

On **Sunday, February 25**,
 the church leaves the building.

citic.mdpc.org

2018 Partner Prayer Booklets available!

This morning, you'll find Outreach volunteers handing out our annual prayer guide. Each week highlights one global and two local MDPC Outreach Partners. Please read through the guide to learn more about our amazing partners and how you can pray for them. Our partners repeatedly tell us how much these prayers mean to them.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, contact Jan Roe at jroe@mdpc.org.

Stephen Ministry Commissioning Service

Six new Stephen Ministers (Natalie Hall, Cynthia Orme, Liane Phillips, Christine Roskamp, Tim Tade, and Harvey Trammel) have completed 50+ hours of training and will be commissioned at a special commissioning service. You are invited to attend and encourage them as they join MDPC's Stephen Ministry to care for others during difficult times.

This Tuesday, Jan. 30 | 7:00 PM | Chapel
 Reception to follow in the Summit Room.

Contact Beverly Fluke for more info: bfluke@mdpc.org

The Music Box Kids' Choir

Are you an awesome kid? Do you love music and love to sing? Join The Music Box kids' choir! Kids in K-5th are welcome. The program's directed by Meliza Gómez, MDPC Contemporary Music Director.

Weds, Jan. 31-March 28 | 4:45-5:30 PM | Chapel
 Details and registration: themusicbox.mdpc.org

Cookies for the Troops

Put on your aprons, dig out a bowl, and bake! Each year, Sewing for Missions bakes, collects, and packages cookies to send to deployed U.S. military. Drop off cookies, or stay to help pack up and pray over them. All are welcome!

Thursday, Feb. 1 | CLC 170 | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Call for Committee Members

We're seeking 15 volunteers for Local Outreach Sub-committees. Teams of two make site visits during the year to learn about and pray with local ministry partners, then make recommendations to Session for sending support. A unique blessing is seeing God at work when you visit these folks caring for others daily.

If God is calling you to local outreach, contact Jan Roe to learn more: jroe@mdpc.org

The White Rose is in memory of

Margaret Green, who passed away January 19, 2018.

New Member Class Intensive

The normally four-week series is compressed into one evening and one morning.

Fri. PM & Sat. AM, Feb. 2 & 3 | Parlor

More info: membership.mdpc.org

Do You Love to Sing?

MDPC Sanctuary Choir is preparing for its April 15 choral concert. If you love to sing but do not have time for a weekly commitment, join us for two upcoming workshops to learn the concert music and enjoy fellowship. Adults and youth are welcome!

Sat, Feb. 3 & Mar. 3 | 9:30 AM-12:30 PM | Choir Room
 Childcare provided by reservation. For more info, contact Tracy Stidam at tstidam@mdpc.org.

"March Dadness" Men's Life Next Steps

Calling all dads! Step up your game as a dad with other MDPC DADS participating in the 5-week "Dads Becoming Heroes" study. There will be coffee.

Tuesdays, Feb. 6-Mar. 6 | 6:30-7:45 AM

Register: dadness.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

Help feed preschoolers from food-insecure families. Give one hour of your time, bring four loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and make sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference!

Wednesday, Feb. 7 | 4:30-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
 Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Tweet & Eat: Follow Pastor Alf on Twitter!

Support Pastor Alf's first foray into social media by following @alfhalvorson. Not a tweeter yourself? Save the date to join us for a basic intro to Twitter.

Wednesday, Feb. 7 | 6:30 PM | Summit Room

tweet.mdpc.org

A Very Special Dinner & a Marriage

Parents of Special Needs Kids & Foster/Adoptive Parents Life seems to revolve around your children...let this night revolve around your marriage! Sit alone with your spouse, enjoy a low key dinner, and learn ways to stay connected with each other in the midst of raising your very special family.

Saturday, Feb. 17 | 5:30-7:30 PM

\$15/couple (includes dinner and childcare)

Register by February 4: special.mdpc.org

Questions? Contact Keri Mosk: kmosk@mdpc.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

MDPC's 2018 Operating Budget is pending approval. Today's Financial Update will be shared on the screens.



8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Clay Brown

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

ROMANS: The Downward Spiral

Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

CALL TO WORSHIP

Meliza Gómez

*SONG OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Hillary McMullen

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Tara Reynolds

SONGS OF WORSHIP

MESSAGE

ROMANS: The Downward Spiral

Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Musicians in these services: Arthur Ceker and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Daniel Martínez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place

Brahms/arr. K. White

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Clay Brown

CHORAL INTROIT

I Will Praise Thee, O Lord

Robert C. Baker (b. 1941)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

#281; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | CWM RHONDDA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the United Church of Canada

OFFERTORY

Woe Unto Them (from The Peaceable Kingdom)

Randall Thompson (1899-1984)

MESSAGE

ROMANS: The Downward Spiral

Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MEDITATIONS

I Am the Vine (choir)
Chanson (organ)

Paul D. Weber (b. 1949)
 Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

POSTLUDE

Festive March

Henry Smart (1813-1879)

Musicians in this service: Lisa Borik, soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist

* Please stand if able.

CCLI# 182374

† Communion at MDPC is shared by intinction. All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table. As directed by the ushers, come forward to the communion stations at the front of the section where you are seated. Dip the bread in the cup and eat, before returning to your seat. Gluten-free bread is available. If you are celiac or severely gluten-intolerant, please note that it may have come into contact with gluten-containing bread during preparation of the sacrament.

Every child is an important part of our faith community. We believe each family decides when its children are ready to participate in communion. Children not taking communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastors and elders serving.



Lenten Study Registration

Meeting once per week
Weeks of February 18-March 25
(6 SESSIONS)

This year's Lenten study guide focuses on the Scripture passages preached by Pastor Alf during his concurrent sermon series. The rhythm? You first hear the sermon, then you talk about the Scriptures later in groups and classes, discussing and learning from each other how we may grow in God's grace!

- All Ages and Stages (Large-Group Option)**
Wednesdays, Noon (Parlor)
Led by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Ministries Pastor; begins February 21
- All Ages and Stages (Large-Group Option)**
*Wednesdays, 6:30 PM (MDPC Amphitheater)
Led by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Ministries Pastor; begins February 21
- All Ages and Stages (New Group!)**
*Sundays, 11:15 AM (Pastors Conference Room)
Led by David Baay, begins February 18
- All Ages and Stages (New Group!)**
*Sundays, 9:45 AM (MC Room 101)
Led by Martha Moore and Jeanmarie Tade, begins February 18
- Marrieds in their 20s and 30s**
*Sundays, 11:15 AM (MC Room 122)
Led by Life 2.0 Class, begins February 18
- All Ages and Stages**
*Sundays, 11:15 AM (Amphitheater)
Led by 5th Community, begins February 18
- Women**
*Sundays, 9:45 AM (Chapel Bride's Room)
Led by the Pathways Class, begins February 18
- All Ages and Stages**
*Sundays, 11:15 AM (MC Room 103)
Led by the Seekers Class, begins February 18

*Indicates free childcare available by reservation. Email Mimi Wells (mwells@mdpc.org) with children's names, birthdates, and desired childcare time.

Information shown here is as of January 22. Please check at the table (or online, beginning February 1) for newly formed groups.

Online registration opens Thursday, February 1 at lenten.mdpc.org, or you may bring this form to our table this morning in the Sanctuary Lobby.

I/we are joining a Lenten group.

Full Name _____ Phone # _____

Email _____ Which group? _____

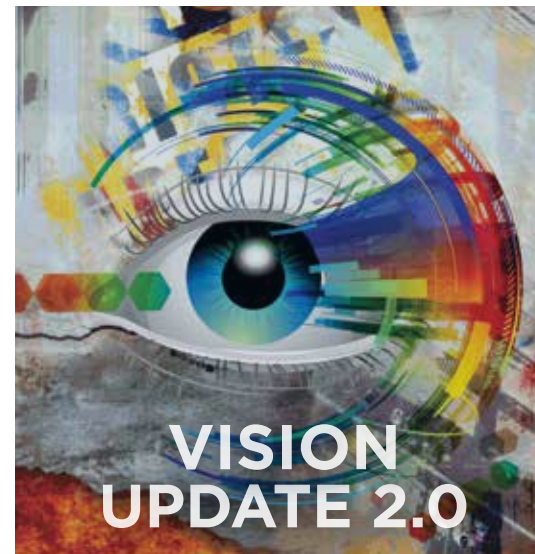
I am registering a group.

Group Name _____ Group Leader _____

Group Members _____

When/where will you meet? _____

How many new members will you accept? _____ How many Study Guides needed? _____



Pastor Alf leads this vision casting presentation and discussion. He will update us on where we stand on the 12 MDPC Strategic Goals introduced in 2017, and how they'll impact our future.

Come early to enjoy Wednesday Night Dinner (menu and prices at food.mdpc.org).

**THIS Wednesday, January 31
6:30 PM | Chapel**

goals.mdpc.org

MDPC is offering many opportunities to help you embrace the Lenten Experience.

Lenten Small Groups

Meet Weekly, February 18-March 25

As Pastor Alf preaches on the themes of deadly sins and saving virtues this Lenten season, groups will gather to further discuss how, in our journeys of faith, we will acknowledge, confess, and strive against the sins that pervade our hearts, and seek to develop virtues that counter these sins. There are groups you can join, or consider starting your own with friends or family. The same curriculum will be offered in a large-group format at two different hours on Wednesdays during Lent, taught by Pastor Clay Brown.

◀ Check out all the details on the panel at left, then stop by our table this morning to sign up as an individual or register your class or small group.

7 Lenten Sermon Series

7 Deadly Sins & Saving Virtues

On Ash Wednesday, Pastor Alf begins a new, original sermon series. Enjoy a multi-media experience all season as artists from the MDPC community contribute uniquely painted compositions depicting each topic.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

From Pride to Humility

Noon in Amphitheater or 6:30 PM in Sanctuary

Both services led by Alf Halvorson

The sermon series continues Sundays, February 18 through April 1.

Note: Feb. 25 is MDPC's Church in the City service day when we'll serve our community side-by-side. Details and registration at citc.mdpc.org.

The Spoken Word

Monday, March 26, 6:00 AM through Thursday, March 29, 3:30 PM

The Spoken Word, an MDPC tradition, is a cover-to-cover reading of the Bible during Holy Week. Come to read, or come to listen! Reader sign-up opens in February at spokenword.mdpc.org.



ROMANS

The Downward Spiral

Romans 1:18-25 | Alf Halvorson preaching

Last week, I started with the Thesis Statement of the Book of Romans (Romans 1:16-17). “Paul is not ashamed of the Gospel.” He believes that it can handle a frontal assault, questions, discussion, and debate. He affirms that it

has the power (the dynamite) to bring people salvation—wholeness, a right relationship with God and others and our best selves. And he shares that this occurs when we *put our weight down on the faithfulness and love of God revealed to us through Christ’s death on the cross for us*. That is faith, for Paul. We are saved not by works, but by God’s grace received by our trust in Him. Then Paul, in the rest of the first chapter, becomes a prosecuting attorney and outlines our need for salvation. Let’s look at that case against us now.

1. Read Romans 1:18-25. Look at verse 18 alone. What do you think “the wrath of God” looks like according to Romans 1:18-25?
2. Look at verses 24 and 28, where it says, “God gave them up.” Most scholars suggest (and I agree) that here, in context, “the wrath of God” simply means God letting us have our own way, at least for a while, and letting us bear the consequences of our choices. Have you ever done that as a parent to your child? Did your parent or supervisor or coach ever do that to you? What potential positive message is learned when that approach is taken? Is there a potential down side? Why might God take that approach with us?
3. In my sermon, I paired Paul’s description of sin as a downward spiral (verses 21-25) with the first and second parts of the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:1-17). I asserted that when we break Commandments 1-3, there are negative consequences with those we come in contact with regarding Commandments 4-10. React to that assertion.
4. An idol is when we imprint a meaning on something that it doesn’t really have. We inflate its importance, and a tragedy occurs when we want the idol to serve a function it isn’t capable of performing. We know about ancient idols of stone or wood or ivory, etc. Name some modern idols. In other words, name some things we put in the place of God, things we worship instead of God.
5. Read verse 25 again. What does “they worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator” mean? How might we exchange “the truth about God for a lie”?
6. I think I have used this Karl Barth quote before: We have total need for which we need total help. Next week we will look at the total help we receive through Christ; but, for today, what hint of that help did you experience in and through Communion? A sacrament is a visible sign of an invisible grace. What invisible grace is received through the Lord’s Supper?

