



THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

Revelation 2:12-17



Campus Closure
MDPC will be closed Mar 14-18
for facility maintenance.

Sun, Mar 13, 2022

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Victory in Jesus / I Love You, Lord</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Beth Case
Song of Response	<i>It Is Well with My Soul</i>	
Moment of Prayer		Beth Case
Song of Preparation	<i>Christ Our Hope in Life and Death</i>	
Message	What Jesus Says to the Church: <u>Pergamum</u>	Alf Halvorson

9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Announcements		
Song of Praise	<i>Glorious Day</i>	
*Moment of Confession & Assurance		Amanda Grace Caldwell
Songs of Preparation	<i>A Thousand Hallelujahs / What a Beautiful Name</i>	
Message	What Jesus Says to the Church: <u>Pergamum</u>	Alf Halvorson
New Members		Dan Aikins
Song of Response	<i>Christ Our Hope in Life and Death</i>	

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

11:15 SERVICE

Prelude	<i>Sonata No. 8</i>	W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Welcome & Call to Worship		Beth Case
Choral Introit	<i>God So Loved the World</i>	John Stainer (1840-1901)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Lead On, O King Eternal</i>	#447; Vs. 1, 2 LANCASHIRE
*Prayer of Confession & Affirmation of Faith		Rachel Poysky
*Congregational Response	<i>Open My Eyes</i>	#324; Vs. 2 OPEN MY EYES
Anthem	<i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i>	Joel Raney/arr. White
New Members		Dan Aikins
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Father, Forgive</i>	Lee Dengler/arr. White
Message	What Jesus Says to the Church: <u>Pergamum</u>	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>O Jesus, I Have Promised</i>	#388; Vs. 3, 4 ANGEL'S STORY
Postlude	<i>Prelude in C Minor</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Musicians at 11:15: Miriam Belyatsky, violin; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Erika Johnson, cello; Kathryn White, organ/piano

NEW MEMBERS

To see New Member photos and bios, [skip to page 5](#) of this PDF.

Yohandri Bolaño	Hector and Jocelyn Longoria	Leslie and Larry Sloan
Linda David	Joe and Connie Mannke	Jennise, Jeff, Jackson, and Justin Stubbs
Hayden and Laura Drum	Sean and Lisa McChristian	Jeff and Krissy Taylor
Airam Jiménez and Waleska Cepeda	David Pierce	Hank and Jori Thompson
Petter Jiménez and Oriana Olivo	Jenny Pierce	Laura Villarruel
John LaCarter	Luis Roblejo	María Villarruel
Darwin Javier García Lizarazo	Eduardo Sánchez and Irisbeth Ángulo	Yra Moreno Villarruel
	Stephen and Jackie Sibley	Mike and Johnnye Vinson
	Mayr Sit	

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Give Online

give.mdpc.org

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



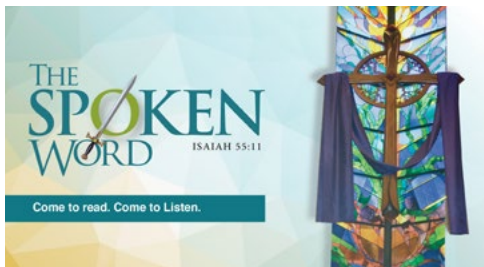
Thursdays starting Mar 24

Food, open dialogue, interesting conversation...who will you invite? Spring Alpha is on Thursdays, starting with dinner at 7:00pm. Learn more and sign up at alpha.mdpc.org.



Fri, Mar 18 • 8:30am-3:30pm

Make space for an intentional day with God. Spiritual directors will be present to offer guidance. Learn more and register: silent.mdpc.org



Apr 11-14

Our annual out-loud cover-to-cover reading of the Bible returns. Be part of this Holy Week tradition! Read or volunteer as a host at tsw.mdpc.org.



Order by Sun, Apr 10

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one. You can complete the form online (\$9/dedication) at lily.mdpc.org.



Apr 11-15 (24/7 beg. 6:00am Mon)

Before or after you participate in The Spoken Word, plan to visit our interactive prayer room in the Parlor. tsw.mdpc.org.



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.

Births and Deaths

Jerry Gauche passed away Mar 7.

Financial Update as of Mar 6, 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$12,300,000
Income to Date	\$1,951,106
Needed to Meet Budget	\$10,348,894

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS continued



Updates from Our Mission Partners in Ukraine • To learn about MDPC's recent gifts to our mission partners in Ukraine, visit the link below. Their greatest stated need is PRAYER! Pick up a prayer guide today, or visit Ukraine.mdpc.org.



Wed, Mar 30 • 7:00pm

Join other women for a Mediterranean cuisine cooking demo by a private chef! To register, visit the event link at women.mdpc.org.



REACH Summer Camp Registration Is Open!

REACH kids' camps at MDPC range from sports to art to STEM! Spots fill fast, so see all the camps and sign up today at reach.mdpc.org.



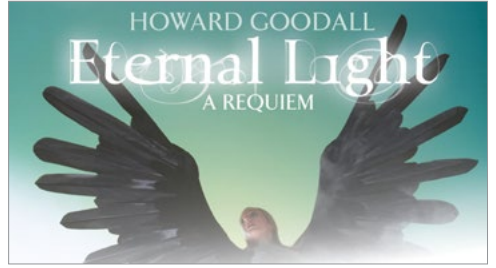
**Sun, Mar 27 • 10:45-11:15am
Gathering Room**

The Link is designed to help you find your place at MDPC, whether you're visiting, a new member, or an MDPC family legacy! Visit thelink.mdpc.org for details.



Use your gift of hospitality!

The Sunday Welcome Team shares the love of Jesus both in-person and online. Contact Dan Aikins (daikins@mdpc.org) to learn how you can use your gifts to serve the Kingdom!



Sing on Good Friday, Apr 15

Join the Sanctuary Choir and chamber orchestra in a special presentation at the noon worship service. Learn more at sing.mdpc.org.



The Faith Is Strong in You..

MDPC's vacation Bible school is open for registration! To be able to welcome as many kids as possible, we also need LOTS of teen and adult volunteers. Please consider serving with us (**9:30am-12:30pm, July 11-15**).



During the Lenten series, in lieu of sermon notes, you're invited to use the curriculum for MDPC's six-week Lenten Study. Each week's lesson will be shared here, or you can download a PDF of the full study guide at lentstudy.mdpc.org.

CHECK IN with one another as you gather. How is it going? [5 minutes]

INTRODUCE those who missed the first meeting by having them share their responses to the following questions, and share your responses with them in an abbreviated way: [15 minutes]

What is your name?

Who are your immediate family members if any (name, age, relationship)?

How are you connected to MDPC (or the church family to which you belong)?

What is your hobby, pastime, or avocation? Describe why it is so important to you.

What is the most recent passage of the Bible you have read?

SHARE your "praises" (reasons for thanksgiving to God) and "petitions" (reasons for intercession to God). Please be as open as you are comfortable in being. Then **PRAY** for the praises and petitions by some combination of: 1) silent prayer, 2) several people voicing brief prayers, and 3) one person praying on behalf of the group. Include a prayer for God's Spirit to help with the study and discussion. [15 minutes]

READ ALOUD in your group the passage for this meeting, Revelation 2:12-17, with at least one volunteer, then **DISCUSS** with the group your responses to the questions below: [40 minutes]

1. How is the risen Jesus described here? What do you think this description emphasizes about Him? Why is this important for the Christians in Pergamum to know? For us?
2. Pergamum is the home of numerous temples and altars dedicated to false gods. It was also the headquarters of the Roman proconsul, and thus the seat of government for the province of Asia. How does all of this help to qualify Pergamum as "where Satan dwells" (ESV)? What might it mean to live as a follower of Jesus in the heart of "enemy territory" (ESV)? What can we learn from the Pergamum believers for living in our day?
3. How has the Pergamum church paid dearly for its faithfulness? How does Jesus praise and lift up this congregation?
4. By comparison, most American congregations have it much easier than the Pergamum church. But Christians in other countries experience great persecution because of their faith. Give at least two examples of modern-day Christians facing persecution. Tell a little about them and their struggle. How can we support them?
5. The Pergamum Christians do not escape chastisement from the risen Jesus, however. What does He say about them? If you had to sum up His criticism in a few words, what would you say? (Note: Balaam appears to be a reference to the prophet credited in Numbers 31:16 and 2 Peter 2:15 with leading the Israelites astray, and we do not know about the Nicolaitans with certainty.)
6. Often in the Bible, sexual immorality (fornication, adultery, etc.) is used as a metaphor for spiritual immorality. How is this metaphor helpful in understanding the depth of what it means to be unfaithful to Christ in today's world?

TOUCH BASE about your assignment for next time from Revelation 2:18-29, the message to the Church in Thyatira (pages 7-8). [5 minutes]

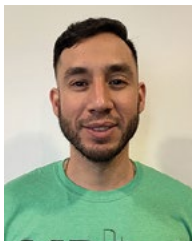
PRAY as you end your time together.



MDPC NEW MEMBERS

*Introduced in worship on
Sun, Mar 13, 2022*

We are excited to welcome these new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to MDPC.



Yohandri Bolaño

Yohandri is a native Venezuelan. His wife and children (11, 5, and 2) are currently in Venezuela and his greatest yearning is to have his family with him. Yohandri currently is employed with Dixon Furniture, and he enjoys reading books about personal growth and listening to music.



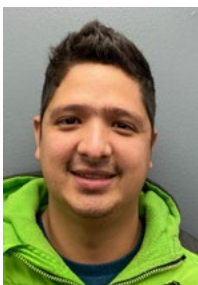
Linda David

Linda is a native Texan blessed with two sons and four precious grandchildren. She has been self-employed all her adult life with several successful business including home building, rental properties, foundation repair, irrigation systems, and a dance/exercise school. She enjoys dancing, photography, tennis, art, cooking, water sports, music, and investing. Linda is passionate about recycling and preserving potable water resources. She believes becoming a member of MDPC will deeply enrich her life.



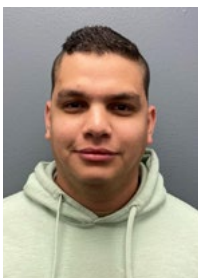
Hayden and Laura Drum

Hayden and Laura Drum have been married 16 years and have two daughters, Ashley (9) and Ava (7). Hayden is a Regional Director for TopBuild and Laura is the Director of Land for Alta Resources.



Airam Jiménez and Waleska Cepeda

Airam and Waleska have a 4-year-old and enjoy spending time together, listening to music, and sports.



Petter Jiménez and Oriana Olivo

Petter and Oriana are from Venezuela where Petter was a private pilot and Oriana a public accountant. They enjoy going to the movie theater, sports, and strolling around the city.



John LaCarter

John manages a team of graphic designers at Houston's First Baptist church. In his spare time he enjoys bike riding, nature hikes, music, and travel. He is currently serving in Alpha at MDPC.



Darwin Javier García Lizarazo

Darwin has a 3-year-old son, Isaac. He is a construction technician, and in his spare time enjoys reading, listening to music, and exercise.



Hector and Jocelyn Longoria

Hector and Jocelyn have been married almost four years and have a 3-year-old son, George, and a 8-month-old daughter, Hannah. Hector is Area Director of Revenue Management for Aimbridge Hospitality and Jocelyn is a full-time mom who loves being with their two young children. Hector and Jocelyn enjoy traveling, watching movies, and trying new restaurants.



Joe and Connie Mannke

Joe and Connie have been married 25 years. Joe, who is a chef and restaurateur, worked many places around the world before settling in Houston. He is now retired. Connie is a retired RN and Certified Diabetes Educator. They both enjoy entertaining friends and family for a fine meal in their home in West Houston.



Sean and Lisa McChristian

Sean and Lisa have been married for 16 years and have an 11-year-old daughter, Emmie, who attends Second Baptist School. Sean is a partner at Porter Hedges LLP. His practice focuses on construction law. Lisa is a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys MDPC Bible studies and volunteering.



David Pierce

David is delighted to accompany his wife, Jenny, in her new membership at MDPC. As a retired Presbyterian pastor, David loves the Lord and the church. When David and Jenny moved to Houston just two months ago, they already knew which church they wanted to attend. They have known and appreciated the mission and ministry of MDPC for over 35 years, and are finally able to be here!



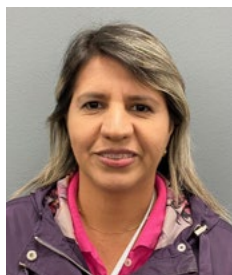
Jenny Pierce

Jenny Pierce is from Tulsa, Oklahoma. She recently moved from New Hampshire with her husband, David, back to the south to Houston. She enjoys watching her granddaughters grow up into young ladies while living in the same home. Jenny also enjoys walking, knitting, and reading.



Luis Roblejo

Luis is the father of three children (17, 14, 10). He's a dental assistant and enjoys learning different languages. Luis is currently taking courses at the Christian Leaders Institute, and in his spare time he likes to read, listen to music, and exercise.



Eduardo Sánchez and Irisbeth Ángulo

Eduardo and Irisbeth have two children, Camila (8) and Josue (6). They are from Venezuela where Irisbeth was a dentist and Eduardo a military administrator. In their spare time they enjoy serving others in need.



Stephen and Jackie Sibley

Stephen and Jackie met at the University of Texas and have been married 8.5 years. They have two daughters, Hadley (3) and Harper (1). Stephen is Director of Investments for IDV (a real estate development company) and Jackie is VP of Business Development for Chicago Title Commercial.



Mary Sit

Mary Sit is a producer/host of HCC-TV's *Global Outlook* and WH-DH-TV's *Asian Focus* in Boston. The recently retired communications manager once worked at *The Boston Globe* and *The Houston Chronicle*. She's the mother of two adopted daughters from China - Amy (24), a married cardiovascular nurse, and Sara (19), an education major.



Leslie and Larry Sloan

Leslie and Larry Sloan have been married for 17 years and have three children, McKenzie, Parker and Blake. Leslie is a native Houstonian who grew up in the area and was an active member of MDPC Youth while in middle and high school. Larry is originally from New Braunfels. Both graduated from Texas A&M. Larry works in commercial real estate and Leslie manages the kids and their daily schedules. Leslie serves Outreach and Kids' Meals. Larry is a member of FiND and Men's Life. They are looking forward to many years of membership and memories at MDPC.



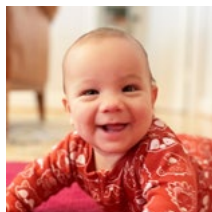
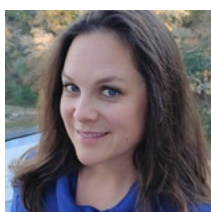
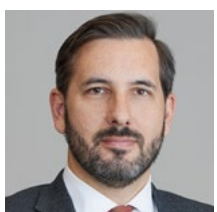
Jennise, Jeff, Jackson, and Justin Stubbs

Jennise and Jeff have been married for 21 years and have three sons, Jackson (17), Justin (14), and John (10). Jeff is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch and Jennise is an attorney at Shook, Hardy & Bacon. They were members at Chapelwood Methodist for many years and are very active in the community.



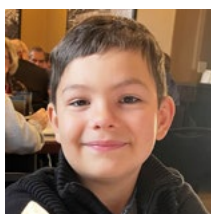
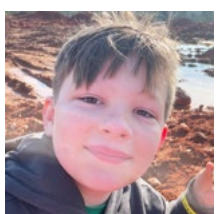
Jeff and Krissy Taylor

Jeff and Krissy have been married 18 years and have two daughters, Emma and Colette. Jeff is an IT Manager at Shell, and Krissy teaches pre-K at Christ Memorial. Emma is a sophomore at Stratford, and Colette is an 8th grader at Memorial Middle. They enjoy spending time together as a family and traveling.



Hank and Jori Thompson

Hank and Jori Thompson have been married 11 years and have three boys, Wyatt (9), Jude(7) and Archer (8 months). Hank is Vice President of Southwestern Holdings, Inc. and Jori is owner of Wyatt and Co. Creative, a digital marketing agency. Jori has a passion for tennis and Hank loves all things outdoors.





Laura Villarruel

Laura is from Venezuela. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her family, shopping, and dancing.



María Villarruel

María is from Venezuela and has four children, Yra, Cid, Araim, and Petter. She is a craftswoman who enjoys crafting and crocheting.



Yra Moreno Villarruel

Yra is from Venezuela and is an industrial engineer. She has a daughter, Milagros, who is in 5th grade. Yra enjoys reading, interpreting, going to the beach, exercising, and coordinating small groups.



Mike and Johnnye Vinson

Mike and Johnnye Vinson, married for 57 years, have a grown son and daughter and twin grandchildren who are seniors in college. Mike retired from the Oil and Gas Industry and enjoys golf and fishing. Johnnye loves bridge and singing in the choir. They both enjoy traveling with friends and family.

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Ready for the Next Step?

Discover MDPC with Alf • Get to know MDPC through a conversation with our Senior Pastor, Alf Halvorson as he shares about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC.

Explore Our New Member Class! • Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will explore whether becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. New members are introduced to the congregation at a worship service and invited to meet with our Session to be received as MDPC members.

See upcoming dates for these two opportunities: discover.mdpc.org

