

Pastoral Team

Dan Aikins

Assistant Pastor, Alpha Hub Director

Clay Brown

Equipping Pastor

Beth Case

Caring Ministries Pastor

Mauricio Chacón

Spanish Language Pastor

Almir Dias

Portuguese Language Pastor

Alf Halvorson

Senior Pastor

Brett Hurst

Relationships Pastor

Rachel Poysky

Children's Pastor

Dave Steane

Executive Pastor

Dave Peterson & Gary Bowker

Pastors Emeritus

Connect

Contact Us

Website: mdpc.org

Front Office: 713-782-1710

Prayer Chain: 713-953-2558

Follow Us

Facebook: facebook.mdpc.org

Instagram: instagram.mdpc.org

Vimeo: vimeo.mdpc.org

MDPC App

For a quick download link for Apple and Android, text "APP" to 832-742-1832.

MDPC Worship

8:30 AM • 9:45 AM • 11:15 AM (English & Spanish) • 6:00 PM (Portuguese Language)

Congregational Updates:

Hal Ramser passed away October 17, 2019;

Louis Trotter passed away October 17, 2019.

Today's Sanctuary flowers were donated in celebration of the marriage of **Ellie Tendall** and **Edgar Torres**.

Interested in MDPC Membership?

Discover MDPC with Alf

This is a no-pressure opportunity to meet Pastor Alf and learn about MDPC.

Next Sunday, November 3
10:45-11:10 AM • Gathering Room
Drop-ins welcome!

New Member Classes

The New Member Classes are taught by Pastors and Elders, and include a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

Sundays, November 10 – December 8
11:00 AM-12:15 PM • Parlor

WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Scripture Awakening, The Bible in 90 Days • Scripture Awakening provides resources to encourage people to read, study, and live the Bible and to awaken the world to the power of God's Word. scriptureawakening.com

SEARCH Homeless Services, House of Tiny Treasures • The House of Tiny Treasures is a preschool for SEARCH Homeless Services that serves children (2 to 5 years of age) whose families are homeless or living in deep poverty, providing them with a brighter, more hopeful future. searchhomeless.org

MDPC Field Partners Alyssa and Joe

live and work among high caste Hindus in South Asia. Through developing relationships with college students and young professionals, their aim is to start ongoing house churches amongst families. Their prayer is for India to be revolutionized by the gospel from the highest caste to the most forgotten street children.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

as of 10/20/19

2019 Annual Budget \$ 12,240,000

Actual Income to Date \$ 7,306,780

Needed to Meet Budget \$ 4,933,220

Sunday, October 27, 2019



GENEROSITY MATTERS

To God. To Others. To You.

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

God's Invitation Scorned

Luke 14:15-24 • Alf Halvorson preaching

Covenant Sunday is November 3. Visit pledge.mdpc.org.

The Parable of the Great Dinner (Luke 14:15-24)

¹⁵ One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' ²³ Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Newly-elected MDPC Officers: Last Sunday, the congregation elected a slate of new MDPC Elders and Deacons. To see a full list of Officers, visit nominations.mdpc.org. A limited number of paper copies are available at The Connection Center this morning.

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

American Folk Hymn Suite: *I Love Thee*

arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

CHORAL INTROIT

Rise Up, O Men of God

Kenneth Jennings (1925-2015)

*HYMN OF PRAISE #142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Verses 1 & 3; CORONATION

ANTHEM

American Folk Hymn Suite: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* arr. Dale Wood

OFFERTORY

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #438

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Verses 1 & 4; DENNIS

POSTLUDE

Chaconne

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Musicians in this service: Gulf Coast Campanile • Emily Borling, Director and Pianist
Kathryn White, Organist • Charles Hausmann, Choral Director • Men's Chorus

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Keith McNay Exhibit

Visit MDPC's Community Gallery (located between Room 122 and The Nook) to view the artwork of longtime MDPC member and Elder Keith McNay.

Displayed through November 10.

Young Adult Fall Retreat

Come join our community of Young Adults as we retreat from the city and enjoy the tranquility of the country alongside some great friends. We will leave Friday after work and get back around lunch-time Sunday. Food and room are provided!

November 15-17 | Montgomery, TX

\$145 for a bunk | \$85 for campers

Register: yaretreat.mdpc.org

Jenna and Barbara Bush at MDPC

MDPC is partnering with Blue Willow Bookshop to host Barbara Bush and Jenna Bush Hager as they promote their new book, SISTERS FIRST! Please note that this is a ticketed event.

Saturday, November 16 | 7:00 PM

Tickets on sale now: bluwillow.mdpc.org

Family Christmas Festival

The Family Christmas Festival is a great way to kick off the holiday season! Participants will enjoy dinner, Bingo, Christmas Amazing Race, crafts, face painting, Advent wreaths, hot cocoa bar, cookie decorating, Advent calendar jar, and a service project.

December 8 • 4:30-6:30 PM

Cost \$8.00 Adult, \$4.00 kids

Contact Rachel Poysky:

rpoysky@mdpc.org or 713-490-9269

Turn Good Friday into Bless Friday

Make plans with your friends and family to share God's love through our annual Bless Friday projects, with both at-home and ministry partner service opportunities.

Friday, November 29

Learn more at blessfriday.mdpc.org

College Ski Trip 2K20

Start 2020 with a memorable few days tearing up the Colorado slopes! Cost includes lodging, meals, lift tickets, and ski/board rentals.

Saturday-Thursdays, January 4-9

\$595 (\$200 due Dec 1, balance by Dec 20)

Learn more: collegeskitrip.mdpc.org

Youth Confirmation

Our yearly program for all students currently in 8th grade or above, to focus on what it means to follow Jesus.

Sundays, January 12-March 1

11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Confirmation Sunday: March 8, 2020

Register: confirmation.mdpc.org

\$125 fee covers retreat expenses.

Light of Hope Ethiopia Vision Trip

Visit Light of Hope, one of our global outreach partners who is bringing the Good News of God's love to the Arssi Oromo people. On this trip, you will witness how God is at work in Ethiopia through the building of village schools, the planting of churches, and the translating of the Bible into local dialects.

February 23-March 2 • Cost: \$1,800

Contact Kelsi McCormack:

kmccormack@mdpc.org.



MDPC is offering two opportunities to bless children this Christmas season:

- 1) Register in the Breezeway on **Sundays, November 3-24**, to sponsor a child by purchasing and wrapping three gifts;
- 2) Purchase new, unwrapped gifts for ages infant-18 years old. Leave gifts at the Toy Train, located outside Outreach Ministries, **November 10-December 10.**

Visit cfk.mdpc.org for more details.



Visit thanksgiving.mdpc.org

Help East Spring Branch Food Pantry feed more than 1,000 hungry families at Thanksgiving. Cloth grocery bags will come with an itemized list of groceries.

Shopping Notes:

- Pick up a shopping bag at grocery cart locations around the church, or at the Connections Center.
- Shop for the specific items on the attached list.
- Return filled bags by **Sunday, November 17.**

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

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, Luke 6:17-49



Help Fight Childhood Hunger through Monthly Opportunities at Houston Food Bank

Recent studies reveal 1 in 4 children in Houston often go without meals. Many more lack the good nutrition needed to thrive developmentally. A very simple way you can help is to prepare meals at Houston Food Bank (HFB). Last year, MDPC Backpack Buddy volunteer teams prepared tens of thousands of meals that were distributed by HFB to after-school programs throughout Harris County. Now, we need your help to keep the fight against childhood hunger moving forward! Will you please join us?

Next Service Date: Monday, November 11 • 8:00 AM-Noon

Registration & details: bpbuddy.mdpc.org

Questions? Contact Suzanne Fitch (fitchsuzanne@hotmail.com)

Download the New MDPC App

We've created a powerful new mobile app, with all the features you enjoyed in the former app, PLUS expanded features in the area of event information and easy registration, group communication, personalized notifications, check-in, and so much more!

For download links and additional details, visit app.mdpc.org.

"The Big Ten" Bible Study

Taught by pastors Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, and Clay Brown. 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, 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122

Women's Ministry Fall to Connect

No matter your age or stage, we're sure you'll find something you'll enjoy in these (mostly) one-off fellowship events. Learn something new, work out your stress, or just make new friends. With morning, lunchtime, and even evening events, there's something to fit everyone's schedule! ftc.mdpc.org



Two Ways to Bless a Child this Christmas!

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 | 5:30-7:30 PM

Food Trucks | Popcorn | Movie on the Field

Bring your **lawn chairs**, blankets, and **pet food** donation*

Kids, bring your favorite **stuffed animal** to sit beside you during the movie!

*We will be collecting **canned kitten and puppy food** for CAPS





God's Invitation Scorned

Luke 14:15-24 | Pastor Alf Halvorson

This is the eighth sermon in our fall series on the parables of Jesus from Luke's Gospel. Last week I talked about how there are at least 8 passages in the Gospels in which Jesus is at a party or celebration and either does a miracle to keep it going or speaks candidly into some issue of the day.

1. Is it natural for you to see Jesus at a party? Why or why not? Has it been your experience that the Christians you know and the churches you have attended are more or less joyous than the general population? What might be done to change that, if needed?
2. *Luke 14:15-24* is the third of a series of parables by Jesus in this chapter of Luke. How would you summarize the first two? In the first one, Jesus is talking to the guests; in the second one, Jesus is talking to the very influential host; and in the third parable, some commentators believe that Jesus is talking to a smug guest—one who assumes or thinks that he will be one of the ones “repaid at the resurrection of the righteous” in verse 14. How does this influence the way you read verse 15? It is a blessing to be a guest at the heavenly banquet. But should we put ourselves in that place of honor based on the first parable (verses 7-11)?
3. Read *Luke 14:15-24* closely. Verses sixteen and seventeen suggest, based on the traditions of that day, that you would invite people to a great dinner. They would accept or reject; then you would go back to those who had accepted and tell them when the event was actually ready for them to participate. This was common practice in place at that time. So, what does Jesus tell us happens next (in verses 18-20)? Have you ever had every intention to attend a function or celebration or dinner reception but then at the last minute had to decline? Share your stories.
4. Are all the excuses of the same variety here? Do the excuses seem worthy or weak? Explain.
5. When the servant relays the responses to the host, what does the host do (verses 21-23)? Is it ok for God to be ‘angry?’ What is righteous anger?
6. Who are the two groups invited? And from what locations? How does that add to Jesus’ teaching?
7. How does verse 24 serve as a summary not only for this parable, but also for the previous two? What do you think the takeaway is for us today as followers of Jesus? And how does this text relate to our Generosity or Stewardship Emphasis right now? How might this influence your approach to pledging this year on November 3?



MDPC Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

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