

## HAPPENING AT MDPC

### Kickball League for 20s & 30s

MDPC Young Adults are playing in a Monday-night kickball league at Memorial Park this fall! Fans and players welcome each week.

**Season starts Sept 10 • 5 weeks of double headers**  
Join the "MDPC Sports" FB group for weekly info or text Edgar Torres: 361-793-6344

### Romp Through the Old Testament

A Bible study led by Pastor Clay Brown, Pastor Beth Case, and Pastor Rachel Poysky.

**Tuesdays, starting Sept 11 | 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122**  
[romp.mdpc.org](http://romp.mdpc.org)

### The Venturers at MDPC: Dinner & Program

This month's speaker is Pastor Alf, who will share his travelogue of last June's trip to Greece and Turkey with members of MDPC, A Walk in the Footsteps of Paul.

**Monday, Sept 10 | 6:00 PM | Westchase Hilton**  
Event details and registration: [venturers.mdpc.org](http://venturers.mdpc.org)

### Blood Drive

We never know when or where disaster will strike, which makes regular blood drives so important. Not every story makes national headlines, but for the parents of a hurting child, patients undergoing heart surgery, preemies, sickle cell sufferers, and so many more, their time of crisis and need is just as urgent.

**Next Sunday, Sept 9 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM**

Sign up anytime at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org).

### MDPC Young Adult Fall Retreat

Join the young adult community on a retreat from the city to enjoy the tranquility of the Hill Country. This is for 20s to mid-30s looking for a chance to breathe and relax and experience the glory of the Lord with great friends. We will leave Friday after work and return midday Sunday. Food and room provided!

**Nov 2-4 | Near Round Top, Texas | \$65 per person**  
Register today: [yaretreat.mdpc.org](http://yaretreat.mdpc.org)

### Save the Date: Science & Faith

MDPC's Speaker Series continues, exploring questions about the universe, our origins, how God created life. Two scientists who also are Christians present views of how to interpret Genesis. We'll see how scientific discovery bolsters our faith in and love for God.

**Saturday, Oct 13 | 5:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
Learn more: [speakers.mdpc.org](http://speakers.mdpc.org)

### This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:

**Newspring** nurtures Spring Branch businesses to help create jobs and income, thus stabilizing families otherwise subject to transiency. When parents are able to find work and affordable housing, their children aren't moved around. Newspring's Visual Arts program encourages SBISD students to work hard, stay in school, and turn their gift of art into a career.

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

**Open Door Mission** is a faith and evidence-based recovery and rehabilitation facility dedicated to transforming the lives of severely addicted, destitute, homeless, and disabled men in our community. It works to repair lives and families, thus interrupting the cycle of abuse, poverty, and violence.

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

**MDPC Field Partners Chris and Jamie** moved to the Middle East in 2012 to work in community development and share their faith in Jesus while building relationships with their new neighbors. The couple met while serving in Iraq and Jordan. Pray for Chris, Jamie, their two children, and their team to be strengthened by God as they learn the language and share His love and grace with everyone He places in their path.

### Rec Classes for Kids & Adults

Registration for fall REACH classes is open! Sign up now for sports, art, music, fitness, and more.

Complete class list and registration: [reach.mdpc.org](http://reach.mdpc.org)

### Walking the Mourner's Path

A Christ-centered grief program designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. Limited to 10 participants, it's a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

**Thursdays, Sept 20-Nov 8 | 6:00-7:30 PM**

Register with Beverly Fluke ([bfluke@mdpc.org](mailto:bfluke@mdpc.org), 713-490-9542) or at [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org); \$30 fee for materials.

### Tutors & Mentors Change Lives!

Help out local kids at local schools. Caring adults are needed for roles that range from mentoring or tutoring kids, to helping out in the library, to planning and staffing teacher appreciation events, and more. There's something for every type of servant spirit!

**Training is a single session. Opps begin next week.**

Learn more at [change.mdpc.org](http://change.mdpc.org).

### Youth Confirmation Class

Confirmation is 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, Jan 6-Feb 24, 2019**

**Confirmation Sunday: March 3**

Details and registration: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.

### Young Adults: Come Have a Taco!

20s to mid-30s: Find the outdoor staircase off the Breezeway and come on up for a taco and Bible study. Classes include The Parish, Fifth Community, and Nearly & Newly, a new class for couples focusing on marriage enrichment. We can't wait to meet you!

**Sundays at 11:00 AM | MC Rooms 217, 218, 219**

Contact Christyn with questions: [cknoop@mdpc.org](mailto:cknoop@mdpc.org)

### Life 2.0: Married with Young Kids!

A laid-back group of married couples in our 30s and 40s, most with pre-K or elementary-age kids. We do Bible study on Sundays, and also like to get together for social and service events. Drop by this morning and say hello - breakfast (frequently!) provided!

**Sunday mornings at 11:15 AM | MC 122**

Contact Madison & Drew: [malimbacher@gmail.com](mailto:malimbacher@gmail.com)

### WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 5,561,275
Actual Income to Date (8/26/18)	\$ 5,855,011
Current Income Surplus	\$ 293,736
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 5,744,989

Sunday, September 2, 2018



# All In

NO RESTRICTIONS. NO RESERVATIONS. NO REGRETS.

**IN SYNC**  
LUKE 13:6-9 (NRSV)

**8:30 AM BLENDED**

WELCOME

Brett Hurst

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

IN SYNC

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

**9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

WORSHIP INVITATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Dan Aikins

SONG OF RESPONSE

MESSAGE

IN SYNC

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**

PRELUDE

*Andante Cantabile from Symphony No. 4*

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel Poysky

CHORAL INTROIT

*The Tree of Life*

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*How Firm a Foundation*

#361; Vs. 1, 2, 3, 5 | FOUNDATION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the United Church of Canada

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*The Gloria Patri*

Hymn #579

ANTHEM

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)

OFFERTORY

*The Love of God*

Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

MESSAGE

IN SYNC

Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

#370; Vs. 1, 4 | WOODWORTH

POSTLUDE

*Grand Choeur*

Theodore Dubois (1837-1924)

Musicians in this service: Alberto Graulau, violinist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ; Sanctuary Choir

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

## Labor Day Sunday Lunch

## Burgers & Dogs

**Today in Fellowship Hall!**

11:00 AM-1:00 PM • Everyone Is Welcome

\$8.50/adult • \$3/child • \$20/family (2 adults + 3 kids under 12)



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

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710



# word AND worship

2018-2019: A Study of Genesis

Five Weekly Day/Time Options • Groups begin September 6

Details and registration: [wordandworship.mdpc.org](http://wordandworship.mdpc.org)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. - Colossians 3:16



## MDPC Backpack Buddy

[bpbuddy.mdpc.org](http://bpbuddy.mdpc.org)

Help provide healthy food to students who otherwise would go hungry on weekends. You spend just a few hours in the morning volunteering at Houston Food Bank.

Select Mondays & Saturdays in the Fall

< Visit the webpage to learn about the program and sign up to fill backpacks!

houston foodbank

HUNGER INITIATIVE

## CRISIS TRAINING

The Church's Role in Healing After Man-Made and Natural Disasters

Free and open to all. No previous training necessary.

**Saturday, September 15**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • MDPC Amphitheater  
\*Optional Support-Group Training, 12:00-1:00 PM  
Register: [crisis.mdpc.org](http://crisis.mdpc.org)

Are You Prepared to Help Your Neighbor?

Start with Discover MDPC...

This is a no-pressure opportunity to meet Pastor Alf and learn about MDPC.

Next Sunday, September 9  
10:45-11:10 AM | The Nook

...then explore New Member Classes

This four-week series is taught by the MDPC associate pastors and elders.

Sundays, September 16-October 14  
9:45-11:00 AM | MC 122

More info: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

## C.S. LEWIS FOR TODAY

Taught by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor

WEDNESDAYS  
THROUGH SEPT. 26

6:30-7:30 PM, AMPHITHEATER

More than 50 years after his death, we still read and talk about C. S. Lewis. Why? What is there here to explore? This course focuses on Lewis the writer, thinker, and cultural critic, and on two of his most relevant books for today.

LEARN MORE: [LEWIS.MDPC.ORG](http://LEWIS.MDPC.ORG)



For those who are questioning, seeking, or wouldn't even call themselves Christian. For believers, too. For anyone ready to explore faith in an open, honest, accepting forum.

**Starts Tuesday, September 11**

6:30 PM • Free • Dinner and childcare provided  
[alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

MEN'S LIFE 2018

## CORE TRAINING

Start your day working on the core of Men's Life, principles that have been life-changing for men from all over Houston. Find an accountability buddy and commit to this 12-week series that will rebuild the inner workings of your life.

**Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Dec. 4**  
6:30-7:45 AM (NEW TIME!)

Register: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)

MEN'S LIFE

## The Living Well

Revival of Heart  
Renewal of Mind  
Rest for Soul

A Study of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke

led by Charlotte Crawford

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 AM  
Begins September 12, 2018

[tlw.mdpc.org](http://tlw.mdpc.org)

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."  
- Luke 1:47

MDPC Women



## THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR

Learn about music and choral singing in a fun, worshipful environment! All kids grades K-5 are welcome. Sign up at [themusicbox.mdpc.org](http://themusicbox.mdpc.org).

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19-NOVEMBER 14  
4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL



## C.S. LEWIS FOR TODAY

Taught by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor

WEDNESDAYS  
THROUGH SEPT. 26

6:30-7:30 PM, AMPHITHEATER

More than 50 years after his death, we still read and talk about C. S. Lewis. Why? What is there here to explore? This course focuses on Lewis the writer, thinker, and cultural critic, and on two of his most relevant books for today.

LEARN MORE: [LEWIS.MDPC.ORG](http://LEWIS.MDPC.ORG)



## MARRIAGE Is Not for WIMPS!

MDPC Marriage Retreat 2018

Get away for a weekend with your spouse and take your marriage to the next level! Led by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement.

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 29-30 | The Woodlands

Details & registration: [marriageretreat.mdpc.org](http://marriageretreat.mdpc.org)

# All In

**IN SYNC • LUKE 13:6-9 (NRSV)**  
**SENIOR PASTOR ALF HALVORSON PREACHING**

This is the third sermon and small-group discussion in our *All In* sermon series. We have looked at Community (*Connect or Die*), and we have looked at how Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and relationally. What habits, disciplines, and practices do you and I have in place to grow and find deep connectedness? As we said in week one, “It is not our abilities that show us who we are, but our

choices.” Today, we look at one of the most ignored parables of Jesus. It is the short story of Jesus in Luke 13:6-9, which seems to put all the things we have been talking about in this series into story form.

1. Read Luke 13:6-9. From verses 6-7, what seems to be the problem? What is the owner’s recommended solution?
2. The tree is barren; and had not produced for three years. Who is Jesus talking about here? Is it the Pharisees and Sadducees who had heard the prophets and Jesus Himself, but were still “holding back” or “actively opposing” Him? Is it Israel? Is it any potential disciple? Discuss.
3. If you think a little more broadly and symbolically, how can humans in general and you and I in particular exhibit barrenness? I mentioned some options in my sermon just to get you thinking about others, our church, and your own life.
4. Verse 8 is a rich and amazing sentence. What is the gardener’s recommended solution? It contains three parts: let it alone for one more year; let me dig around it and get to the root of the problem; and let me put fertilizer on it. What role does the tree play? And what role does the gardener play? And, by the way, who is the gardener?
5. I reduced the three parts of the gardener’s solution to three words: grace, truth, and time. If that combination is a powerful one toward healing, restoration, and revitalization, do you allow those three things when you are trying to solve a problem at work/home, help someone overcome a personal issue, or deal with something in your own life? Which part are you poor at right now; which part or parts do you do well? Are all three necessary in most cases or can you get by with one or two aspects alone?
6. Take some problem in your life or of the group’s imagining and identify what grace, truth (digging around and fertilizer), and time might look like.
7. In your spiritual life, think about where you are thriving and where you might be languishing—or even barren. Now think through what grace, truth, and time might look like in that situation. Can you do all of the parts “all by yourself”? Consider asking someone from the group or the whole group to help; and what role should God be asked to play? Remember, the tree in the parable seems just to be surrendered. In other words, it allows the gardener to dig around, to get to the root of the problem, and then to apply fertilizer and other interventions where needed. Where are we like and unlike a fig tree? What might all this look like in your life?

