

Who will you invite?

Thu nights at 7:00pm

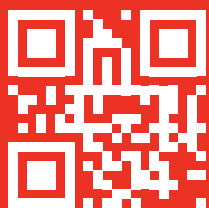
Starting Sep 22

In person with free food.

Invite your friend, cousin, neighbor, mom...

They can try Alpha the first week or come all 10 weeks for no-pressure conversations about life, faith, and meaning.

Details: alpha.mdpc.org



The Books of
Ezra & Nehemiah



Trusting in God's Protection

[Ezra 7:1-10](#) NRSV

This is the fourth in our fall sermon series on Ezra & Nehemiah. We have baptisms and an Alpha Focus this Sunday, and the sermon series shifts to the time when Ezra, the name of the first book we are studying, makes his way onto the stage. He will be the dominant leader the rest of the book, and at times in the book of Nehemiah as well.

1. If people were to sum up your life in a sentence or two, what would you wish they would say about you? What would you not want said about you?
2. Ezra chapters 7-10 deal with the leader, Ezra, establishing the Worship & Word rhythm for the people of God in the years after the Second Temple was completed and dedicated. If you have the time, read chapters 7 and 8 in one sitting. What do you learn about Ezra's leadership style as well as what is important to him? What does he accomplish, with the help of God and others?
3. Specifically in verses 1-6 of chapter 7, what do you learn about Ezra? Do you recognize any of the names from the first five verses? Using a Bible dictionary or commentary, what is significant about Ezra's lineage?
4. He is a priest (like the chief priest, Aaron, vs. 5) but also a scribe (vss. 6 and 10). What are positives about that combination?
5. In verses 7-9 of chapter 7, who else joined Ezra on the trip? Are any groups significant, in your mind? And how long did it take them to make the trip from Babylon to Jerusalem? What might it have been like if you had been part of the pilgrimage?
6. Verse 10 is an incredibly packed and significant sentence. Remember back to question 1 on this Sermon Notes page. How does verse 10 sum up Ezra's life and ministry? What are the three components of what Ezra "set his mind to" or "devoted himself" to do here?
7. Why or why not would it be worthwhile for you to undergo a similar pursuit? What would it take in scheduling and commitment for you to become more like Ezra in verse 10? What from my sermon possibly gave you some handles or approaches to explore this fall as an individual, family, or friend grouping?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

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



ALISTAIR BEGG
Thu, Sep 15 • 7:00pm

This Thursday!

MDPC SPEAKER SERIES

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.

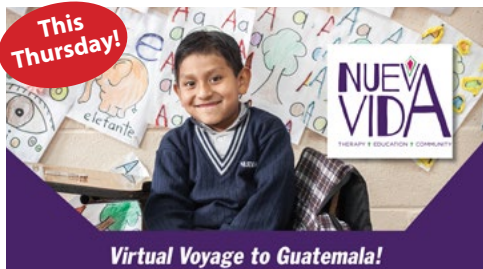


MDPC Children's Choir

Starts Wednesday!

Each Wed starting Sep 14 • 4:45pm

Be part of the return of Children's Choir to MDPC! Learn more and sign up your elementary student today at childrenschoir.mdpc.org.



Virtual Voyage to Guatemala!

This Thursday!

NUEVA VIDA

Thu, Sep 15 • 6:30-8:00pm

Join us as we learn about Nueva Vida's work and mission in Santa Maria de Jesus, and experience the beauty of Guatemala through a LIVE Zoom gathering! Learn more and register at newlife.mdpc.org.



20th MEN'S LIFE

MEN'S LIFE 2022: SHARING LIFE

Starts Tuesday!

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.



SAVVY CARE GIVERS

GRAM FOR GIVERS

Starts Tuesday!

Tue, Sep 13-Oct 18 • 10:00am-Noon

If you are caring for a loved one with dementia, this class is for you. Gain a better understanding of the disease while learning tips for care and self-care. Sign up at savvy.mdpc.org.



First Communion Retreat

for Elementary Children

Sun, Sep 18 • 10:45am-Noon

A brunch event designed to prepare children to partake in the sacrament of communion. Led by Pastor Rachel. Learn more at kids.mdpc.org.



TRANSFORMING Grief

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.



Alpha

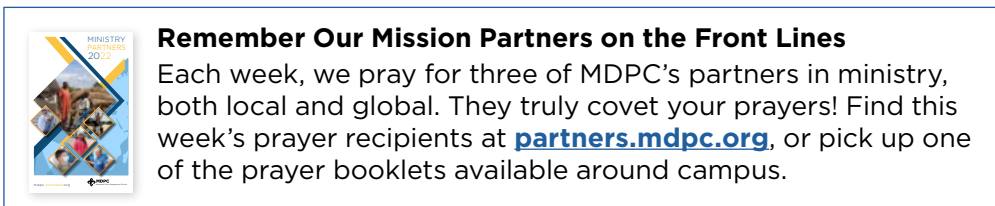
Thursdays starting Sep 22 • 7:00pm

At Alpha, we explore faith, life, and meaning in a friendly, low-key environment. No question out of bounds and no talking required! Learn more and register at alpha.mdpc.org.



Hey there!

Are you visiting today? We'd love the chance to introduce ourselves! Take a minute to fill out the form at connect.mdpc.org, or stop by the Connection Center for a gift!



Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines

Each week, we pray for three of MDPC's partners in ministry, both local and global. They truly covet your prayers! Find this week's prayer recipients at partners.mdpc.org, or pick up one of the prayer booklets available around campus.

Financial Update as of Sep 4, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 7,043,550
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 5,250,450

Births and Deaths

Abigail Francis Smith was born August 24, 2022, to **Brian and Emily Smith**.

Jerry Batte passed away August 27, 2022.
Andy Kean passed away August 21, 2022.
Bob Harold passed away June 21, 2022.
Ann Alloway passed away June 7, 2022.