

**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 Kookan | 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****Faith Explorations**

A dynamic group aged 60+ who meet for engaging discussion of popular Christian books. Come for fellowship and discussion. You'll be sure to learn something new!

**Sundays, 9:45-11:00 AM | CLC 170**

Drop in to say hello, or contact Dick and Judy  
 Ebling with questions at [richardebling@gmail.com](mailto:richardebling@gmail.com)  
 or 281-888-4581.

**Today's Chancel Flowers have been gifted by**

- Alan and Venus Suggs in celebration of their marriage.

**Ministry Partners 2016**

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

**The Women's Home** offers an 18-month residential program that helps women build the skills and self-confidence necessary to overcome mental illness and addiction and achieve self-sufficiency. The program is divided into three phases, each providing the support a woman needs on her path to healing.

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

**Far East Broadcasting Company** (FEBC) communicates the Good News among the nations through various media methods to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ. They broadcast in more than 160 languages in 46 countries. FEBC focuses on meeting the spiritual needs of its listeners and reaching the world for the Kingdom.

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

**Free Wheelchair Mission** (FWM) takes wheelchairs to places around the world where the disabled never have had mobility. FWM ministers to each recipient and shares the good news of Christ's call - that we are free in Him! Pray that a life would be transformed with each chair given.

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

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE****OPERATING INCOME**

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Nov. 13, 2016)	\$ 7,422,228	67%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 3,627,772	33%

Pictured: Your giving helps support MDPC partner Free Wheelchair Mission. Its wheelchair design and distribution model allows FWM to maximize its impact around the globe, lifting thousands off the ground and gifting them with not only mobility, but also with renewed dignity, hope, and independence. >



Sunday, November 20, 2016



**MDPC**  
 Memorial Drive  
 Presbyterian Church

# HIGHER GROUND

## Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

**Coming Up at MDPC****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. Today, between Services | South of Sanctuary

**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)

**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)

**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: Christmas-Navidad**

Mercury, a downtown orchestra, performs a Christmas concert in the heart of Memorial.

**Saturday, Dec 3 | 2:30 PM | Chapel**

Tickets start at just \$19 and may be purchased at the door or at [mercuryhouston.org](http://mercuryhouston.org). For more about the MDPC Concert Series, visit [concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org).

**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).

**Sock Sundays**

Help Children's Ministries collect colorful packs of socks in elementary kids' sizes for our friends at Treasure Forest Elementary, where our own Shari Halvorson (Mrs. Pastor Alf) is the nurse! Bring socks on Sundays, Nov 27 & Dec 4.

**The Heart of a Mom Luncheon**

This free event was created to encourage the local church through equipping and thanking moms for all they do! Come enjoy a delicious catered meal and special guest speaker, Dr. Joe White.

**Friday, Dec 9 | 12:00-1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
 RSVP by December 7: [heartofamom.com](http://heartofamom.com)

**Merry & Bright!**

Come enjoy an art show and music concert in celebration of the Christmas season. The evening will feature performance art by Bridget Wolk, art work from students of the REACH art class, and music in the Chapel led by Meliza Gómez, MDPC's contemporary worship leader.

**Wednesday, Dec 14 | Free Event**  
 Begins at 6:30 PM, East Hallway by Chapel

**Married Life Prep**

Taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, you will learn how to build your marriage upon a firm foundation.

**Sundays, January 8-29 | 10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171**  
 Register: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org)

**Confirmation 2017**

For all students currently in the 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

**Sundays, January 8-March 5 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM**  
 Register through Dec 1: \$115 (\$140 through Jan 8)

**Save the Date: Family Mission Day**

On the MLK Day holiday, we will take buses out into the community and do mission work.

**Monday, January 16 | 9:00 AM-4:00 PM | \$10**  
 Contact Alicia with questions: [aboykin@mdpc.org](mailto:aboykin@mdpc.org)



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.  
 11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710



**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

Rick Myers

### \*SONGS OF PRAISE

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Brett Hurst

### BAPTISMS

Grace Frances Goodson, daughter of Douglas and Pamela Goodson  
Fisher Twain Tharp, son of Daren and Evelyn Tharp  
Beau Loran Trammell, son of Evans and Susan Trammell

Alf Halvorson

### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:28; 8:1-4)

Alf Halvorson

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

## 9:45 AM SERVICE

### WORSHIP INVITATION

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

### \*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Brandon Gaide

### BAPTISMS

Madelyn "Maddie" James Gilley, daughter of Scott and Lindsey Gilley  
Claire Avery Huebel, daughter of Ross and Elizabeth Huebel  
Paige Renae Huebel, daughter of Ross and Elizabeth Huebel

Alf Halvorson

### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:28; 8:1-4)

Alf Halvorson

### RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

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

## 11:15 AM SERVICE

### PRELUDE

*Be Glad, My Soul*

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rick Myers

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

#551; Vs. 1, 3 | ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Laura Miller

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

### BAPTISMS

Mox Minnette Howell, daughter of Robinson and Ramsey Howell  
Adeline Elizabeth Janke, daughter of Kyle and Whitney Janke  
Miller Thomas Janke, son of Kyle and Whitney Janke  
Wiley Jean Janke, daughter of Kyle and Whitney Janke  
May Mather Rice, daughter of Tripp and Currie Rice  
Sloan Alan Zeplain, daughter of Daniel and Brittany Zeplain

Alf Halvorson

### ANTHEM

*His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

arr. Donald Moore

### OFFERTORY

*Now Thank We All Our God*

arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

MESSAGE Higher Ground: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:28; 8:1-4)

Alf Halvorson

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*We Gather Together*

#559; Vs. 3 | KREMSER

Musicians in this service: Emily Borling, guest organist; Charles Hausmann, conductor

## 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.

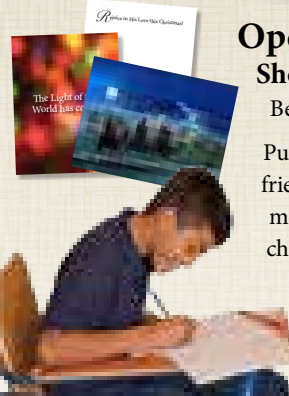
**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?** For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at [dturet@mdpc.org](mailto:dturet@mdpc.org) and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.



**MDPC 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.

**Today is the final day** to pick up forms and gift bags!

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




**Opens Next Sunday!**  
**Shop Sundays through December 18**  
Between Services | Chapel and Sanctuary Lobbies

Purchasing Mission Market Christmas cards for your friends and family can change lives. One hundred percent of the money received is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice, serving the needs of at-risk urban youth, homeless and food-insecure families, children living with disabilities, people without access to clean water, and children orphaned by AIDS.

Cards are available weekdays at the Front Office.

**Mission Market**  
Christmas Cards



**A FOUR SESSION ADVENT SERIES**

Groups begin meeting soon!  
See today's insert for details.

Each session of this four-part video series is a cinematic short film that captures events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. Viewers then watch Pete Briscoe open up Scripture and bring us back to the heart of our faith in Christ. Visit [savior.mdpc.org](http://savior.mdpc.org)

FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

**Expect the Unexpected**

**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!**



**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)

**Yes, I would like to register to be a 2017 Partner In Prayer!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out this form and turn it in at the Connection Center or the Front Office. You also can register online at [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org), or submit your information in person or via email to Caring Ministries. To do so or for more information, contact Annette Erickson at [aerickson@mdpc.org](mailto:aerickson@mdpc.org) or 713-490-9544.

If you currently are serving as a Partner In Prayer, you still will need to sign up to participate in 2017. Your personal prayer list will be available beginning January 8, 2017.



# A FOUR SESSION ADVENT SERIES



FOR INDIVIDUALS  
AND GROUPS

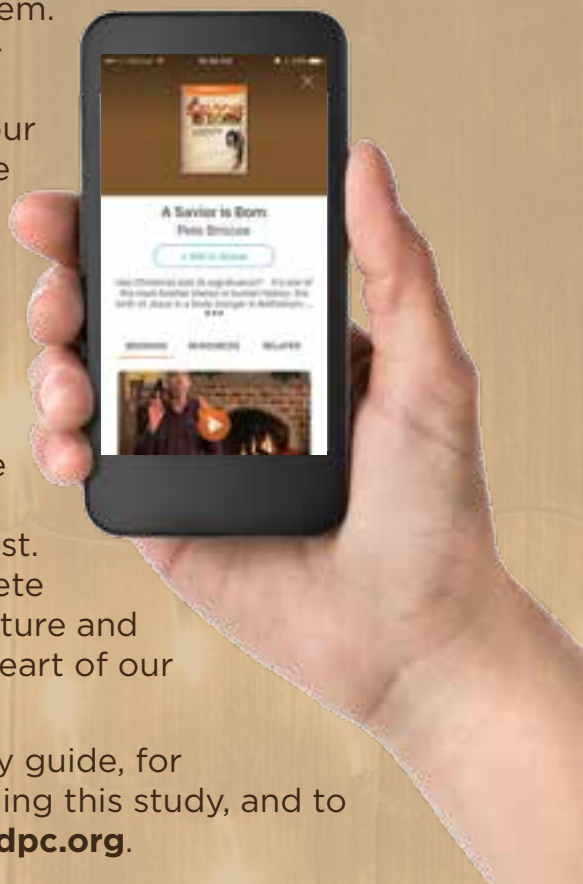
**November 27 - December 23**  
with Pete Briscoe

It's among the most familiar stories in human history: the birth of Jesus in a lowly manger on a peaceful, silent night in Bethlehem.

In today's frantic, consumer-driven society, how can we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior and celebrate Christmas as a Holy Day?

Each of the four video sessions of this series is a cinematic short film that capture events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ. Viewers then watch Pete Briscoe open up Scripture and bring us back to the heart of our faith in Christ.

To download the study guide, for information on streaming this study, and to register, visit **[savior.mdpc.org](http://savior.mdpc.org)**.







**For online registration and media links, visit [savior.mdpc.org](http://savior.mdpc.org).  
Or, fill this out and bring it to the Breezeway Table today!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**There are two ways to participate in the MDPC Advent Series:**

**#1: Join an existing small group.**

Select a group to join (✓ indicates childcare is provided), and the group leader will contact you prior to the first meeting.

- ☐ **FOR 20s:** Wed, 7:00 PM, The Heights (MDPC Young Professionals; begins 11/30)
- ☒ **FOR 20s:** Sun, 9:30 AM, Room 101 (The Parish Sunday School Class; begins 11/27)
- ☒ **FOR YOUNGER MARRIEDS, 30s:** Sun, 11:15 AM, Room 122 (Life 2.0 Sunday School Class; begins 11/27)
- ☒ **FOR ALL, 40+:** Sun, 11:15 AM, Room 127 (Grace & Peace Sunday School Class; begins 11/20)
- ☒ **FOR ALL, 50+:** Sun, 11:15 AM, Room 103 (Seekers Sunday School; begins 11/27)

Don't see a group that fits your schedule? Consider hosting a new group!  
Contact Christyn Knoop to discuss: [cknoop@mdpc.org](mailto:cknoop@mdpc.org)

**#2: Register to use the Advent Series study guide.**

This can be a group that has been meeting for a while, or even a brand new group that you form with friends or neighbors for the study. Just let us know a few details...

Who are the group leaders? \_\_\_\_\_

When and where do you meet? \_\_\_\_\_

How many guides will you need? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the group members? \_\_\_\_\_

*In past small group studies, some groups opened to new members who became regulars and new friends after the series ended. It's a great way to show hospitality to folks looking to get connected.*

Will your group accept a few new members? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_



## HIGHER GROUND

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:28-8:1

Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

Jesus' Sermon is now over, and it would be natural for us to move on immediately to another series. However, often there are what appear to be “throw away” verses, which it would be a mistake to ignore or throw away. Matthew offers editorial comments in the final verses of chapter 7 and in verse 1 of chapter 8 that are significant.

1. Verse 28 begins with the phrase, “when Jesus had finished saying these things.” That phrase is repeated four other times in Matthew (11:1, 13:53, 19:1, and 26:1, for a total of five times). Scholars believe this phrase signals the end of an important block of teaching for Jesus and it parallels the five books of Moses that begin the Old Testament, called the Pentateuch. Jesus is seen here as the new Moses, who goes up the Mountain in Matthew 5:1 and now comes back down the mountain in Matthew 8:1, just like Moses did with the Ten Commandments. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is seen as the new Ten Commandments, or guides for life and faith. How is Jesus like Moses to you? How is He unlike Moses?
2. In verse 28, Matthew also shares that “the crowds were *astounded* at His teaching.” The word for *astounded* in Greek means not merely impressed but amazed, shocked, and brought closer to the mind and heart of God because of what you saw or heard or experienced. When have you been astounded by Jesus? Share a story with your group.
3. Verses 28 and 29 connect, in that “the crowds were astounded at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.” Eugene Peterson paraphrases this section of Scripture as, “When Jesus concluded his address, the crowd burst into applause. They had never heard teaching like this. It was apparent that he was living everything he was saying—quite a contrast to their religious teachers! This was the best teaching they had ever heard.” Peterson seems to suggest that the authority of Jesus is that He was living what He was preaching. What would be your definition of authority and why would you phrase it that way? Is authority positive, negative, or neutral?
4. Sometimes on the news and sometimes in our daily lives, we see abuse of authority, where people's “talk” does not match their “walk.” They use power for selfish ends or to hurt others. We understand the concept of *positional authority*, people in official positions who have the title. Some have the actual authority, but, in other cases, other people in the office or organization or family actually wield the influence. Here Matthew says Jesus displayed a different kind of authority than the scribes. What do you think was the difference?
5. Matthew 8:1 says that because of Jesus' authority, as He came down the mountain, “great crowds followed Him.” Do you consider yourself a disciple, a follower, an apprentice of Jesus? What specific aspect of Jesus' teaching from His sermon do you feel challenged to walk out at this time? Name it so that your group can help you be accountable. Where are you being called to submit to proper authority so that you can grow or serve? Or, are you being prompted to use your authority to advance God's Kingdom in some way? What is your final takeaway from our study of the Sermon on the Mount?

