



Sun, Aug 25, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Brett Hurst
Songs of Praise	<i>O Worship the King/Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
Song of Response	<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Dan Aikins
Offertory	<i>King of Kings</i>	
Message	Unshakable Truth: Church 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5, 2:13-15; Matthew 16:13-18 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>The Church's One Foundation</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Songs of Praise	<i>This Is Our God/Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Ashton Wascom
Moment of Prayer		Dan Aikins
Song of Worship	<i>Firm Foundation</i>	
Message	Unshakable Truth: Church 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5, 2:13-15; Matthew 16:13-18 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Nothing But the Blood of Jesus</i>	
Offering	<i>The Church's One Foundation/King of Kings</i>	

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight</i>	arr. David Paxton (1934-2015)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Amanda Grace Morris
Choral Introit	<i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>	Carl Nygard (b. 1947)
*Hymn of Praise #420	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	Vs. 1, 4 CWM RHONDDA
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith	from the United Church of Canada	
Anthem	<i>In His Hands</i>	arr. Tim Osiek (b. 1985)
Pastoral Prayer		Dan Aikins
Offertory	<i>The Church of God Is One</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
Message	Unshakable Truth: Church 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5, 2:13-15; Matthew 16:13-18 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response #430	<i>Come Sing, O Church, in Joy</i>	Vs. 1, 4 DARWALL'S 148TH
Postlude	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i>	arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

Musicians: Steffanie Dean, guest conductor; Rob Landes, guest organist



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



Light a candle in the lobby and pray for someone in your life to meet Jesus. Invite them to come with you to Launch Night on Sep 10 at White Elm Brasserie. Stop by the Nook for details! alphalaunch.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.



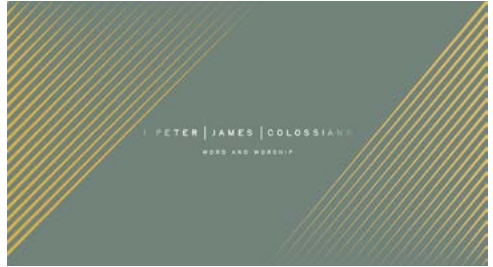
Sundays, Aug 18-Sep 8
Kickoff includes a series of mini-ministry fairs and **all-church lunch on Sep 1**. Don't miss out on all the great fall happenings at MDPC! See more at kickoff.mdpc.org.



Sun, Sep 1 • 11am-1:30pm
Join us in Fellowship Hall next Sunday for **All-Church Lunch**. We're celebrating the new program year with burgers, dogs, and Kona Ice! Learn more: kickoff.mdpc.org



Tuesdays, 7-9pm • Room 219
Check out our newest Bible study - for college students only! Starts Sep 3. No RSVP required. For more events and programs, visit college.mdpc.org.



Starts Thu, Sep 5 • Multi. 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



When you sing, you pray twice!
Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays, 7-9pm. Sing for the 11:15 Traditional Service. Participate once a month or weekly! For more information, visit choir.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

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

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Week 35 Question: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

Answer: All the gifts we receive from Christ we receive through the Holy Spirit, including faith itself.

[Titus 3:4-6](https://titus3-4-6.mdpc.org)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Aug 18, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to date	\$ 7,547,426
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 6,176,251

Births and Deaths
Jim Savage passed away August 18.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Unshakable Truth: Church • [2 Thess. 1:3-5, 2:13-15](#); [Matt. 16:13-18](#)

This is the 12th in our 13-week summer series on The New City Catechism. Today's focus is only one *question*, question 48, which is "What is the church?" The *answer*, "God chooses and preserves for Himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another." It is an incredibly daunting and jarringly inspiring vision of the church.

1. When was the first time you remembered attending a church building? Do you have mostly positive memories with church? Or do you have "church wounds"? Name some of both. How have those experiences colored your view of church and even God?
2. Read Matt. 16:13-18. What does Jesus' conversation with His disciples teach you/us about the founding of the church, what it is build upon, and whether it will endure or collapse? Discuss.
3. Read 2 Thess. 1:3-5 & 2:13-15. What additional lessons do we learn from Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy about the Body of Christ from these verses? What activities and fruit should be evident (and growing) among us as servants bound together in Christ?
4. I talked in my sermon about the answer to question 48 in The New City Catechism in the first paragraph above. I suggested that the first sentence focuses on the church gathered, and that the second sentence addresses what the church is to be about when it is scattered. Re-read the question and answer above, and comment on the component parts of what it means to be gathered and scattered repeatedly as the body of Christ. How is MDPC doing with this rhythm of gathering and scattering? How might we improve? Are you involved in some aspect of both gathering and scattering? Is there anything in this definition of church that is missing? What would you add and why?
5. I ended my sermon by talking from 1 Corinthians 12 about how important each of us is to any church's effectiveness. Read at least 1 Cor. 12:12-22 and 26-27 (and the whole chapter if you have time). What does Paul say about you, whether you are an eye or femur or spleen or ear or thumb? What happens if you are missing? What happens to you if you are participating but others are missing? Do you have your "place" figured out in this Body of Christ? If not, go to the Nook this Sunday to talk to someone about various ways to grow and serve here; and/or talk to a pastor or director in the general area of calling or gifting or interest to see where God might be directing you in this season of your and our church's life.