



The Books of  
**Ezra & Nehemiah**



Kickoff Sunday, Aug 21, 2022

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**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

Welcome (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Beth Case

Songs of Praise *Praise to the Lord (Joyful, Joyful)*  
*Praise God (Doxology)*

\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance Amy Delgado

Song of Response *Revelation Song*

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Song of Preparation *O Come to the Altar*

Message **Build My Life ([Ezra 1:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

Benediction

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**9:45 SERVICE**

Welcome (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Laurien Hook

Song of Praise *Praise God (Doxology)*

Moment of Confession & Assurance Sally Henien

Songs of Preparation *Same God*  
*Revelation Song*

Message **Build My Life ([Ezra 1:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

Song of Response *O Come to the Altar*

Moment of Prayer Laurien Hook

Benediction

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Jose Sosa, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;  
Daniel Martinez, keys; Meliza Gómez & Michael Middleton, worship leaders

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**11:15 SERVICE**

Prelude *Sonata No. 3 in A Major* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Welcome & Call to Worship Beth Case

Choral Introit *God Is Here* arr. John Ferguson (b.1941)

\*Hymn of Praise *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* #288; Vs. 1, 3 | ELLACOMBE

\*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith Christyn Knoop

Anthem *This Is a Day of New Beginnings* David Schoebel (b.1957)

Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Anthem of Preparation *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* Dan Forrest (b.1978)

Message **Build My Life ([Ezra 1:1-11 NRSV](#))** Alf Halvorson

\*Hymn of Response *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* #316; Vs. 1, 2 | TRENTHAM

Benediction

Postlude *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* arr. David N. Johnson (1922-1988)

Musicians at 11:15: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

The Books of  
Ezra & Nehemiah



## Build My Life

[Ezra 1:1-11](#) NRSV

This summer we preached from 1 Peter to learn how the first Christians handled exile and suffering in the midst of a sometimes hostile but God-so-loved world. This fall we will learn from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah how to return home from exile. How did the people of God return, rebuild, and rejoice after having served many years in Babylonian captivity, far from the Promised Land? We will use the figures of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah to help us ponder our own faith journeys and the chances we have this fall to *rebuild* our spiritual temples, *restore* Word and Worship in our lives, *renew* our relationships in community, and *re-strengthen* necessary protective boundaries, in the midst of pointed opposition. How might God renovate us through the Word found in Ezra & Nehemiah (and New Testament parallels)?

1. Does the Fall bring dread, comfort, excitement, or some other dominant emotion to your mind and heart? Explain what emotion(s); why?
2. I talked early in my sermon about Christendom in America in the 1950's through maybe the early 1970's, and that since that time things have changed significantly for Christians and churches in society, overall. Where did that thesis find resonance with you? Share examples. Are there any counter examples of why that contention is not fully true in Houston or your life?
3. Read Ezra 1:1-11, which is found right after 1st & 2nd Chronicles in the OT, but before the Psalms. What is historically important from verses 1-4? Why does the first verse say that God stirred the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia? Have you ever thought that God wants to accomplish His promises from prophets and the Word so that you and I might trust God and God's Word more?
4. In verses 5-11, either the people were *stirred* by God to return to Jerusalem and help rebuild the temple or were *stirred* to provide silver, gold, goods, and animals for those who did make the journey. In my sermon, I talked about various ways God might and does stir people to action and faithfulness. Looking back on your life thus far, how has God *stirred* you? What form did the stirring take? Do you sense God is stirring you in some aspect of your life in the present? Or how might you be more open to ways that God might want to communicate to you and/or use your gifts at this time? Who might you talk to about a nudge or leading you are experiencing?
5. What prayer requests emerge from this text? Pray with and for each other before the class ends.

### Financial Update as of Aug 14, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 6,515,288
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 5,778,712

### Births and Deaths

**Marty Nolterieke** passed away Aug 6, 2022.



# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

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



## Sundays through Aug 28

Your donation can help a child have a great school experience! MAM Back to School outfits local kids in new school clothes. Learn more or give at [mambts.mdpc.org](https://mambts.mdpc.org).



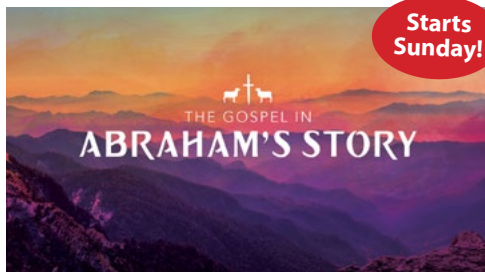
## Sundays through Dec 4 • 11:00am

You CAN read the whole Bible in 90 Days! Join the group making the journey this fall for support, accountability, and connection. Learn more at [b90.mdpc.org](https://b90.mdpc.org).



## Nominations close Aug 28!

If you know an MDPC member who would make a great elder or deacon, nominate them by using our online form. Learn about the process and the roles at [nominate.mdpc.org](https://nominate.mdpc.org).



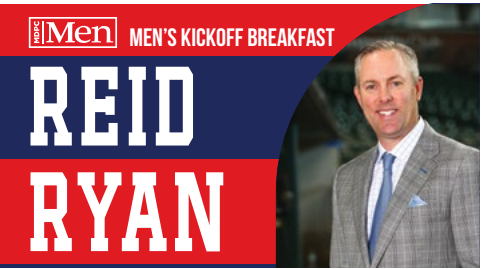
## The all-new study begins!

Sunday classes and other groups are encouraged to participate in the newest all-MDPC fall study. We'll learn how the Old Testament stories point directly to the Gospel. Visit [abraham.mdpc.org](https://abraham.mdpc.org) for details.



## Wed, Aug 24 • 5:30pm • Summit Rm

Enjoy some pizza while meeting our new children's choir director! No RSVP needed. Learn more about the choir at [childrenschoir.mdpc.org](https://childrenschoir.mdpc.org).



## Sat, Aug 27 • 8:30-9:30am

Come enjoy delicious breakfast and fellowship at MDPC. We're excited to welcome special guest speaker, Reid Ryan. Learn more and sign up at [mensbreakfast.mdpc.org](https://mensbreakfast.mdpc.org).



## Thu, Sep 15 • 7:00pm • Sanctuary

What does it look like to live with joy in a society that doesn't always agree with Christian thought or belief? Come to hear Alistair Begg and leave with a renewed sense of hope! Begg is senior pastor at Parkside Church in Ohio. In addition to Sunday services at Parkside, he can be heard daily on the *Truth For Life* radio program. Learn more at [speakers.mdpc.org](https://speakers.mdpc.org).



## Visit [rec.mdpc.org](https://rec.mdpc.org).

Soccer league **registration closes next week!** Also check out the variety of **REACH rec classes** for kids and adults this fall. Classes are filling, sign up today!



## Tuesdays, Sep 13-Nov 29 • 6:30am

An all-new 11-week series of speakers and study! We'll talk about how to share our faith in God along with heart matters relevant to all men. Open to men of all ages and stages. More at [ml.mdpc.org](https://ml.mdpc.org).



## Groups begin Sep 8

In Mark, we see a beautiful depiction of Jesus' life, His teaching, His love of all people, and His victorious defeat of sin and death. Details and registration at [wordandworship.mdpc.org](https://wordandworship.mdpc.org).



## Wed, Sep 21-Nov 9 • 4:30pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? If so, you are not alone. Learn more about our 8-week grief recovery program at [grief.mdpc.org](https://grief.mdpc.org).