



LIFE'S 4 BIG QUESTIONS

What Will My Purpose Be? • [Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16](#)

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Brett Hurst
Songs of Praise	<i>Forever (Give Thanks to the Lord)</i> <i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Rachel Poysky
Song of Response	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Brett Hurst
Song of Preparation	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing / A Thousand Hallelujahs</i>	
Message	<i>What Will My Purpose Be?</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>His Eye Is on the Sparrow</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Announcements		Meliza Gómez
Baptisms		Alf Halvorson
	Jordan Patrick Beasley, son of Brad and Kelsey Beasley Emily Grace McCormack, daughter of Michael and Kelsi McCormack	
Songs of Praise	<i>Your Love Awakens Me</i> <i>A Thousand Hallelujahs</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Rachel Poysky
Song of Preparation	<i>Living Hope</i>	
Message	<i>What Will My Purpose Be?</i>	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>So Will I / A Thousand Hallelujahs</i>	

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar;
Tim Hughes, violin; Meliza Gómez & Nani Nicole, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Home</i>	Philip Phillips
Welcome & Call to Worship		Amy Delgado
*Hymn of Praise	<i>How Firm a Foundation</i>	#361; Vs. 1, 2, 5 FOUNDATION
*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith		Beth Case
Anthem	<i>Beautiful in His Time</i>	Dan Forrest (b.1978)
Baptism		Alf Halvorson
	Aidyn Vale Braly, daughter of Frank and Tracey Braly	
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Alone with None but Thee</i>	Heather Sorensen (b.1976)
Message	<i>What Will My Purpose Be?</i>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	#333; Vs. 1, 2 LAFFERTY
Postlude	<i>Allegro from Sinfonia #12</i>	Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

Musicians at 11:15: Kelley Edwards, flutist; Erika Johnson, cellist;
Kathryn White, organ/piano; Charles Hausmann, conductor



LIFE'S 4 BIG QUESTIONS

Sunday, Feb 13, 2022

What Will My Purpose Be?

[Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16](#) • Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the third of four messages on some of the biggest questions of life. The first week we covered the *foundation* question: “On what will I build my life?” Last week we explored the *companionship* question: “With whom will I spend my life?” Today we wrestle with the *purpose* question. Right before [Ephesians 4:1-7 and 11-16](#) (our passages for today), Paul writes, “Now to Him who by the power at work within us *is able to accomplish abundantly far more* than all we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.” What might God accomplish through us, above and beyond just existing, consuming, working, procreating, and paying bills? Today’s scripture gives us great handles to grasp as we ponder answers.

1. If someone were to ask you why you exist, what would you say? How would you answer that big question? Are we just random collections of DNA (accidents) or is there a purpose behind our creation?
2. Read Eph. 4:1-2. What does Paul beg his readers to do? What might our “calling” mean and be? And what character attributes in verse 2 should shine through as we answer the call God has on our lives? Which are you good at, with the Spirit’s help? Which are still growing edges for you? Might you ask God in prayer to help you grow and develop where you are deficient?
3. Ponder verses 3-4. Last week I talked about building from the same blueprint, or playing off of the same sheet music. According to Paul, how are we, in the Body of Christ, united around the same vision and foundation and purpose given to us by the one God?
4. Verses 7 and 11 are the primary places where the Gifts of the Spirit are mentioned in the New Testament (along with the teaching on gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, Romans 12:4-8, and 1 Peter 4:9-11). The idea is that every believer gets at least one gift. Have you ever taken a Spiritual Gifts Inventory to discover your top few gifts from God? We have one at spiritualgifts.mdpc.org. What are your gifts? Have you been putting them into practice or living out your calling in certain ways? Share with the group. How can we help?
5. According to verses 12-16, the gifts God gives are not primarily for us alone, but for wider purposes beyond just ourselves. What are some of the purposes listed in those five verses?
6. Paul’s list of reasons for the gifts in verses 12-16 focuses almost exclusively on the Body of Christ (the church) and the growth of believers. How might gifts like apostle (sent out); evangelist (where you are); assistance and leadership (1 Cor. 12); giving and compassion (Rom. 12); or serving (1 Peter 4) be used not only in the church but in the world—that His Kingdom might come on earth as it is in heaven?
7. Where might God be nudging you to connect or reconnect with Christ’s body? Or to serve the world because of God’s gifting, Christ’s love, and the Spirit’s empowering?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

GIVING: Weekly financial updates will be printed here after the 2022 budget is approved by Session in January.

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



All the details: citic.mdpc.org

Lets serve fellow Houstonians! **Also, LOTS of 16.9-oz bottled water is needed for projects.** Convenient drop-off spots will be outside the CLC and Parlor entrances this Sunday morning!



Sat, Feb 19 • 5:30-7:00pm

Preschool parents, learn how to compose an artful and tasty meat and cheese board with other parents! \$30 includes all materials and childcare for up to age 12. Sign up: charcuterie.mdpc.org



Want to learn more about our partners and play a crucial role in MDPC's radical giving? We'd love to have you on an **outreach committee!** Email Melissa Peter for details: mpeter@mdpc.org



Order by Sun, Apr 10

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one. You can complete the form online (\$9/dedication) at lily.mdpc.org.



Use your gift of hospitality!

The Sunday Welcome Team at MDPC shares the love of Jesus both in-person and online. Contact Dan Aikins (daikins@mdpc.org) to learn how you can use your gifts to serve the Kingdom.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS:

Lois Robinson passed away on Feb 2, 2022.

Louis Davis passed away on Feb 6, 2022.

REMEMBER OUR MISSION PARTNERS ON THE FRONT LINES

Each week, we pray for three of MDPC's local and global mission partners. Our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit partners.mdpc.org to find this week's three prayer recipients.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS continued



Softball • Baseball • Volleyball

Hurry, registration ends Feb 13! Practices begin the week of March 21, with games on Saturdays. Learn more and sign up at sports.mdpc.org.



Begins the week of Mar 6

This year's church-wide Lenten study follows Pastor Alf's sermon series. Join others in exploring Jesus' promises as we approach their fulfillment in Easter: lentenstudy.mdpc.org



Tue, Feb 15 & 22 • 6:30-7:45am

MDPC Dads supports fathers in all seasons of life! Join other dads for this **short-term training session**, where you'll grow as a father and as a follower of Jesus. Register at springtraining.mdpc.org.



Mon-Thu Lunch • Sun Breakfast Fellowship Hall

MDPC Café offers an extensive lunch menu, plus a pantry of fresh-frozen items to simplify your dinners. View the menu and hours (even order online!) at cafe.mdpc.org.



From caring for a loved one with dementia to grief support and more, Caring Ministries and its partners can offer **emotional, physical, and faith support**. To learn more, visit caring.mdpc.org.



Need a soft place to land? Unsure of where to go next? Learn more about our free **short-term counseling ministry** by emailing MDPC counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell, or visit counseling.mdpc.org.



More Encouragement to Take Part in CITC!

Blessing others as we've been blessed is an important part of the legacy of this church. For details and to sign up, visit citic.mdpc.org.