



World Communion Sun, Oct 6, 2024

Rev. Dr. Clay Brown preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Everlasting God / Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

***Prayer of Confession & Assurance** Dan Aikins

Offertory *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing / A Thousand Hallelujahs*

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** [Esther 5:1-8:2 NLT](#) Clay Brown

Communion

Communion Music *Because of Your Love*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship Michael Middleton

Songs of Praise *Praise / O Praise the Name*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Miah Collins

Offertory *A Thousand Hallelujahs*

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** [Esther 5:1-8:2 NLT](#) Clay Brown

Communion and First Communion

Communion Music *Because of Your Love*

Moment of Connection & Announcements Matthew Adair

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude *Concerto in G Minor* G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *Let Us Break Bread Together* arr. George Lynn (1915-1989)

***Hymn of Praise #455** *All Creatures of Our God and King* Vs. 1, 6 | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Dan Aikins

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

Offertory *Coronation Kyrie* Paul Mealor (b. 1975)

Message **Who's in Charge Here?** [Esther 5:1-8:2 NLT](#) Clay Brown

Communion and First Communion Clay Brown / Dan Aikins

Communion Music *The Hour of Banquet and of Song* Howard Helvey (b.1968)
Let Us Break Bread Together arr. Gilbert Martin (b.1941)

Postlude *All Creatures of Our God and King* arr. Randall DeBruyn

Musicians at 11:15: Antoine Griggs, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Join us in praying over these children who today celebrate their First Communion.

Luca Emmanuel Bouzerand	Grace Martha French	Brantley Marie Nelson
Steele Lea Davidson	Nathan Howard	Hope Catherine Newman
Ava Catherine Drum	Ford Miller	

For those unable to participate in World Communion or any Communion Sunday, **home communion** is available. Those interested in home communion for themselves or a homebound loved one should contact Home Visitation Deacon Jim Newlin (jlnewlin@comcast.net) or Member Care Director Beverly Fluke (bfluke@mdpc.org).

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

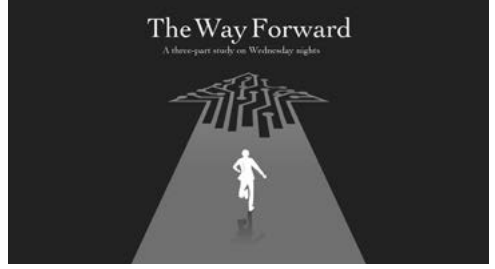


Give Online
give.mdpc.org



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.



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.



Tue, Oct 8 • 7-8:45pm

Join young adults for a night of worship! All are welcome for delicious refreshments, table conversations, music, message, and prayer. RSVP at yaevents.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 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.



Congregational Meeting • Sun, Oct 20

Plan to stick around for a brief rolling congregational meeting after all five services to vote on our next class of MDPC Officers and elect the 2025 Nominating Committee.



Sun, Oct 27 • 10:45-11:15am

Join us in the Gathering Room for a casual gathering to get to know MDPC through a conversation with one of our pastors. Details at discover.mdpc.org.



Job Opening

MDPC is seeking a part-time Special Needs Ministry Coordinator. For more information, visit workhere.mdpc.org or contact Keri Mosk at kmosk@mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



Week 40 Question: What is the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

[Matthew 6:9](https://matthew69.com)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Sep 29, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 9,311,168
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,412,509

Births and Deaths

Roger Sweet passed away Sep 24, 2024.
Bob Dyer passed away Sep 26, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Who's in Charge Here? • [Esther 5:1-8:2 NLT](#)

We come to the pivotal section of the book of Esther. As we consider these chapters, we do well to take the advice of The Bible Project: “Esther is a curious book in the Bible because God is never mentioned, not once. This may strike you as odd because the Bible is supposed to be a book about God. However, this is a brilliant technique by the anonymous author. It’s an invitation to read the story looking for God’s activity, and there are signs of it everywhere.” (“Guide to the Book of Esther,” <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-esther/>)

1. The sermon begins with Clay making a case for importance of Story (“with a capital S,” he says) in the Bible. What does this say about how God chooses to reveal Himself to us?
2. The first portion of the sermon comes from Esther 5:1-14 and is called “To Take a Chance.” What chance-taking is referred to here? What are the consequences if things go horribly wrong?
3. Quoting a long-time colleague and mentor, Clay observes that sometimes we must take what he calls “faith-based risk” in order to be faithful to Jesus. What faith-based risk do you sense God is leading you to take now? If you’re not sensing any riskiness in your faith walk, why not?
4. The second portion of the sermon comes from Esther 6:1-13 and is titled “The Invisible Hand of God.” What unexpected, uncontrollable event turns everything upside down in the plot? How does this portion reveal God’s subtle yet profound presence and activity?
5. Clay comments that while sometimes God works in our lives visibly, most of the time God’s work is occurring “invisibly, silently, subtly, stealthily,” and often we don’t discern it until later. How is this true in your life? What do you look back upon in your life and see God’s presence and activity with the clarity of hindsight?
6. The third portion of the sermon comes from Esther 6:14—8:2 and is described as “Justice Is Served... At Least in Part.” What resolution to our plot, although not complete, gives some indication of justice being served?
7. As the sermon comes to its close, Clay describes briefly two events from a recent mission trip with the Outreach Foundation to Germany. What are they? How does the first event acknowledge the “banality of evil” (Hannah Arendt)? How does the second one express the victory and sovereignty of God through Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen Lord?