

Parents' Playground Mixer

Moms, dads, caregivers and kiddos are welcome to our first weekend playground mixer! It'll be a great way to meet other families at church with preschool and elementary-aged kiddos. Friends are welcome!

Saturday, March 2 | 4:00-6:00 PM

Bendwood Park (12700 Kimberley, 77024)

Email Madison Limbacher: malimbacher@gmail.com

Israel Trip Interest Meeting

Come ask questions and get excited to join Pastor Dave and Jenny Steane on a trip to the Holy Land this fall.

Sunday, March 3 | 5:30 PM | Parlor

Trip details: israeltrip.mdpc.org

Ash Wednesday

Enter the Lenten season with us. Pastor Alf will give a message, *Slipping and Sliding, Despite Our Best Efforts*, on Romans 3:23-26. Both service times include communion and imposition of ashes.

March 6 | Noon, Chapel and 6:30 PM, Sanctuary

Free childcare by reservation: lent.mdpc.org

The Well: "Even If"

Can God still part the Red Sea or turn water into wine? He can, and He does. Save the date for The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. This spring, we have the honor of hearing from Nancy Mavergeorge and how her family is living proof that God can meet us in our deepest sorrow and bring joy into our sad hearts. .

Wednesday, March 27 • 6:30-8:00 PM • Chapel

Refreshments in the Parlor at 6:00 PM

We sure hope you'll join us. To help us prepare for the evening, please RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.

The Music Box

The Music Box is for kids K-7 who love to sing. We learn about the fundamentals of music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment. The group is led and directed by Meliza Gómez, MDPC worship leader and Contemporary Music Director.

Wednesdays, March 20-April 24 | 4:45-5:30 PM

Register: themusicbox.mdpc.org

This week's Ministry Partner prayer focus is on:

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 reduce the recidivism rate (particularly to violent crimes) and number of crime victims, and enhance public safety.

bridgestolife.org

MDPC Field Partners Steve and Barbara Johnson serve in Budapest, Hungary, through Youth With a Mission. The Johnsons operate a coffee house that serves as an evangelism center, reaching out to the Budapest community with music and conversation that sparks spiritual discussion. They also lead a discipleship training school and have formed a mercy ministries team that shares the love of Jesus with homeless people and refugee families.

ywambudapest.org

Answering Objections to Christianity

The objections are fairly common. "Truth is relative" or "The Bible is irrelevant" or "Science has disproved Christianity." How can we answer these from a position that's warm, kind, but also firm? Pastor Clay Brown leads a 2-part Sunday class answering SIX common objections (three per Sunday). All are welcome.

Feb 17 & March 3 | 9:45 or 11:15 AM | Amphitheater
(No class Feb 24: Church in the City Sunday!)

2019 Global Mission Trips

Interested in going on a mission trip or vision trip in 2019? Come and join fellow MDPC members to visit and serve alongside one of our beloved global outreach partners. Don't miss this opportunity to see and participate in the amazing work God is doing abroad. Trip details are available on the MDPC website and on flyers throughout MDPC... Where is God calling you?

Contact Kelsi McCormack: kmccormack@mdpc.org

ROM 20th Anniversary Celebration

Join us for an evening of celebration and thanksgiving for the first 20 Years of Renewing Our Minds Ministry (ROM). This MDPC partner has transformed and equipped hundreds of young lives across the world for leadership, service, love, and reconciliation. Come hear their impactful history and their vision for the future.

This Wednesday, Feb 20 | 6:30 PM | Summit Room

All-Gospel Sunday

There is something rejuvenating and affirming when we hear Gospel music. The spirit of God's truth is delivered in a stirring fashion and gets us out of our "frozen chosen" normal style of worship. Join us on for a morning of powerful solos, hymns like *The Old Rugged Cross* and *Rock of Ages*, and choral pieces to inspire your soul.

Sunday, March 17 | 11:15 AM | Sanctuary

2019 Church in the City

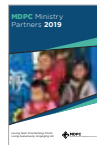
The entire MDPC family will again serve together on a Sunday morning at Houston Food Bank! Opportunities for all ages and mobility levels.

Next Sunday, Feb 24 | More info on the ad inside

Register today: citc.mdpc.org

Get to Know and Pray for All the MDPC Ministry Partners!

Pick up a free 2019 Ministry Partner booklet and get to know and pray for MDPC's 150+ local and global ministry partners. You and YOUR prayer are a vital part of their work! Three ministries to pray for are listed each week for the year.



WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

MDPC's 2019 Operating Budget is pending review and approval by MDPC Session.



Sunday, February 17, 2019

THIS IS US

The Story of Joseph's Family...and Ours

From Revenge to Reconciliation

Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21

Alf Halvorson preaching

THIS IS US Caring Contacts & Counseling

Wondering about the "me" in your family? Are you resonating with the sermon topics of sibling rivalry, jealousy, family secrets, disappointment, and revenge? Spend some time with our in-house counselor, Amanda Grace Caldwell (acaldwell@mdpc.org), as God works out reconciliation in your life and family. For more on the family issues Pastor Alf is tackling during this sermon series, check out our newest podcast, *Being Human*.

8:30 AM BLENDED CCLI # 182374

* Please stand if able.

WELCOME	Beth Case
*SONGS OF PRAISE	
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON MESSAGE	Amy Delgado
	THIS IS US Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21 (NRSV)
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE	Alf Halvorson

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WELCOME AND WORSHIP INVITATION	
MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE	Hillary McMullen
MESSAGE	Alf Halvorson
	THIS IS US Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21 (NRSV)
BAPTISM • Stella Chen	
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE	Sarah Stone

Musicians in the first two services: Robin & Blake Jackson, Meliza Gómez, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Chaconne</i>	Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Beth Case
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Lord, Thy Glory Fills the Heaven</i>	Glenn Rudolph (b.1951)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>Standing on the Promises</i>	Vs. 1, 2, 4 PROMISES
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Dan Aikins
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from The Apostles' Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>There Is a Balm in Gilead</i>	Bruce Saylor (b. 1946)
OFFERTORY	<i>Breath of Life</i>	Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
MESSAGE	THIS IS US Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>There's a Wideness in God's Mercy</i>	#298; vs. 1, 2 IN BABILONE
POSTLUDE	<i>Praeludium/Chaconne</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Musicians in this service: Cassandra Black, soloist; Emily Borling, guest organist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Sanctuary Choir



*Let's
do
this!*

02.24.19

Serve shoulder-to-shoulder with your MDPC family at our annual Sunday morning of service! Meet here at 8:00 AM, bus to Houston Food Bank with some mobile worship, serve at HFB, and return to MDPC around noon for lunch.

MDPC
CHURCH IN THE CITY

There's still time to sign up! Visit CITC.mdpc.org.

PICK UP YOUR T-SHIRTS TODAY!

If you've registered for Church in the City, stop by the Sanctuary Lobby this morning to pick up your T-shirt(s) so you can wear them next Sunday. T-shirts also will be available at the Front Office this week (Tuesday-Friday).

STARTS TODAY



SIX OBJECTIONS TO CHRISTIANITY

TWO SUNDAYS: FEBRUARY 17 AND MARCH 3
TWO TIMES: 9:45 OR 11:15 AM

A pastor-led class on apologetics.
More information on the back of this bulletin.

MARCH DADNESS

Tuesdays through March 5
6:30-7:45 AM | Amphitheater

Step up your game as a dad! Join other fathers and father-figures for a 4-week "Exploring the Seasons of Fathering" study.

dadness.mdpc.org

Donate Blood

Blood Drive Today
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Illness, disasters, & emergency surgeries are unpredictable, which makes regular blood drives so important! Walk-ins welcome.

Donors get a free T-shirt!

THE 2019 *Lenten Study*

REFLECT

Take up your cross and follow Me.

The six studies supplement Alf's REFLECT sermons. In the week following each sermon, we'll study as groups or individuals. Groups meet weekly March 10-April 20.

Small-group times and locations vary. Large-group options at MDPC are Sundays in the Amphitheater, 9:45 or 11:15 AM, or Wednesdays in the Summit Room, 6:30 PM.

View open groups and register: reflect.mdpc.org

Study guides are available for pick-up this morning in the Parlor hallway following the 8:30 service or the Sanctuary breezeway following the 9:45 and 11:15 services.

HOLY LAND TOUR

October 27 to November 7, 2019

Hosted by Jenny & Dave Steane

Interest Meeting:
Sunday, March 3 | 5:30 PM | In the Parlor

This is the fifth of six in a series on Joseph's circuitous journey of life and faith and how that helps us ponder our own journeys. Joseph has confronted several crucibles by this point. Now, when no one else can, he interprets two dreams for Pharaoh that say there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of drought. Pharaoh makes Joseph the Secretary of Agriculture—second-in-command in all of Egypt. Joseph proceeds to stockpile 20% of the grain harvest in the good years, making Egypt the granary for the world in the bad years. Joseph's brothers are among those who come to seek food. The crossroad before Joseph now is: How will he use his power? For good or for evil? For revenge or for reconciliation?

THIS IS US

The Story of Joseph's Family...and Ours From Revenge to Reconciliation

Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21 (NRSV)

Alf Halvorson preaching

1. If you are able, read Genesis 41-44. This is the long, convoluted story of how Joseph identifies his brothers, toys with them for a while, tests their character, and finally gets tired of revenge. What strikes you from these chapters? How do you identify with Joseph's first instinct to get even? Is there a time when you went down that path? What was the result?
2. Read Genesis 45:1-8. Describe how Joseph finally tells his brothers who he is (verses 1-4). How does Joseph emote? How do the brothers react/emote?
3. In verse 4, Joseph asks them to come closer, then names their sin: "whom you sold into slavery." What do both actions help produce? What can't we see from far away? Does it ever help to ignore or deny the truth?
4. Read verses 5-8. Once Joseph has "called a spade a spade," he offers an alternative vision of reality that must have been hard for his brothers (and himself, at first) to fathom. What does Joseph say has really been going on all along? Or, where is God in all this?
5. What is your personal reaction to that theological interpretation of things? Have you experienced anything similar to this in your life as you looked back on it? Is hindsight 20/20?
 - 5b. Read Romans 8:28, 31-39. Paul, who himself experienced the highs and lows of following and serving God, speaks from experience about God's providence and overarching sovereignty. Do Paul's words here help or further complicate this discussion? How?
6. Finally, read Genesis 50:15-21. Jacob has died and Joseph's brothers again are worried Joseph might seek revenge because he still is the one with the power. Why don't repentances and reconciliations seem to stay settled? Don't fear and revenge have a tendency of reappearing later on in our stories with other people? How did Joseph squelch this concern? What argument did he use with himself and with them? How might we assure others forgiveness and reconciliation are true and lasting? Sometimes things only stay settled (and relationships stay positive and strong) with persistence and reassurance.

