

## 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

### CrossRoads



Made up mostly of parents with kids from school age through college, the class focus is Bible study, building community, and supporting one another while serving Jesus.

**Sundays, 11:15 AM-12:15 PM | CLC 170**

Drop in to say hello, or contact Laura Guthrie at [lauraguthrie@gmail.com](mailto:lauraguthrie@gmail.com).

## The Red Rose is given in honor of

- Norah Mae Brock, who was born November 21, 2016, to Kate and Michael Brock. Norah is the granddaughter of Nancy Beasley.
- Cora Sage Prichard, who was born November 25, 2016, to Becky and Colby Prichard. Cora is the granddaughter of Kristin and Mike Huffman.

## Ministry Partners 2016

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

**The Woods Project** develops leadership and life skills in low-income youth through outdoor education/environmental awareness programs. It prepares students for college and beyond by encouraging interest in science and nature, and expanding their experience with challenging situations and diverse environments.  
[thewoodsproject.org](http://thewoodsproject.org)

**The Micah Project** ministers to young men who have spent anguished childhoods in impoverished homes or on the streets of Tegucigalpa. The youths learn to become Christian leaders through discipleship, education, and service to others. The Micah Project supports these young men as they become the next Christian leaders of Honduras. *Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Micah 6:8*  
[micahprojecthonduras.org](http://micahprojecthonduras.org)

**New Life With Education** (Nueva Vida) is a Christ-centered school that provides education for disabled students through the sixth grade. These children struggle to gain an education in the overcrowded Guatemalan school system. Judy Kerschner, MDPC member and partner in ministry, designed this school to give dignity and education to students who would otherwise be forgotten.  
[newlifeguatemala.com](http://newlifeguatemala.com)

## WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

### OPERATING INCOME

2016 Annual Budget	\$ 11,050,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (Nov. 27, 2016)	\$ 7,715,635	70%
Needed to Meet 2016 Budget	\$ 3,334,365	30%

Pictured: The Woods Project works to help underprivileged youth develop the social and emotional skills required for success in school and life. Its outward-bound programs (made possible in part by your giving) teach grit, self-control, independence, and critical thinking, along with an appreciation for and investment in looking after God's creation. >



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

Second Sunday of Advent  
 December 4, 2016



# The Unexpected

An Unexpected Messenger  
 Matthew 3:1-12

## 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](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)

### 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](mailto:aboykin@mdpc.org)

### Confirmation 2017

Confirmation is for current 8th graders or above. In this step on their faith journey, students learn 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 Jan 8 (\$140): [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

### 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)

### Use Your Business Skills

Newspring's annual Business Plan Competition is seeking advisers to help community college students draft business plans. This is a great opportunity to witness to your faith in a secular world.  
 Contact Robert Westheimer: [rwestheimer1@comcast.net](mailto:rwestheimer1@comcast.net)

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

When you purchase Mission Market Christmas cards for friends and family, your donation will change a life. 100% of the money received is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice.  
**Shop Mission Market through Dec 18.**



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



# MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

†Communion at MDPC is shared by intinction. All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table. As directed by the ushers, come forward to the communion stations at the front of the section where you are seated. Dip the bread in the cup and eat, before returning to your seat.

Gluten-free bread is available. If you are celiac or severely gluten-intolerant, please note that it may have come into contact with gluten-containing bread during preparation of the sacrament.

Every child is an important part of our faith community. We believe each family decides when their child is ready to participate in communion. Children not taking communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastors and elders who are serving.

## 8:30 AM SERVICE

### GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME Dave Steane

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE Brett Hurst

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Messenger (Matthew 3:1-12) Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MEDITATION

## 9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION Meliza Gómez

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE Brandon Gaide

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Dave Steane

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Messenger (Matthew 3:1-12) Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MEDITATION

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

## 11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDES *Fantasy on 'Greensleeves'* Brian Henkelmann (b. 1965)  
*Visitor from Heaven* Twila Paris (b. 1958)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT *Sleepers Wake (from St. Paul)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* #5; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | PICARDY

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE Amy Delgado

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 2 | GLORIA

OFFERTORY *Make Straight the Way of the Lord* Craig Curry

MESSAGE The Unexpected: An Unexpected Messenger (Matthew 3:1-12) Alf Halvorson

†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION MEDITATIONS *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* arr. Alice Parker (b.1925)  
*Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* John Ferguson (b. 1941)

POSTLUDE *Noel Suisse* Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Musicians in this service: Laura Coale, prelude soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organist/pianist

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

## 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 Food Service Ministries invites you to

# All-Church Lunch

Everyone Is Welcome!  
Today, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM • Fellowship Hall

Entrée (\$8)

Scrambled Eggs or Vegetable Frittata,  
Bacon, Sausage, Homestyle Potatoes,  
and Biscuits and Gravy

Assortment of Pastries • Seasonal Fruit

Children's Entrée (\$4)

Small Adult Plate or Cereal

Meals include coffee, tea, milk, or lemonade.

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**.

**Today! 5:00-7:00 PM • Free Activities, \$6 for Dinner**

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)

## Married Life Prep



Getting ready for a lifetime commitment...

A **fun**, four-week marriage prep course for **engaged and newly married** couples.

**SUNDAYS, JANUARY 8-29**  
**10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Visit [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org) to register!

Couples that complete the course can receive \$60 off their marriage license fee through the Together in Texas initiative.

## Kids' Meals Monthly Service Opportunity

Help us feed the nearly 2,200 preschool children Kids' Meals delivers to daily. MDPC volunteers are instrumental in providing one day's delivery per month! Please bring two loaves of white or wheat sandwich bread to the project.

**Wednesday, December 14 | 5:00 PM**

Contact Julie Hempel with questions:  
[hempeljulie@gmail.com](mailto:hempeljulie@gmail.com)



# 2016 Mission Market Order Form



## Local & Global Ministry Partners

	ORGANIZATION NAME	THEIR MISSION	NO.	AMT.
1	The Antioch Partners (Worldwide) <b>theantiochpartners.org</b>	Enables those called by God to enter long-term, cross-cultural ministerial service, and fosters the formation of worshipping communities among the unreached		
2	Camp Blessing (Houston) <b>campblessing.org</b>	A Christian summer camp for disabled youth and their siblings that ensures <i>all</i> children can experience the love of Christ in a beautiful camp setting		
3	CanCare of Houston (Houston) <b>cancare.org</b>	A city-wide group of cancer survivors that offer one-on-one, long-term emotional support and encouragement to cancer patients and their families		
4	Evangelical Theological Seminary Cairo (Egypt) <b>etsc.org/new</b>	Prepares, equips, and trains pastors and leaders of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and various churches in Arab communities abroad		
5	Faith In Practice (Guatemala) <b>faithinpractice.org</b>	Volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, and support teams travel to Guatemala to treat patients in an Antigua hospital and bring medical care to remote villages		
6	Free Wheelchair Mission (Worldwide) <b>freewheelchairmission.org</b>	Sends wheelchairs to hundreds of thousands of impoverished disabled in developing nations, providing mobility, dignity, independence, and hope		
7	Freedom Place (Houston) <b>freedomplace.org</b>	A safe house for girls age 10 to 18 rescued from sex trafficking that offers these young victims a 24-month comprehensive treatment plan, and onsite-but-independent housing afterward		
8	Hope for Youth (Houston) <b>hopeforyouth.org</b>	Builds long-term Christian mentoring relationships with at-risk urban youth through fun activities and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ		
9	House of Tiny Treasures (Houston) <b>searchhomeless.org</b>	High-quality preschool education for homeless children, preparing them for elementary school and beyond, important work to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness		
10	Houston International Seafarers (Houston) <b>missiontoseafarers.org/ports/houston</b>	Chaplains minister to seafarers from around the world in the Port of Houston, touching thousands whose lives might otherwise have no exposure to Christ and God's grace		
11	Kids' Meals (Houston) <b>kidsmealshouston.org</b>	Daily home-delivers 2,700 nutritious, free of cost, lunches to preschool-aged children living in poverty in Harris County, with the goal of someday ending hunger in that vulnerable population		
12	Living Water International (Worldwide) <b>water.cc</b>	Drills water wells in areas where there is no clean water. Its teams teach hygiene and share the Gospel message with local communities		
13	Lulwanda Children's Home (Uganda) <b>ugandaorphans.org</b>	A permanent home for children who have been abandoned or orphaned. It provides education and life skills that prepare them to be Christian leaders		
14	The Micah Project (Honduras) <b>micahprojecthonduras.org</b>	Reaching out to street boys to share the love of Christ and hope for spiritual and physical transformation in their lives. Many "Micah Boys" have graduated high school and now are in college!		
15	Spring Spirit Baseball (Houston) <b>springspiritbaseball.org</b>	Helps youth in their faith-walks with Christian coaching, accountability groups, and summer camps; emphasizes academics, sports, and Christian mentoring to develop mind, body, and soul		
			<b>TOTALS</b>	

# ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Using the **MISSION MARKET ORDER FORM** on the opposite side of this page, indicate the following:

1. From the **ORGANIZATION NAME** column, choose which Ministry Partner(s) you wish to support.
2. In the **NO.** column, write the number of cards you plan to gift featuring that Ministry Partner.
3. In the **AMT.** column, write the total amount you would like to give in support of the selected Ministry Partner. This may be for *any* amount over the \$1 minimum per card.
4. When your choices are complete, add up the vertical items in the two columns, and record in the **TOTALS** row at the bottom.
5. The **TOTAL AMT.** is what you owe. The **TOTAL NO.** is how many you will receive of each of the following:
  - (a) Christmas greeting card and envelope
  - (b) Ministry Partner information card indicating to the gift recipient which Ministry Partner you are supporting in their honor
  - (c) HOPE sticker for securing the Ministry Partner information card on the inside panel of the greeting card
6. Complete your personal information below, and bring your completed form to the Mission Market table.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Paid:  Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to "MDPC." Write Mission Market on the memo line.**

Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)



*Thank you for supporting our Ministry Partners. Your donations make a difference as we reach out to the world in Jesus' Name!*





## The Unexpected

### An Unexpected Messenger

Matthew 3:1-12

for the first time, he was a shocking and grating and unexpected prophet who was the “opening act” for the “headline,” Jesus.

This is the second in our Advent Series, entitled *The Unexpected*. Last week, the New Common Lectionary directed us to a text on the Second Coming of Christ. This week, the Lectionary directs us to the familiar figure of John the Baptist.

But is he as familiar as we think? To the first readers and those who encountered him face to face

1. Matthew 2:23 leaves Jesus as a baby. As Chapter 3 begins, 30 years have passed and John appears on the scene suddenly and surprisingly. From Matthew 3:1-4, what is surprising about his appearance? Think location, think message, think fulfillment of prophecy, and think how John dressed. He is almost like the description of Elijah in 2 Kings 1:8. What might that mean?

2. How did the people respond? In Matthew’s description, is there just one monolithic group or are there really two? Who are they? Read and reflect on verses 5-7.

3. In verses 7-10, John has some rather pointed words for the Pharisees and Sadducees. What is his complaint or accusation? Who might be modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees? Where or how are you and I Pharisees?

4. From verses 11-12, what does John say his role is and what does he say Jesus will come to do? How do you know if someone in the Gospel has been on the receiving end of John’s and Jesus’ ministry? How might you tell in your life?

5. There is an axiom that states, “change is caused by desperation or inspiration.” In other words, our lives either are in such a mess that we are willing to try something new because the present is so bad, or we are inspired to try something new by a picture of the future that produces passion and action in us. In your life, have you changed mostly because of desperation or inspiration?

6. In verse 2, if the word “repent” could be translated “turn around” or “change,” what motivation do you think Matthew is using to invite us to reorient life? Desperation or inspiration or both? What motivation do you need to bear fruit now? Desperation? Inspiration? Both? Why?

Pray for each other in your group...

