

**Coordinating Team**

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor  
 Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director  
 Brandon Gaide | Young Adult Pastor  
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Director  
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Director  
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor  
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Director  
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor  
 Christyn Knoop | Adult Ministries Director  
 Gena Kookon | Senior Leadership Ministry Coord.  
 Laura Miller | Youth Director  
 Rick Myers | Caring Ministries Pastor  
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor  
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator  
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor  
 Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Director  
 Karen Winship | Human Resources Director

Dave Peterson | Pastor Emeritus  
 Gary Bowker | Pastor Emeritus

MDPC Foundation

For information, contact Business Administrator  
 Becky Riggs at [briggs@mdpc.org](mailto:briggs@mdpc.org) or 713-953-2570.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT**

**Pilgrims In Progress**



Come to learn and discuss various Biblical and discipleship topics in an atmosphere of warmth and good humor. Videos, class discussions, and guest teachers help in expanding knowledge of Christ.

**Sundays, 9:45-11:00 AM | MC Room 103**

Drop in, or contact Bob Chesshir with questions:  
[bchesshir@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bchesshir@sbcglobal.net) or 281-920-9528

**Ministry Partners 2016**

This week, we ask that you pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

**United Campus Ministry** shares the transforming power of God's love at colleges throughout Houston by inviting students, faculty, and staff into a personal relationship with Christ. Through Bible studies, fellowship, and mission trips, it prepares students to be leaders in the faith communities to which God calls them.

[ucmhouston.com](http://ucmhouston.com)

**Urban Outreach** is a Christian apartment ministry with onsite locations at apartments in Spring Branch, Aldine, Alief, Gullfton, Eastside, and Northside neighborhoods. It offers programs that address spiritual, physical, and social needs to help strengthen and preserve inner-city families.

[urbanoutreachinc.org](http://urbanoutreachinc.org)

**Faith In Practice** works to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term medical mission trips and health education. The doctors, nurses, and dentists who volunteer on these missions are called by God to demonstrate the love and compassion that is a sign of His presence among us.

[faithinpractice.org](http://faithinpractice.org)

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**OPERATING INCOME**

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 30, 2016)	\$ 7,125,560	64%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 3,924,440	36%

Pictured: Faith In Practice's life-changing mission is to minister to the poor, while providing spiritually enriching experiences for its volunteers. Your giving helps support this MDPC ministry partner's work in Guatemala, which includes short-term surgical, medical, and dental mission trips and health-related educational programs. >




# HIGHER GROUND

## Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at **MDPC**

**Help Texas Children**

Over 6,000 children in Texas are waiting for families to call their own. Join us to learn how God could use you to make a dramatic difference in a child's life.

**Today at 12:30 PM | Parlor**

Contact Keri Mosk: [kmosk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmosk@mdpc.org), 713-490-9265

**Hoop It Up! Youth Basketball**

Boys and girls, pre-K to ninth grade, join Team MDPC to play in the Kingdom Basketball League of area churches. Practices start the week of November 30. You must register at MDPC to practice at MDPC!

Players & coaches, register by Nov 20: [sports.mdpc.org](http://sports.mdpc.org)

**4th & 5th Grade Pizza Party**

K through 3rd graders earlier in the year, now it's 4th and 5th graders' turn for pizza, games, and fun!

**This Friday, Nov 11 | 6:00-8:30 PM | The Galaxy**  
 RSVP to Mallory Moore: [mmoore@mdpc.org](mailto:mmoore@mdpc.org)

**Use Your Business Skills**

Newspring's annual Business Plan Competition begins in January, and it's seeking advisers to help community college students draft business plans. This is a great opportunity to witness to your Christian faith in a secular world. Advisers work in pairs.

Contact Robert Westheimer: [rwestheimer1@comcast.net](mailto:rwestheimer1@comcast.net)

**Thanksgiving "Meal in a Bag"**

Help others celebrate! Fill a grocery bag from a list found online. These non-perishables plus a turkey will be given to a deserving Spring Branch family.

**Please return filled bags by tomorrow, Nov 7.**

View the grocery list: [holiday.mdpc.org](http://holiday.mdpc.org)

**Lunch Connection**

A monthly small group for parents of children with special needs. Enjoy a brief presentation by a community resource provider followed by discussion and questions. Lunch provided. Come as you are!

**Second Tuesdays | 12:00-1:00 PM | MC Room 102**  
**Nov 8 - Strategies for Challenging Behaviors**  
 RSVP to Keri Mosk: [kmosk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmosk@mdpc.org), 713-490-9265

**BLESS Friday, November 25**

MDPC has been turning Black Friday into BLESS Friday since 2010. Serving instead of shopping is a great, Christ-focused way to begin the Advent Season with a thankful and giving heart.

Register for community projects and learn about projects you can do at home at [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org).

**Pies & Treats for a Thanksgiving Feast**

Made-from-scratch pies, breads, and giant cookies!

**Order by Wednesday, Nov 16: [treats.mdpc.org](http://treats.mdpc.org)**

**Blood Drive**

Donating is a simple way to support our community.  
**Sunday, Nov 13 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

**Pie Love You**

Jesus Said Love shares Christ's love with women in the commercial sex trade. Help JSL share its mission with area businesses by donating canned pumpkin pie mix, 5-oz evaporated milk, metal pie pans, and cash for crusts.

To learn more: [pieloveyou.mdpc.org](http://pieloveyou.mdpc.org)

**Advent Retreat**

Empty the clutter and be filled with the hope of Christmas. Join us for a day of solitude and silence with a sprinkling of guided teaching.

**Wednesday, Dec 7 | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM | \$40**  
**Cenacle Retreat Center, led by Martha Moore**  
 Register: [empty.mdpc.org](http://empty.mdpc.org)

**Women's Spiritual Retreat in Brenham**

A one-day retreat to reconnect with God in the beautiful Texas Hill Country.

**Next Saturday, Nov 12 | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM | \$20**  
 Register: [women.mdpc.org](http://women.mdpc.org)

**God on the Move in Southeast Europe**

Hear the latest on what God is doing through Renewing Our Minds reconciliation ministry. You'll be amazed at the stories of refugees who have encountered Jesus on their journey through Europe.

**NEW DATE: Tuesday, Nov 15 | 6:30 PM | Parlor**



# MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

## SPECIAL POST-ELECTION PRAYER TIMES

Join us for a pastor-led time of prayer and reconciliation. Regardless of who wins the presidential election, it has been a stressful and contentious time. We encourage everyone to pray for the new leadership and for our country.

**Wednesday, November 9**  
11:00-11:30 AM (Amphitheater) or 6:00-6:30 PM (Chapel)

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

## 8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Dave Steane

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Christyn Knoop

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-23)

Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

SONG OF CELEBRATION

## 9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

Meliza Gómez

\*WORSHIP MUSIC

\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Tara Reynolds

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-23)

Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

SONG OF CELEBRATION

Musicians in these services: Joe Gavito, guitar; Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Craig Gysler, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums; Dennis Whittaker, bass

## 11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDES

*Cantabile*  
*To God Be the Glory*

Cesar Franck (1822-1890)  
arr. Mark Hayes (b.1953)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT

*God Gave to Us This Glorious Day*

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

#288; Vs. 1, 2 | ELLACOMBE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Christyn Knoop

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

OFFERTORY

*The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-23)

Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

ANTHEM OF DEDICATION

*Jacob's Ladder*

arr. Kent Newbury

POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune*

Rob Landes (b. 1941)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organist/pianist; Brian Yeakley, soloist

## MORE ON MDPC SUNDAY MORNINGS

**11:00 AM FIFTH SERVICE:** Join folks at Fifth for energetic worship, dynamic teaching, and casual community. Everyone is welcome! We meet in the Amphitheater. Visit [fifthservice.mdpc.org](http://fifthservice.mdpc.org) for more.

**11:15 AM SPANISH SERVICE:** MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries worships in the Chapel. For more information on Spanish and bilingual community events and programs, visit [fuente.mdpc.org](http://fuente.mdpc.org).

**VISITORS:** If you are visiting MDPC today, we are delighted that you have come to worship with us! Allow us to welcome you personally at the Connection Center located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?** For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at [dturet@mdpc.org](mailto:dturet@mdpc.org) and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.



# ALL-CHURCH LUNCH

TODAY! 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

ENTRÉE SELECTIONS (\$10): Roasted Turkey or Pecan Catfish, served with Sweet Potato Mash, Squash Casserole, and Green Beans  
ENTRÉE SALAD (\$8.50): Grilled Chicken over Greens with Goat Cheese & Apples

CHILDREN'S MENU (\$4): Chicken Tenders

JOIN US! EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

HELP!



# Holiday Craft Sale



Sewing for Missions's annual craft sale is back, offering lovely hand-made gifts and decorations, and a selection of pendants in agate, tiger eye, and jasper. All proceeds support Sewing for Missions, and the items they make and donate all year long.

Wednesday, November 16 • 5:00-8:00 PM | CLC 170

Thursday, November 17 • 9:00 AM-1:30 PM | CLC 170



This is more than a presentation - you'll come away with **practical, usable tools to instill life-long faith** in adolescents.

**Wednesday, November 16**  
7:00 PM | Sanctuary

Speaker **Brad Griffin of Fuller Youth Institute** has authored several Sticky Faith books. Free event; please RSVP at [stickyfaith.mdpc.org](http://stickyfaith.mdpc.org).



## Christmas for Kids

**MDPC Women** is partnering with Small Steps Nurturing Center to provide Christmas gifts for 200 siblings of children in their programs. Donors are asked to provide three wrapped gifts per child for a total of \$50-100 per child.

Pick up forms and gift bags:  
**Sundays through November 20**

Please bring wrapped gifts to MDPC by **Thursday, December 1**.

## Girls' Getaway


**Friday-Sunday, February 24-26**

Mill Creek Ranch Resort  
Canton, Texas

Gather for a weekend filled with fun, connecting, and good eating! We'll enjoy s'mores, a bonfire, shopping, and other activities! Rooming is available in two-person cottages, so grab a friend and secure your spot today.

Sign up is open through November 11 (\$140): [getaway.mdpc.org](http://getaway.mdpc.org)





## HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew 7:13-23  
Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

This is the tenth in our series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Martin Luther says of Matthew 7:13-23, "Our Lord has stopped preaching and closes His time off with several warnings." Jesus is tough here as opposed to tender.

1. What is the first warning, as recorded in verses 13 and 14?
2. How does John 10:1-10 help you know what (or who) the gate is? Why is the Jesus-way the narrow-way? One of the greatest of virtues, as our society sees it, is to be broad-minded. To doubt this is to be intolerant. Jesus offers a different teaching. Is He right or is the world right? Explain and defend your answer with examples.
3. In verses 15-20, what is the second warning? Why is talk cheap? Why is someone's *walk* more of a true indicator of the person than *talk* alone? What fruit(s) might you look for in a person's life or an organization's life to determine its faithfulness and effectiveness?
4. One theologian has written, "Good works do not make a person good, but a good person does good works." In other words, we aren't saved by works but by grace; once saved by Christ, we offer our works in gratitude to God for saving us. It is the difference between justification and sanctification. Discuss these concepts...
5. In verses 21-23, Jesus offers a third warning. What is it? How is it similar and different from the previous two warnings?
6. Jesus talks about two gates, two kinds of trees, two doers, and ultimately, in verses 24-27, two houses. He is setting up a series of choices for all of us, between a series of two alternatives. Jesus suggests that after a commitment to Christ, we must make some real and, at times, painful and difficult choices to be Kingdom-people. We can't stay at the fork in the road and never choose. And our choices matter, regarding joy, fruit, and our futures. What choices has God placed before you right now? Do you need any more information? Prayer? To project out what each path would produce in a year or a lifetime? Decide today; don't delay!
7. November 6th is Covenant Sunday at MDPC. It is when those who call MDPC home make an anonymous financial pledge to God for the coming year. How has Jesus' Sermon on the Mount helped you understand better how to use your time, and talents, and treasure for God's glory? If you have not made a pledge in the past, why not make one this year? And if you have pledged in the past, what is God calling you to give this year in response to how you have been blessed?

