



Sun, Oct 20, 2024

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord) / Ancient of Days</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Miah Collins
Song of Response	<i>Come Thou Fount</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>Mighty Name of Jesus</i>	
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 9:1-10:3	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>It Is Well</i>	
Congregational Meeting		

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gomez
Songs of Praise	<i>Only King Forever</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Luke Funderburk
Songs of Celebration	<i>Come Thou Font / Trust in God</i>	
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 9:1-10:3	Alf Halvorson
Offertory	<i>Mighty Name of Jesus</i>	
Moment of Prayer & Connection		Laurien Hook
Congregational Meeting		

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

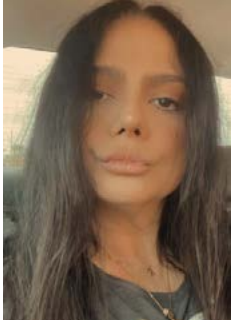
11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Choral in E Major</i>	César Franck (1822-1890)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Lift Thine Eyes (from Elijah)</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
*Hymn of Praise #464	<i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>	Vs. 1, 3 HYMN TO JOY
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Amy Delgado
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
Anthem	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)</i>	Howard Goodall (b.1958)
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>Down in the River to Pray</i>	arr. Jace Wittig (b. 1981)
Message	Who's in Charge Here? Esther 9:1-10:3	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus</i>	Vs. 1, 4 TRUST IN JESUS
Congregational Meeting		
Postlude	<i>Allegro Maestoso from Sonata IV</i>	Felix Mendelssohn

Musicians at 11:15: Children's Choir with Steffanie Dean, conductor;
Women's Chorus with Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome these new members to the MDPC family, part of BPC's growing 6pm Sunday worship! Learn a little more about them below.



Rejane Brunello

loves to dance and sing. She enjoys going to the park and going to new restaurants.



Travis James Swingle

is an Aircraft Maintenance Technician at Southwest Airlines. He loves all things mechanical, family, helping those in need, and God.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.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.



Collecting through Nov 17

You can help feed over 1,000 families this Thanksgiving who struggle with food insecurity! Pick up a bag and shopping list at MDPC, or see details at meal.mdpc.org.



Fri-Sun, Nov 1-3 • Caldwell, Texas

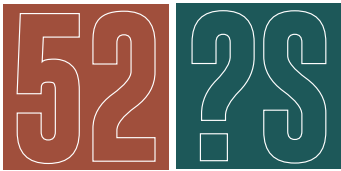
Join other young adults (18-35) for a relaxing and refreshing weekend away in the beautiful Texas Hill Country! Details and registration: yaevents.mdpc.org



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.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



Question 43: What are the sacraments?

Answer: 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..

[Romans 6:4](https://romans64.com)

Learn more: 52qs.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 kmusk@mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Oct 13, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 9,688,388
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,035,289

Births and Deaths

Mack Taylor passed away Oct 1, 2024.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Who's in Charge Here? • [Esther 9:1-10:3](#)

This is the sixth and final message in our fall Sermon Series on the Book of Esther. I hope you have enjoyed getting to know better this important book and seeing how your story can be informed and impacted and inspired by this ancient story in the Old Testament. Two characters, Mordecai and Esther, who we didn't even know in chapter one of the book, become our great friends and even mentors by the end of chapter ten. These last two chapters reveal the genesis of the feast of Purim in Judaism. They also reveal what "actually happened" on the day the First Edict allowed people in the Persian Empire to murder the people of God. Did the Second Edict change the expected bad outcome for God's people from the First Edict? And why all the violence?

1. When is the time in your life when you were face to face with real evil? When, if ever, has there been someone with wicked intentions ready to harm you, those you love, or the greater world? What did you do?
2. Read at least Esther 9:1-2, 16-19, 24-30, and 10:1-3; if possible, read all of chapters nine and ten. What is your visceral reaction to all the violence and killing? Is that just normal for that time or is there a moral or a teaching in these unsavory details?
3. In my message, I gave six explanations of why the violence might have happened or been necessary. Did any ring true to you? Were any flimsy or indefensible?
4. I used two quotes from Dr. Karen Jobes and Beth Moore to talk about the fact that we live in a world that has in it the wisdom and sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. We know more than Esther or Mordecai knew, and Jesus has clear advice for us regarding vengeance toward enemies (Matt. 5:43-48). In fact, Paul in Romans 12:14-21 shows us another way than chapter nine and ten regarding how to deal with enemies. Do you like the Esther-way or the Paul/Jesus-way more? Why or why not? Who might be an enemy to you right now and how might Esther and Jesus/Paul assist you in how to deal with that situation?
5. I also shared wisdom from Dr. Henry Cloud from a conference I attended several years ago regarding his teaching from the book of Proverbs on "The wise, fools, and the wicked." How did he, as a clinical psychologist, leadership coach, and Christian, advise leaders to deal with people in their orbit who are wise, fools, or evil? Can you take any of his advice into your life this coming week?
6. We can learn from Esther and Mordecai, but the real hero in the story of Esther is God. Where might God be at work behind the scenes in your life right now? Where do you see God's fingerprints? And what action might you need to take, like Esther who was in her place for "just such a time as this," because God is leading, inviting, challenging, and being willing to partner with you? Any overall gleanings from the Book of Esther?