



FOR *God* SO LOVED THE  
**WORLD**

**Rejoices in the Truth**

1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1

Alf Halvorson preaching

**8:30 AM Service**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1](#)

**Welcome**

Rachel Poysky

**Call to Worship & Advent Readings**

Dan Aikins & Family

**Song of Praise**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Chris Tomlin

**\*Prayer of Confession & Assurance**

Lyndsey Dottavio

**Songs of Response**

*Joy to the World*  
*King of Kings*

TRADITIONAL  
Brook Ligertwood

**New Members**

Dan Aikins

**Moment of Prayer**

**Songs of Preparation**

*Alpha and Omega*  
*O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

Israel Houghton  
Matt Redman

**Message**

***Rejoices in the Truth***

Alf Halvorson

**Song of Response**

*How Glorious*

arr. Stars Go Dim

**Opportunity to Give & Benediction**



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

[Click here to listen.](#)

**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](http://partners.mdpc.org) to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.



FOR *God* SO LOVED THE  
**WORLD**

**Rejoices in the Truth**

1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1

Alf Halvorson preaching

**9:45 AM Service**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1](#)

**Welcome**

Meliza Gómez

**Call to Worship & Advent Readings**

Laura Miller & Family

**Song of Praise**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Chris Tomlin

**Moment of Confession & Assurance**

Hillary McMullen

**New Members**

Dan Aikins

**Kids' Moment**

Children's Ministries

**Songs of Response**

*Joy to the World*

TRADITIONAL

*King of Kings*

Brook Ligertwood

*Alpha and Omega*

Israel Houghton

*O Come, Let Us Adore Him*

Matt Redman

**Message**

***Rejoices in the Truth***

Alf Halvorson

**Song of Response**

*How Glorious*

arr. Stars Go Dim

**Moment of Prayer**

Laura Miller

**Opportunity to Give & Benediction**



**Sunday Worship Playlist**

[Click here to listen.](#)

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FOR *God* SO LOVED THE  
**WORLD**

**Rejoices in the Truth**

1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1

Alf Halvorson preaching

**11:15 AM Service**

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Alf Halvorson preaching

[1 Corinthians 13:6 and 14:1](#)

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<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Coventry Carol</i>	arr. Keith Snell
<b>Welcome</b>		Rachel Poysky
<b>Call to Worship &amp; Advent Readings</b>		Almir Dias & Family
* <b>Hymn of Praise</b>	<i>Joy to the World!</i>	ANTIOCH
* <b>Prayer of Confession and Assurance</b>		Rachel Poysky
* <b>Affirmation of Faith</b>	The Apostles' Creed	
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>A Carol Fantasy</i>	John Alexander (b. 1942)
<b>New Members</b>		Dan Aikins
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		
<b>Anthem of Preparation</b>	<i>Unto Us a Son Is Born</i>	arr. Trevor Manor (b. 1985)
<b>Message</b>	<i>Rejoices in the Truth</i>	Alf Halvorson
* <b>Hymn of Response</b>	<i>What Child Is This</i>	GREENSLEEVES
<b>Opportunity to Give &amp; Benediction</b>		
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Bach's Bells</i>	Chris Coletti

**Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry**

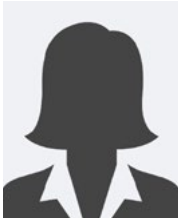
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# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Today we are so happy to introduce these 10 new members of the MDPC family! Learn a little more about each below, and join us in warmly welcoming them to MDPC.



**Amanda Grace Caldwell** attended Texas A&M University and Denver Seminary. She serves as the Relationships Director and Counselor-in-Residence here at MDPC and sees clients at Houston Center for Christian Counseling. In her spare time, she enjoys time with family and friends, being outside, writing, and finding the best local coffee shops.



Born in New Jersey, **Susan Croley** grew up in the Memorial area, attending SBISD schools and, later, Baylor and Texas A&M for a bachelor's degree in finance. Her further coursework at the University of Houston led to CPA certification and MIS degree equivalent. She is newly (and temporarily) retired after a rewarding career in IT. She has two adult children. Aaron (28) is a civil engineer and Avery (25) is a supply chain analyst. She is enjoying time with her new puppy, Winston.



**Christina Eckhoff** is a homemaker. She and her fiancé will be married later in December! She likes cooking, hiking, and being close to nature. She has a son, Jonathan Qui (26), who works at BDO company as a risk advisor.



**Rex and Kate Harrison** moved to Houston 5 years ago with their 3 children: Charlie (14), Jack (11), and Eloise (9). They both attended Texas A&M University. Rex is a software developer and Kate works at James Showroom.



**Lars and Karen Koster** have been married for 26 years and have two teenage daughters, Kirby and Kendall Koster. Lars works for Hines Interests in Real Estate Development. Karen works part time as a Reading Specialist in SBISD. Kendall is a freshman at Stratford High School and is on the Varsity Lacrosse team. Kirby is a Freshman at Texas A&M University.



**Alisa Slack** is retired from a varied career that included teaching foreign language in high school, commercial realty, and office building management. She belongs to the Museum of Fine Arts Guild Book Club, is an avid reader, and loves spending time with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Roger Federer.



**Mike and Joan Soland** have been married for 27 years and have two daughters, Courtney and Christyn, and four grandchildren. Mike and Joan are happily retired from the energy industry and live in Sugar Land.

*Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church*

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

Sunday, December 13, 2020

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of December 6, 2020

2020 Annual Budget	\$12,300,000
Income to Date	\$9,987,414
Needed to Meet Budget	\$2,312,586



Merry, or not-so-merry, all are welcome at Blue Christmas. There'll be times for connection in person or in a drive-through format, and a 30-minute contemplative worship service in the Courtyard. Learn more at [blue.mdpc.org](https://blue.mdpc.org).



NEW THIS YEAR! Shop and pay online at [market.mdpc.org](https://market.mdpc.org), then stop by Mission Market in the Lobby on Sundays or Front Office on weekdays to pick up your cards and envelopes. It's fast, simple, and safe!



Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce, lowering the risk by as much as 75%. [Married Life Prep](https://marriedlife.org) is approved by Twogether in Texas, and program graduates can have their Texas marriage license fee waived! A new 4-week class starts January 10.



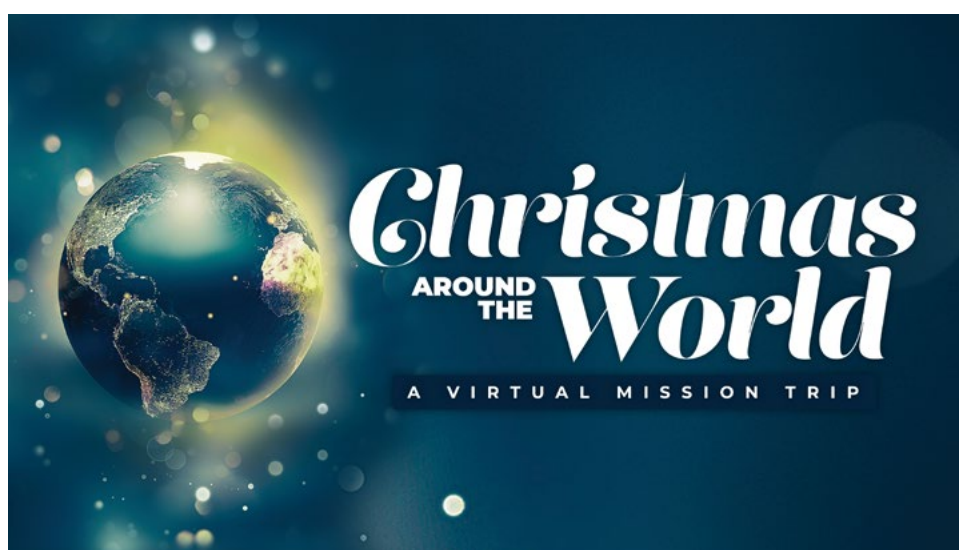
FPU's focus on behavior change is a different view of personal finance. Most folks know what to do with money, but not how to do it. Millions have followed Dave Ramsey's plan out of debt and into a life of saving and giving. You can, too! Learn more at [fpu.mdpc.org](https://fpu.mdpc.org).



College students! Come for weekly (outdoor) Fire Pit Fellowship over Christmas Break. Free food! Plus friends and Bible study. Kicks off Thursday, December 17; 6:30 PM for dinner, Bible study begins at 7:15 PM. [Learn more here](https://firepit.org).



A virtual Christmas Concert featuring beloved selections from the **MDPC** Sanctuary Choir's past seasonal performances. Join us for one of TWO airings - each with live online hosts - on Sunday, December 13: [christmasconcert.mdpc.org](https://christmasconcert.mdpc.org)



Join us for a trip around the world! When you register for this Saturday's Virtual Mission Trip, you'll reserve a fun Travel Box and, via Zoom, travel to Myanmar, Serbia, and Peru. Learn more at [world.mdpc.org](https://world.mdpc.org).



On Dec. 19, clients of **MDPC** Fuente Food Pantry will receive a Bless Bag along with food to help their family in this difficult season. Please donate Bless Bags by Dec. 13 to help make Christmases merrier! Items list at [blessbags.mdpc.org](https://blessbags.mdpc.org).



We have a variety of service times and attendance options for Christmas Eve. For the LIVE services, please RSVP to attend in-person (as circumstances permit) or join us online (no matter what!). Details at [christmaseve.mdpc.org](https://christmaseve.mdpc.org).

## Children's Sunday School and Childcare



Sunday childcare currently is available for children five and under. Visit [children.mdpc.org](https://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!



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](https://connection.mdpc.org).



This is the sixth in our Fall/Advent series on [1 Cor. 13, spilling briefly into chapter 14](#) with the ending phrase, “Pursue [agape] love.” I want to take on the easy-to-read but hard-to-practice-in-our-culture-today phrase, “It [agape love] does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but [it] rejoices in the truth.” John 1:14 & 17 says, “Jesus came full of grace *and truth*.” And in Ephesians, 4:15, Paul says, “Speaking the truth in love [agape], we must grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ.” How do we do that in the midst of our “cancel culture”?

1. Read 1 Cor. 13:1-8a. When have you seen people be smart or eloquent or even faith-filled, but not loving in the way the Apostle Paul describes here? Maybe they were rigid, dogmatic, judgmental, and holier-than-thou. How did their behavior make you feel in their presence? Is anyone willing to admit when they have been those negative things? Why do you think you took that approach? Did it work? How did your behavior and style influence the relationship or team?
2. One of the chief virtues of our age is “tolerance.” How would you define it? How is it similar to agape love? How does it differ from agape love?
3. The classic definition of tolerance is to have a “fair, objective, and non-judgmental attitude toward those whose opinions, beliefs, practices differ from one’s own.” But to many now, tolerance has become “agreeing with my opinion, belief, and practice; otherwise you are a bigot and thus ‘cancelled.’” What do you think caused that change? Is there a way to combat it? How did my example of the University of Chicago “Principles” and the joint Harvard/Princeton document sadden and/or encourage you?
4. Read 1 Cor. 13:6 again. “Agape love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.” In my sermon, I compared tolerance and love; I also used several examples of how Jesus, in the Gospels, sought to “speak the truth in agape love.” What was confusing? What was helpful? How does He model “rejoicing in the truth” for us?
5. There is the famous maxim: “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” Are there any takeaways from this discussion and material? How might you “speak the truth in love” going forward? And how might you receive someone else “speaking the truth in love” to you? Why is this so crucial for growth in following Jesus Christ?