

Vision Trip to Central Asia

Trip leaders Sean and Bethany Walker lived there for 11 years, so they know the area and people well! A great opportunity to see what God is doing in the world and learn how The Antioch Partners (TAP) are serving. **June 15-24 (extended trip option through 27)** Application and \$250 deposit due TOMORROW Contact Hope Whitney: admin@theantiochpartners.org

New Member Class

The four-week New Member class series is taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and includes a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC. *Class will not meet Easter Sunday.* **Sundays, April 7-May 5 | Parlor | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM** Register: membership.mdpc.org

Easter Lily Ordering Open

Dedications in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones may be purchased online at flowers.mdpc.org or in person at the Front Office or Sanctuary. **Purchase/submission deadline: Thursday, April 11** flowers.mdpc.org

Brain Boot Camp

Would you like to improve your memory? Want to learn tips for things such as remembering names and faces and recalling appointments and messages? Then consider participating in Brain Boot Camp. This fun one-day class is taught by our friends at Amazing Place, and sponsored by Caring Ministries. **Wednesday, April 24 | 9:00 AM-1:30 PM | MDPC \$100 (includes a box lunch)** For more information, contact Sally Davis at 713-552-0420 or rainyourbrain@amazingplacehouston.org.

BBQ Fundraiser

Proceeds benefit dispatchers and police officers of the Memorial Villages Police Department. BBQ plate and fixings for a \$10 donation. **Saturday, April 27 | 10:00 AM-4:00 PM | MDPC** Sponsorships are available and appreciated! Contact Frank Lerma: flerma@mvpdtx.org, 713-204-7467

Today's Chancel Flowers are given: in celebration of the marriage of Morgan Elizabeth Beeler and Jon Holman Moores, III, in honor of the bride's grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Allen Beeler, Sr.

The White Rose is in memory of MDPC members:

- Dorothy Bing, who passed away March 14, 2019.
- JoAnn Suthers, who passed away March 16, 2019.
- Charles Thomas Ward, who passed away March 19, 2019.
- Larry Glasgow, who passed away March 23, 2019.
- Don Vincent, Sr., who passed away March 23, 2019.

This week's Ministry Partner prayer focus is on:

Cho-Yeh Camp and Conference Center is a Christian retreat center and summer camp ministry where Jesus Christ transforms lives through meaningful relationships and outdoor adventures. cho-yeh.org

CCSC Martha's Way is a vocational training program offered by Christian Community Service Center that helps low-income women increase their earning potential through education and hands-on training. It offers the support they need to begin and operate a professional housekeeping business. ccschouston.com

An MDPC field partner in Central Asia and their family focuses on reaching those in the Himalayas who have not yet heard about Jesus. They demonstrate God's love and power in the midst of spiritually difficult areas, and work with local believers to reach out in cross-cultural ministry. Leading through key roles in the community, they encourage and support movements within these unreached areas.

Men's Retreat 2019: Trust or Rust

What happens when you mix an amazing ranch in nearby Fayetteville with live music, outdoor games, fishing, great food, and an entertaining speaker? A life-changing weekend! Get away from the rat race and focus on fun, fellowship, and a closer walk with Christ. **Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14 | \$150 | Lazy A Ranch** Details and registration: mensretreat.mdpc.org

40 Days of Prayer

The season of Lent is an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and deepen your commitment to Jesus Christ. Reflecting on Jesus' journey to the cross, with His passion, death, and resurrection in mind, we pray more deeply, sorrow more honestly, rejoice more freely, and give more readily! During Lent, to increase your awareness of God's love in Christ for you, perhaps consider adding prayer... MDPC's 40 Days of Prayer offers 1-2 sentences of prayer, many drawn from Scripture, often with a brief video devotional: *To enrich your Lenten prayer life in this way, follow MDPC on Instagram ([instagram.mdpc.org](https://www.instagram.com/mdpc.org)) or Facebook ([facebook.mdpc.org](https://www.facebook.com/mdpc.org)).*

ALPHA at MDPC

Alpha is for people who would not call themselves Christians, and also for those who would but may still have big questions about faith. The course, dinner, and childcare all are free. Who will you invite? **Tuesdays, April 23-June 11 | 6:30-8:15 PM** Learn more: alpha.mdpc.org

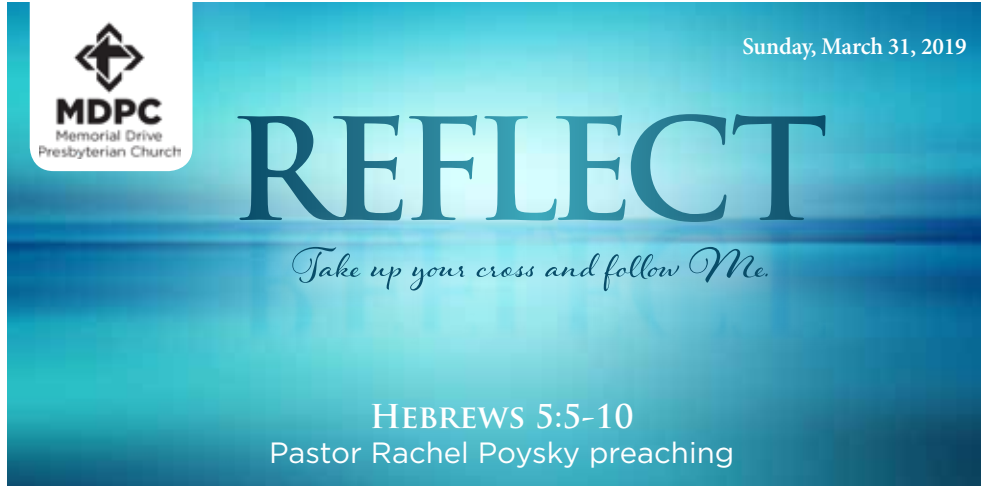
Married Life Prep

Couples! Plan to join us this summer for a fun, free, four-week marriage prep course, taught at MDPC by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement. It combines Biblical teaching with the best current marriage research and is open to all engaged couples and those who are in their first 2-3 years of marriage. **Sundays, July 7-28 | 10:00 AM-Noon | CLC 171-172** For more information and to register: mlp.mdpc.org

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

at 3/24/19

2019 Annual Budget	\$12,240,000
Actual Income to Date	\$2,267,856
Needed to Meet Budget	\$9,972,144



*Please stand when able. CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

- *PRAISE & WORSHIP
- *CONFESSION MESSAGE
- OFFERTORY+

+ In the 8:30 Service, the Offertory precedes the message. Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Amos Rivera, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDES	<i>Two Baroque Lenten Preludes: O Sacred Head Now Wounded</i> arr. J. Kellner (1705-1772)	
	<i>In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>All for Love</i>	Robert Young (b. 1945)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>O Sacred Head, Now Wounded</i>	#98; Vs. 1, 2, 3 PASSION CHORALE
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
ANTHEM	<i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i>	Benjamin Harlan (b. 1953)
OFFERTORY	<i>Lamentations of Jeremiah</i>	Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)
MESSAGE		
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i>	#93; Vs. 1, 4 HERZLIEBSTER JESU
POSTLUDE	<i>Fanfare</i>	William Mathias (1934-1992)

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

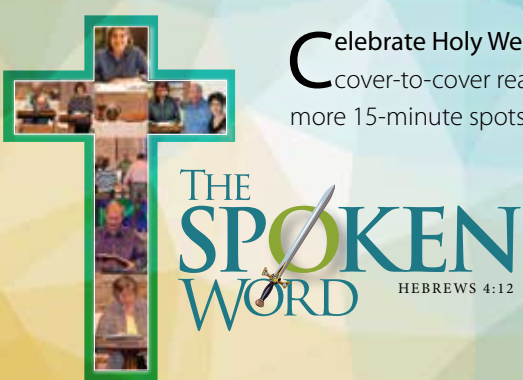
On Sunday, April 7, **MDPC Worship** will release a CD of contemporary music to help enrich your study and reflection time. CDs will be available at the Front Office and Connection Center (\$10 cash or credit card).



Celebrate Holy Week by with MDPC's annual continuous cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Sign up for one or more 15-minute spots at spokenword.mdpc.org.

April 15-18 • MDPC Chapel
Come to read. Come to listen.

This year, also visit **The Silent Word**, where guests can participate in a variety of prayer-related experiences. Details on the ad inside this bulletin.



TODAY!



Join Pastor Alf for a casual conversation about MDPC and its ministries. No commitment required! It's an engaging opportunity to explore what it would mean to be part of our faith community.

Sunday, March 31 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

membership.mdpc.org



DISCOVER
MDPC

THE
SILENT
WORD
LUKE 5:16

Plan to visit our interactive Prayer Room during Holy Week!

HOURS:

April 15-18: Open to adults and children 14 and over, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

April 19: Children and families are invited to participate on Friday morning, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

More information: silentword.mdpc.org
No registration required.

Also plan to visit **The Spoken Word**. See the ad on the front of this bulletin.



Saturday-Sunday
April 13-14

Join other men on a life-changing weekend to focus on fun, fellowship, and a closer walk with Christ.



Register today:
mensretreat.mdpc.org



All members of the foster care & adoption community are invited to join us for Safe Haven Conference 2019!

Hear from mental health experts, ministry leaders, and foster care/adoption professionals as we seek to educate, encourage, and empower our community.

Saturday, April 27, 2019
8:00 AM-12:00 PM • MDPC Amphitheater • \$10

See speakers and register: safehavencon.mdpc.org

JOURNEY
to the
CROSS

Experience the Sights and Sounds of Holy Week



Good Friday, April 19

Tours run 9:10-11:30 AM

A guided walk for children and families to experience the sights and sounds of Holy Week. Live scenes, elaborate sets, & interaction!

Register to receive a tour time: journey.mdpc.org

JUNIOR JOURNEY to the **CROSS**

Preschoolers & parents are invited to experience *Junior Journey to the Cross*. Open 9:10-11:10 AM, come anytime.

REACH
Recreation
Ministry

Fun camps and classes all summer long! For children, youth, and adults...



Explore classes & register:

reach.mdpc.org

Holy Week
SERVICES at MDPC

Join us for one of our 8 worshipful and celebratory Holy Week services. Easter's **interactive Family Service** is perfect for you and your children.

Maundy Thursday, April 18
7:00 PM • COMMUNION SERVICE

Good Friday, April 19
12 NOON • MUSIC & REFLECTION

Easter Sunday, April 21

Sunrise Service
7:00 AM • COURTYARD

Contemporary Service
8:15 AM • SANCTUARY

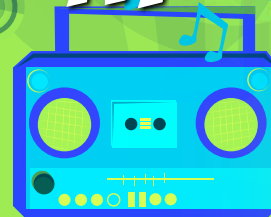
Family-friendly Service
9:45 AM • SANCTUARY

Traditional Service
11:15 AM • SANCTUARY

Spanish Language
11:15 AM • CHAPEL

Portuguese Language
6:00 PM • CHAPEL

THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR



Learn about music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment! All kids in grades K-5 are welcome. Open enrollment throughout the semester: themusicbox.mdpc.org

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH APRIL 10 | 4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL

Special Guests
include Pastor Alf,
Rachel Poyosky, and Brett
& Kellie Hurst

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.

Listen now: beinghuman.mdpc.org



These notes come from MDPC's 2019 Lenten Study. Visit reflect.mdpc.org to learn more. It is recommended to read both translations (ESV & NLT) of each scripture passage.

REFLECT

Take up your cross and follow Me.

Week 4: Hebrews 5:5-10 (ESV & NLT)

Discipline. Obedience. Reverence. Suffering. Let's be frank: these are not our favorite words! And they sound like work. But we know—especially those of us studying Romans this academic year—it is by God's mercy and grace that we have

been saved. We bring nothing to the cross. God did all the work for us in Christ. We respond in gratitude to Him and follow Jesus.

Jesus is our role model for discipline, obedience, reverence towards God, and enduring suffering. Just as He learned from the Father, we learn from Him. In Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV), Jesus invites us, "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." To become a disciple of Christ we must learn from Him.

Today we will look at Jesus, His divinity and humanity, as well as a mysterious character: Melchizedek. Who is he? What does he represent? What can we learn from them?

Introducing: Getting Ready to Discuss the Passage

- What is your emotional reaction to the words "obey" and "obedience"? Do they make you feel warm and fuzzy? Share examples of obedience and disobedience from the Bible or from your life.
- Briefly share what, if anything, you know about Melchizedek.

Discovering: What the Passages Say

- Read aloud and compare the two translations for Hebrews 5:5-10. What stands out to you as you read them? Similarities? Differences? Overlaps? Things to pursue?
- Read aloud Hebrews 4:14-5:1-4. How does this passage give background for Heb. 5:5-10?
- Who chose Christ to be High Priest in vs. 5b? How does Jesus show humility in vs. 5a? What does God say to Him in vs. 5c?
- In vs. 6, Melchizedek is introduced with a reference to Psalm 110:4. Melchizedek is mentioned in 18 verses in the Bible (Genesis, 4 verses; Psalms, 1 verse; Hebrews, 13 verses). Please read aloud Hebrews 7. How is Jesus like Melchizedek? Different from Melchizedek?
- Notice the intensity of Jesus' prayers, pleadings, and supplications in vs. 7: "with a loud cry and tears" (NLT) or "loud cries and tears" (ESV). To whom does Jesus pray and why? Why was Jesus heard? Define "reverence."
- How did Jesus learn obedience (vs. 8)? Why do you think Jesus was not "exempt" from suffering even though He was God's Son? What are examples of Jesus' suffering?
- In vs. 9, how did God "qualify" Jesus as a "perfect High Priest" (NLT)? What did Jesus become? For whom did Jesus become this?
- Looking at vs. 10 and recalling Hebrews ch. 7, what is the significance of Jesus being "a high priest after the order of Melchizedek" (ESV)? Who designated Jesus to this high priesthood?

Exploring: What the Passages Mean

- Melchizedek is a mysterious person in the Bible. In Genesis 14:18-20, he is introduced as a historical figure whose priesthood was accepted by Abraham. Melchizedek brings bread and wine, and Abraham tithes to him. One purpose of this passage is to show both Jesus had a divine appointment to priesthood (different from and superior to Aaron and the Levitical priesthood) and Jesus' priesthood would last forever. Jesus is the new High Priest, not according to the order of Aaron (a human line), but after the order of Melchizedek (divine), with no further need to offer sacrifices because He did this "once for all when He offered up Himself" (Hebrews 7:27 ESV) on the cross for our sins. Having read the Genesis passage and Hebrews chapter 7, what are your thoughts now about Melchizedek?

- In vs. 5, Christ is “appointed” (ESV) or “called” (NLT) by God to be a high priest. In vs. 10, Jesus is “designated” by God to be a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. This is the only place in the Bible that the Greek word for “designated,” *prosagoreutheis*, is used. What significance could this one-time usage have? Is there a difference between an appointment and a designation? [Spoiler alert: Many commentators link “designated” to vs. 9 and the eternal salvation Christ offers to all who obey Him, distinguishing Christ from Melchizedek.]
- The Greek word for obedience used in Hebrews 5, *hypakoen*, is used eight times in the New Testament. Consider its use in Romans 6:16 (ESV): “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” and in 2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV): “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...” How does the use of the same word in these passages lead to a greater understanding of the Hebrews 5 passage?
- Jesus offered powerful prayers as shown in vs. 7. Two words in Greek were used: *deesis*, the general New Testament word for prayers, and *hiketeria*, a word with a stronger element of entreaty in it. This emphasis comes from the ancient practice of holding out an olive branch as a sign of appeal. *Hiketeria* is translated “pleadings” in the NLT and “supplications” in the ESV. In both translations, these two kinds of prayers are followed by a reference to cries and tears. What do these kinds of prayers teach us about Christ’s relationship with God? What do they teach us about prayer? [NOTE: For further study, see Richard Foster’s book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, especially chapter 4, “The Prayer of Tears,” and chapter 5, “The Prayer of Relinquishment.”]

Applying: Wrestling with the Implications for Our Lives

- **Humility** – Vs. 5 (ESV) says that “Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest...” How is this in alignment with other verses about humility, such as 1 Peter 5:6: “Humble yourself, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that in the proper time He may exalt you...”? What does the principle of humility modeled by Jesus look like in your life – at home? In the workplace? At church?
- **Suffering** – We discussed suffering in Week One. An implication of this Hebrews passage is Jesus’ suffering was central to His life, and it was how He learned obedience to God (vs. 8). Paul in Romans 5:3b-5 (ESV) identifies some of the fruit of suffering: “...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” How have you experienced this truth in your life or seen it in the life of another? How do you balance a natural reluctance to embrace suffering with the knowledge that suffering is important to our spiritual development? What are ways to “lean in” to suffering when it comes, and grow through it?
- **Prayer** – Jesus prays with “loud cries and tears” (ESV) in vs. 7. How is Jesus a model to us for prayer? We are Presbyterians, part of the body of believers often referred to as the “frozen chosen.” We like order and predictability. Jesus does not always pray with loud cries and tears, but here He does. Have you ever prayed with loud cries and tears? Are you comfortable with the idea of intense prayer? Why or why not?
- **Being Heard by God** – Vs. 7b tells us that God heard Jesus’ prayer because He had a “deep reverence” (NLT) for God. How can we cultivate a deep reverence for God? What does that look like in daily life?
- **Obedience** – Another implication is following Jesus requires obedience. Jesus obeys and learns from the Father; we learn from Jesus. What are ways we can learn from Jesus? What has worked for you? What are you doing now? What do you plan to do next?
- **Discipleship** – As discussed in Week One (Mark 8:31-38), every Christian is called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. How Christ’s example of obedience, reverence, and suffering in the Hebrews 5 passage add to the principles in the Mark 8 passage of denying ourselves, taking up our crosses, and following Him? What do these principles, taught and modeled by Jesus, look like in your life – at home? With your neighbors? In the workplace? At church? Share with one another specific ways you have found or will try to make this calling to be a disciple a daily reality.