

Welcome to MDPC!

app.mdpc.org

connectonline.mdpc.org

give.mdpc.org

Easy Check-in!

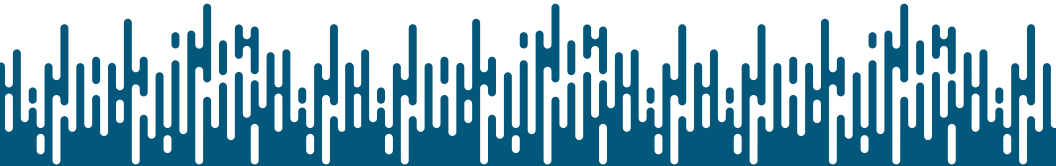
Download the free MDPC app to your iPhone or Android.

Guest Registry

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

Give Online

Make one-time or recurring gifts with ease.



Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

8:30a Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 19, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7](#)

Welcome		Clay Brown
Advent Reading and Call to Worship		
Songs of Praise	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High Here I Am to Worship</i>	
Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Rachel Poysky
Song of Response	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Song of Preparation	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)</i>	
Message	Christmas Questions: Why This Place? Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>O Holy Night / Alleluia</i>	
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



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.

Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

9:45a Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 19, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7](#)

Welcome		Meliza Gómez
Advent Readings and Call to Worship		
Children's Moment	Michael Middleton with The Yellow School Kids	
Songs of Praise	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> <i>Here I Am to Worship</i>	
Moment of Confession and Assurance		Hillary McMullen
Song of Preparation	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)</i>	
Message	Christmas Questions: Why This Place? Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>O Holy Night / Alleluia</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Clay Brown
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians in this service:

Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Tim Hughes, violin;
Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders



Sunday Worship Playlist

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Christmas Questions

Advent 2021

11:15a Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec 19, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7](#)

Preludes	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Away in a Manger</i>	arr. Martin arr. Edward H. Wetherill
Welcome		Clay Brown
Advent Readings and Call to Worship		
Choral Introit	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	Howard Helvey (b.1968)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	#22; Vs. 1, 4 REGENT SQUARE
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Rachel Poysky
*Affirmation of Faith	from the United Church of Canada	
Anthem	<i>What Child</i>	Ruth Morris Gray (b.1961)
Baptism	of Monire Nadjafli	Dan Aikins
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Once in Royal David's City</i>	arr. Jeffrey Van (b.1943)
Message	Christmas Questions: Why This Place? Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	#44; Vs. 1, 4 St. Louis
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Sinfonia from Christmas Cantata</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Musicians in this service:
Megan Berti, congas; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

MDPC Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

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Sunday, Dec 19, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Dana Denney passed away on Dec 8.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of Dec 12, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 9,695,842
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 1,604,158



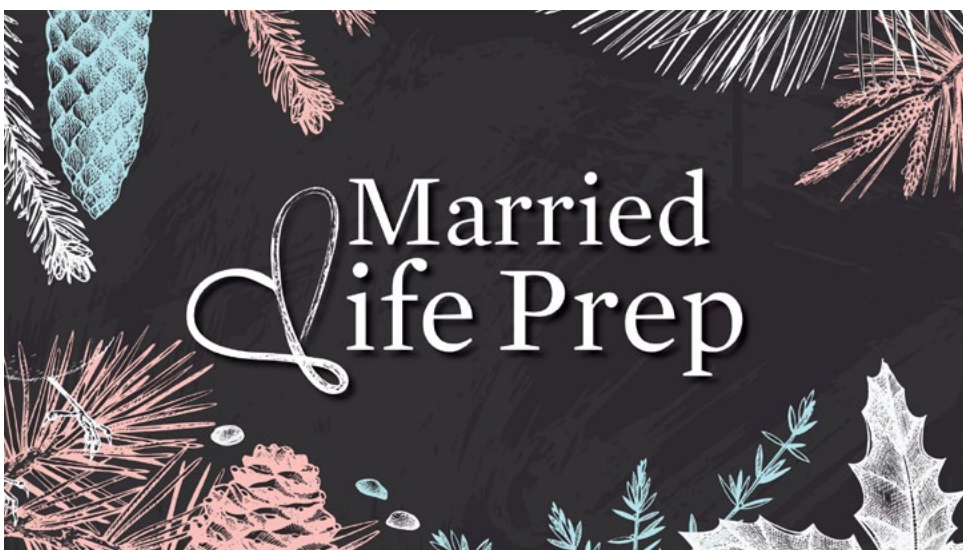
Sundays in Lobby • Weekdays in Front Office • Online

Give the gift of hope! Each card purchased for friends and loved ones (in the amount of your choosing) supports an MDPC ministry partner. Learn more at market.mdpc.org.



Tuesday Evenings starting Jan 11

Do you have questions about the Bible and theology? Have you ever considered attending seminary? Do you love learning? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, we have something unique for you! Learn more at institute.mdpc.org.



Sundays, Jan 9-30

Research shows certain marriage prep programs to be particularly effective at preventing divorce and increasing marital satisfaction. Learn more at mlp.mdpc.org. Engaged couples and those married up to 3 years are encouraged to join us!



Thursdays, Jan 13-Mar 3 • 4:30-6:00pm

Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one? Do you wonder where God is in your pain and if you will ever feel joy again? If so, you are not alone. Learn more about our 8-week grief recovery program at grief.mdpc.org.



Apply through Dec 31 • Training begins Jan 11

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.



Friday, Dec 24

Our Savior is born! Celebrate with us at the Family Service at **4:00pm**, or one of three Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary: **5:30, 7:00, and 8:30pm**.



Order a Custom Christmas Dinner!

MDPC's Food Services provider is offering pre-ordered meals to make your Christmas simple and delicious! All orders are custom priced per family size and chosen menu items. Get your order started by visiting feast.mdpc.org.



Register Now for Spring Recreation Classes!

Kids classes include Basketball, Chess, Tumbling & Gymnastics, Abrakadoodle Art, Woodworking, Piano, Soccer, Theater, and Dance. Adults can enjoy Art, Piano, and two kinds of Yoga! Learn more and sign up at reach.mdpc.org.



Need a soft place to land? Unsure of where to go next? Learn more about our short-term counseling ministry by emailing MDPC counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell, or visit counseling.mdpc.org.



Sat & Sun, Feb 26 & 27 • Registration opens Jan 9

Make a comeback! Church in the City is the annual Sunday when MDPC leaves the pews to serve our city. Save the dates and stay tuned to citc.mdpc.org for more details.



Fri-Sun, Feb 18-20 • Willis, Texas

Enjoy fellowship and relaxation at the luxurious Historic Hill House, just a short drive from Houston! Come for connection, gourmet food, and a chance to rest in the presence of God, with others. Details at getaway.mdpc.org.



Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 2:1-7 • Why This Place?

This is the fourth in our Advent series on Christmas Questions. Today we look at a prophecy from the Book of Micah which predicts the Messiah, Savior, Lord, will come from Bethlehem. Micah, one of the 12 minor prophets, lived in the Southern Kingdom and was a younger contemporary of Isaiah. He, along with Isaiah, Hosea, and Amos, burst on the scene in the eighth century B.C., and predicted God’s judgment on both Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom.) But they also foretold God would show mercy in the end if the people would repent. How can words from 700 years prior to Jesus’ birth speak to the first century A.D.—and also to our own time?

1. Have you ever known anyone who made predictions or read books where the author prophesied? How successful were they? Why are most of these characters found out to be charlatans?
2. Yet the Bible is full of prophecies. Why does God (through human prophets) choose to give humans information before it occurs? Is it out of meanness or graciousness? Judgment or hoped-for repentance? Confusion or clarity? Why might your answers to the previous questions result in either comfort or concern to you and those you love?
3. Read Micah 5:2-5a and 6:6-8. What strikes you about these verses? What is meant by the phrase, “you...who are one of the little clans of Judah”? Whether large or small, insignificant or powerful, what does God require in Micah 6:6-8? How are you doing with this prescription? Perhaps our failures individually and as nations regarding this requirement caused God to send His Son. Ponder and discuss...
4. Read Luke 2:1-7 for the second time this Advent. How does this reading that is connected with Micah cause new thoughts and insights to bubble up? What hit you this time? Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem and in a stable? What is the point?
5. With Micah 6:6-8 in mind, ponder Jesus’ whole life from birth through death and resurrection. How did Jesus live out perfectly what we couldn’t live out, but what God requires? Be specific in your examples from the Gospels.
6. How does Jesus coming to our world, and to you, help you/us get back to God? How might you trust Jesus and His way of salvation for the first time (or again) this Christmas?