

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 or 713-953-2570.



The White Rose is given in memory of

•Lois Boston, who passed away September 27, 2016.

Ministry Partners 2016

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

Women's Pregnancy Center
 reaches out with compassion to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of pregnant women and their families. The Center fosters the truth of Jesus Christ in their lives by teaching biblical principles, redeeming lost hope, unifying families and relationships, and healing wounded hearts.
wpchouston.com

Living Water International (LWI)
 works in places where 1 in 2 people lack access to clean drinking water. Great progress is being made globally, but whole people groups are being overlooked. The poorest people with the least political power are the ones that continue to suffer, and this is who LWI is called to serve. Pray for LWI teams as they drill water wells in these communities.
water.cc

Lulwanda Children's Home in Mbale, Uganda is managed by Grace International Children's Foundation (GICF). It addresses the urgent needs of abandoned children and those left orphaned by east Africa's AIDS epidemic. MDPC teams have served at the Lulwanda orphanage, where 120 children receive love, housing, and Christian education, and many neighborhood children join them for school.
ugandaorphans.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

This week's budget update will be given during today's services.

Pictured: God has maintained Women's Pregnancy Center since 1986. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, the growth of the ministry has been steady. It now ministers to over 1,200 women, men, and children per year. >



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
 11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

First Sunday of Advent
 November 27, 2016



The Unexpected

An Unexpected Interruption
 Matthew 24:36-46

Coming Up at MDPC

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

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

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

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 \$19 and may be purchased at the door. Details on the Concert Series at concerts.mdpc.org.

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.

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

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

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

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)



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

Dave Steane

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Kaitlyn Wilson

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Interruption (Matthew 24:36-46)

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Kaitlyn Wilson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Interruption (Matthew 24:36-46)

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

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

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE *Meditation on 'Veni Emmanuel'*
There's a Song in the Air!

John David Peterson (b. 1950)
arr. John Ness Beck (1930-1987)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

David McCullough

*HYMN OF PRAISE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#9; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | VENI EMMANUEL

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Apostles Creed

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High*

#23; Vs. 1 | GLORIA

ANTHEM *There Shall a Star from Jacob (from Christus)*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

OFFERTORY *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (from Glad Tidings)*

Randol Bass

HYMN OF PREPARATION *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

#11; Vs. 1 | VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Interruption (Matthew 24:36-46)

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Savior of the Nations, Come*

#14; Vs. 1 | NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

POSTLUDE *Good News from Heaven*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Musicians in this service: Eliodoro Castillo, prelude soloist; Dorothy Gal, Brian Yeakley, Ben Schaefer, Eliodoro Castillo, anthem soloists; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organist

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 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.

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 and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.

Opens Today!

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



Sock Sunday!

November 27 & December 4

Please join the Galaxy and Ark Adventures in donating colorful packs of socks, in elementary kids' sizes, for our friends at Treasure Forest Elementary where our own Shari Halvorson is the nurse!

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!

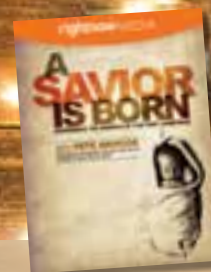


You're Invited!

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



A FOUR SESSION ADVENT SERIES

FOR INDIVIDUALS
AND GROUPS

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

Groups
have begun
meeting, but
you still can
participate!

The Unexpected

An Unexpected Interruption

Matthew 24:36-46

We have finished our series on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and now move to a shorter Advent Series. Advent is the time before Christmas when we wait and prepare for the coming of the Lord. How might you need to prepare for such an important visitor? We will

follow what is called the Common Lectionary, which is a systematic way to read and preach Scripture, used by many Christian churches around the globe. It helps prevent pastors from just preaching the texts they are comfortable with (their hobby-horses) and exposes congregations to more of the "full counsel of God." So that we do not just focus on the birth of Jesus, the first Sunday in Advent in the Common Lectionary focuses on Jesus' apocalyptic teaching. In other words, we are directed to look at Jesus' Second Coming before we look, in the ensuing weeks, at His First Coming.

1. Read Matthew 24:36-46. What did you hear growing up, if anything, about Christ's return? Did you read the "Left Behind" series? Were you of a tradition or family that talked a lot about Jesus' return and tried to determine a timeline, or that talked about it rarely if ever? Did your experiences give you hope or cause you fear?
2. In verse 36, according to Jesus, who knows when Jesus will return? Does Jesus? Do angels? What about normal humans? What about the Father?
3. According to verses 36-39, what does Jesus compare His return to here? Why is that a good illustration for Jesus? Why, do you think, might it be good not to know the day or the hour—from God's side and from our side?
4. In verses 40-44, Jesus gives three illustrations to encourage and inspire watchfulness. What are the three? How are they similar and different?
5. From verse 44, what would "ready" look like, do you think? Also, from verses 45-46, what do you think "at work" means?
6. Jesus is talking here about uncertain certainties; about something expected, but at an unexpected time. Are there any examples from your life you can offer? Without quitting our jobs and all just waiting at the top of a mountain together, how might we realistically but purposefully "watch; be ready; stay awake; for the Lord is coming at an unexpected hour"?

