

# *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.



# TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**8:30a Service**  
Sunday, Nov 14, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

<b>Welcome and Call to Worship</b>		Beth Case
<b>Songs of Praise</b>	<i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship I Love You, Lord</i>	
<b>Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Songs of Preparation</b>	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Who You Say I Am</i>	
<b>Message</b>	<b>Teachable Moments: Friendship</b> <a href="#">Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NRSV)</a>	Alf Halvorson
<b>Song of Response</b>	<i>Give Me Faith</i>	
<b>Opportunity to Give and Benediction</b>		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Daniel Martinez, keys; Grayson Mosk, electric guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;  
Michael Middleton & Nani Nicole, worship leaders



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

[Click here to listen.](#)

**Give Online**

[give.mdpc.org](http://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](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

# TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**9:45a Service**  
Sunday, Nov 14, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

## Invitation to Worship

**Song of Praise**

*Speak the Name*

**Moment of Confession and Assurance**

Sarah Stone

**Baptisms**

Alf Halvorson

Ellen Mae Freer, daughter of David & Jackie Freer  
Sarah Elizabeth English, daughter of Dan & Dianne English  
Sullivan George Luburger, son of Charles & Caitlyn Luburger  
Stella Lynn Smith, daughter of Brian & Emily Smith

**Songs of Response**

*Who You Say I Am*  
*How Great Is Your Love*

**Message**

**Teachable Moments: Friendship**  
[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

Alf Halvorson

**Song of Response**

*Give Me Faith*

**Opportunity to Give and Benediction**

Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Daniel Martinez, keys; Grayson Mosk, electric guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;  
Michael Middleton & Nani Nicole, worship leaders



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

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# TEACHABLE MOMENTS

**11:15a Service**  
Sunday, Nov 14, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching  
[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

**Prelude** *As the Deer with The Swan by Saint-Saëns* arr. Linda McKechnie

**Welcome and Call to Worship** Beth Case

**\*Hymn of Praise** *Lead On, O King Eternal* #447; Vs. 1, 2 | LANCASHIRE

**\*Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Christyn Knoop

**\*Affirmation of Faith** from The Apostles' Creed

**Anthem** *We'll Shout and Give Him Glory* arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

**Baptism** Alf Halvorson  
Luke Thomas Stockard, son of Travis & Brittney Stockard

**Anthem of Preparation** *The Promise of Living (from The Tender Land)*  
Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

**Message** **Teachable Moments: Friendship** Alf Halvorson  
[Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 \(NRSV\)](#)

**\*Hymn of Response** *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* #438; Vs. 1, 4 | DENNIS

**Opportunity to Give and Benediction** Alf Halvorson

**Postlude** *Alleluia* W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Musicians in this service:

Nathan Lerner, Justine Alexander, Megan Berti, Nate Thompson, and Christopher Auchter, soloists;  
Charles Hausmann, conductor; Julie Sacks, piano; Kathryn White, organ/piano

## **MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry**

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



Sunday, Nov 14, 2021

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Nov 7, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 8,441,672
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,858,328



This Thanksgiving, help feed over 1,000 families that struggle with food insecurity! Our partner ESBFP will distribute grocery bags, fresh produce, and a turkey to families in our Spring Branch community. Learn what, when, and where to donate at [meal.mdpc.org](https://meal.mdpc.org).



### Donate through Dec 5

Christmas for Kids and Toy Train are back, and we hope you'll help make this a merry Christmas for some local kids. See what, how, and when to donate at [cfk.mdpc.org](https://cfk.mdpc.org).



### Sunday, Dec 5 • 4:00-6:00pm • North Parking Lot • Free!

Last year's Family Christmas Festival was such a blast, we're holding it outdoors again! Come for games, treats, and prizes and invite your friends. It's free and open to EVERYONE! Details at [kids.mdpc.org](https://kids.mdpc.org).



### Tuesday, Dec 7 • 9:30-11:00am • Parlor

Ladies, this year's Christmas Coffee will be in-person again! Mark your calendar and join us for coffee, treats, and wonderful conversation. The event's posted at [coffee.mdpc.org](https://coffee.mdpc.org) - share the link with friends!



### Sign up today, and pray with confidence...

God will know your Prayer Partners' needs, you just lift the dozen or so names to Him daily. Join us in this foundational MDPC ministry at [pip.mdpc.org](https://pip.mdpc.org).



### Next Sunday, Nov 21 • Ball Field

Next Sunday, pray for great weather as worship moves out onto the MDPC ball field! The early services and Fuenty will be outside, and the *English 11:15* will stay in the Sanctuary. Details are at [outdoors.mdpc.org](https://outdoors.mdpc.org).



### BLESS Friday Is Back! Nov 26, 2021

Start planning how you'll spend this annual day focused on blessing others. Visit [blessfriday.mdpc.org](https://blessfriday.mdpc.org) for project ideas, or come up with your own way to spread Jesus' love throughout the community!



### Order a Custom Thanksgiving Meal!

MDPC's Food Services provider is excited to offer pre-ordered Thanksgiving Meals! All orders are custom priced per family size and chosen menu items. Get your order started by visiting [turkey.mdpc.org](https://turkey.mdpc.org).



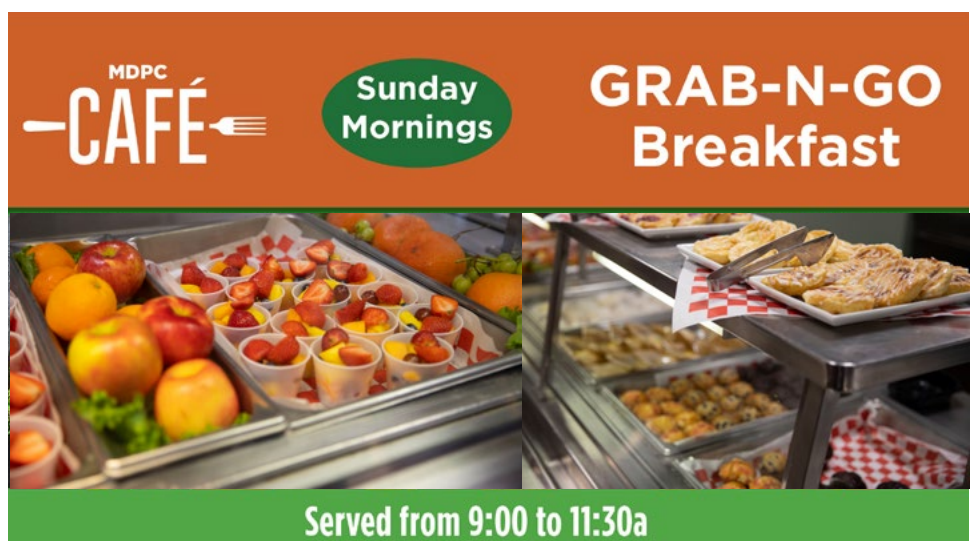
### Sunday, Dec 5 • 6:00pm • Sanctuary • Free admission

The MDPC Sanctuary Choir and orchestra presents a Christmas concert of beautiful seasonal music. All are invited to this free community event. Details at [concerts.mdpc.org](https://concerts.mdpc.org).



### Wednesday, Dec 8 • 5:30-7:00pm

Blue Christmas is designed specifically for those who need their spirit lifted regardless of the season - or maybe even because of it. Learn more at [blue.mdpc.org](https://blue.mdpc.org).



### Sun mornings • MDPC Kitchen (off Fellowship Hall)

Delicious, carry-friendly options for those rushed Sundays when there's no time for breakfast! Stop by to see what items are for sale each Sunday.





This is the first of five messages on “A teachable moment on...,” a series to be offered Nov 14 & 21, and Jan 9, 16, & 23. It will be the bread on each side of an Advent-and-Christmas sandwich.

Sometimes it is better not to talk about a subject when you are in the middle of a major decision or crisis regarding the matter, but rather when things are more stable; in that way you can have a more dispassionate, rational, and thoughtful *conversation*, rather than an emotionally-heightened-with-everything-on-the-line *fight*. Then, when the need arises, you can apply the gleanings won at room temperature to times when you are in the furnace or under pressure.

1. In your mind, how are friendships formed? Why are you friends with some people and not with others? And what factors apply to the sustaining of friendships?
2. How is marriage similar to and different from friendship? For instance, can there be a covenant between friends? Can there be intimacy between friends that is different from those who are married?
3. Read Eccl. 4:1-12. The first part is about sadness due to oppression, envy, and isolation. Then there is the short section, verses 9-12, regarding the *Value of a Friend*. Comment on the downside of being a human from the first eight verses. Then list the benefits of friendship stated in verses 9-12.
4. In your life, how have you experienced the first section? And how have you experienced the second section? Where have you been responsible for the first and second sections? Where might you need to confess sin or ask for forgiveness? And where might God be nudging you to invest going forward?
5. There is an interesting image or proverb in the second half of verse 12. Can you picture a rope with three strands woven together? What do you think the writer *intends* or *means* by this phrase in the context of this chapter? What is the third cord?
6. What does it suggest that Jesus is called a friend of tax collectors and sinners in Matt. 11:19? And that Jesus calls His disciples friends in Luke 12:4? And that Abraham was called the friend of God in James 2:23 because of his faith?
7. I shared quotes from Dietrich Bonhoeffer and C. S. Lewis in the second half of my message. What struck you from what they said? Finally, ponder the hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and what that truth the song sings about means for your life. How is Jesus all the things talked about in Eccl. 4:9-12—and so much more?

