

**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**

**Grace Fellowship**



Grace Fellowship is designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ through Bible study and friendship with other 40s and up.

Lots of laughter included!

**Sundays, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM | MC Room 219**

Drop in to say hello, or contact John Fry with questions at [johnmfry23@aol.com](mailto:johnmfry23@aol.com).

**The White Rose is given in memory of**

- Martha Armistead, who passed away October 25, 2016.
- Gwen Lawrence Scott, who passed away October 27, 2016

**Ministry Partners 2016**

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

**Vita-Living** offers lifelong services and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It maintains homes with trained staff and specialists, also offering in-home care. Vita-Living is best known for its success with those who have a dual diagnosis of mental retardation and mental illness, and those with behavioral challenges.  
[vitaliving.org](http://vitaliving.org)

**Westside Homeless Partnership** is a two-stage housing initiative in Spring Branch for homeless families with children, or families in imminent danger of becoming homeless. Through financial support and comprehensive services, clients receive education and counseling needed to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.  
[westsidehomeless.org](http://westsidehomeless.org)

**Faith Ministry** serves the poorest of the poor in the colonias of Reynosa and Miguel Aleman in Mexico. It builds homes, provides medical care and education, and teaches locals about Jesus Christ. Faith Ministry welcomes teams to work alongside them and show the love of Jesus to these communities.  
[faithministry.org](http://faithministry.org)

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**OPERATING INCOME**

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Nov. 6, 2016)	\$ 7,310,869	66%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 3,739,131	34%

Pictured: Since 2006, Texas has ranked in the bottom 10 states of United Cerebral Palsy's annual reports for programs supporting the developmentally disabled. Texas has a waiting list of over 60,000 names for program placement, with a current wait time of up to 11 years. Your support through MDPC helps Vita-Living combat these statistics! >



**HIGHER GROUND**

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Coming Up at **MDPC**

**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)

**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 Today**

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)

**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**

**Prayer Garden & Columbarium Tour**

Enjoy coffee and cookies as you visit the Prayer Garden and Columbarium, located at the south end of our church campus. The Columbarium Committee will be present to answer questions.  
**Sunday, November 20 | Between Services**

**Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications**

Poinsettias for the chancels may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one.  
**\$8/dedication | Order deadline: December 16**  
 Details and to order online: [flowers.mdpc.org](http://flowers.mdpc.org)

**Mission Market: Give a gift. Change a life.**

When you purchase Mission Market Christmas cards, 100% of the money you give is sent to the MDPC ministry partner of your choice. These partners live out Christ's mission, helping inner-city youth, hungry and homeless families, disabled children, people without access to clean water, or abandoned children orphaned by AIDS.  
**Sundays, Nov 27-Dec 18 | Sanctuary Lobby**  
 Contact Jan Roe with questions: [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org)

**A Savior Is Born by Pete Briscoe**

MDPC offers this Advent series on one of the most familiar stories in human history: the birth of Jesus in a lowly manger in Bethlehem. A Savior, which is Christ the Lord. In our frantic, consumer-driven society, we must be intentional to ensure that Christmas remains a Holy Day. This four-session short-film and Scripture study is the perfect way to get us back to the heart of our faith.  
**Nov 27-Dec 23 (4 sessions)**  
 Visit [rightnowmedia.mdpc.org](http://rightnowmedia.mdpc.org) to stream for free! Free study guides available for registered participants.

**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)

**Concert Series: Mercury Christmas-Navidad**

A downtown orchestra concert in the heart of Memorial. Details at [concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org).  
**Saturday, Dec 3 | 2:30 PM | Chapel**  
 Tickets start at \$19: [mercuryhouston.org](http://mercuryhouston.org)



**PLEASE** place your cell phone in airplane mode so the sound system will not experience interference. Thank you!

# MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

## 8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

VETERAN'S DAY TRIBUTE

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27)

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Dave Steane

Hal Lundgren

Rachel Poysky

Alf Halvorson

## 9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27)

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Meliza Gómez

The Music Box

Kyle Collins

Laura Miller

Dave Steane

Alf Halvorson

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

## 11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

*Psalm 23*

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

WELCOME

Dave Steane

VETERAN'S DAY TRIBUTE

Hal Lundgren

CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT

*O Clap Your Hands*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

#138; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | NICAEA

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostle's Creed

ANTHEM

*This Is the Day  
My Country 'Tis of Thee*

Les Garrett  
AMERICA

OFFERTORY

*Holy Ground*

arr. Clayton White (b. 1941)

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:24-27)

Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*My Hope Is Built*

#379; Vs. 1, 4 | FOUNDATION

POSTLUDE

*Postlude in F Minor*

George Blake (1912-1985)

Musicians in this service: Cassandra Black, soloist; Naomi Black, Naomi Black and The Yellow School Choir; Charles Hausmann, Sanctuary Choir conductor; Bill Lundgren, violinist; Kathryn White, organist/pianist

## 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.



**MDPC LIVE STREAMS 9:45 AND 11:15 WORSHIP:**

Follow us on Twitter for reminders and links to our Sunday live stream.

# WHY OUR KIDS WALK AWAY

TEENS WHO LEAVE THEIR FAITH BEHIND AND WHAT WE CAN DO

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

**THIS WEDNESDAY, November 16**  
7:00 PM | Sanctuary | Free Event

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

Also, plan now to attend the follow-up discussion group, led by Youth Ministries:

**Next Sunday, November 20**



# Holiday Craft Sale

Sewing for Missions' 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**



## 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.**

## Family Christmas Festival

We will have **Dinner, SNOW, Bingo, a Cake Walk, Advent Wreath** making, and a **Hot Chocolate Bar**. You are invited to bring Chex cereal (rice or corn flavor) for the Fuente Food Pantry **Mission Project**.

**Sunday, December 4 • 5:00-7:00 PM**

Come early for Christmas caroling featuring our children's choir, **The Music Box** (4:15, Chapel).

**The entire church family is welcome to attend!**

Expect the Unexpected



## You're Invited!

The women of MDPC invite you to a fun kick-off of the Christmas season! Grab your friends and come enjoy wassail, treats, and a few carols from our special guests, the children of The Yellow School. All women are welcome!

**Tuesday, December 6**  
10:00-11:30 AM • Parlor

Childcare available by reservation: [childcare@mdpc.org](mailto:childcare@mdpc.org)

# BLESS FRIDAY

BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING  
BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

Friday, November 25, 2016

The action of serving instead of shopping is a great Christ-focused way for you and your friends and family to begin the Advent season with a thankful and giving heart. MDPC has been turning black Friday into BLESS Friday since 2010!

## Decorate for Christmas

Help Vita-Living residents living in Spring Branch decorate their home and together enjoy the fun of getting ready for Christmas with games, making ornaments, and helping residents compete in the infamous door-wrapping contest. Must be 8 years or older.

**Registration required:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Sharon & Chuck Fox:** [ssfox@icloud.com](mailto:ssfox@icloud.com), 713-502-6346

## The Squishy Pillow Project

Make no-sew fleece pillows for seafarers docked at the Port of Houston. For these men working far from home, this may be the only Christmas gift they receive. Chaplains with the International Seafarers Center hand out the pillows on board. Simple to make and no sewing required! Bring completed pillows to worship on November 27.

**Pillow instructions:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Peter Ham:** [peterham@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peterham@sbcglobal.net), 832-264-7915



## Bag Beans and Rice

Bag beans and rice for families served by the MDPC Fuente Food Pantry. The pantry hands out food bags and over 700 pounds of beans and rice every Saturday morning.

The bags you make will help fill the pantry with one of its most needed staples. Bring filled baggies to worship on November 27.

**Instructions:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Debbi Nager:** [debnager7@gmail.com](mailto:debnager7@gmail.com), 713-984-2266



## Spend a Morning at The Beacon

Prepare and serve breakfast; bake bread; greet clients; or wash, dry, and fold clothing at The Beacon downtown. This 7:15-10:30 AM shift is perfect for you early morning people! Must be 13 years of age or older.

**Registration required:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact David Woehr:** [dw6971@gmail.com](mailto:dw6971@gmail.com), 713-416-1899



## Make Homeless Care Packages

Make Houston Cares Homeless Packages to remind people living on the street they are loved and not forgotten, and there is a place ready to offer them hope. Inside the bags are simple items like a bottle of water, a pair of socks, and an info card from Star of Hope with directions to its facilities. Keep a few care packages in your car or bring completed kits to worship on November 27.

**Instructions and a short video on how to hand kits out safely:** [blessfriday.mdpc.org](http://blessfriday.mdpc.org)

**Contact Jan Roe:** [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org), 713-490-9552



**MDPC**

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710



## HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:24-27

Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

There are some great questions to ask people about Scripture. For instance, *Who is your favorite character and why? Which is your favorite Old Testament and New Testament book? If you had to choose one passage as your all-time favorite, what would it be and why?* For me, the answer to the last question very well might be Matthew

7:24-27. In this parable, Jesus summarizes everything He has said in the previous two chapters of His most famous sermon with a clear and memorable word-picture. To me, this ranks right up there with the Parable of the Prodigal Son and the Story of the Good Samaritan.

1. This is a two-picture parable. I remember a professor in seminary saying, “When you get a two-picture parable like this, Jesus wants us to look for similarities and differences. That is the key to interpretation.” So:
  - What is the same here between the house built on rock and the house built on sand?
  - What then is the great variable in this parable? What is different in these two pictures—these two houses?
2. Talk about foundations. What is significant about these hidden, out-of-sight bases?
3. I talked about all places having challenges, like hurricanes or tornadoes or flooding or heat or cold. What is the good and bad about Houston? If you could choose anywhere to live, where would it be and why?
4. I suggested that all of us experience the “storms” of life. We don’t all get hit with the same-force winds, but what are some of the storms you have survived? Is there a storm you are facing personally right now? How might we pray for you?
5. My closing story or illustration was about the Golden Gate Bridge. I said, “It is totally preoccupied with its foundation.” Talk to your group about *your* foundation.
6. From verse 24 of Matthew 7, what specific aspect of Jesus’ Sermon do you need to *hear* and *do* so that your foundation is firm(er)? This week, how will you “walk it out”?

