

HAPPENING AT MDPC

Knitting for Missions: The Evening Edition

Can't make our daytime group? Come to The Evening Edition of Knitting for Mission at the home of Shari Halvorson. Meetings begin September 10 and will continue thereafter on second Tuesdays of the month.

Begins Tuesday, September 10

Contact Shari for details: halvorsons4@yahoo.com

Word and Worship: EXODUS

Exodus tells the story of how God rescues His people from oppression in Egypt and leads them through the wilderness. God remains faithful to His covenant and demonstrates His great love for His people countless times throughout this book. Join us as we learn more about our faithful God.

Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday options

Sept. 2019 - Apr. 2020 • Cost: \$40

wordandworship.mdpc.org

YA Swim & Volleyball Cookout

Sit by the pool, cool off in the water, and play some volleyball (or just jump around in the sand). All skill levels welcome! Bring whatever food you'd like for dinner (outdoor grills available) and drinks (NO GLASS).

Saturday, Sept 14 | 1:00 PM

10440 Deerwood, 77042

Contact Sarah for details on accessing the pool area:

832-605-8129 (text or call), sstone@mdpc.org

"The Big Ten" Bible Study

Taught by pastors Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, and Clay Brown. Not to be confused with the start of college football! This "Big Ten" walks us through the Ten Commandments and reveals their continuing insight for today's world. No homework or pre-registration. Tuesday Morning Bible Study is back!

Tuesdays starting Sept. 10 | 9:00-10:00 AM

Room 122 (Near the Nook)

REACH Fall Classes

Children's classes include cooking, coding, sports, art, dance, voice, piano, and more! Adults can take art, bridge, core strength training, piano, voice, and yoga. Go to reach.mdpc.org to see the complete list and register, or call the REACH office at 713-490-9564.

Marriage Retreat 2019

Longtime marriage educators Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement lead a fun and intentional

getaway weekend focused on your married life. Includes a comfortable atmosphere, excellent food, a one-on-one date night, and expert teaching.

Sept. 28-29 | Sugar Land Marriott | \$220/couple

Register: marriageretreat.mdpc.org

Youth Confirmation

Our yearly program for all students currently in 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 5, 2020

Sundays, January 12-March 1 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, March 8

Register: confirmation.mdpc.org

\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.

Come Serve and Fight Hunger!

1 in 4 Houstonian children often go without meals because their families cannot afford to buy food. A simple way you can help is to come prepare meals with us at Houston Food Bank (HFB). We need your help to keep the fight against childhood hunger moving forward! Will you join us?

Next date: Monday, September 9 | 8:00 AM-Noon

Register and more details: hfb.mdpc.org

The Fabric of Mission

If you have extra fabric lying around, our Sewing for Missions group can use it for one of their outreach projects. Our Uganda mission team recently took dozens of their beautiful handmade dresses to the girls living at Lulwanda Children's Home.

Fabric can be dropped off at the Outreach Offices.

Living Water International (LWI) Mission

On this trip to Honduras (Dec. 7-14, 2019), you'll witness the transformational power of clean water firsthand as you drill a water well, teach sanitation and hygiene, and share God's love with the community.

Registration deadline is September 15.

Contact Kelsi McCormack: kmccormack@mdpc.org

The Music Box Kids Choir

For kids K-7 who love to sing! We learn about the fundamentals of music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment. In the MDPC Chapel; directed by worship leader, Meliza Gómez.

Wednesdays, Sept 18-Nov 13 | 4:45-5:30 PM

Register today: themusicbox.mdpc.org

Today's Chancel Flowers are given

by Susan Jordan, in memory of Tom Campbell's birthday.

The White Rose in memory of MDPC members:

- John Jones, who passed away August 19, 2019.
- Virginia Kolter, who passed away August 25, 2019.

WEEKLY
MINISTRY
PARTNER
PRAYER
FOCUS

Newspring nurtures Spring Branch businesses to create jobs and income, helping stabilize families otherwise subject to transiency. Newspring Visual Arts program encourages SBISD students to work hard, stay in school, and turn their gift into a career. newspringcenter.org

Open Door Mission is a faith and evidence-based recovery and rehabilitation facility dedicated to transforming the lives of severely addicted, destitute, homeless, and disabled men in our community. opendoorhouston.org

MDPC Field Partner Jeff Burns and his family live near Wilmington, North Carolina, where Jeff teaches Christians ways to reach out in friendship to Muslims in peaceful, respectful witness.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

at 8/25/19

2019 Annual Budget \$12,240,000

Actual Income to Date \$5,865,785

Needed to Meet Budget \$6,374,215

Sunday, September 1, 2019



All Out

A Three-part Sermon Series

Reaping

John 4:27-42 | Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

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 MUSIC

PRELUDE	<i>Sonata No. 3 in A Major</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
*HYMNS OF PRAISE	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	#379; Vs. 1, 2, 3 SOLID ROCK
OFFERTORY	<i>Credo (from Gospel Mass)</i>	Robert Ray (b. 1946)
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER	<i>All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.</i>	
COMMUNION MEDITATIONS	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine (O Divine Redeemer)</i>	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
	<i>Gabriel's Oboe</i>	Ennio Morricone (b. 1928)
POSTLUDE	<i>Fanfare</i>	Nicolas J. Lemmens (1823-1881)

Musicians in this service:

Dr. Cassandra Black, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ

Labor Day Sunday Lunch Burgers & Dogs

Today in Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM-1:00 PM • \$9/adult • \$3/child
\$20/family (2 adults + 3 kids under 12)

Everyone is welcome! Dress casual for church and stay for lunch.



You can Change the Life of a Child!


Come to the tables in the Breezeway this morning to learn more about MDPC's mentoring, tutoring, and volunteering programs in three local schools. Find out how you can be the difference in a young student's life!

change.mdpc.org

The Living Well
Revival of Heart
Renewal of Mind
Rest for Soul

A Study of Jesus through the
Gospel of Matthew
led by Charlotte Crawford
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 AM
Begins September 11, 2019
tlw.mdpc.org

*"Man shall ... live by every word that comes
from the mouth of God."
- Matthew 4:4*



MEN'S LIFE:
Man Alive!
ml.mdpc.org


Tuesdays, September 10–December 3
6:30-7:45 AM (Continental Breakfast at 6:00 AM)



Who will you bring?

Alpha is for Christians and non-Christians. With no question or subject off-limits, it's a comfortable setting to talk about the tough stuff, like doubts or fears or inadequacy. Mark your calendar, and maybe start thinking...who will you bring?

**Tuesdays, Sept. 24 to Nov. 19
6:30-8:15 PM • MDPC**
Free dinner, free childcare
Learn more: alpha.mdpc.org




Building Tomorrow Today!

Two new capital projects recently were funded through your gifts to the **Legacy Capital Fund**:

- ➔ (12) children's classrooms were updated with new paint, millwork, flooring, and plumbing fixtures
- ➔ (2) new boilers replaced worn out units to assure continued heat on demand

Visit LEGACY.MDPC.ORG to learn more.



Walking the Mourner's Path™

This Christ-centered eight-week grief program is limited to 10 participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

Thursdays, Sept. 5-Oct. 24 | 3:30-5:00 PM | MC 116 | \$30 for materials
Register online at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke of Caring Ministries.



NOCHE DE SABOR

Saturday, September 28 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

MDPC Hispanic Ministries invites you to its annual celebration of the many traditions and cultures represented here in our church. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!
Invite others to this free event: flavor.mdpc.org



Books WITH A Message


Come to a two-part discussion on Carmen LaBerge's 2017 book, *Speak the Truth: How to Bring God Back into Every Conversation*.

**Wednesdays, September 11 & 18
6:30-7:30 PM • MC Room 122**

Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor, leads this course on the major themes and insights of the book. Pre-reading is recommended but not required.

Beginning this fall, Equipping Ministries will host periodic series on important works by talented Christian authors.

▶ books.mdpc.org



Start with **Discover MDPC...** ...then explore **New Member Classes**

An informal meeting to introduce you to MDPC. No commitment required! This is a no-pressure opportunity to meet Pastor Alf and explore what membership means.

**Next Sunday, September 8
10:45-11:15 AM | The Nook**

This four-week class series is taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and includes a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

**Sundays, September 15-October 6
9:45-11:00 AM | MC 122**


More info: membership.mdpc.org

MDPC Welcomes Radio Host & Author
Carmen Fowler LaBerge

Carmen will talk about friendship and how to have meaningful discussions with people who are not Christians. Her passion is reconnecting the eternal with the everyday by equipping us to engage the culture in ways that honor Jesus.

Thursday, Sept. 19
7:00-8:30 PM

▶ **RSVP: speakers.mdpc.org**



Walking Through Luke with the Pastors

Stand-alone lessons following the "Transformed by Hope" study. Choose either 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater.

Today: Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor
"Do Your Job!" Luke 1:57-80

Next week: Luke 2:1-20

Other Opportunities to join Transformed by Hope

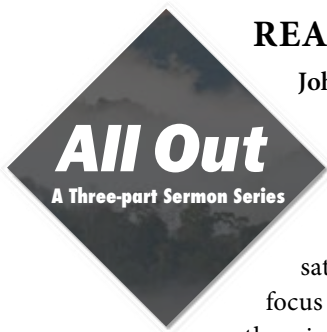
- **9:45 and 11:15 AM:** 15 participating Sunday-morning classes
- **Together in the Word, 9:45 AM:** New in-depth group study starting TODAY! Weekly preparation and readings, registration required. Limited to 14 participants.
- **Wednesday Evening Study & Discussion group, 6:30-7:30 PM:** MDPC's Kitchen is open so you can have dinner beforehand! Prices/menus at food.mdpc.org.

transformed by HOPE
A Study of the Gospel of Luke

Nothing transforms you like studying the words and deeds of Jesus Christ in Scripture! Come grow by exploring the Gospel of Luke.

Learn more at luke.mdpc.org or visit one of the classes listed at left.





REAPING

John 4:27-42 | Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the third and final message in our fall kickoff series. We have been unpacking the conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan Woman at the Well in John 4, which turns out to be the longest recorded conversation Jesus has with anyone in the Gospels. If the first week's focus (vs. 1-15) was for us to be boundary-centered (i.e., we go to others instead of making them come to us); and the second week's focus (vs. 16-26) was for us to be Christ-centered; it seems to me this last section (vs. 27-42) challenges us to be harvest-centered. The word *harvest* or *reaping* is used six times in this last section of Scripture. How do people come home to God?

1. Read John 4:27-42. Focus on verses 27 and 31-38. How do the disciples react when they return with food, only to find Jesus talking to this woman? What *don't* they ask Jesus (vs. 27)? What *do* they ask Him (vs. 31)? What is His rather long response? What might this mean for them and us, in the context of The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20)?
2. Focus on verses 28-30. What did the woman do when she left Jesus and the disciples? Why do you think she left her water jar? What did that act symbolize?
3. Let's examine her speech to her fellow townspeople. Based on my sermon and your own thoughts, what is weak about her witness? What is strong about her witness? How is this similar and different from your conversations with people about faith? What can we learn from her?
4. Focus on verses 39-42. What is the response from the people in the city to the woman's witness? What do they ask of Jesus? What is His response? Why is faith equated to "asking" in John's Gospel? How is "asking" belief exhaled? What might you "ask" Jesus about or for based on what is going on in your life and our world right now?
5. Verse 42 is very interesting to me. What is the significance of the phrase, "hearing for ourselves"? Have you relied for too long on the faith of someone else, like your spouse or parents or children or a friend? What might it look like for you to "own your faith" at this time?
6. This long passage of John 4, verses 1-42, takes us through the journey toward faith by this woman and her community. Jesus is at first seen as just a man, then as a Jew, then perhaps a rabbi, then Messiah, and finally, in verse 42, as "Savior of the world-cosmos." In other words, faith doesn't necessarily break forth all at once, but perhaps in several stages over time. Is that how faith became real for you or emerged in your life? How might that impact your conversations with others?
7. Is there some other final takeaway from this passage you would like to share? Pray for growth as individuals and for us as a church in the area of witness and the Great Commission.

Further Reading or Exploration:

The Art of Neighboring by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

Pastor Alf's talk at The Venturers event (September 9): venturers.mdpc.org

Speaker Series Event featuring Carmen LaBerge (September 19): speakers.mdpc.org

