

ORDER FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Using the **MISSION MARKET ORDER FORM** on the opposite side of this page, indicate the following:

- From the **ORGANIZATION NAME** column, choose which Ministry Partner(s) you wish to support.
- In the **NO.** column, write the number of cards you plan to gift featuring that Ministry Partner.
- In the **AMT.** column, write the total amount you would like to give in support of the selected Ministry Partner. This may be for *any* amount over the \$1 minimum per card.
- When your choices are complete, add up the vertical items in the two columns, and record in the **TOTALS** row at the bottom.
- The **TOTAL AMT.** is what you owe. The **TOTAL NO.** is how many you will receive of each of the following:
 - Christmas greeting card and envelope
 - Ministry Partner info card indicating to the gift recipient which Ministry Partner you are supporting in the recipient's honor
 - HOPE sticker for securing the Ministry Partner info card (b) on the inside panel of the greeting card (a)
- Complete your personal information below, and bring your completed form to the Mission Market table.

Name (please print) _____

Email _____

Payment Method: Check # _____ Date ____/____/____

Payable to "MDPC." Write "Mission Market" on the memo line.

Credit Card (Visa or Mastercard)



Thank you for supporting our Ministry Partners. Your donations make a difference as we reach out to the world in Jesus' Name!

HAPPENING AT MDPC

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

See the ad inside this bulletin.

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

One in four preschoolers in Houston goes to bed hungry...help make sure there's one less empty tummy! Bring 4 loaves of bread per volunteer and help make sandwiches. That's all it takes to make a difference.

Wednesday, Dec 12 | 4:30-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Young Adults...

Come shoot some hoops and then hang out afterwards. We'll work off some of that holiday party food in basketball games and then grab a bite to eat.

Contact Sarah Stone if you'd like to join us on Friday, Dec 14: sstone@mdpc.org or call/text 832-605-8129

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

Toy Train Is Here!

All year long, MDPC's Mobile Unit travels to nearby low-income neighborhoods with low-cost or free necessities. 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

Partner In Prayer

How wonderful is it to know that, as a member of the MDPC family, your name's been lifted in prayer each day by your assigned Partner In Prayer? In 2019, covenant with Pastor Alf and other PIP volunteers to privately spend a few minutes each day bringing others before God.

Help meet Pastor Alf's goal of 1,000 pray-ers!

Learn more and sign up: pip.mdpc.org

The White Rose is in Memory of:

- Bill Fickert, who passed away November 20, 2018.
- Emily Warren, who passed away November 23, 2018.

This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:

Fuller Theological Seminary, the largest multi-denominational seminary in the world, provides graduate-level education 4,000 students from 90 countries.
fuller.edu/campuses-online/texas.aspx

Urban Outreach is a Christian apartment ministry with onsite locations at apartments in Spring Branch, Aldine, Alief, Gulfton, Eastside, and Northside neighborhoods. It works to strengthen and preserve inner-city families.
urbanoutreachinc.org

One Eight Catalyst wants every Christian to know how God is calling them be part of the Great Commission. It works through rural Bible distribution, Bible translation, and theological training in Asia.

oneeightcatalyst.org

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oneeightcatalyst.org

Girls' Getaway: Spring is Coming!

Join us on our annual retreat for a time of refreshment, laughter, and fun! All adult women are welcome.

February 1-3 | Jordan Ranch in Schulenburg, Texas
\$160 (includes all lodging and meals)

Details and registration: getaway.mdpc.org

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Dedications

Poinsettias for the chancel 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

Theology On Tap: BEER & HYMNS

Young Adults (20s & 30s), join us at St. Arnold's for craft beer, food, Christmas pub trivia, and a sing-along, TOT style. Panelists will present mini theology lessons from Christmas songs we all know and love.

Tuesday, Dec 18 | \$5 gets you craft beer & food
7:00-9:00 PM | St. Arnold's Brewery Tap Room

facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

Celebrate Teachers

Help MDPC celebrate the wonderful teachers and staff of Piney Point Elementary at Christmas! Bring 2-4 dozen homemade goodies (in a disposable container), or a gift card, or a monetary donation for a gift card to the MDPC Front Office by 5:00 PM, December 19.

Contact Chris Gehrman: chrisingehrman@gmail.com, 713-610-9872

B90: Read the Bible in 2019

Read 12 pages a day starting January 1, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. This could be the best new year's resolution you'll ever make.

Classes begin January 6

Details: b90.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

The End of 2018 Is Almost Here!

For gifts of check or cash to be included in your 2018 giving statement they **must be received by MDPC or postmarked no later than December 31, 2018.**

Gifts from IRAs or Donor Advised Funds **must be dated before the end of the year.**

Gifts of stock should be requested for transfer soon as they **must arrive in MDPC's account before close of business December 31, 2018.**

Contact Ava Caliendo for information on making a stock gift or to let us know if you plan to make one: acaliendo@mdpc.org, 713-953-2574

Enjoy the convenience of online giving: give.mdpc.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$11,600,000
Actual Income to Date (12/2/18)	\$8,377,761
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$3,222,239

December 9, 2018
The Second Sunday in Advent



Luke 3:1-6 | Pastor Alf Halvorson Preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME		Dave Steane
LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH		Kelsi and Michael McCormack
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Beth Case
SONG OF PREPARATION		
MESSAGE	A Thrill of Hope Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH		Kelsi and Michael McCormack
BAPTISMS		Alf Halvorson
	Annie McKenna Cunningham, daughter of Justin and Nicole Cunningham James Edward Filip, son of Matthew Filip and Amanda Hamelers Ford Jeffrey Frazier, son of Brent and Allison Frazier	
MESSAGE	A Thrill of Hope Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

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	<i>Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH		Kelsi and Michael McCormack
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	David McCullough
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	#9; Vs. 1, 2, 3 VENI EMMANUEL
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Beth Case
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Apostles' Creed		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23; Vs. 1, 2 GLORIA
BAPTISMS		Alf Halvorson
	John Raymond Gasset, son of Mauro and Kathryn Gasset Grace Lillian Rice, daughter of Tripp and Currie Rice	
ANTHEM	<i>Every Valley Shall Be Exalted</i>	John Ness Beck (1930-1987)
OFFERTORY	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh (from Glad Tidings)</i>	Randol Bass (b. 1953)
MESSAGE	A Thrill of Hope Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	#8; Vs. 1, 3 TRURO
POSTLUDE	<i>Angels from the Realm of Glory</i>	arr. Robert Hobby

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ; Sanctuary Choir

TODAY

Mission Market
missionmarket.mdpc.org

Give the Gift of Hope!

Sundays through December 23
Between Services • Sanctuary Lobby

When you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones, the money goes directly to an MDPC ministry partner to fund life-saving surgeries, safe and loving homes for children, life-transforming education, wheelchairs, and so much more.

Plan your order by tearing off the form attached to this bulletin! ▶

Gloria
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

Admission is free to this community event.

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 Prayers for 2019. Help make it happen!

To learn more and sign up:
pip.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 and registration:
confirmation.mdpc.org

HUNGER INITIATIVE
houston foodbank

Help provide healthy food to students who would otherwise go hungry on weekends. Meet at MDPC at 7:45 AM to ride the bus. We leave promptly at 8:00 AM! Engaging projects take just a few hours and we're done by noon.

Backpack Buddy
MDPC

You still can join us tomorrow! Monday, December 10
Details & sign-up: bpbuddy.mdpc.org

WEDNESDAY

• WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 •
The Evening Begins at 6:00 PM

An art show and Christmas music concert with a special performance art piece. Doors open at 6:00 PM for an art viewing, followed by the Christmas concert in the Chapel, then a reception in Summit Room. Free admission.

Merry & Bright

merry.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 \$30 • 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

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

2018 Mission Market Order Form



Local & Global Ministry Partners				
	ORGANIZATION NAME	ITS MISSION	NO.	AMT.
1	The Antioch Partners (Worldwide) theantiochpartners.org	Enables those called by God to enter long-term, cross-cultural ministerial service, and fosters the formation of worshipping communities among the unreached		
2	ALPHA Houston alphahouston.org	Works with churches to train & equip volunteers to reach more people for Christ • Churches are being transformed & people throughout Houston are being activated to share the Good News		
3	Camp Cho-Yeh cho-yeh.org	Christian camp in Livingston, Texas, where Jesus Christ transforms lives through meaningful relationships and outdoor adventures		
4	Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (Egypt) etsc.org/new	Prepares, equips, and trains pastors and leaders of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to proclaim the Good News in Egypt and beyond		
5	Faith In Practice (Guatemala) faithinpractice.org	Doctors, nurses, dentists, and support teams volunteer their time to travel to Guatemala to treat patients in an Antigua hospital and bring medical care to remote villages		
6	Free Wheelchair Mission (Worldwide) freewheelchairmission.org	Provides mobility, dignity, independence, and hope by sending wheelchairs to impoverished disabled in developing nations • Over 1 million wheelchairs have been delivered!		
7	ECHOS (Houston) echos-houston.org	Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS) • A faith-based organization serving the vulnerable and at-risk with health screenings, food, education, and other resources		
8	Hope for Youth (Houston) hopeforyouth.org	Builds long-term Christian mentoring relationships with at-risk urban youth through fun activities and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ		
9	The Beacon (Houston) beaconhomeless.org	Restores hope to Houston's homeless • Provides hot meals, showers, laundry service, and case management to over 600 clients each day		
10	LIFE Houston lifehouston.org	Provides baby food, formula, and essentials like diapers, wipes, and bottles to Houston families facing difficult circumstances • Often the only referral source for other services and agencies		
11	Kids' Meals (Houston) kidsmealshouston.org	Daily deliveries of 4,000 free, nutritious lunches to preschool-aged children living in poverty in Harris County • Its goal is to someday end hunger in that vulnerable population		
12	Living Water International (Worldwide) water.cc	Provides clean water to communities by installing water wells • Teams teach hygiene and share the "Living Water"- the gospel of Jesus		
13	Lulwanda Children's Home (Uganda) ugandaorphans.org	Provides a permanent home to orphaned and abandoned children, as well as education and life skills to prepare them to become Christian leaders		
14	The Landing (Houston) thelanding.org	Serves survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation • Its daytime drop-in center operates with a trauma-informed approach		
15	The Micah Project (Honduras) micahprojecthonduras.org	Reaches out to street boys to share the love of Christ, offering hope for spiritual and physical transformation • Many "Micah Boys" have graduated high school and now are in college!		
TOTALS				

A THRILL OF HOPE

The weary world
Rejoices

Luke 3:1-6

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second in our Advent Series to prepare ourselves not only for Christ's Coming this year, but for His Second Coming. We are using texts from the Common Lectionary, which Christians around the world in numerous denominations use. It is a great way to be in unity with brothers and sisters in very different contexts; we hear the same Word and can speak the same language with each other.

After hearing last week about apocalyptic, cataclysmic, End-Times verses, this week we are introduced to John the Baptist.

1. First read Luke 1:57-80, to get a feel for John's parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and to hear the prophecy that Zechariah spoke about John after he was born. What are some of the key actions of Elizabeth and Zechariah in verses 57-66? What are some of the key points in the prophecy recorded in verses 67-80?
2. Read Luke 3:1-6. In your mind, is there a significance to all the names and places listed in verses 1-2? Why include those details?
3. The Word of God, according to verse 2, came to a specific person at a specific time and in a specific place, and the Word was to particular people in a wide region (verse 3). What was that word in verse 3? Why was baptism a part of this repentance, in your mind? How does this action symbolize cleaning or purification or cleansing from sins?
4. Verses 4-6 quote a prophecy from the Book of Isaiah which describes the role of the person who comes immediately before the Savior/Messiah. What is John the Baptist's role, according to these three verses?
5. The key word in the entire passage just might be the word "repentance," which comes from the Greek word *metanoia*. How did I define metanoia? How did I try to illustrate it using Lebron James and Michelangelo as examples? Is there another illustration you might add to the equation to fill in the picture?
6. The assumption of this passage is that we won't be ready to meet the Savior unless we have prepared ourselves first; unless we repent; unless we have repented. How might you "turn around" or "turn toward" God this week in preparation for Christ's coming? How are you like the road that needs to be filled in or made low or straightened out? What will you do to make your highway ready for the Lord to travel this Advent?

