

Save the Date

Dr. Mark Labberton
President, Fuller Theological Seminary

Thursday, April 26

speakers.mdpc.org



Blood Drive Today!

Since the storm, area blood blanks are low. Please consider donating! Walk-ins are welcome.

8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Walking the Mourner's Path

Transform 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.

Thursdays, February 22-April 19 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Register at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke:

bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

Save the Date: The Spoken Word 2018

Experience God's Word in a special way and prepare your heart for the miracle of Easter! Come to read or to listen, strengthen your faith, and enjoy the fellowship experience of this Holy Week tradition at MDPC.

Pastor Alf kicks off reading at 6:00 AM, March 26; we conclude on Maundy Thursday by 4:00 PM.

Registration to read for 15-minute increments opens on Monday, February 26: spokenword.mdpc.org

Please Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, we're lifting in prayer these MDPC partners:

Boys and Girls Country helps children of families in crisis by loving and nurturing them in a Christian environment, helping them grow up to become self-sustaining and contributing adults.

boysandgirlscountry.org

Bridges to Life ministers to prisoners and victims by showing them the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness. It connects communities to prisons in an effort to enhance public safety, and to reduce the number of crime victims and the recidivism rate (particularly concerning violent crimes).

bridgestolife.org

An MDPC Partner living in New York is building relationships for the Kingdom and sharing the Gospel, within the Bangladeshi community. Please pray for God to cover this family, to keep them safe and healthy, and to strengthen them as they reveal Christ's grace by connecting with immigrants and sharing stories of Jesus.

Save the Date: Dr. Mark Labberton

After Gary Haugen's visit this Thursday, our Speaker Series continues with Fuller Seminary President, Dr. Mark Labberton. He brings to his leadership a deep awareness of the urgency of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, April 26 at MDPC

Details coming soon at speakers.mdpc.org.

Youth Baseball, Softball, and Volleyball

Boys and girls in pre-K through 6th grade are encouraged to sign up for baseball or softball. Volleyball is for 4th-8th grade girls who are not in club volleyball.

Games: Saturdays, March 24-May 19

\$120, includes jersey, pictures, and medal or trophy

Registration closes today! sports.mdpc.org

Make a Legacy Gift

Help insure the future of MDPC by making the church a beneficiary of assets like appreciated securities, real estate, and bequests. Your gift enhances our ministries and missions and provides financial resources for special projects and initiatives.

Contact David Eyre to learn more (legacygiving@mdpc.org, 281-797-6916) or visit legacygiving.mdpc.org.

The White Rose is in memory of

- Tom Sutherland, who passed away February 3, 2018.
- Donalee Adams, who passed away February 8, 2018.

The Red Rose is in honor of

- Sutton Ann Canfield, born January 17, 2018 to Ben and Kathryn Canfield. Sutton is the granddaughter of Jana and Chase Canfield.
- Julia Bentley Knoop, born January 22, 2018 to Christyn and Alex Knoop.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

MDPC's 2018 Operating Budget is pending approval. Today's Financial Update will be shared on the screens.



First Sunday of Lent
February 18, 2018

Deadly Sins and Saving Virtues

From Envy to Concern

Luke 22:24ff, Proverbs 14:30, 27:4 • Alf Halvorson preaching

Lenten Small Groups

As Pastor Alf preaches on the themes of deadly sins and saving virtues this Lent, groups will gather to discuss further how we will strive against the sins that pervade our hearts, and seek to develop virtues that counter them.

Many date and time options are available, including three pastor-led discussions: Tuesdays at Noon, and Wednesdays at Noon or 6:30 PM.

Groups meet weekly, Feb. 18-March 25

Details and registration for all groups: lenten.mdpc.org



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Gary Haugen

CEO and Founder of
International Justice Mission

This Harvard-educated attorney has addressed crowds of 60,000-plus, testified before Congress over half a dozen times, and recently spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

MDPC is honored to host **Gary Haugen**, a powerful, tireless, and succesful advocate in the fight against global injustice, a cause close to our own hearts and goals.

You'll leave educated and encouraged. Plan to attend this important event.



THIS THURSDAY

February 22 - 7:00 PM
RSVP: justice.mdpc.org

2025 Strategic GOAL

MDPC SPEAKER SERIES

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Clay Brown
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Trevor Harris
SONG OF PREPARATION		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	The Change from Envy to Concern	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
*CALL TO WORSHIP		Worship Team
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION		Tara Reynolds
SONG		
MESSAGE	The Change from Envy to Concern	Alf Halvorson
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Daniel Amaya, keys • George Heathco, electric guitar • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Passepied</i>	G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Rachel Poysky
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God</i>	Allen Pote (b. 1945)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	#379; Vs. 1, 2, 4 SOLID ROCK
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>	arr. Paul Christiansen (1914-1997)
OFFERTORY	<i>Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from Gospel Mass</i>	Robert Ray (b. 1946)
MESSAGE	The Change from Envy to Concern	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</i>	#408; Vs. 1, 2, 6 GERMANY
POSTLUDE	<i>These Are the Holy Ten Commandments, BWV 679</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Musicians in this service: Jason Amos, Laura Coale, and Cassandra Black, soloists • Emily Borling, guest organist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Julio Sanchez, percussion

*Please stand if able. CCLI # 182374

MDPC

CHURCH IN THE CITY

Next Sunday...the Church Is Leaving the Building!

Remember: We will not have our normal worship services next Sunday, February 25. Instead, our church family will spend the morning serving together at Houston Food Bank, or doing projects here at MDPC. Pre-register at CITC.mdpc.org, and arrive at MDPC by 8:00 AM that morning.

If you're traveling to HFB: Bring only what can fit in your pockets and wear closed-toe shoes. Houston Food Bank doesn't serve food; rather, it services the needs of local food pantries, including MDPC's Fuente Food Pantry.

If you're serving at MDPC: Wear a ball cap and closed-toe shoes, and, if you can, bring some loaves of sandwich bread for Kids' Meals - we'll need lots!

Though we won't spend the morning in pews, we'll still worship, hear the Word, and offer our gifts of gratitude (offering boxes will be available). On the return trip from HFB, we'll hear the recorded sermon message from Pastor Alf, and a time of worship led by Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton. Those staying here will view the same videos in the Chapel.

Details, FAQ, and registration: CITC.mdpc.org

\$10*/person includes bus ride, lunch, & project supplies

Please sign up ASAP so we can prepare! Visit CITC.mdpc.org for details and the morning's schedule.

All are welcome and encouraged to come: MDPC members, visitors, guests, and friends!

*If needed, MDPC will gladly waive the fee for you and/or your family. Just email Alicia at aboykin@mdpc.org.





From Envy to Concern

Luke 22:24ff; Prov. 14:30, 27:4
Alf Halvorson preaching

At the same time, though, “grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone” naturally leads to lives lived in thankfulness and commitment to God’s will. In our journeys of faith, we will acknowledge, confess, and strive against sins we all struggle against as part of the human condition. Also, we will seek to develop virtues that give glory to God.

To launch the Lenten study, on Ash Wednesday we explored what Scripture indicates may be the core sin of human beings: the sin of pride. It makes sense, then, that today we follow up with one of pride’s primary expressions in our lives: the sin of envy.

What can we do about envy? What is the opposite to envy that keeps it from establishing a foothold in our lives? The virtue of a God-oriented concern for others and their welfare.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Luke 22:24

ESV: *A dispute also arose among them, as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.*

NLT: *Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.*

Proverbs 14:30

ESV: *A tranquil mind gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.*

NLT: *A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy is like cancer in the bones.*

Proverbs 27:4

ESV: *Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

NLT: *Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but jealousy is even more dangerous.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introducing: Getting Ready to Discuss the Passage

- (If you are in a new group) What is your name? Tell us one factoid about your life that will help us remember you vividly!
- How do advertisers appeal to pride and envy in their advertisements? Please share a few examples. How successful are these appeals?

Discovering: What the Passages Say

- Compare the two translations above for each Scripture passage. What jumps out at you? Similarities? Differences? Overlaps? Things to pursue?
- In Luke 22:24, a most unflattering snapshot of the disciples is shown. Why would Luke include this in his Gospel? How might what is happening in chapters 22 and 23 of Luke shed light on this inclusion?
- Define “a tranquil mind” and “a peaceful heart,” as stated in the two translations of Proverbs 14:30. How do they change a person’s life according to this verse?
- In Proverbs 14:30, one translation uses “envy” and the other translation “jealousy.” How are envy and jealousy synonyms? How do they differ?
- How does Proverbs 27:4 describe the connections between “wrath,” “anger,” and “jealousy”? What might you add to this description of the connections?

Exploring: What the Passages Mean

- Using Proverbs 14:30 and Proverbs 27:4, please elaborate upon the devastating effects of envy or jealousy in someone's life. When have we observed this devastation?
- If we know envy harms lives so noticeably, then why is it so commonplace? What about us as people makes envy so appealing?

Applying: Wrestling with the Implications of the Passages for Our Lives

- One implication of this study is envy is quite dangerous and destructive. What leads you to be envious? What patterns or habits can you establish to resist these temptations?
- One more implication of this study suggests we need to think of ourselves less in response to our problem with envy. Tim Keller writes in his little book *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*, "The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, but thinking of myself less." What is the difference between thinking less of yourself and thinking of yourself less? What are ways in which you might think of yourself less and think of others more? How might this shift in thinking help you address your envy?

