

MDPC Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director
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 | Young Adult 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

Pastors Emeritus

Dave Peterson
Gary Bowker

STUDY & SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



Eat, Pray, Lent Study Groups

Savor Jesus' 7 *Last Words from the Cross* in worship and through the community of an Eat, Pray, Lent small group. Various groups would be delighted to welcome you, or start your own! This week's spotlight is on:

MDPC Pastor-led group for all ages and stages:
Wednesdays, 12:00 PM | Summit Room

Details and registration: epl.mdpc.org

Today's Chancel Flowers are given by:

- Steve Jarvis and Ginger Benfield, in celebration of their 32nd wedding anniversary.

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

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

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance

offers emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families. It also provides Medical Center parking vouchers, a major expense that parents of these children face.

candle.org

Casa de Esperanza de los Niños

is a loving home for children who are in crisis due to drug abuse, neglect, or the effects of HIV. Casa provides residential care, and coordinates medical and psychological services according to the needs of each child.

casahope.org

MDPC Field Partner Rev. Dan McNerney works

with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, which seeks to bring the Gospel to unreached people groups all over the world. He has led missions in Egypt and other areas of the Middle East. Dan now leads friendship groups in Chicago, which gather Christians, Muslims, and Jews to dialogue on Kingdom life, reconciliation, and the teachings of Jesus.

newsfromthefrontier.com

Art Teachers Needed

Newspring, an MDPC local partner, is looking to hire two part-time, after-school art teachers. Newspring's Visual Arts program encourages Spring Branch-area students to work hard, stay in school, and turn their gift of art into a career.

Contact Robert Westheimer: rwestheimer1@comcast.net

Peru Vision Trip: April 1-April 9, 2017

Join our ministry partner The Antioch Partners to encourage a missionary ministering to disabled people and their families in Lima. No specific experience required. We also will hike Machu Picchu, one of the 7 wonders of the world.

Estimated cost: \$2,750 (includes all expenses, plus two wheelchairs for mission partner Free Wheelchair Mission)

For more information, contact Hope Whitney: admin@theantiochpartners.org, 713-490-9571

Operating Income

2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,348,600	100%
Actual Income to Date (Feb. 26, 2017)	\$ 1,462,649	13%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 9,885,951	87%

MDPC Dollar-for-Dollar in Action

Your generosity enables our partner Open Door Mission to transform the lives of destitute, homeless, severely addicted, and disabled men in our community. These guys have turned their lives around, thanks to the opportunity they were afforded by ODM programs. >



The Last Words from the Cross

The First Word

Luke 23:32-38

Coming Up at MDPC

Daylight Savings Starts!

Set clocks forward one hour this Saturday night.
Next Sunday, March 12

First Communion Retreat

This special event for children in 1st-5th grade and their parents is designed to prepare them for First Communion, giving them a clear understanding of this important sacrament.

Retreat: Sunday, March 26 | 12:30-3:30 PM

First Communion: Sunday, May 7

Register today: communion.mdpc.org

MDPC Young Adult Kickball League

Calling all 20s! Join us at Memorial Park as we vie to be the City of Houston's kickball league champion.

Mondays, March 6-May 1 | 6:30-10:30 PM

Contact Trevor Harris: trevorharris22@gmail.com

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make sure there is one less empty tummy! Just give one hour of your time and bring two loaves of bread per sandwich-maker.

Wednesday, March 8 | 5:00-6:00 PM

Contact Julie for more info: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Purely Parenting

Join us each month as we hear from different speakers on a variety of parenting topics. This month's session, led by Mindy and David Bradley, is geared toward parents of kids in junior high and older.

Today at 11:15 AM | Summit Room

Go Texan All-Church Lunch

Stick around today after church for a Texas-style BBQ lunch! Prices are \$8/adult, \$4/kid, and \$20 max per family (two adults & three kids under 12).
Served 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
gotexan.mdpc.org

Walking the Mourner's Path:

Transforming Grief into Joyful Living

This Christ-centered grief program is designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. It is limited to ten participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

Wednesdays, March 22-May 17 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Cost: \$30 for materials (Scholarships available)

Register online at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

Prime Timers presents:

The Power of the Spoken Word

Martha Moore shares Jesus' life giving words to prepare Prime Timers for the joy of Easter.

Tuesday, March 21 | Fellowship Hall

Free Program at 10:30 AM, Lunch (\$9.50) at Noon

Everyone is welcome to the free program. For lunch, checks must be received at the front office by March 15.

Librarian Needed

Music Ministry is looking for a volunteer who has good organizational skills to organize the choir's music library. No musical experience is necessary.

Contact Tracy Stidam: tstidam@mdpc.org, 713-490-0946



MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Meliza Gómez

*SONGS OF PRAISE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Rachel Poysky

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the 2017 Confirmation Class's Statements of Faith

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Dave Steane

MESSAGE *The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The First Word*

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM SERVICE

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Meliza Gómez

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE, crafted by the 2017 Confirmation Class

Kaitlyn Wilson

CONFIRMATION

Dan Aikins

Jackson Allred	Brazos Donovan	Chanse Holub	Sean Sheets
Drew Arend	Ella DuCharme	Riley Kerns	Benjamin Siciliano
Bradley Baay	Jonathan Dukes	Carson Kiest	Nathan Siciliano
Branham Banks	Ethan Everett	Sonnie Kimani	Chase Sirmons
Samantha Banks	Sara Faulconer	Jackson McCown	Patrick Smith
Megan Benz	Greydon Fenn	Jake McMillan	Catherine Stiles
Carolyn Blake	Henry Fernelius	Will Moak	Jonathan Swagerty
Elizabeth Bounds	Rebecca Fleener	Lindsey Moore	Natalie Tallichet
Bennett Bradford	Carrington Flemming	Mauricio Morales	Robert Tilotta
Caroline Bullers	Sara Jane French	Cade Parnell	Zachary Tyson
Carson Calhoun	Carson Gentil	Caroline Parnell	Roger Valenzuela
Lauren Chaffin	Grace Goodson	Lainey Pearson	Cody Vaughn
Sydney Coward	Caroline Green	Joel Poysky	Carter Wienert
Kate Delgado	Sophie Guinn	Harris Pruitt	Zach Willett
Michael Dillon	Duncan Heath	Kayla Roth	Tyler Ziegenbein
Caroline Dina	Ivan Hernandez	Ava Shea	
Carson Dodds	Edwin Hess	James Shea	
Ben Dodson	Colson Hock	Nathaniel Shea	

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE OF FAITH

BAPTISMS

Alf Halvorson and Chris Rush

Jackson Allred, Ethan Everett, Sean Sheets, Jonathan Swagerty

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Dave Steane

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE *The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The First Word*

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Lauren Dodds and Kyle Goodson, vocals; Joe Gavito, guitar; Meliza Gómez, worship leader; Craig Gysler, keys; Michael Middleton, worship leader; Asher Pudlo, drums; Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

Two Baroque Lenten Preludes Kellner (1705-1772) and Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT

All for Love Robert Young (b.1945)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! #144; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | HYFRYDOL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Christyn Knoop

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the 2017 Confirmation Class's Statements of Faith

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri Hymn #579

ANTHEM

God Our Father arr. Nan Grantham
Let Us Love One Another arr. Nan Grantham

OFFERTORY

And Can It Be Dan Forrest (b.1978)

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The First Word Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love Is This #85; Vs. 1, 2 | WONDROUS LOVE

POSTLUDE

Passacaglia Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano; The Yellow School Choir with Naomi Black, director

Check out all of the seasonal opportunities below.
Please note special Holy Week and Easter service times and locations.

Eat, Pray, Lent Groups

Meet Weekly, March 5-April 20

This year's Lenten study guide leads you through personal reflection on the weekly Scripture in anticipation of Sunday Worship. Classes and groups will meet to discuss, in community, how God's Word and Spirit are impacting our lives! There are a variety of small groups to join, or consider starting your own with friends or family.

Pastor-Led Large Group Option

Wednesdays, March 8-April 12

Noon (Summit Room) or 6:30 PM (Amphitheater)

The Pastors will lead a large-group study using the Eat, Pray, Lent curriculum.

Lenten Podcasts: Testimonies of Faith

Released Sundays and Wednesdays, from March 5-April 19

MERCY. REPENT. TRIBE. ABANDONED. THIRSTY. JUSTIFIED. ZEST.

These words exemplify the passion and the person of Jesus as He hung on the cross. MDPC will post podcasts of a few of our staff and members as they share their personal stories, each centering around one of these words. Download the podcasts from iTunes, listen through the MDPC app, or stream from the website at [lentenpodcast.mdpc.org](https://www.lentenpodcast.mdpc.org).

Lenten Prayer Walking

Tuesdays, March 7-April 11 | 6:15-7:00 AM

Join a group to pray over concerns for our families, ourselves, and our city, nation, and world - all while taking in a nature walk at Terry Hershey Park. For meeting location and registration, visit [lent.mdpc.org](https://www.lent.mdpc.org). Questions? Contact Robin Sturgis at robinsturgis@sbcglobal.net or 713-398-4574.

Sermon Series: The 7 Last Words from the Cross

The sermon series runs from **Sunday, March 5 through Easter Sunday, April 16.**

Holy Week Services AND Events

The Spoken Word

Monday, April 10, 6:00 AM through Thursday, April 13, 3:30 PM

The Spoken Word is a cover-to-cover reading of the entire Bible. Pastor Alf will start us off with Genesis 1 at 6:00 AM on the Monday of Holy Week, and we expect to finish in the afternoon of Maundy Thursday. Come to read, or come to listen!

Sign up for 15-minute reading slots at [spokenword.mdpc.org](https://www.spokenword.mdpc.org).

Maundy Thursday

April 13 | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Join us as we remember Jesus' last night with His disciples through the experience of a Passover Seder and Communion. Children over four are encouraged to participate! Childcare will be available for those under four. Please help us plan for the evening by registering: [maundy.mdpc.org](https://www.maundy.mdpc.org)

Good Friday

April 14 | Noon | Sanctuary

The Seventh Word | Luke 23:44-49

Journey to the Cross

April 14 | 9:30-11:00 AM

Children and their families are invited on this guided tour through the events of Holy Week, the final week of Jesus' life. Register at [journey.mdpc.org](https://www.journey.mdpc.org) and your tour time will be emailed to you.

Easter Sunday, April 16

The Final Word | Mark 16:1-8a

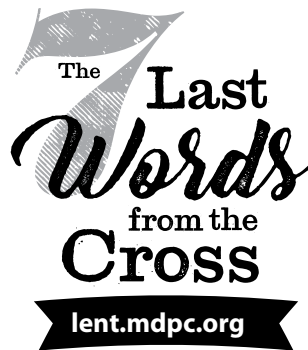
7:00 AM Sunrise Service | Sanctuary Courtyard

8:15 AM Blended Service | Sanctuary

9:45 AM Family-friendly Contemporary Service | Sanctuary

11:15 AM Traditional Service | Sanctuary

11:15 AM Spanish Service | Chapel



Maundy THURSDAY

A Celebration of the Passover Story and the Lord's Supper

April 13 | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Led by Rachel Poysky and Mauricio Chacón

Passover is the oldest and most important of Jewish religious festivals, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and His creation of the Israelite nation. The term "Passover" refers to the final plague God brought upon the Egyptians to persuade Pharaoh to let the people go: the death of all the firstborn of Egypt. In obedience to God's instructions, believers placed the blood of a lamb on their front door posts so that God would "pass over" those homes. The festival, encompassing this entire sequence of events, becomes a vehicle to celebrate the very nature of God and His gracious work in the world. It is in this larger dimension that Jesus instituted the Passover service as a sacramental remembrance of God's deliverance through Christ. It is through Communion that Christians can celebrate this ancient festival.

(adapted from CRIVOICE.org)

Please join us on Maundy Thursday as we remember Jesus' last night with His disciples through the experience of a Passover Seder and Communion. This is an evening for the whole church family. In a Seder (Hebrew for "order"), all its rituals are performed step by step. We will sit around tables in the Fellowship Hall, walk through the Seder together, take part in Communion, and enjoy special worship music. This will not be a meal other than a symbolic one, so please plan to eat dinner beforehand.

**To help us plan the evening, please RSVP at maundy.mdpc.org.
Childcare will be available for children up to three years old.**

Easter SERVICE TIMES

7:00 AM Sunrise

11:15 AM Traditional

8:15 AM Blended

11:15 AM Spanish

9:45 AM Contemporary Family-friendly

To learn more about other Lenten and Easter opportunities, visit lent.mdpc.org.



Please Pray for Our Military

Please pray for the American armed forces, and these men and women serving at home and abroad.

Craig Behm's son-in-law:
Jeremy Fleming | Marines

Dee Zook Bell's grandson:
Christopher Zook | Army Special Forces Recruit

Dick Berry's grandson:
Corporal **John Hird** | Marines

Naomi Black's son:
Chaplain Lt. Commander **Peter W. Dietz** | Navy

Second Lt. **Mark Bressler** | Army Reserves

Betsy Clark's grandson:
Christopher Lenze | Marines

Tom and M.A. Dunscombe's son-in-law:
Commander **Stephen W. Burgher, MD** | Navy

Paul and Susan Galvin's nephew:
Major **Joseph Galvin** | Army

Bob and Carol Giles' daughter:
Captain **Ellen Giles Jones, MD** | Army

Scott Gilley's brother:
Captain **Stephen R. Gilley** | Marines

Sergeant **Kyle Hinton** | Army

Alice Horn's nephew:
First Lieutenant **Paul Early** | Marines

Captain **James Howell** | Army

Bud and Janet Hughes' son:
Chase Hughes | Navy

Brenda and Fred Jackson's grandson:
First Lieutenant **Charles Smith** | Army

Sharon Johnson's son:
Staff Sergeant **Richard Johnson III** | Army

Willie and Jody Jordan's grandnephew:
Lieutenant **Josh Kash** | Navy

Carolyn and Grant Judge, Jr.'s son-in-law:
Chaplain Lieutenant **Jeffrey Quinn** | Marines

James and Lori Keeter's nephew:
Staff Sergeant **Tommy Keeter** | Army

Larry and Margaret Kelminson's son-in-law:
Major General **Kevin Kennedy**

John and Kay Krebs' son:
Lieutenant **Kory Krebs** | Navy

Barbara Mourglia's nephew:
Staff Sergeant **Brandon Macken** | Air Force

Maryann Munroe's grandnephew:
Private **Perry Connor** | Marines

Jim and Carol Newlin's son-in-law:
Lt. Commander **Michael J. Canzone** | Navy

David and Shannon Perry's son:
Aircraft Commander **Sean Perry** | Air Force

Deborah Pruitt's son-in-law:
Major **Neil McMullin** | Marine Surgeon

Don and Virginia Russell's grandson:
Sergeant **Joseph Russell** | Army

Brian and Tanya Schneider's nephew:
Holden Jenkins | Army

Joe and Jean Simmons' grandson:
Specialist **William Bruce Berry** | Army

Jane Ann Smeck's son:
BUCA **Cameron Freeman** | Navy

Dave and Jenny Steane's son:
Specialist **Tyler Steane** | Army

Jim and Gladys Taylor's nephew:
Gunnery Sergeant **Christopher Taylor** | Marines

Danilo Toledo and Zoraya Ávila Tellez's daughter:
Private **Daniela Toledo** | Army

Harvey Trammell's nephew:
Shawn Blake | Marines

George and Dot Uthlaut's grandnephews:
Major **David Uthlaut** | Army
Captain **Chris Uthlaut** | Army

Alejandro and Raquel Vasquez's son:
Sergeant **Alan Bejarano** | Army

Bart and Barbara Westmoreland's family:
Major **Justin Westmoreland** | Air Force
Lt. Commander **Andrew Cain** | Navy
Lt. Colonel **Brian Deas** | Air Force

Ralph and Mary Wheeler's nephews:
Philip Newman | Army
Andrew Wheeler | National Guard

Pauline Wolcott's grandson:
ET3 **Robert Leeland** | Navy

David Word's son:
Captain **Andrew N. Word** | Army

Cari Wilson's husband:
Staff Sergeant **Andrew Wilson** | Air Force

An up-to-date list always is available at military.mdpc.org. We strive for accuracy and sincerely regret any errors. Edits and additions may be sent to Eva Kaminski Shaw at eshaw@mdpc.org.

Please notify us when you are blessed with the return home of your loved one.



The Last Words from the Cross

Luke 23:32-38

The First Word: Mercy ('mər-sē/) noun

1. Compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one's power
2. The discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment

Spend a few minutes reflecting on this word before reading further. Use the back of this sheet to jot some thoughts or draw a picture.

Lent is a solemn and reflective season for Christians, followed by a season of joy (the resurrection, Easter). It is fitting that we start this study with the grim picture of Jesus on the cross. The previous chapters in Luke show that Jesus had an intimate meal celebrating Passover with twelve of His closest friends (the disciples). Later, He was betrayed by one who was eating with Him at this last supper. As a result, Jesus was arrested, whipped, tortured, mocked, and subjected to other public humiliations. Another friend publicly denies three times that he knows Jesus. Abandoned by all but His mother and a few friends, in great pain and barely alive, Jesus hangs on a cross between two criminals who also are being executed. A sign above Him reads, "King of the Jews."

After enduring all this and on the brink of death, Jesus does something surprising: He asks God to forgive His executioners for their ignorance. Jesus is putting into practice what He preached about earlier in Luke: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27). After this prayer for mercy for His enemies, things do not get better for Jesus. The guards divide up His clothes; He is sneered at by those standing around, doubted, and challenged to save Himself.

Begin this first week's small-group time by sharing one thing you hope to get out of this Lenten series. Is there anything you're apprehensive about? If your group has been meeting together for a while, consider also sharing something God is teaching you or "working out" in you these days.

Next, read aloud the reflection above, then this week's Scripture passage (Luke 23:32-38).

1. What does this passage stir up for you? Any questions, insights, convictions?
2. Were you raised in a religious tradition? If so, how much emphasis did it place on the death of Jesus?
3. Under what circumstances would you be willing to suffer for the sake of another person? When have you done so?
4. What acts of mercy, surprising or otherwise, have you seen in your life or the lives of others?
5. How hard would it be for you to "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you"? Have you ever tried to follow this principle? What examples have you seen of this? What was the impact of seeing this principle demonstrated?
6. What is your greatest takeaway this week? What has the Holy Spirit stirred up in you as a response to this lesson? How might you now look at life differently? Does this knowledge spark a deeper gratitude for Christ? How might this change your Christian walk? In what particular ways could the other members of the group encourage you, challenge you, and pray for you?

