role at this church? Nominate them today! The nomination process is fast and easy. Scan QR code or visit nominate.mdpc.org.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

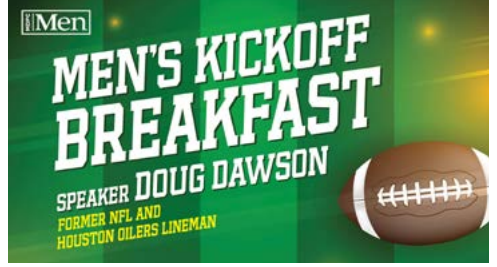


Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Sundays, Aug 18-Sep 8

Kickoff includes a series of mini-ministry fairs and **all-church lunch on Sep 1**. Don't miss out on all the great fall happenings at MDPC! See more at kickoff.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



Mon, Aug 26 • 9:30-10am • Chapel

As kids of all ages go back to school (and teachers too!), let's cover them in prayer! All are welcome as staff and pastors lead this concert of prayer.



Starts Thu, Sep 5 • Mult days/times

in this year's Word and Worship, discover what God has to say in three smaller books: 1 Peter, James, and Colossians. Details and registration: wandw.mdpc.org



Starting Tue, Sep 10 • 6:30-7:45am

Men's Life has been imparting wisdom and strength to men for over 20 years. Join us this fall for powerful conversations about what true strength really is. ml.mdpc.org



Sat, Sep 14 • 6-9pm

The Fuente community invites you to its "Night of Flavor," an annual multicultural celebration. This all-church event is free and all are welcome. nds.mdpc.org



Starting Wed, Sep 11 • 7-8:30pm

Great insights for Biblical interpretation come through engaging with the original Greek of the Bible. Learn more in this new Greek Reading Group! greek.mdpc.org



Conquerers. Not Captives.

Take seriously the Bible's assurances that, even though sin remains in our lives, it no longer reigns over us. Details and RSVP for this free event: speakers.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



Week 34 Question: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Answer: Yes, because Christ, having redeemed us by His blood, also renews us by His Spirit; so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; so that we may be assured of our faith by the fruits; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

[1 Peter 2:9-12](https://1pet2912.com)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Aug 11, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to date	\$ 7,409,310
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 6,314,367

Births and Deaths

Martha Armstrong passed away August 6.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Unshakable Truth: Sacraments • [Romans 6:4 & Luke 22:19-20 NRSV](#)

This is the eleventh in our 13-week summer sermon series on the New City Catechism, questions and answers (with Scriptural references) to help us understand and live the most crucial affirmations and components of our faith. Today we focus on sacraments. According to Augustine, sacraments are “visible signs of invisible grace” from God. J. I. Packer puts it this way: “As the preaching of the Word makes the gospel audible, so the sacraments make it visible, and God stirs up faith by both means.” So, the goal of preaching and the sacraments is to make the Good News of God in Christ more able to be believed, experienced, and walked-out.

1. If you grew up in a Christian Tradition, how many sacraments did you have (Roman Catholics have 7 and most Protestants 2)? What were they, and what did you understand each affirmed and meant?
2. Question 43 of the New City Catechism says, “What are the sacraments or ordinances?” The answer is, “The sacraments or ordinances given by God and instituted by Christ, namely baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are visible signs and seals that we are bound together as a community of faith by His death and resurrection. By our use of them, the Holy Spirit more fully declares and seals the promises of the gospel to us.” *Note: The New City Catechism Devotional explains that the word signs means the sacraments “symbolize the blessings of salvation, forgiveness of sins, reception of the Holy Spirit, and the ability to commune with Jesus Christ in His presence.” Seals mean that the sacraments actually bring these blessings to us. They assure us and stir up our faith, and it’s our faith that receives those blessings.* Read Q&A 43 over three or four times. What is helpful for you in the answer? Are there any questions that still nag you?
3. Look up Romans 6:4 & Luke 22:19-20. Read a little of the context before and after these short verses. What do these Scriptures say to help flesh out or explain what baptism and the Lord’s Supper mean?
4. In my sermon, I talked about how the Lord’s Supper promises that Christ meets us in the meal to spiritually feed us, and that in Baptism God adopts us into the family of faith. React to those two images. Is adoption a helpful image for you? Why or why not? And if Christ promises to meet us in the meal, how is that more than just an intellectual remembrance of Christ’s death and resurrection two thousand years ago?
5. How might our two sacraments, carried out regularly in worship, help you and us see and then live into or live out the Gospel more fully? Are there extra things we might say or do at the times of the sacraments to enhance or further increase the reality of God’s grace and love?