

# *Welcome to MDPC!*

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## ***Easy Check-in!***

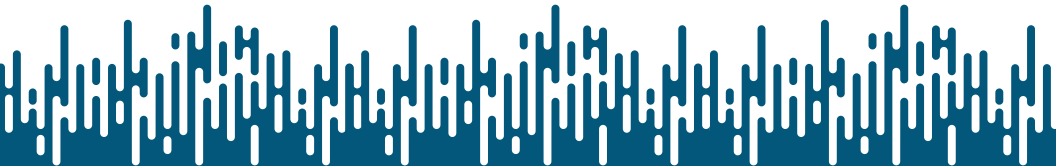
Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.

## ***Guest Registry***

5 quick questions to help us get to know you better!

## ***Give Online***

Make one-time or recurring gifts with ease.



# BETTERTOGETHER

## LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



8:30 AM Service  
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Acts 16:16-40 \(NRSV\)](#)

<b>Welcome and Call to Worship</b>		Clay Brown
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	<i>Victory in Jesus</i> <i>There Is None Like You</i>	arr. Bartlett Lenny Leblanc
<b>Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Laurien Hook
<b>Songs of Response</b>	<i>Come, Now is the Time</i> <i>On Christ the Solid Rock (Chorus)</i>	TRADITIONAL TRADITIONAL
<b>Moment of Prayer</b>		Clay Brown
<b>Song of Preparation</b>	<i>Man of Sorrows</i>	Hillsong Worship
<b>Message</b>	<b>Better Together</b> <u><a href="#">Acts 16:16-40</a></u>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Death Was Arrested</i>	North Point Worship
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Nate Escobar, keys; George Heathco, guitar;  
Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, Worship Leaders



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

[Give Online](#)  
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### Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit [partners.mdpc.org](https://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

# BETTERTOGETHER

## LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



9:45 AM Service  
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Acts 16:16-40 \(NRSV\)](#)

### Invitation to Worship

<b>Song of Praise</b>	<i>Battle Belongs</i>	Phil Wickham
<b>Moment of Confession and Assurance</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Songs of Preparation</b>	<i>Man of Sorrows</i> <i>Way Maker</i>	Hillsong Worship Leeland
<b>Message</b>	<b>Better Together</b> <a href="#">Acts 16:16-40</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Death Was Arrested</i>	North Point Worship
<b>Moment of Prayer</b>		Dave Steane
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Nate Escobar, keys; George Heathco, guitar;  
Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, Worship Leaders



### Sunday Worship Playlist

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# BETTER TOGETHER

## LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



11:15 AM Service  
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Acts 16:16-40 \(NRSV\)](#)

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Meditation from 'Thais'</i>	Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
<b>Welcome and Call to Worship</b>		Dave Steane
<b>Choral Introit</b>	<i>Sing and Be Not Silent</i>	Mary McDonald (b.1956)
<b>*Hymn of Praise</b>	<i>Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty</i>	#482; Vs. 1, 3   LOBE DEN HERREN
<b>*Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>*Affirmation of Faith</b>	from the United Church of Canada	
<b>*Congregational Response</b>	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>When in Our Music God Is Glorified</i>	David Ashley White (b.1944)
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		Dave Steane
<b>Anthem of Preparation</b>	<i>One Faith, One Hope, One Lord</i>	Craig Courtney (b.1948)
<b>Message</b>	<b>Better Together</b> <u><a href="#">Acts 16:16-40</a></u>	Alf Halvorson
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	<i>Take Time to Be Holy</i>	#391; Vs. 1, 2   HOLINESS
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Alf Halvorson
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Tuba Tune</i>	C.S. Lang (1891-1971)

Musicians in this service:  
Charles Hausmann, conductor; John Parker, trumpet; Kathryn White, organ

### MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

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[Give Online](http://GiveOnline.give.mdpc.org)  
[give.mdpc.org](http://give.mdpc.org)

Sunday, August 29, 2021

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).

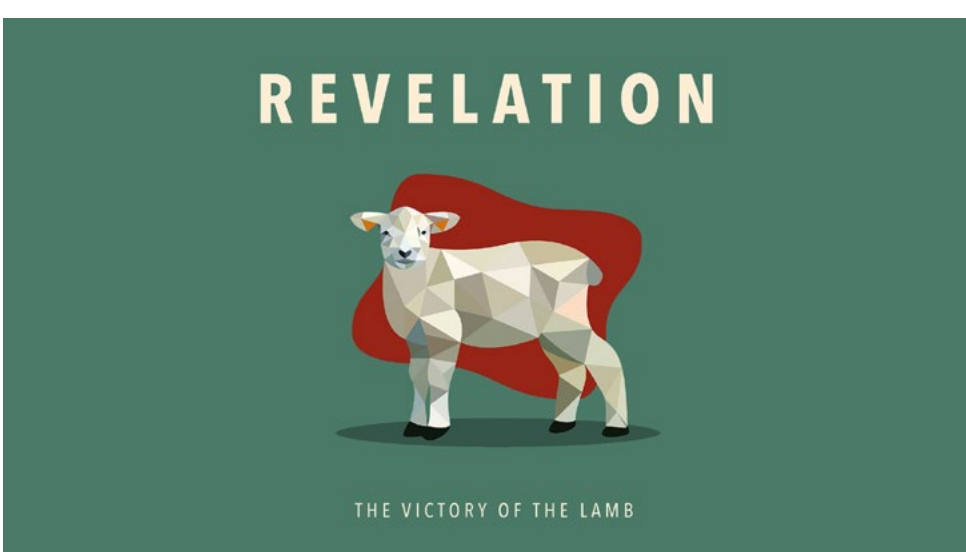
## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of August 22, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 6,327,451
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,972,549



Wed, Sep 8-Nov 17 • 5:30-7p

BLAST OFF is a new program for kindergarten through fifth graders to grow deeper in their faith, connect with friends, and learn a new skill! Find out more at [kids.mdpc.org](https://kids.mdpc.org).



Sun, Wed, or Thu • Sep 16, 2021-Apr 21, 2022

There are several group options to choose from, and you still may attend via Zoom. To learn more and choose a group, visit [wordandworship.mdpc.org](https://wordandworship.mdpc.org).



Tue, Sep 14-Nov 30 • 6:30-7:45a

Since 2003, Men's Life at MDPC has encouraged thousands of men to walk more fully with God and live in meaningful relationship with others. Join us this fall for Men's Life 2021: Connecting. Learn more at [ml.mdpc.org](https://ml.mdpc.org).



Tue, Sep 19-Oct 17 • 9:45-11a

Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will be invited to explore if becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. Learn more at [membership.mdpc.org](https://membership.mdpc.org).



Thu, Sep 30 • 6:30p • MDPC Fellowship Hall

Come to **The Antioch Partners' Fundraising Dinner** and see what the Lord is doing cross-culturally! Our main speaker, Marta Bennett, will share how God is using leadership development to grow the church in Africa and impact the world. Visit [antioch.mdpc.org](https://antioch.mdpc.org) to register!



**You Belong Here!** Starting last weekend, we began celebrating three very special Sundays: Aug 22 (Kickoff); Aug 29 (Ministry Fair); and Sep 5 (Labor Day Cookout)! For details of the next two Sunday's events, visit [homecoming.mdpc.org](https://homecoming.mdpc.org).



Starting Tue, Sep 14 • In person with free food.

Try it the first week or come all 10 weeks for no pressure conversations about life, faith, and meaning. Find details at [alpha.mdpc.org](https://alpha.mdpc.org).



Sat, Sep 18 • 6-9p • Free admission!

Come celebrate the many cultures of Latin America represented here in our church! We will exhibit culinary, musical, and artistic traditions. Learn more at [flavor.mdpc.org](https://flavor.mdpc.org).

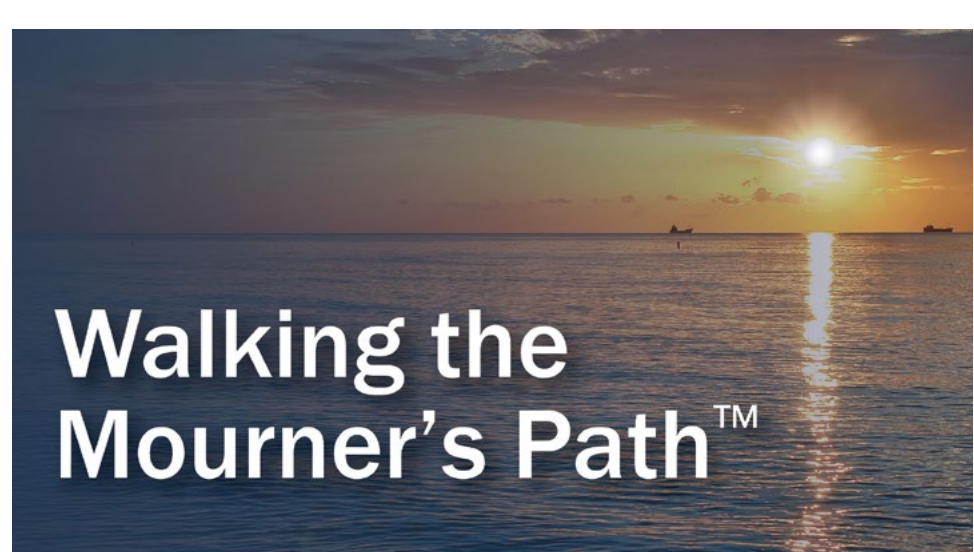


It's easier and more attractive to participate in choir than ever before - even if you do not regularly attend 11:15 worship! We are actively seeking new singers to join in this ministry, and you are needed now more than ever. To learn more, visit [choir2021.mdpc.org](https://choir2021.mdpc.org).



Wed, Thu, OR Fri starting Sep 15 • Times/locations vary!

Join us for our new small groups for women. It's simple! Pick the book you'd like to study and you'll be placed in a group with other women who have chosen the same title. Learn more and sign up at [commonbonds.mdpc.org](https://commonbonds.mdpc.org).



Thu, Sep 23-Nov 11 • 3-4:30p

While there is no timeline to grief, there is always hope. This Christ-centered program is designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. Visit [grief.mdpc.org](https://grief.mdpc.org) for more.

# BETTER TOGETHER

## LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



Acts 16:16-40 (NRSV)

If last week's text was a master class on "discerning God's will," then this week's passage is a case study on what *freedom* is and what it does and does not look like in real people's lives. There is freedom, and then there is freedom.

1. What is your definition of freedom? I preached on August 1 on Galatians 5:1-15. Read that text again and listen to the message if you missed it and can find time ([sermons.mdpc.org](http://sermons.mdpc.org)). How is our secular definition of freedom (freedom as no limits or rules or restrictions) unworkable, untenable, and unsustainable? What does Paul say freedom in Christ really looks like?
2. When in your life have you felt enslaved? When free? How would you describe your life overall right now? What factors contribute to your imprisonment or freedom?
3. Read Acts 16:16-40 with an eye on who in the narrative is free and who is enslaved. What about the slave girl? Is she imprisoned or not? What about her owners? The magistrates and crowd? Paul and Silas? The Roman jailer? Lydia? What impresses you about some of the characters and disappoints or disgusts you about others?
4. Focus on the Roman jailer for a moment. Does holding the keys make you free? Why or why not? How is he enslaved? What question does he ask of Paul and Silas? What is their answer? Have you answered that question in your own life? Why or why not? What happens next in response to this question & answer session? How do Paul and Silas help the jailer become free? And how does the jailer return the favor?
5. There is an axiom which says, "In the end, we love people into belief. We do not argue them into belief." Do you agree? How is that true or not true here?
6. Acts 16:15, 34, and 40 (the passages we have looked at this fall thus far) include examples of genuine hospitality. Why are we less and less willing and able to invite people into our homes? Someone told me recently they feel enormous expectations to have a perfect house and be a perfect host. But hospitality only works if there is not a performance expectation trap, but rather the focus is meant to be on the visitors in care and service. How might you and I be more like Lydia and the jailer this week or month because of our Christian faith?

