

DON'T TREAT GOD (OR SOIL) LIKE DIRT



Sun, Oct 27, 2024

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Rejoice / Here I Am to Worship</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>Savior Like a Shepherd</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Song of Response	<i>Cornerstone</i>	
Message	Don't Treat God (or Soil) Like Dirt Luke 8:1-15 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Goodness of God</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Songs of Praise	<i>This Is Our God / Cornerstone</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Laurien Hook
Songs of Worship	<i>Here I am to Worship / Mighty Name of Jesus</i>	
Message	Don't Treat God (or Soil) Like Dirt Luke 8:1-15 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Goodness of God</i>	
Moment of Prayer & Connection		Beth Case
Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Kevin Ajanel, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Nate Escobar, keys; Chris Parrott, guitar Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders		

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Fanfare</i>	John Cook (1918-1984)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
*Hymn of Praise #423	<i>Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun</i>	Vs. 1, 4, 5 DUKE STREET
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
*Affirmation of Faith from Heidelberg Catechism		
Anthem	<i>My God Is a Rock</i>	arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem of Preparation	<i>The Word Was God</i>	Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)
Message	Don't Treat God (or Soil) Like Dirt Luke 8:1-15 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response #387	<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	Vs. 1, 2 BRADBURY
Postlude	<i>Prelude in B Minor</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Musicians at 11:15: Jason Amos, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ



Covenant Sunday is on Nov 3! MDPC members received Covenant Packets in the mail last week. Packets also are available in the pews and at the Connection Center. To learn more about Generosity 2025 and pledging, check out the packet or visit generosity.mdpc.org.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



Give Online
give.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.



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



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.



Donate Your Leftover Candy!

We'd love to re-purpose your extra candy this fall/winter season. Drop it off at the Front Office. Individually wrapped, please, and no nuts. Mints are also appreciated!



June 3-12, 2025

See Berlin, Wittenberg, Worms, Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Zurich, Geneva, and more on an incredible tour hosted by Pastor Alf. Learn more at reformationtrip.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.



Tue, Nov 12 • 7-9pm

Ten to twelve MDPC ladies will volunteer to bring a food board - and not just cheese! Imagine the possibilities! See details and sign up at women.mdpc.org.



Sat, Nov 16 • 9am-3pm

Join us for a Women's Retreat in Brookshire, Texas, a day away to see and be seen by God. For more information and to register, visit peace.mdpc.org.

Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge

52 **25**

Question 44: What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it signifies and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

[Matthew 28:19](https://matthew2819.org)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Oct 20, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 9,864,727
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 3,858,950

Births and Deaths

Regan E. Miller passed away.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.

Don't Treat God (or Soil) Like Dirt • [Luke 8:1-15 NRSV](#)

This is the first of two messages in our short Generosity Sermon Series leading up to Covenant Sunday on November 3, when we as a church family offer our pledges to God for 2025 as an act of worship during the service. If you have never done something like that (pledging), it is an estimate of giving for the coming year to help your church prepare its programs and budget. But, according to Scripture, it also helps us grow in the faith, deal with thorns that can crowd out the seed of God in our lives, and move from hard-or half-heartedness to being warm-hearted toward God and our neighbors. And, if you have pledged before, you can testify to how it has changed your own heart.

1. Growing up, what were the positive or negative messages you picked up regarding money and possessions? Was money always scarce or did you have an abundance of it? What role has "stuff" played in your life? Do you measure your worth by your possessions or are they simply means to other greater ends? If others describe your heart, would they say you are cold-hearted, broken-hearted, making a half-hearted effort? Or good-hearted, warm-hearted, heart-healthy? Or something else?
2. Read Luke 8:1-15. Rarely does Jesus tell a parable and then explain the meaning of it right after His telling. What is the context of this story according to verses 1-3? And who, according to verse 3, was providing for Jesus and the ministry as they went from village to village, sharing the good news of the kingdom of God? How do you see these women disciples?
3. Are the seeds the same or different in each soil? And what, according to Jesus, do the seeds represent? What are the four types of soils according to verses 4-8? And what does Jesus say about each in verses 11-15?
4. I focused the most on the soil with thorns from vs. 7 and 14. What three things are the seeds choked by in the third type of soil? Do those three things surprise you? Give an example of how each could choke out God's word or the word made flesh, Jesus.
5. In my sermon, I talked about money and possessions and why we pledge at MDPC; that it is not so much that we give to pay our bills but so that we grapple with the temptation to make money and possessions our idols, to make them God. I said, "whether the church budget gets balanced is not as important as whether our lives get balanced or not." Giving tills the soil of our hearts and removes thorns/weeds that often choke out God and God's good for us. How did that message hit you? Where do you agree or disagree with it? I ended by sharing about a friend from PA named Bob. How might his story challenge you/us?