

HAPPENING AT MDPC

New Member Class Series starts Today

If you are interested in membership, or in becoming a Christian, any of our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! Taught by our Pastors and Elders, the class includes an outreach service project. **Sunday mornings, Nov 11-Dec 9 (No class Nov 25)** Drop-ins welcome! More info: membership.mdpc.org

Blood Drive Today

Never knowing when disaster will strike makes regular blood drives so important. Not every story makes national headlines, but for the parents of a hurting child, for heart surgery patients, for sickle cell sufferers, and for so many more, the crisis and need are just as urgent. **Sunday, Nov 11 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall** Sign up anytime at giveblood.org.

Family Christmas Festival: HOPE

BINGO, Christmas Amazing Race, Face Paint, Hot Cocoa Bar, Cookie Decorating, Advent Calendar Jar, a service project, and more! Please bring a 64-oz apple juice (plastic bottle) for the service project. Event is free; small cost for optional dinner. **Sunday, Dec 2 | 5:00-7:00 PM** RSVP for dinner: hope.mdpc.org

Christmas for Kids

MDPC Women is partnering with Small Steps Nurturing Center to provide 160 siblings of children in their programs with Christmas gifts. We hope you will join us on this journey of generosity. **Sundays in Nov: Pick up forms and a large bag to put gifts in. Return wrapped gifts by Dec 3.** More information: gifts.mdpc.org

Hoop It Up with Youth Basketball!

Boys and girls in PreK to 9th grade are encouraged to participate. Fee of \$150 includes a jersey and a trophy for PreK-5th grade teams. **Practices begin the week of Nov 26. You must register at MDPC if you want to practice at MDPC! Games: Saturdays, Jan 5-Feb 16 at area churches** Register by Nov 18: sports.mdpc.org

Kids’ Meals Monthly Service Project

One in four preschool children in Houston goes to bed hungry. You can help fill empty tummies! Come make sandwiches for Kids’ Meals. *Please bring 4 loaves of bread per sandwich-maker.* **Wednesday, Nov 14 | 4:30 PM | Fellowship Hall** Contact Julie for details: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Parent Pow-Wows

Parents and any adult invested in our kids’ wellbeing are invited to this final installment of *Critical Conversations* on the issues influencing this generation. **Today, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | MDPC Gym** Series info: powwows.mdpc.org

Toy Train Is Here!

All year long, MDPC’s Mobile Unit offers low-cost and free home goods and necessities to nearby low-income neighborhoods. At Christmastime, it hands out toys! Donations of new, unwrapped toys for ages newborn to 12 would be very much appreciated. **Collecting toys through Tuesday, Dec. 18** More information: toys.mdpc.org

2019 Young Adult Mission Trip

The Micah Project is doing amazing work in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, ministering to children who live on the street. It shows you what these children face, and inserts you directly into the community. If you want to see the love of Christ, see the beauty that is Honduras, and grow in community with other Young Adults, come check out this amazing mission partner. **March 20-24 | \$600 out of pocket/\$600 fundraise** Contact Trevor to learn more: tharris@mdpc.org

Knitting for Missions: Evening Edition

This MDPC group knits premie caps for Ben Taub, comfort dolls for Guatemalan children awaiting surgery, and so much more. The newly forming Tuesday group is for people who can’t make Knitting for Missions’ usual Monday-morning meetups at the church. **1st Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM | Halvorson Home** Contact Shari Halvorson for the address or with

The Red Rose is in honor of:

- Elisabeth Faith Malejan, born October 22, 2018, to Kristin and Brian Malejan. Elisabeth is the granddaughter of Stan and Jan Simmons.

This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:

Spring Branch Community Health Center is the primary provider of comprehensive healthcare services to indigent and low-income patients in Spring Branch. The need is so great, they have opened four more area clinics, including in Katy. sbchc.net

Small Steps Nurturing Center is an exemplary early childhood program that fosters the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of children from low-income families. Its two locations in Houston’s First and Fifth Wards provide high-quality education, transportation, nutritious meals, and social and emotional therapy to 180 economically at-risk inner-city children. ssnc.org

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) takes wheelchairs to places around the world where the impoverished disabled do not have access to mobility. FWM ministers to each recipient and shares the good news of Christ’s call - that we are free in Him! Pray that a life would be transformed with each chair given and that communities would see God is good as He meets needs in tangible ways. freewheelchairmission.org

Sunday, November 11, 2018

HOW TO GET
**CLOSER
TO GOD**

A New Way to Pray | *Psalm 23*

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME	Dave Steane & Hal Lundgren	
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON	Beth Case	
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	A New Way to Pray <i>Psalm 23 (NRSV)</i>	Alf Halvorson
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE	Mayra Escamilla	
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
MESSAGE	A New Way to Pray <i>Psalm 23 (NRSV)</i>	Alf Halvorson
VETERANS MOMENT AND GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	Dave Steane & Hal Lundgren	
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		

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

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Psalm 23 (I Shall Not Want)</i>	Heather Sorenson (b. 1980)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP	Dave Steane & Hal Lundgren	
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>God of Grace and God of Glory</i>	#420; Vs. 1, 2, 3 CWM RHONDDA
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON	Trevor Harris	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH		
OFFERTORY	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd, Alleluia</i>	Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1947)
MESSAGE	A New Way to Pray <i>Psalm 23 (NRSV)</i>	Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATIONS	<i>Psalm 8: Adonai, Adonenu (O Lord, Our Lord)</i> <i>Communion No. 1</i>	Dan Forrest (b. 1978) Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)
POSTLUDE	<i>We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight</i>	arr. James Biery (b. 1956)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Monica Isomura, mezzo soprano (prelude); Kathryn White, piano/organ; Brian Yeakley, tenor (offertory); Calvet Young, tenor (prelude); Sanctuary Choir

† 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.

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

DO YOU WISH TO EXPERIENCE COMMUNION MORE FREQUENTLY?
We will offer the sacrament on additional Sundays in the 11:15 AM service only. Look for notices of upcoming special communion Sundays in the worship guide and weekly MDPC News email.

THURSDAY

All-Church Worship Night

Thursday, November 15

7:00-8:00 PM* | Chapel

Worship...it's not just for Sundays.

Come hungry for music, prayer, Spirit-filled encouragement, and space to listen and respond to our amazing God.

*Doors open at 6:30 for fellowship and snacks.

No registration required for the event.

Reserve childcare: childcare@mdpc.org

Multi-Generational Event!

FRIDAY

pie love you

MDPC Women is teaming up again with **Jesus Said Love**, an organization that shares the revolutionary love of Christ with women in the commercial sex industry. We'll make pies to be taken into Houston-area businesses, whose workers will receive the baked gifts and spend time with a member of JSL to hear about the love of Jesus.

Two Ways You Can Help:

Donate a pie for just \$10!

Sign up for pie baking and assembly **this Friday, November 16**. Choose a morning (includes free childcare & lunch) or afternoon shift.

To donate or volunteer: pieloveyou.mdpc.org

TOMORROW

HUNGER INITIATIVE

houston foodbank

MDPC Backpack Buddy

Help provide healthy food to students who would otherwise go hungry on weekends. We'll ride the bus from MDPC, spend a few hours volunteering at Houston Food Bank, and return by noon.

Next Date: **Monday, November 12**

Learn more and sign up to serve: hunger.mdpc.org



BLESS FRIDAY

BLACK FRIDAY IS ABOUT SHOPPING
BLESS FRIDAY IS ABOUT SERVING

Friday, November 23, 2018

Check out this year's at-home projects or sign up for one of the planned projects at select partner ministries:

blessfriday.mdpc.org

Partner⁺ in Prayer

Partners In Prayer commit to praying for their fellow MDPC members and a mission partner, each day for one year. Pastor Alf's goal is to have 1,000 or more Pray-ers for 2019. Help make it happen!

Learn more and register at the link below or **this morning at our sign-up table.**

pip.mdpc.org

ADVENT RETREAT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM-2:30 PM | Villa de Matel Convent | \$30 includes lunch
Register by Nov. 16: SILENTRETREAT.MDPC.ORG

YOUTH CONFIRMATION 2019

For students currently in 8th grade or above. It's a time to **focus** on what it means to **follow Jesus** and be part of His church.

Confirmation classes begin **Sunday, January 6, 2019**

Details at the link. Register by December 3:
confirmation.mdpc.org

TREATS FOR YOUR FEAST!



ORDER BY NOV. 18

Cranberry Bread (with or without Nuts) \$7

Giant Chocolate Chip Cookies • 1/2 Dozen \$6 • Baker's Dozen \$12

Pumpkin Pie \$12 • Pecan Pie \$16

Order online: treats.mdpc.org

HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

A New Way to Pray

Psalm 23 (NRSV)
Pastor Alf preaching

We are beginning a brief, three-Sunday series on *How to Get Closer to God*. James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” How do we do that in real and practical ways, without stopping our lives and becoming full-time monks or nuns? There are proven ways to which Christians throughout the ages have devoted themselves, which the Reformers called “the means of grace.” We will focus for this brief series on 3 of them.

1. When I say the word *prayer*, what positive and negative images come to you?
 - a. If you have been a “Partner In Prayer” here, what have been the highlights? Where have you struggled?
 - b. What do you try to do when your mind wanders or the tasks of the day flood in when you are trying to pray?
 - c. Have you ever devolved in your prayers into just saying *the same old things about the same old things*? How have you tried to push through those “dry times”?
2. React to these quotes regarding prayer:
 - a. *Prayer is an encounter and a relationship, a relationship which is deep, and this relationship cannot be forced either on us or God. ...but we usually don't want a relationship with God. We usually want something from God, not God at all.* (Anthony Bloom)
 - b. *It isn't words alone that make up a prayer. It's deeds and passion and experience—the whole person involved. Words alone are as hollow and irrelevant as ping pong balls—ka-pock, ka-pock, in incantation.* (Walter Wangerin)
 - c. *Prayer is an offering of our desires unto God for things agreeable to God's will. So, God and the doing of God's will must be the center of any prayer. All prayer is God-centered.* (Westminster Catechism)
 - d. *To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives.* (Richard Foster)
 - e. *Prayer is not a way of getting God to do what we want, but a way of putting ourselves in such a relationship with God that God can do in and for and through us what God wants. Prayer is not a magic means by which we control God, but a humble means by which God can control us, find gangway through us, release divine power and purpose in us. Without prayer, there are some things God cannot say to us, for prayer is the listening ear. Without prayer, there are some things God cannot give to us, for prayer is the hospitable heart. Without prayer, there are some things God cannot do through us, for prayer is the cooperative will.* (Harry Emerson Fosdick)
 - f. *Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!* (Jesus, in Matt. 7:7-11)
3. I taught a way to pray that has brought newness and joy to my devotional time with God. React to what I said and showed. Try the method in your group: Pick a Psalm or portion of a Psalm; read it through once; then read short sections, pausing for prayer, until you finish whatever time is allotted. Do a short debrief of how this method overcomes many of your prayer problems.

