

DON'T TREAT SOIL (OR GOD) LIKE DIRT



Sun, Nov 3, 2024

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Holy Forever / Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Brett Hurst
Song of Response	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Offertory	<i>Good, Good Father</i>	
Message	Don't Treat Soil (or God) Like Dirt Luke 8:8, 15 & 2 Cor. 1:3-7	Alf Halvorson

Renewing My Personal Covenant with God

Song of Celebration *Goodness of God*

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Songs of Praise	<i>How Great Thou Art / Praise</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Amy Delgado
Song of Praise	<i>Holy Forever</i>	
Moment of Connection / Announcements		Amy Delgado
Offertory	<i>Good, Good Father</i>	
Message	Don't Treat Soil (or God) Like Dirt Luke 8:8, 15 & 2 Cor. 1:3-7	Alf Halvorson

Renewing My Personal Covenant with God

Song of Celebration *Goodness of God*

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Meditation</i>	George Dyson (1883-1964)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Amy Delgado
Choral Introit	<i>God of Majesty and Glory</i>	James Biery (b. 1956)
*Hymn of Praise #139	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>	Vs. 1, 3, 4 ITALIAN HYMN
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Miah Collins
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
Offertory	<i>Alleluia: Blessed be the Name of the Lord</i>	Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Message	Don't Treat Soil (or God) Like Dirt Luke 8:8, 15 & 2 Cor. 1:3-7	Alf Halvorson

Renewing My Personal Covenant with God

Covenant Anthem *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* David M. Cherwein (b.1957)

Postlude *Grand Choeur* Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

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



Today Is Covenant Sunday! MDPC members received Covenant Packets in the mail, and 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

Sunday!



ALL-CHURCH LUNCH
Dine in or order online: cafe.mdpc.org



Sun, Nov 3 • 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.



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.



THANKSGIVING
MDPC FRENTE AND EAST SPRING BRANCH FOOD PANTRIES
MEAL IN A BAG



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!



Peace
You will keep her in perfect peace whose mind is steadfast, because she trusts in You.
- Isaiah 26:5

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.



Create and CONNECT

Meets Monthly (Mon, Nov 11) • 6:30-8pm

Do you sew, knit, write, cross-stitch, paint, or do any creative hobby? Bring whatever you're working on and create with others! Learn more at create.mdpc.org.



PICKLEBALL
at MDPC

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




IS THIS YOU?

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



Question 45: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?
Answer: No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.
Children's Answer: No, only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin.

[Luke 3:16](https://luke316.com)

Learn more: 52qs.mdpc.org

Financial Update as of Oct 27, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Actual Income to Date	\$ 10,173,364
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 3,550,313

Births and Deaths

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

Don't Treat Soil (or God) Like Dirt • [Luke 8:8, 15 & 2 Cor. 1:3-7](#)

This is the second in our short two-week Generosity Series, culminating in each of our pledges for 2025 as an act of worship on Nov 3. That can be done in person or online at pledge.mdpc.org. Last week we focused especially on the third kind of soil where Jesus said that “as for what fell among thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasure of life, and their fruit does not mature.” For many of us, we can get stuck or plateau in our faith and life if we don't get our hearts invested correctly. Other things can take the place of God or choke out the work God wants to do in us and through us. That is why, even if we had no needs as a church, we would need to have a Generosity Campaign each year to wrestle with the money issue and make sure it and the pleasures associated with it don't become idols in our lives.

1. Read Luke 8:8 and 15. How does Jesus talk about the good soil? From verse 8, what is its yield? Why do you think it is so productive or fruit-filled? And from verse 15, what are the attributes described about the soil (or the good/beautiful heart) that produces this kind of crop? For instance, what would "hold it fast" and "patient endurance" look like in your mind? Do you personally possess those qualities or attitudes? How might they be nurtured in your life?
2. Read 2 Cor. 1:3-7. In my sermon, I defined three words using the Greek: *mercies*, *affliction*, and *consolation*. *Mercies* equals "specific acts of kindness;" *affliction* is "intense pressure;" and *consolation* is "coming alongside." Where have you experienced this kind of pressure? How has God (and God's people) come alongside you? And what specific acts of kindness have you received as a gift from the trinity and the body of Christ?
3. Because you and I have been blessed in many cases beyond our own imagination, how might we be blessings to others, MDPC, and the wider world? What percentage of our income is God inviting us to pledge so that people under intense pressure might know God's presence, Christ's love, and the Spirit's support? Can you think of specific acts of kindness that will result from your giving? Pray that your life and others lives might be transformed because of the generosity unleashed through the ministries and outreach of MDPC.