

**All-Church Lunch “Sunday Supper”**

Choose from roasted chicken or beef stew served with homemade sides. Adults \$10, kids under 12 eat for \$4!  
**Today, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
[food.mdpc.org](http://food.mdpc.org)

**Spirit Night at Chick-fil-a at I-10 and Silber**

Mention Spirit Night as you order (front counter or drive thru) and a 20% of your ticket total will go directly to MDPC Partner, Living Water International.  
**Wednesday, Dec 5 | 5:00-8:00 PM**  
 For more info, email Ellie Tendall: [etendall@gmail.com](mailto:etendall@gmail.com)

**All-Day Family Friendly Christmas Party**

Join other Young Adults for a potluck holiday meal, stockings and cookie decorating for the kids, a sing-a-long around the piano, and good fireside conversation.  
**Saturday, Dec 8 | 1:00-8:00 (drop in or stay all day)**  
 RSVP to Sarah Stone: 832-605-8129

**Merry & Bright**

The Contemporary Music Program and REACH art classes will host an art show and Christmas music concert with a special performance art piece.  
**Wednesday, Dec 12 | 6:00 PM**  
 Art viewing begins at 6:00 PM (Chapel Hallway), then the concert at 7:00 PM (Chapel), followed by a reception hosted by Fuente Ministries (Summit Room).

**Love Christmas Carols & Festive Music?**

Join us as the Sanctuary Choir and Houston Christian High School Chamber Choir with a full orchestra present Karl Jenkins’ *Gloria* with highlights from past Christmas concerts and congregational carols. It is free and open to the public. Bring your friends and family!  
**Sunday, Dec 16 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary**  
 Learn more: [concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)

**Theology On Tap: BEER & HYMNS**

Join us at St. Arnold’s for craft beer, food, Christmas pub trivia, and a sing-a-long, TOT style. Panelists will present mini theology lessons from Christmas songs we all know and love, as we drink, learn, and worship.  
**Tuesday, Dec 18 | \$5 gets you craft beer & food 7:00-9:00 PM | St. Arnold’s Brewery Tap Room**  
 Open to Young Adults (20s & 30s)  
[facebook.com/theologyontaphouston](https://facebook.com/theologyontaphouston)

**The White Rose is in memory of:**

- Walter Worth, who passed away November 16, 2018.
- Bob McNair, who passed away November 23, 2018.

**The Red Rose is in honor of:**

- Grace Ann Jochetz, born November 18, 2018, to Will and Chelsey Jochetz. She is the granddaughter of Buz and Cindy Jochetz.

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

**Star of Hope** is a Christ-centered mission for men, women, and children that provides shelter, meals, counseling, education, and childcare. It introduces each child to a loving relationship with Jesus. Positive life changes are encouraged through programs for spiritual growth, employment, and recovery from substance abuse.  
[sohmission.org](http://sohmission.org)

**Stoney Creek Ranch** works closely with churches and organizations that support urban youth to help them know Christ and His role in their lives, and to develop an personal relationship with Him. These young people, who rarely experience the beauty of God’s creation, visit Stoney Creek for life-changing camping adventures.  
[stoneycreekranch.org](http://stoneycreekranch.org)

**The Outreach Foundation** is an independent Presbyterian global mission organization focusing on proclaiming the Gospel. It seeks to build the global church’s capacity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by sending missionaries, caring for vulnerable children, and expanding mission support.  
[theoutreachfoundation.org](http://theoutreachfoundation.org)

**Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications**

Poinsettias for the chancels may be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one for \$8.00 per dedication. Order online to pay instantly via e-check or credit or debit card (be sure to work through all the pages to reach the payment info page and submit your request).  
**Last day to order: Friday, Dec 14**  
 Order today: [flowers.mdpc.org](http://flowers.mdpc.org)

**Vision Trip: Russia and Ukraine**

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) seeks to make Jesus known among the least reached people of the world by sharing the Good News through various media methods. It broadcasts in 113 languages in 49 countries from 149 stations and transmitters (and counting!). We will see how God is working through FEBC in St. Petersburg, then traveling to Kiev to visit multiple stations and hear stories of hope amidst the darkness.  
**Approx. Dates & Cost: Feb. 9-17 | ~\$1,500 + airfare**  
 Contact Kelsi McCormack: [kmcormack@mdpc.org](mailto:kmcormack@mdpc.org)

**Married Life Prep**

Couples are invited to join us for a four-week course taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research. Open to engaged couples and those in their first 2-3 years of marriage.  
**Sundays, January 6-27 | 10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171**  
 Register: [mlp.mdpc.org](http://mlp.mdpc.org)

**College Ski Trip 2K19**

Start 2019 with a memorable few days tearing up the Colorado slopes! Cost includes lodging, meals on non-travel days, lift tickets, and ski/board rentals.  
**Tuesday-Sunday, January 1-6**  
**\$495 (\$200 deposit due Dec 1, balance by Dec 20)**  
 Learn more: [collegeskitrip.mdpc.org](http://collegeskitrip.mdpc.org)

**Alpha Winter 2019**

Alpha is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions of life. An 8-week series of interactive sessions that allows people to experience Jesus for themselves and make their own decisions about faith. Free dinner and free childcare.  
**Tuesdays, February 5-March 26 | 6:30-8:15 PM**  
 Info and RSVP: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 8,029,716
Actual Income to Date (11/25/18)	\$ 8,086,491
Current Income Surplus	\$ 56,775
<b>Needed to Meet 2018 Budget</b>	<b>\$ 3,513,509</b>

December 2, 2018  
 The First Sunday in Advent



Luke 21:25-36 | Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

**8:30 AM BLENDED**

**WELCOME** Rachel Poysky  
**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** Gee and Sarah Venancio  
**\*SONGS OF PRAISE**  
**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Dave Steane  
**SONG OF PREPARATION**  
**GIFTS OF GRATITUDE**  
**MESSAGE** A Thrill of Hope | Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV) Alf Halvorson  
**†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

**WORSHIP INVITATION**  
**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** Gee and Sarah Venancio  
**\*MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**  
**SONG OF RESPONSE**  
**GIFTS OF GRATITUDE** Kyle Collins  
**MESSAGE** A Thrill of Hope | Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV) Alf Halvorson  
**†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

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

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**

**PRELUDE** *Overture to the Messiah* G. F. Handel (1687-1759)  
**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP** Trevor Harris  
**LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH** Gee and Sarah Venancio  
**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #2; Vs. 1, 2 | HYFRYDOL  
**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE** Dave Steane  
**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20  
**OFFERTORY** *Recitative: Comfort Ye and Air: Every Valley Shall Be Exalted* G. F. Handel  
*Chorus: And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah)*  
**MESSAGE** A Thrill of Hope | Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV) Alf Halvorson  
**†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**  
**COMMUNION MEDITATIONS**  
*Aria and Chorus O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (from Messiah)* G. F. Handel  
*Fantasy on Greensleeves* Brian Henkelmann (b. 1950)  
**POSTLUDE** *Good News from Heaven* Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Musicians in this service: Miriam Belyatsky and Rasa Kalesnykaite, violinists; Monica Isomura and Brian Yeakley, soloists; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ; Sanctuary Choir

\* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

† 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.



**TODAY**

# When HOPE was Born

## Family Christmas Festival

**Sunday, December 2  
5:00-7:00 PM**

Dinner\*, Bingo, Face Painting, Advent Calendar Jars, a Hot Chocolate Bar, a Service Project\*\*, and more!

\*Festival is free, with dinner available for a small fee:  
RSVP for dinner: [hope.mdpc.org](http://hope.mdpc.org)  
\$8/adult • \$4/child • \$28 family max)

\*\*Please bring a 64-oz plastic bottle of apple juice for the service project.




**TODAY**

## Opens Today!

**Sundays, December 2-23**  
Sanctuary Lobby between services

When you purchase MM Christmas cards to gift to friends and family, **100% of money received** is sent to the MDPC ministry partner(s) of your choice. Your cards support **medical mission** in Guatemala, **spread the Gospel message** in our community, **minister to children orphaned by AIDS**, and so much more.

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

**Mission Market Christmas Cards**

New card for 2018!



**HUNGER INITIATIVE**  
houston foodbank

Help provide healthy food to students who would otherwise go hungry on weekends. On Saturday we meet at Houston Food Bank, and on Monday we ride the bus from MDPC. Projects take just a few hours! We're done (or back at MDPC) by noon.

**MDPC Backpack Buddy**

**Saturday, December 8 or Monday, December 10**  
Details & sign-up: [bpbuddy.mdpc.org](http://bpbuddy.mdpc.org)



## TREATS FOR YOUR FEAST! ORDER BY DEC. 16

Giant Chocolate Chip Cookies • 1/2 Dozen \$6 • Baker's Dozen \$12  
Christmas Cookies • 24 Asstd \$25 • Iced Sugar 1/2 Dozen \$20  
Pumpkin Pie \$12 • Pecan Pie \$16 • Cranberry Bread \$7

Pick up in MDPC Kitchen, Dec. 18-20 • Order at [treats.mdpc.org](http://treats.mdpc.org)

**TUESDAY**

## You're Invited!

The women of MDPC invite you to a fun kick-off of the Christmas season! Grab your friends and come enjoy the festivities, including wassail, treats, and a few carols from our special guests, the children of The Yellow School. All women are welcome!

**Tuesday, December 4 • 9:30-11:00 AM • Parlor**  
Childcare available by reservation: [coffee.mdpc.org](http://coffee.mdpc.org)



## MDPC Concert Series

2018-2019

MDPC Sanctuary Choir and Houston Christian High School Chamber Choir present a Christmas concert to the glory of God.

**Sunday, December 16  
6:00 PM | Sanctuary**

Details and season schedule: [concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)

Admission is free to this community event.




Join us for

# Christmas Eve

**4:00 PM**  
Family Service  
Visit the Nativity Animals in the Breezeway.

**5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM**  
Candlelight Services

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


**EPISODE 2**  
GUEST: PASTOR ALF

# Being Human

*YOU'RE FINE. I'M FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE.*

Are emotions bad? Is counseling wrong? What does God think of us when we're anxious or depressed? How do the Bible and mental health intersect? Join seminarian Laurien Hook and Amanda Grace Caldwell, MA, LPC, in a podcast seeking answers to these questions and more.

Preview Episode 1! Available now with more coming soon: [beinghuman.mdpc.org](http://beinghuman.mdpc.org)





A THRILL OF HOPE

*The weary world*  
**Rejoices**

**Luke 21:25-36**  
Alf Halvorson preaching

According to the Christian Calendar, this is the First Sunday of the Christian Year. Happy New Year. And during the weeks of Advent, we will use the Lectionary Readings that Christians around the world will be using to prepare ourselves for the birth of the “Babe in the manger, who is the Savior of the world.”

The Lectionary doesn’t start with the virgin and Child; there are no shepherds and heavenly chorus.

It starts with the shaking of the heaven and earth in fear and foreboding, apocalyptic images, cataclysmic scenes, and end-of-the-world talk by Jesus. Preaching about the Second Coming of Jesus has fallen out of favor in most churches and been taken over by Bible prophecy groups and TV evangelists, but here it is as the text for the First Sunday in Advent. What Christians are asked to read and wrestle with as they make room for the gift of God 2,000 years ago, and also the gift of God we will receive in the future.

1. The Gospel of Luke begins in the Temple and ends with the Disciples going to the Temple. Here, in Luke 21:25-36, Jesus is teaching in the Temple, the place where Heaven meets Earth; where forgiveness with God happens through sacrifice; and where bank and debt records are stored.
2. Growing up, did you hear much talk about the end of the world? Did your pastors preach sermons on it? Did your friends or family discuss it? What are your recollections of those conversations? Did the discussions give you peace or cause you anxiety and fear?
3. Read Luke 21:25-36. According to verses 25-33, what are the signs the return of Christ is near? Do you believe Christ’s return is symbolic here or literal? In verses 34-36, what are the attitudes and actions Jesus implores us to have?
4. How easy or hard is it to “be on guard, be alert, pray for strength, and stand before the Son of Man”? Is it easier to be “weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, so that day catches you unexpectedly”? What measures might you take this Advent to avoid being “weighed down” by the world? How might you be buoyed up instead?
5. I talked about the means of grace again: prayer, meditation, memorization, and even added communion to our list of helps to “be alert.” How are those disciplines working for you and where are they letting you down? Discuss ways to support, encourage, teach, and assist each other so that our preparations bear fruit.
6. How does the story of various bachelor party traditions add light and direction to your Advent planning? Pray for each other as you attempt to add or subtract things from your life during this frenetic season.

