

Welcome to MDPC!

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Easy Check-in!

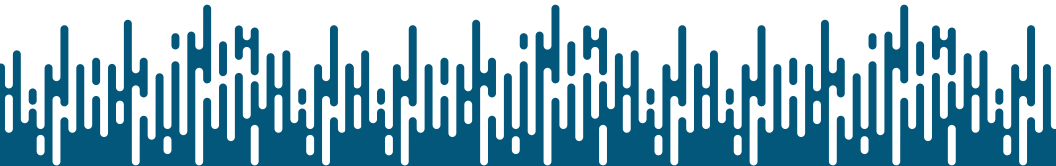
Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.

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, September 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

[Acts 20:15-38 \(NRSV\)](#)

Welcome and Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Songs of Praise	<i>He Has Made Me Glad / Joyful, Joyful Amazing Grace</i>	TRADITIONAL TRADITIONAL
Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Brett Hurst
Songs of Response	<i>Because He Lives</i>	Gaither
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Song of Preparation	<i>The Solid Rock</i>	TRADITIONAL
Message	Better Together <i>Acts 20:15-38</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Great Are You, Lord</i>	Bryan Torwalt
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; George Heathco, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

[Give Online](#)
give.mdpc.org

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 to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

BETTERTOGETHER

LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



9:45 AM Service

Sunday, September 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

[Acts 20:15-38 \(NRSV\)](#)

Invitation to Worship

Song of Praise

Open the Heavens

Hillsong Worship

Moment of Confession and Assurance

Dan Aikins

Songs of Preparation

Living Hope / Build My Life

Bethel Worship

Moment of Prayer

Dan Aikins

Songs of Preparation

The Passion

Hillsong Worship

Message

Better Together

Alf Halvorson

[Acts 20:15-38](#)

Song of Response

Great Are You, Lord

Bryan Torwalt

Opportunity to Give and Benediction

Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; 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, September 5, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Acts 20:15-38 \(NRSV\)](#)

Prelude	<i>Sonata in A</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven</i>	Carl Freeman (b.1955)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	#371; Vs. 1, 4 CRUCIFER
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Rachel Poysky
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
Anthem	<i>At the River</i>	arr. Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
Pastoral Prayer		Beth Case
Anthem of Preparation	<i>A Covenant Prayer</i>	Dan Forrest (b.1978)
Message	Better Together <u>Acts 20:15-38</u>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Rock of Ages</i>	(Methodist Hymnal #361) Vs. 1, 4 TOPLADY
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Voluntary in D</i>	David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Musicians in this service:
Charles Hausmann, conductor; 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

Sunday, September 5, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit events.mdpc.org.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of August 29, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 6,499,968
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 4,800,032



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.



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

Join 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.



Sat, Sep 18 • 6-9p • Free admission!

Come celebrate the many cultures of Latin America represented here in our church! Culinary, musical, and artistic traditions will be exhibited. Learn more at flavor.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.



Thu, Sep 30 • 7:00p

Attend **The Antioch Partners'** Virtual Fundraiser and see what the Lord is doing cross-culturally! The 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 to register!



You Belong Here! Our three-Sunday Homecoming celebration wraps up on Sep 5 with a Cookout! Dave Steane and team will be grilling up dogs and burgers served with sides and fixings (\$8.66 per plate with a \$30 family max). Details at homecoming.mdpc.org.



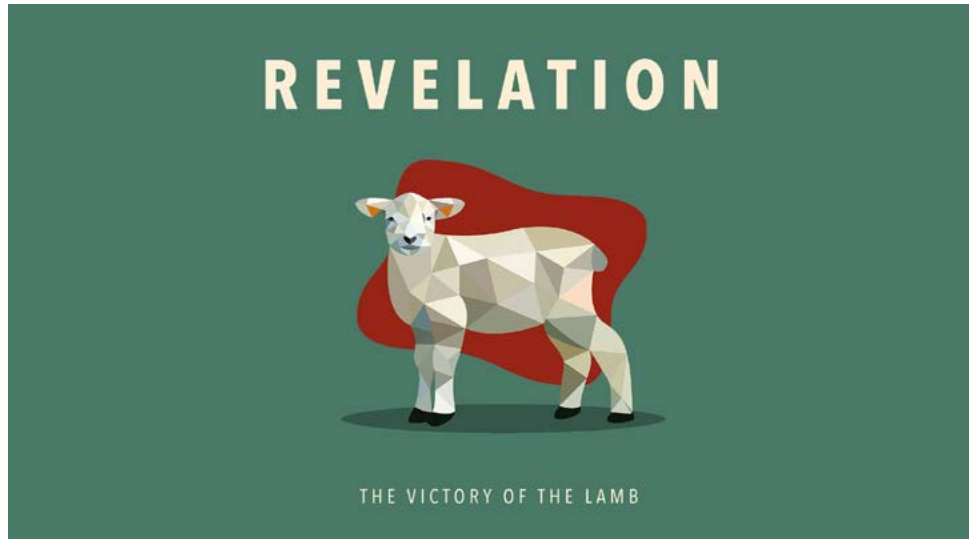
Starting Tue, Sep 14 • In person with free food.

Try it the first week or come all ten weeks for no pressure conversations about life, faith, and meaning. Find details at alpha.mdpc.org.



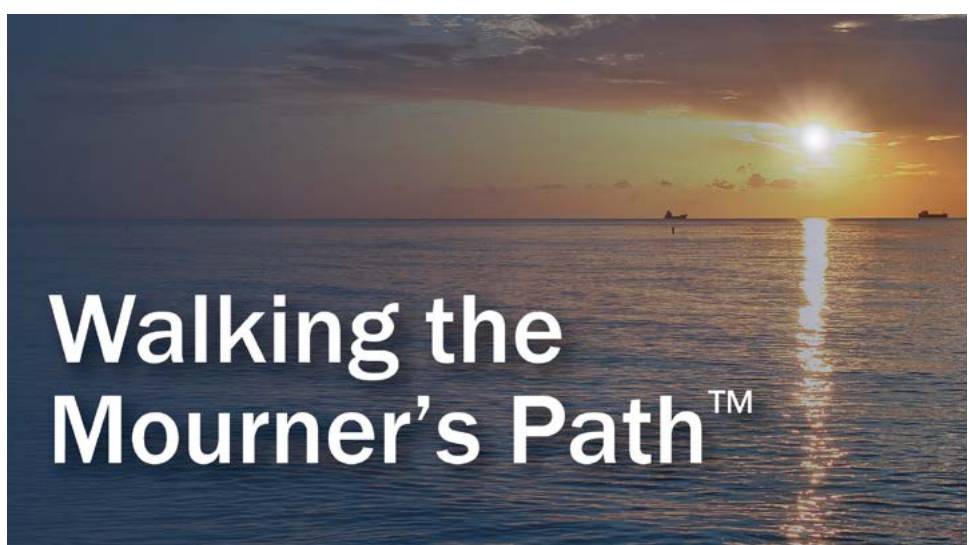
Tue, Sep 14-Nov 30 • 6:30-7:45a

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.



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.



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 for more.



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.

BETTER TOGETHER

LESSONS FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



Acts 20:15-38 (NRSV)

This is the third in our five-week Fall Sermon Series on the “we” passages in the last part of the Book of Acts. For those studying the second half of Acts in a small group or Sunday school class this fall, these messages are meant to encourage you in that longer-term endeavor.

Since last Sunday’s text (Acts 16:16-40), Paul and his team have finished the second missionary journey by going to Thessaloniki and Athens and then spending a year and a half in Corinth, then finally home. Now they have almost finished a third missionary journey back through Turkey, almost three years in Ephesus on the Aegean Coast, a short excursion to Greece to see the churches started there, and now a final goodbye to the elders in the Ephesian Church before traveling to Jerusalem.

1. Have you done much traveling? Share with your group some of the places you have seen and experienced. What can happen regarding *community* to people who travel together? And what happens when you have labored together, suffered for the faith, and started a church with a group of people in one place over a three-year period?
2. Paul gives a farewell speech to the elders of the church in Ephesus at the port of Miletus. Read Acts 20:15-38. What hits you most about what was said and done there?
3. Focus on verses 18-19. What do you think Paul is trying to convey in these verses?
4. How about verses 20-21?
5. What about in verses 22-24? Why is Paul called away? What is he trying to model or impress upon the people who remain?
6. In verses 33-35, Paul points out that he helped the weak and gave more than he received. Who is his inspiration for that posture and sacrificial service? In your work and relationships, can you say the same thing as Paul said and did?
7. Finally, you can’t fake the tears and embracing of verses 36-38. What principles demonstrated in Paul’s life and actions with these people might you apply to your life and relationships? If deep community and rich relationships were the fruit displayed in vs. 36-38, what was the intentional investment by Paul and his friends we might emulate to get similarly worthwhile results?
8. The benediction I have adopted for this fall is from 1 Thess. 2:8 (NIV): “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but *our very lives* as well.” How will you/we walk that out? We are better together!

