

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.

Congregational Updates:

Frank Hathorn passed away December 5, 2019; **Brain Mourglia** passed away December 7, 2019; **Dale Hauck** passed away December 8, 2019.

MDPC Worship

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

Interested in **MDPC Membership?**

Discover MDPC with Alf

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

January 26

10:45-11:10 AM • Gathering Room
Drop-ins are 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.

Friday & Saturday, February 7-8

This session will be a two-day intensive.

WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Westside Small Group Network This ministry exists to help draw men in West Houston nearer to Jesus Christ through authentic, weekly discipleship. It provides leadership and vision for the growth of these discipleship groups. wsgnhouston.org

New Life With Education | Guatemala New Life is a Christ-centered school that provides education for disabled students through the sixth grade. These children struggle to gain an education in the overcrowded Guatemalan school system. MDPC member Judy Kerschner designed this school to give dignity and education to students who would otherwise be forgotten. newlifeguatemala.com

Faith Ministry | Reynosa, Mexico Faith Ministry aims to meet the basic physical needs of families living in poverty on the Mexican border and, in doing so, it shares the love of Jesus Christ. Its work includes home construction, a medical clinic, food programs, skills training programs, and more. faithministry.org

End of Year Giving: For gifts of check or cash to be included in your 2019 giving statement, the gift must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2019. You may drop your gift in the offering plate on Sundays, or bring it by the church office no later than Tuesday, December 31. The most convenient option is to give online at give.mdpc.org.

If you plan to make a gift of stock, please request transfer from your account by end of business day **tomorrow** so that those gifts may arrive in the church's account before year-end. Please contact Ava Caliendo at acaliendo@mdpc.org or 713-953-2574 for information on gifts of stock.

Sunday, December 15, 2019



INTO THE MARGINS
THE PARABLES OF LUKE

Return on Investment
Luke 19:11-27 • Alf Halvorson preaching

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM (Family Service) and 5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM (Candlelight Services)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: HOPE

Call to Worship with Kit Mixon and Trevor Harris

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • NEW MEMBERS • MESSAGE • OFFERING

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders
Asher Pudlo, drums • Daniel Martinez, keys • Daniel Amaya, bass • George Heathco, guitar

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC

PRELUDE	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	arr. Edward H. Wetherill
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	David McCullough
*HYMN OF PRAISE #22	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i>	Vs. 1 & 4; REGENT SQUARE
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #23	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Vs. 2; GLORIA
ANTHEM	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (from Glad Tidings)</i>	Randol Bass (b. 1953)
OFFERTORY	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i>	arr. Bruce Greer (b.1961)
*HYMN OF RESPONSE #5	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent</i>	Vs. 1; PICARDY
POSTLUDE	<i>Shepherd's Noel</i>	J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1957)

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Today we are happy to introduce these five new members of the MDPC family!



Wendy Franz



Connie Martin



Faith Red



Sue Shaper



Cathryn White

Wendy Franz is the wife of MDPC member Andy Franz, and the mother of Harry (married to Elizabeth) and MDPC Global Outreach Director Kelsi McCormack (married to Michael). Wendy likes crafts, seeing movies, and attending plays. • **Connie Martin** has three grown children and three grandchildren. In retirement, she enjoys time with her dog, and playing cards. • **Faith Red** is the mother of three adult children and seven grandchildren. Her son, Cory Morrow is a country singer/songwriter. Faith is a retired Real Estate broker. She enjoys volunteering at Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) and loves to cook and read. • **Sue Shaper** is retired. • **Cathryn White** is the mother of Gabe (17), and twins, Eden and Luke (11). She also has two adult children and five grandchildren. Cathryn is a retired teacher, counselor, administrator, and is currently a professor at the Walden Unit.

Christmas Eve Services

We have a crucial need for help during Christmas Eve Services. Ushers are needed for each of the services (4:00, 5:30, 7:00, & 8:30 PM). Sign up at XMASushers.mdpc.org. Volunteers are also needed to work a shift between services at refreshment tables, or to greet at entrance doors. Sign up at XMAShosts.mdpc.org.

Invite others to Christmas Eve Services

Stop by the Connection Center this morning to pick up an invitation that may be passed on to family, friends, and co-workers.

Treats For Your Feast!

Let Chef Bernadette help with your holiday goodies. Chocolate Chip Cookies, Christmas Cookies, Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie, and Cranberry Bread are available to order. **Order Deadline is Today!**
treats.mdpc.org

Blue Christmas Service

Christmas is a time of joy for many, but not for everyone. The holiday season can be hard for a million different reasons. If your soul is weary and you seek comfort, join us at our weekday Blue Christmas Service for an uplifting experience in a difficult time.

**Monday, December 16 • 11:00-11:30 AM
In the Chapel**

Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell:
acaldwell@mdpc.org or 713-490-0931

Racial Reconciliation Workshop

MDPC will be hosting this workshop in partnership with area ECO churches. It was developed to facilitate helpful conversations around the topics of race and diversity in a gospel-centered way. The conference will be led by Pastor Albert Tate from Monrovia, CA. All are welcome, but please make every effort to attend both days.

Friday & Saturday, January 10-11

Cost is \$30; scholarships are available

Contact Rachel Poysky: rpoysky@mdpc.org

Youth Confirmation

Our yearly confirmation program for all students currently in 8th grade or above.

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.

Winter 2020 Alpha

Invite a friend from any faith or non-faith to try Alpha with you. It's a no-pressure way to explore Jesus, with no question, belief, or idea off-limits. It's a place to talk about difficult seasons like having doubts or fears, or being dissatisfied with life. It's a place to simply meet new people or share what you believe. Alpha is for Christians, too, and can help rekindle faith that has cooled.

Tuesdays, Jan. 21-Mar. 10 | 6:30-8:15 PM

Free dinner, free childcare

Info and RSVP: alpha.mdpc.org

Church in the City

Join your MDPC friends and family for this annual service event. We forego the usual Sunday services, and participate in a variety of service projects, both here and with our ministry partners. There are several new and exciting opportunities this year, so please visit the website for more details.

Sunday, February 23, 2020

CITC.mdpc.org

Girls' Getaway: Spring Is Coming!

Join us for a time of refreshment, laughter, and fun. Bring a friend, neighbor, mother, or sister to enjoy a five-star retreat complete with an outdoor movie, teaching time, and free time to walk the property or just relax. All adult women are welcome.

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5

Jordan Ranch in Schulenburg

Register: getaway.mdpc.org

Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell:

acaldwell@mdpc.org or 713-490-0931

Mission Market

Sundays, December 15 & 22

Chapel and Sanctuary Lobbies

Give the gift of hope for Christmas this year 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. **Shop Mission Market on weekdays in the Front Office.**





Married Life Prep

A fun, free, four-week Marriage Course

Engaged couples and those married 5 years or fewer are encouraged to come!

Sundays, January 5-26 • 10:00 AM-Noon

To register or learn more: mlp.mdpc.org

Questions? Contact:
[Kami Vaughn, kvaughn@mdpc.org](mailto:kvaughn@mdpc.org)

Theology Matters

Additional resource materials and outside study required. For details, links, and registration: theology.mdpc.org

The Trinity

In this second course, we'll dive deeper into what Christianity professes about the Trinity, how we may understand it more clearly, and why this crucial doctrine makes a difference in daily Christian living. **Classes will be taught by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor.**

**Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, & 29
6:30-8:00 PM • Ministry Center Room 122**

Walking the Mourner's Path™

Join us for this a Christ-centered grief program designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. It is limited to 10 participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

Contact Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542
Register: grief.mdpc.org

Thursdays, January 16-March 5 • 3:30-5:00 PM • MC 116



MERRY AND BRIGHT

Join us for a celebration of art and music!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

This FREE art-filled event will feature works from students of the REACH art classes and seasonal music by MDPC's Contemporary Music team with a special live art demo by Bridget Wolk.

Doors open at 6:15 PM for an art viewing and light appetizers, followed by the Christmas concert in the Chapel at 7:00 PM, then a dessert reception in the Parlor.

merry.mdpc.org

Walking Through Luke

Stand-alone lessons, taught by MDPC theologians, follow the "Transformed by Hope" study.

Today: 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater

Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor, Luke 11:14-54



The Winsome Witness Challenge • Join us in this Challenge, where we suggest simple and practical ideas for building deeper relationships and sharing your faith with those in your sphere. **This week, get to know people's stories. One of the questions that can open up spiritual conversations without preaching is simply asking about their family's faith traditions growing up.**
Questions? Contact [Christyn Knoop: cknoop@mdpc.org](mailto:cknoop@mdpc.org)