

Election for Salvation and Service

Written by Pastor Beth Case

We continue in our exploration of ECO's Essential Tenets, picking up from last week's topic of Grace, and moving toward the discussion of Election, God's Call for Salvation and Service.

- 1) The word "election" is a biblical word! Why do you think the idea of God's choosing people can tie people up in knots? Why might people find it a source of great comfort?
- 2) ECO Essential Tenets III.A. opens by naming God's good creation, including the capacity God gave humans for relationship. It then names the fall, whereby sin entered the world: "No part of human life is untouched by sin. Our desires are no longer trustworthy guides to goodness, and what seems natural to us no longer corresponds to God's design." As we discuss the call of God, why is it important to ground our discussion of election in both the goodness of God's creation and the fallenness of human will?
- 3) Read the opening of Essential Tenets III.B. What surprises, troubles, or comforts you?
 - a. "The call of God to the individual Christian is not merely an invitation that each person may accept or reject by his or her own free will. Having lost true freedom of will in the fall, we are incapable of turning toward God of our own volition. God chooses us for Himself in grace before the foundation of the world, not because of any merit on our part, but only because of His love and mercy."
- 4) Read and respond to Ephesians 1:3-8. How does it compare/contrast with III.B?
- 5) John Calvin considered the sovereignty of God a great comfort for our souls. How did the words he shared with a bereaved father convey this perspective?
- 6) The sermon included the mention of a bull kelp. How might this image add to our understanding of God's sovereign call for salvation and service?
- 7) Read these sentences of III.B. How are these instructive for our lives?
 - a. "We are not elect for our own benefit alone.... God gathers His covenant community to be an instrument of His saving purpose. We are now in service to God's plan for the fullness of time: uniting all things in heaven and earth to Himself."
- 8) Read and respond to 2 Timothy 1:9. How does it compare/contrast with the above quote from III.B?

Sun, Jul 12, 2026



As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org

Donations for Summer Celebration

Summer Celebration starts Monday! Please consider donating individually packed snacks, sodas, and bottled water for volunteers. No nuts, please! We also need white and wheat sandwich bread. Just the basic bread you find at the grocery store, please! The kids make sandwiches daily in our Serve area, so every loaf counts! Drop off donations at the front office.

Married Life Prep

Sat, Aug 1 and 8 | 9am-1pm | MDPC

A free series open to dating couples, engaged couples, newlyweds, and young marrieds. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current research to give your marriage a firm foundation! Learn more and register: mlp.mdpc.org

Men's Night at HRC

Tue, Aug 4 | 6:30-9pm | Houston Racquet Club

Men, invite your buddies to join us for another fun night out, with Astros on the big screen, Tex-Mex, beer, and great fellowship. Come be part of the excitement! \$20/person includes food and drink. Registration: mensnight.mdpc.org

Transforming Grief

Wed, Aug 19-Oct 7 | 4-5:30pm

Join others in an 8-week program based on the curriculum Walking the Mourner's Path. Group size is limited to 10. Trained facilitators guide the group. Learn more and register: grief.mdpc.org

H-Town Fellows at MDPC

Sep 2026-May 2027 | Wednesdays at 6pm

Are you a professional ready to seek God's purpose for your career? H-Town Fellows trains Christians to live the gospel coherently across vocation, community, and culture. For scholarship information, reach out to Joshua Smith at jsmith@mdpc.org. Apply at fellows.mdpc.org.

ECO Theological Conference

Mon-Wed, Sep 21-23 | MDPC

Join ECO pastors, elders, deacons, and covenant partners from across the nation at *Light in the Darkness: Faithful Responses to Heresy*. Presentations on contemporary expressions of ancient heresies, and their impact today. For schedule and to register, visit theologyconf.mdpc.org.

Upcoming Global Mission Trips

Join us on one of our upcoming global mission trips to visit partners in Honduras or Southeast Asia or participate in a partner-led trip to Guatemala or Turkey. Learn more at trips.mdpc.org.

Word and Worship

Weekly, Sep 2026-Feb 2027

Grow deeper in your faith through the book of Daniel. It contains some of the stories we are most familiar with, but also many others that are often neglected - this study will cover all of them! Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: wandw.mdpc.org



Help 3,000 Local Children Start the School Year with Confidence!



BACK TO SCHOOL

Our community goal is to raise \$50 each for 3,000 students.

Your donations will allow local parents to shop for school uniforms, shoes, belts, and other school essentials so their children can begin the new school year ready to learn and thrive.

Give at our Breezeway table on **Sundays, Aug 2, 9, 16, and 23**, or donate online now at MAMBTs.mdpc.org!



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Clay Brown
*Songs of Praise	<i>How Good It Is This Is My Father's World</i>
Confession & Assurance	Brett Hurst
Song of Response	<i>I Surrender All</i>
Prayer	Clay Brown
Worship Song	<i>Goodness of God</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming	Beth Case
Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) / John 3:16 (NRSV) / 2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT)		

RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>Cannons</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Beth Case
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Invitation to Worship	<i>Thank God I'm Free</i>	
Call to Worship		Michael Middleton
*Songs of Praise	<i>How Good It Is Trust in God</i>	
Confession & Assurance		Laurien Hook
Song of Response	<i>I Surrender All</i>	
Welcome		Rachel Poysky
Worship Song	<i>Goodness of God</i>	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming	Beth Case
Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) / John 3:16 (NRSV) / 2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT)		

RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>Cannons</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Beth Case
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Blended & Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Tim Hughes, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>Suite in G</i>	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	<i>Go Ye Into All the World</i>	Eugene Butler (1935-2024)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>To God Be The Glory</i> vs. 1, 2	#485 TO GOD BE THE GLORY
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Marcus Vajdos
*Affirmation of Faith from The Heidelberg Catechism		
*Congregational Response	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	#579 GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Prep	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	Keith Hampton (b. 1957)
Message	R & R: Reformed and Reforming	Beth Case
Ephesians 1:3-8 (NLT) / John 3:16 (NRSV) / 2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT)		

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>Amazing Grace</i> vs 1, 2, 4	#280 AMAZING GRACE
Prayer		Rachel Poysky
Offertory	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Beth Case
Postlude	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	arr. Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Cassandra Black, soloist | Kelley Edwards, flutist
Choral Ensemble | Kathryn White, organist/pianist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Our pastors are here to help. They'd love to hear from you!



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Financial Update as of July 5, 2026	Births and Deaths
2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	6,798,727
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	7,930,001
	Sue Dorsey passed away July 3.
	More information at memorials.mdpc.org .