



Believe!

Sunday, Nov 27, 2022

8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

- Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) Meliza Gómez / Clay Brown
- Songs of Praise *He Has Made Me Glad / Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
- *Prayer of Confession & Assurance Beth Case
- Song of Response *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
- Moment of Prayer Clay Brown
- Songs of Preparation *King of Kings / O Come, Let Us Adore*
- Message **Believe in the God Who Reconciles** Alf Halvorson
[1 Peter 3:15-16 NRSV](#)
- Song of Response *Firm Foundation*

9:45 SERVICE

- Meet & Greet (In-person / Online) Michael Middleton / Beth Case
- Song of Praise *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
- Moment of Confession & Assurance Sarah Stone
- Songs of Preparation *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus / King of Kings / O Come Let Us Adore*
- Message **Believe in the God Who Reconciles** Alf Halvorson
[1 Peter 3:15-16 NRSV](#)
- Song of Response *Firm Foundation*
- Moment of Prayer Beth Case

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrott, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

- Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
- Welcome & Call to Worship Brett Hurst
- Choral Introit *Sleepers, Wake (from St. Paul)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
- *Hymn of Praise *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #2; Vs. 1, 2 | HYFRYDOL
- *Prayer of Confession & Assurance Amy Delgado
- *Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed
- *Congregational Response *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 1, 2 | GLORIA
- Anthem *Free Us, Emmanuel* Pepper Choplin (b.1960)
- Moment of Prayer Brett Hurst
- Anthem of Preparation *The Yearning* Craig Courtney (b.1948)
- Message **Believe in the God Who Reconciles** Alf Halvorson
[1 Peter 3:15-16 NRSV](#)
- *Hymn of Response *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8; Vs. 1, 2 | TRURO
- Postlude *Angels from the Realms of Glory* arr. Robert Hobby (b.1962)

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

Believe!

Believe in the God Who Reconciles

[1 Peter 3:15-16](#) NRSV

This is the second in our short series on reconciliation, which also kicks off our Advent “Believe” Series. Last week, I focused on how to be the Good News before we attempt to share the Good News. Today, I want to attempt to have us wrestle with what it might look like to actually have faith conversations with people, with the hope that they are able to draw closer to the God who is always drawing close to them.

1. What have been your attempts in the past at faith conversations with family or friends? Have they gone horribly wrong or were they positive at times? Share....
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. The first part of verse 15 says, “But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.” Last week I shared these questions near the end of our Sermon Notes. If you didn’t answer them then, please answer them now. If you did answer them, how do they reveal perhaps how Christ as Lord is being sanctified in your heart?
 - a. My first recollection of being in church is when...
 - b. I was baptized in the _____ church by _____ when I was _____ years old.
 - c. Who were the evangelists/faith-sharers in your life? (Pos. or Neg.)
 - d. The time I felt the greatest doubt or distance from God was...
 - e. The closest I have ever felt to God in my life was....
 - f. When, if ever, has God been more than a name to you?
 - g. If I could name a turning point in my relationship with God, it would be...
 - h. If I had to tell someone why I am a Christian, I would say...
 - i. In the last few months, how has God impacted your life? Any God-moments?
3. What do you think Peter means in the second half of verse 15 when he says, “Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting from the hope that is in you?” If we are witnesses and ambassadors with our lives, some people will ask us why we are doing what we are doing or why we are different than the average person they meet. How can you prepare for those questions? How is Luke 12:8-12 an encouragement to us as we haltingly attempt to explain our hope in Christ?
4. If we stopped at verse 15 but did not have or read or try to follow verse 16, what significant thing would be missing? Why are ‘gentleness and reverence’ so important in our conversations with people? How does the rest of the verse provide an answer to the question? And how do verses 17-18 help us see that our witness, and possible suffering associated with it, can draw us closer to our Savior and Lord?
5. I mentioned last week that Pastor Clay Brown created a great six-week study on being ambassadors and witnesses for Christ called [The Witnessing Disciple](#), which most of our current staff and Elders/Deacons have gone through to increase our comfort and skills in this crucial area. Many people found it very encouraging. Maybe your small group will choose that as your next study. Or, in the new year, we will be offering groups on this subject matter with a pastor or church officer. Might God be nudging you to join, not only for yourself, but also for those you might have conversations with at a future time?



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Sun, Dec 4 • 3:30-5:30pm

Games, food, prizes, and more festive fun for the whole family. Admission is free and all are invited! Share the link at christmasfest.mdpc.org.



Sun, Dec 4 • 6:00-7:30pm

Celebrate the season with festive music! The Sanctuary Choir and orchestra present Karl Jenkins' *Gloria* and congregational carols. Free childcare available: concerts.mdpc.org



Mon, Dec 5 • 9:00am-2:30pm

Come experience peace as we enter this season of joyful, expectant waiting. To learn more and register, visit still.mdpc.org.



Tue, Dec 6 • 9:30-11:00am

Ladies, you're invited for treats and chats! Bring your neighbor, mother, daughter, sister, friends... More info at coffee.mdpc.org.



Wed, Dec 7 • 5:30-7:00pm

Through prayer, song, and sharing, we offer you hope and peace in this season. All are welcome! The "merry" and the "not-so-merry." Learn more at blue.mdpc.org.



Fri, Dec 9 | 6:00-9:00pm

Young Adults (22-35) are invited for food, drinks, and games! Learn more about this and other fun events at ya.mdpc.org.



Bring Boxes by Dec 12

Our goal this year is 220 Christmas boxes - enough for 10 ships! You can have Amazon ship items to be packed at MDPC or use the list to pack your own: seafarers.mdpc.org



Bless a Child this Christmas

Please consider sponsoring a child's wish list, or simply bringing a new, unwrapped toy to the Toy Train at MDPC. Learn more at cfk.mdpc.org.



Christmas Eve Services

Sat, Dec 24 | Sanctuary
4:00pm Family-friendly
5:30, 7:00, 8:30pm Candlelight

Christmas Sunday Service

Sun, Dec 25 at 11:15am | Sanctuary



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 Nov 20, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$ 12,294,000
Income to Date	\$ 9,619,073
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 2,674,927

Births and Deaths

Diane Segerstrom passed away November 1, 2022.

April Gauss passed away November 13, 2022.