

Welcome to MDPC!



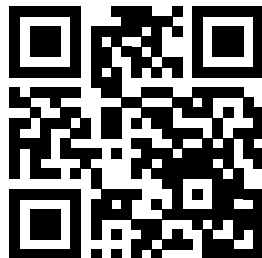
Easy Check-in!

Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.



Guest Registry

5 quick questions to help us get to know you better!



Give Online

Make one-time or recurring gifts with ease.



THE GRADUATION SPEECH I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE



8:30 AM Service
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching
[1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11](#)

Welcome & Call to Worship

Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez

Songs of Praise *God So Loved/Great Things/Holy Holy Holy*

We the Kingdom/Wickham/Trad.

Moment of Confession & Assurance

Clay Brown

Song of Response *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*

arr. Maher

Moment of Prayer

Dave Steane

Worship Set *Rising Sun/This Is Amazing Grace*

All Sons & Daughters/Wickham

Message

The Graduation Speech
1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11

Alf Halvorson

Song of Response

Great Are You, Lord

Leslie Jordan

Opportunity to Give & Benediction

Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

[Give Online](#)
give.mdpc.org

Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit partners.mdpc.org to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

THE GRADUATION SPEECH I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE



9:45 AM Service
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching
[1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11](#)

Welcome & Call to Worship	Michael Middleton and Meliza Gómez
Songs of Praise	<i>God So Loved/Great Things/Holy Holy Holy</i> <i>We the Kingdom/Wickham/Trad.</i>
Moment of Confession & Assurance	Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship</i> arr. Maher
New Members	Dan Aikins
Worship Set	<i>Rising Sun/This Is Amazing Grace</i> All Sons & Daughters/Wickham
Message	The Graduation Speech <i>1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11</i> Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Great Are You, Lord</i> Leslie Jordan
Moment of Prayer	Dave Steane
Opportunity to Give & Benediction	Alf Halvorson

THE
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1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11
Alf Halvorson preaching

Sunday Worship Playlist

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THE GRADUATION SPEECH I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE



11:15 AM Service
Sunday, May 23, 2021

Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching
[1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11](#)

Prelude	<i>Highland Cathedral</i>	Charles Callahan (b. 1951)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Dave Steane
Choral Introit	<i>When Morning Gilds the Skies</i>	arr. C. Hausmann
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>	#263; Vs. 1, 3, 4 ST. DENIO
Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Beth Case
*Affirmation of Faith from the United Church of Canada		
Anthem	<i>Fill Me, Lord</i>	Brad Nix (b. 1975)
New Members		Dan Aikins
Pastoral Prayer		Dave Steane
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Our Rock and Our Salvation</i>	B. F. White, arr. Sheldon Curry
Message	The Graduation Speech <i>1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11</i>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i>	#172; Vs. 1, 2 RESIGNATION
Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Allegro (from Concerto No. 8)</i>	G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

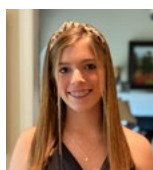
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[**Give Online**](https://give.mdpc.org)
give.mdpc.org

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, May 23, 2021

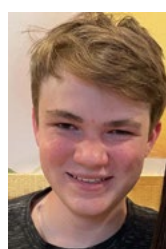
We are excited to welcome 29 new members to the MDPC family! These additions also include new members of the MDPC Fuente and MDPC Portuguese-language congregations. Learn a little more about each below, and join us in welcoming them to MDPC.



Trey Able is the CEO of Able Industrial and Able Tool & Rental. He enjoys golf, hunting, and fishing. **Jeannie** is the VP of The Looper Foundation and a community volunteer. She enjoys traveling, reading, and creating. **Connor** is graduating from Stratford and will be a freshman at Texas A&M, where he will be in Business Honors and playing football. **Addi-syn** is completing her freshman year at St. Agnes Academy, where she is on the varsity golf team.



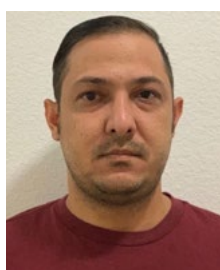
Javier Toro Alarcon and **Sonia Jannet Omaña** are originally from Venezuela. They have two children, Ricardo (22) and Ruben (19). Sonia is a dentist and Javier an electrical engineer. In their spare time, they enjoy cooking, dancing, reading, and visiting children in local hospitals.



Jeffrey and **Tracie Baldwin** have been married for 20 years. Tracie is a director for ConocoPhillips and Jeffrey is semi-retired. **Camron** (15) is a high school freshman at Kinkaid.



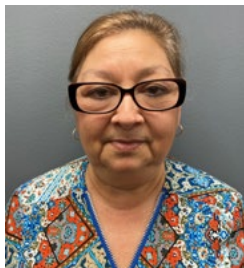
Amanda Bush has three children, Harrison (19), **Caroline** (16), and **Luke** (15). Amanda works as a compliance manager at Texon L.P. Amanda has been active in the Presbyterian faith and enjoyed serving in student ministries. Caroline is a rising Junior at Stratford High School. She is on the tennis team and a member of her school orchestra. Luke is a rising sophomore at Stratford. Luke enjoys playing guitar in his spare time and is an active member of Boy Scouts.



Rafael Curco and **Iria Garcia** are the proud parents of two children, Rafael Jairo and Rodrigo. Rafael is a mechanical engineer and does carpentry, and Iria is a medical surgeon. In their spare time, they enjoy spending time with family, reading, listening to music, playing basketball, and attending Sunday service.



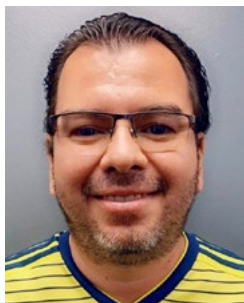
Jeff and **LeeAnn Fields** have been married for 20 years and have three children: **Mack** (15), Luke (13), and Sam (12). Jeff is the CFO of FastMed and LeeAnn is a Sr. Program Manager at Intuitive Surgical. Mack will be a sophomore at Stratford in the fall and plays football and basketball. Luke will be a freshman at Stratford, plays basketball and football, and was recently confirmed at MDPC. Sam will be a 7th grader at MMS and also plays basketball and football. Sam is looking forward to confirmation next year at MDPC.



Adriana Gutierrez is originally from Mexico and is a mother of five: Maicela (39), Maria (35), Arturo (34), Alejandro (33), and Guillermo (35). She is a housekeeper and in her spare time she enjoys cooking, listening to music, learning English, knitting, and embroidering.



Frank Hauser is joining MDPC after being raised in the Baptist Church. He is self-employed in a commercial real estate (multifamily) business. Frank is a board member at Houston Arboretum & Nature Center and enjoys all things outdoors.



Willman Parraci and **Diana Orozco** are the proud parents of Shara Nicole (11) and Luciana (5). Willman is a financial administrator with a specialty in financial management and organizational development, and Diana a financial administrator. In their home country of Colombia, Willman was a human rights defender that worked as a peace promoter in

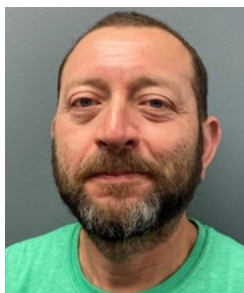
communities with violence. He is also a member of Rotary International. During their spare time, they like to be together and go to the park or beach.



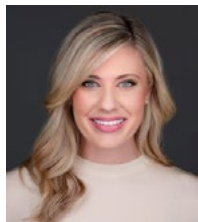
Belkis Josefina Patiño is originally from Venezuela and is the mother of three: David (33), Daniela (30), and Dayana (28). She has a degree in foreign trading. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, going for walks, and going to the movie theater.



Selene Peralta is originally from Mexico and is a full-time college student. In her spare time, she enjoys painting and drawing.



Ermelindo (Christian) Reyes has three children: Kevin (18), Jonathan (10), and David (10). He manages a warehouse and in his spare time he likes to travel and help people in need. Christian is a frequent volunteer at the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry.



Jillian and **James Rodgers** have two children: **Jackson** (15) and Rainor Lee (6 months). James is an executive in the oil field service industry and Jillian works in corporate meeting and event planning. Jackson will be a freshman at Stratford High School in the fall. He plays football and enjoys mountain biking.



Chris Rothermel has two children: William (20) and Kate (14). They relocated to Houston last summer from NYC. Chris grew up in Memorial and is happy to be home. She is a stay-at-home mom and does part-time organizing.



Enrique Salgado holds a degree in law. He enjoys dancing and singing and aspires to become a committed Christian.

Ready to Take Your Next Step at MDPC?

Discover MDPC with Alf

Discover MDPC is a chance to get to know MDPC through a conversation with our Senior Pastor, Alf Halvorson. Alf will share about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC. He will also answer questions you have and share about the ministry at and through MDPC.

Sunday, June 13 | 10:45-11:10 AM

In-Person in The Gathering Room, or via Zoom

No RSVP necessary! Show up, or get the Zoom link at membership.mdpc.org.

Explore our New Member Class!

The New Member Class is our process for learning the history, vision, and mission of MDPC. It's led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, and you will be invited to explore if becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. After finishing the class and deciding that becoming a member is indeed the right next step, you will be introduced at a worship service to the congregation and invited to meet with Session (board of Elders) to be received as a member of MDPC.

In-Person 2-Day Weekend Course:

Friday, June 25 | 6:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, June 26 | 8:00-10:00 AM

The Parlor

Learn more and register: membership.mdpc.org

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

11612 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024 • mdpc.org • 713-782-1710

Sunday, May 23, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of May 16, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 3,718,096
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 7,581,904



Wednesday, May 26 • 10:00 AM

Preschoolers, grab your parent to come assemble “Sweet Packages” for our friends at Mission of Yahweh! Lunch will be provided. Please register at kids.mdpc.org to let us know you’re coming.



Mondays in June • 10:00-11:00 AM

Hey, rising 6th graders! Join us this June for lunch and Bible study as you get ready to enter middle school. MDPC’s middle school and elementary staff and interns will be there to lead you through the study! Feel free to bring friends! Sign up at kids.mdpc.org.



Monday-Friday, July 12-16 • 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

This week-long event is for elementary kids, but we need lots of adult and teen volunteers to make it a success! No teaching is required, and we have roles for every person’s unique gifts. Visit summercel.mdpc.org to find out more.



7th & 8th Grade: San Antonio, Texas
May 30-June 5 • Blueprint Ministries
High School: John Brown University (June 14-19) and/or **WayForward in Colorado** (June 26-July 2)
6th Grade: Houston, Texas
June 25-26 • A weekend of serving our hometown



CONNECTION is our Sunday program for Middle and High School students where we come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship. 11:15 AM in the Youth Loft; more info at connection.mdpc.org.



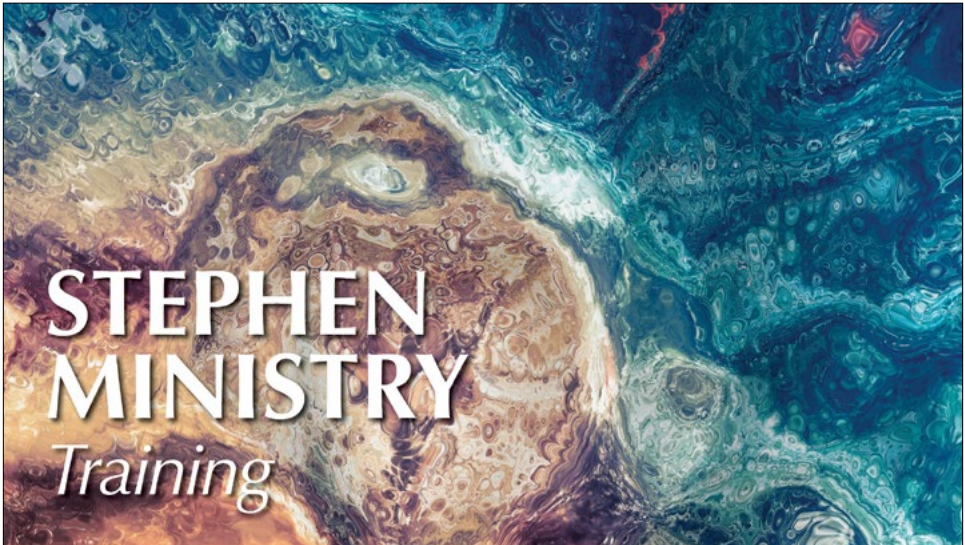
Collection: Sundays, May 23-June 6

Support our neighbors through ECHOS Food Pantry! You can ship direct by ordering from their Amazon Wish List, or use that list to shop locally. Details at fooddrive.mdpc.org.



Every Saturday • ANYTIME between 7:00 & 11:30 AM

Whether you have an hour or all morning, one time or weekly, we can use you! This is a great way to serve the community with your kids, spouse, friends, or on your own. Learn more and sign up at fuente.mdpc.org.



Training Begins this Fall • Apply by August 16

Have you found that people trust you to listen to their struggles? Do you enjoy supporting, caring and praying for others? If so, consider becoming a Stephen Minister! Learn more at stephen.mdpc.org.



Sundays, July 11-August 1, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Research shows marriage prep programs can be particularly effective at preventing divorce - plus, MLP’s approved by *Together in Texas*, so graduates can have their Texas marriage license fee waived! Go to mlp.mdpc.org to learn more.



Ladies, connect with God and connect with others this summer! With **day and evening, weekday and weekend events from May to August**, there’s something for everyone. Learn more and sign up at stc.mdpc.org.



Sunday childcare currently is available for children five and under. Visit children.mdpc.org to see our Sunday morning health and safety protocols. For The Galaxy elementary Sunday school, just text Galaxy F2F to the number 94000 so we know you are coming!

THE GRADUATION SPEECH I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE

1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11
Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the final one-off sermon of the spring before we begin our summer preaching series, called *Unburdened*, on Paul's letter to the Galatians. This also is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit to the Disciples in Acts chapter 2. However, I want us to look at how the Holy Spirit helps real apprentices when they are experiencing real struggles because of really following Jesus. Peter is writing to Gentile Christians in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and showing them how to handle pressure and suffering in the real world.

1. Check in with the other members of the group about how you are doing, on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best), regarding your energy level and patience and joy at the end of a long program or school or pandemic year. What might you need to do this summer to recharge your batteries and renew your mind to be ready for a post-pandemic fall?
2. Are you experiencing any trouble or suffering because of your faith in Christ? What form is it taking for you? For a friend of yours? For Christians in another part of the world?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. What does the Apostle Peter say we should not be surprised by or consider strange? According to Peter, how are we *blessed not disgraced*? And why are we supposed to glorify God?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. What four things are we supposed to do in verses 6-9? What two things will God do, according to those verses? What extra things will God do in verse 10?
5. Dwell on 1 Peter 5:10 for a little while. Why do we sometimes attempt these matters on our own? Can we really restore, support, strengthen, and establish ourselves? Why not? Why does our attempt at control or "playing God" fail in the end? Why do these blessings have to come as a gift from God's Spirit? What is your takeaway about the Spirit from these verses?
6. From my illustration of "The Inner Ring" by C. S. Lewis in my sermon, what entanglement (Inner Ring) might you need to approach differently, or character quality might you develop, with the Spirit's help, to handle the pressures of the groups/rings around you?