



OUTREACH SUNDAY

Sun, Sep 29, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Ancient of Days / Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Sally Henien
Song of Response	<i>Jesus Paid It All</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Song of Praise	<i>Holy Forever</i>	
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 4:4-17	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Michael Middleton
Song of Praise	<i>Glorious Day / I Believe</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
Songs of Worship	<i>Holy Forever / Revelation Song</i>	
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 4:4-17	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me</i>	
Outreach Moment		Amy Delgado/Alf Halvorson
Benediction		Alf Halvorson

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>French Suite</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Hymn of Praise #281	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	Vs. 1, 3 CWM RHONDDA
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Amanda Grace Morris
*Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8		
Anthem	<i>Breath of Life</i>	Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
Outreach Moment		Amy Delgado/Alf Halvorson
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Our Faith in God Alone</i>	Mary McDonald (b. 1956)
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 4:4-17	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Jesus Calls Us</i>	Vs. 1, 5 GALILEE
Postlude	<i>Choral Song</i>	Samuel Wesley (1810-1876)

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

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Today! 9:45 & 11:15 Services

Help make our ministry partners feel welcome! The partners we support throughout the year are here today for a morning of worship and prayer.



Sun, Oct 6 • 11am-1:30pm

Join us in Fellowship Hall this Sunday after services for **All-Church Lunch** with your MDPC family! To see the menu and pricing, visit acl.mdpc.org.



Sat-Sun, Oct 5-6 • Noon-Noon

Learn to grow deeper in married love and life. Taught by Brett and Kelly Hurst at the gorgeous Moody Gardens Resort in Galveston! Sign up: marriageretreat.mdpc.org



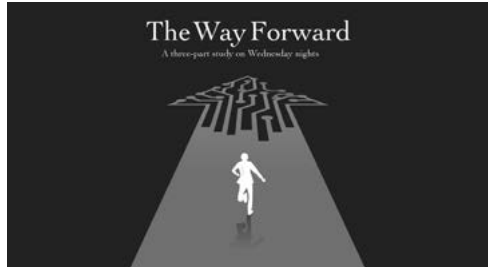
Nov 15-24 • Apply by Oct 15

Discover how God is at work through Pars Theological Centre, providing theological education and more to the underground Iranian church. Details: pars.mdpc.org



Thu, Oct 10 • 7pm

Dinner & a Marriage: YA Edition is open to all dating/engaged/married couples in their 20s-40s. Childcare is provided! Learn more and register: yaevents.mdpc.org



Wednesdays, Oct 9-23 • 7-8:30pm

In the latest series of Wednesday Night Shorts, Rev. Dr. Clay Brown brings us a three-part series titled *The Way Forward*. Find details at forward.mdpc.org.



Thu, Oct 17 • 6:30-8pm

Come hear stories from MDPC women as all ages and life stages gather together at The Well! See our speakers for this fall and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.



Mon, 9-10:30 • Thu, 1:30-3 • Gym

Come for a pick-up Pickleball game at MDPC! Anyone can sign up to play, whether on your own or with friends. Learn more and sign up: indoorPB.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

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Week 39 Question: What should we pray?
Answer: The whole Word of God directs and inspires us in what we should pray, including the prayer Jesus Himself taught us.
Children's Answer: The whole Word of God directs us in what we should pray.
[Ephesians 3:14-21](https://ephesians3:14-21)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Sep 22, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 8,852,237
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,871,440

Births and Deaths

Paula Mousighi passed away Sep 24, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Who's in Charge Here? • [Esther 4:4-17](#)

This is the third in our six-week Fall Sermon Series on the Book of Esther. And it is also Outreach Sunday, when we welcome our 130 or so local and global partners who alleviate human need and share the Gospel in word and deed. Let's make sure they know our appreciation for their hard work in the trenches. Chapter four moves Esther from being more passive and almost silent to being active, vocal, and faithful. How can we learn from her in her defining moment for our own?

1. Describe a time when you pulled yourself out of a pit or worked your way from the bottom to near the top of some situation? How would you feel or what might you be tempted to do if everything you worked so hard to get was threatened?
2. Read Esther 4:1-17. In Esther 3:15, King Xerxes and Haman eat and drink. What does Mordecai do when he finds out about the edict to annihilate the people of God? Why is that significant and helpful? How does Esther react in verse 4? Does Mordecai accept her gift? Why not?
3. In verses 5-8, what does Mordecai challenge Esther to do? What is her reaction in verses 9-11? Who do you relate more to, Mordecai or Esther? Why? Mordecai does not let Esther off the hook in verses 12-14. Do you have anyone in your life that calls you to your best? Do you play that role in anyone else's life? How is the Gospel, the Good News of God, shared in verse 14? What is the relationship between us and God in advancing God's kingdom? Can't God do everything on God's own? Why, do you think, does God invite us to partner with Him? Reflect on Paul's words in Phil. 3:12-13.
4. In verses 15-17, what does Esther request or order? Why do you think she changed her mind from verse 11? I talked extensively in my message about God placing us in a certain role with unique gifts to be leveraged for His purposes. What decision is before you, that might disrupt your comfort, control, or consumption? Could Mordecai's question be for you and me, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to this role for just such a time as this."
5. Esther mediates for her people before the king. How is Jesus the true Esther who mediates for us before the Father? See 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 2:5-6a; & Heb. 10:8-23. How might we live for others, in response to Christ's sacrifice for us?