

HAPPENING AT MDPC

Women's Ministry Fair Today

Ladies, come enjoy a breakfast bread and cup of coffee and learn all about the offerings Women's Ministry has for you this year!

This morning between Services | Lobby

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

Communion Opportunity Next Sunday

Do you wish to participate in the Lord's Supper more often? Join us next Sunday at the late service for the blessings of communion.

Sunday, Sept 1 | 11:15 AM worship service

Heads Up for Soccer Season!

Boys and girls in pre-K through 5th grade are invited to play on West Houston Christian Sports League teams coached by volunteers. Practices begin the week of Sept. 2 at MDPC.

Games at area churches: Saturdays, Sept 21-Nov 9

Register (\$130; \$155 after Aug 25): sports.mdpc.org

Children Ministry Volunteers Wanted

Sign up with a friend to make it extra fun! Preschool needs every-other-week teachers for 3, 4, and 5-year-olds, plus storytellers. Elementary needs 2nd and 4th-grade teachers for the 11:15 hour.

Contact Lyndsey Dottavio: ldottavio@mdpc.org

Men's Life: Man Alive!

Enter into discussions to understand what makes us feel alive! Continental breakfast at 6:00 AM.

Tuesdays, Sept 10-Dec 3 | 6:30-7:45 AM

Register at ml.mdpc.org

The Living Well 2019: A Study of Matthew

Come as you are to be encouraged by personal testimony and Gospel Scripture read aloud, followed by a time of reflection, journaling, and prayer. Discover the "more" God has for you, as we women of all ages meet together to build up our faith.

Wednesdays, Sept 11-April 22 | 6:00 AM

Learn more and register: tlw.mdpc.org

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

R.A.D. for Older Adults

MVPD invites older women and men (55+) to this 10-session course in basic confrontational principles, like understanding reaction time and vulnerable target areas. It instills dependency on self, and will help you develop confidence in your own physical strength.

Tues & Thurs, Sept 3-Oct 3 | 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Memorial Drive Christian Church

RSVP to Michelle Owens: mowens@mvpdtx.org

Preschool Parents Bible Study at 8:30 AM

A Sunday morning community group for parents of young children. Drop off your kiddos (ages 6 and under), grab a cup of coffee, and meet other young families for Bible study, laughs, and the encouragement we need for the parenting and marriage journey.

Sundays, 8:30-9:30 AM | Room 219

The Antioch Partners Fundraising Dinner

ONE Night, ETERNAL Impact. In an exploration of our theme, "Together" (1 Cor 12:12), come hear stories from our partner in Myanmar, experience Southeast Asia, and enjoy a delicious dinner!

Thursday, October 3 | 6:00 PM | MDPC

With questions or to register, contact Hope Whitney: admin@theantiochpartners.org, 713-490-9571

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.

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

WEEKLY
MINISTRY
PARTNER
PRAYER
FOCUS

MDPC Mobile Unit serves six designated locations in the community, providing gently used clothing and household goods and some new products at minimal cost to families in need. Contact Valerie Rivera: vriviera@mdpc.org

Mo-Ranch Camp & Conference Center hosts individuals, groups, and churches for retreats and programs. It is a safe place for renewal, reflection, and discernment, leading to deeper faith and stronger disciples. moranch.org

MDPC Field Partner Urgessa serves in Africa as the founder of Light of Hope Ministry. LOH brings the Good News of God's love to the Muslim people groups of Ethiopia. frontierfellowship.com

Today's Chancel Flowers are given by:

Jonna Provine, in honor of Steve Anderson. Please pray for April, his wife, and their family.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

at 8/18/19

2019 Annual Budget \$12,240,000

Actual Income to Date \$5,783,027

Needed to Meet Budget \$6,456,973

Alpha Sunday, August 25, 2019



All Out

A Three-part Sermon Series

Tending

John 4:16-26 | Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Amos Rivera, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC

PRELUDE	<i>Fantasia in G</i>	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>God, You Spin the Whirling Planets</i>	#285; Vs. 1, 3 AUSTRIAN HYMN
ANTHEM	<i>Breath of Life</i>	Mark Hayes (b. 1953)
OFFERTORY	<i>The Light of the World (from "Every Purpose Under the Heaven")</i>	Goodall (b. 1958)
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</i>	#408; Vs. 1, 6 GERMANY
POSTLUDE	<i>Grand Chorus in D</i>	Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Musicians in this service:

Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ; Brian Yeakley, soloist

Labor Day Sunday Lunch Burgers & Dogs

Next Sunday, September 1

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.



Who will you bring?

Alpha is for Christians and non-Christians; it's for any faith or non-faith. **Learn more on the insert in today's bulletin.** And 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



MDPC Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710



Who do YOU know that would make a great **MDPC OFFICER?**

The Nominating Committee needs your help to find members with gifts that equip them for MDPC leadership. Prayerfully consider whom you know who God may be preparing to serve as an Officer. Submit his/her name(s) at nominations.mdpc.org or by using the printed forms available around campus.

We need your help to identify qualified candidates to serve as MDPC Officers!

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
"The Impossible Possible," Luke 1:26-56

Next week: Luke 1:57-80

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 next Sunday, **September 1**. Weekly preparation and readings, registration required. Limited to 14 participants.
- **Wednesday Evening Study, 6:30-7:30 PM:** Wednesday study and discussion group.



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.

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.
Sign up today: themusicbox.mdpc.org

WEDNESDAYS, SEPT. 18-NOV. 13 | 4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL

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

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**

Donate Blood

Save Lives

Blood Drive Today
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Gym

Walk-ins are welcome!

Every donor gets a coupon for a free pint of Blue Bell!

WE GOT YOU, MOM!

Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS) provides a break in the week to relax over breakfast, chat with other moms, and enjoy great content.

Alternating Thursdays beginning August 29 | 9:30-11:15 AM | Parlor

Evening MOPS

If you're a working mom or evenings better fit your schedule, join us for dinner and meaningful conversations.

Monthly beginning Wed, Sept. 18 | 6:00-7:00 PM | MC 102

Registration for either group: MOPS.MDPC.ORG

FREE childcare at both times!

TO THE FULL

MDPC 2019 Global Mission Trips

Witness the transformational power of water firsthand as you drill a water well, teach sanitation and hygiene lessons, and share God's love with the community.

The work you do on this trip will forever impact the community you visit!

Living Water Intl. Mission Trip
Honduras: December 7-14, 2019
Cost: \$1,500 Total

To learn more, contact Kelsi McCormack at kmccormack@mdpc.org or 713-490-9295.

Savvy CAREGIVER COURSE

Are you caring for someone with memory issues?

Are you concerned about what lies ahead and how to manage? To learn more about dementia/Alzheimer's and how to have a better quality of life with your loved one, join us for this free course.

Weds, Sept. 4-Oct. 9 • 9:30-11:30 AM • MC Room 122

Contact Sharon Cantrell for details and to register: scantrell@amazingplacehouston.org, 713-440-8177

Taught by our friends from Amazing Place

Start with **Discover MDPC...**

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.

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

...then explore **New Member Classes**

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

Who will you bring?

Alpha

Try it once or come each week. No pressure to keep attending, and no harm if you only keep coming for the food and the company.



Alpha is for Christians, too. The talks and conversation can help solidify or deepen your faith. And with no question, belief, or idea off limits, it's a comfortable setting to talk about difficult stuff, like doubts or fears or inadequacy (feels we all sometimes feel). It also lends itself well to inviting a friend of any faith or non-faith along to try it together.

Tuesdays, Sept. 24 to Nov. 19
6:30-8:15 PM

Free dinner, **free** childcare

Info and RSVP: alpha.mdpc.org

ALPHA

explore life. faith. meaning.



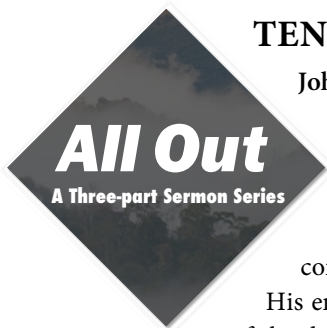
Alpha is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions of life. Each Alpha includes a free meal, a video talk on a topic from the Christian perspective, and conversation in smaller groups where everyone is encouraged to share their own perspective. No question or comment is off limits and everyone is able to share as much or as little as they'd like.

Alpha is for...

- > People who are wrestling with life's biggest questions: *Does God exist? or Why are we here?*
- > People unsure about Jesus but open to having faith conversation with others from different worldviews.
- > People who have been Christian for a while, and want to explore their faith with others.
- > People who are new Christians looking to learn the basics of the Christian faith.

If you don't match any of these groups, consider inviting someone you know who does. You can even come along with them. You can find invitation pockets at the Alpha table in the Lobby or at the Front Office.





TENDING

John 4:16-26 | Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second in our three-part kickoff series on Jesus' conversation with the Woman at the Well.

In the first message, we asked, "What is your Samaria?"

I hope you have answered that question; and also made a

commitment to be a witness more and more like Jesus was in

His encounter with the Samaritan Woman. In this second part

of the dialogue, Jesus shares with her the salty side of the Gospel.

That is, we can't be forgiven if we don't admit we are sinners. We can't

be freed if we don't know we are enslaved. We can't have life unless we embrace the truth.

We can't be fully loved if we are not fully known. And to be fully known by God and still

loved might just be the greatest gift that God offers to us.

1. [Read John 4:16-26](#). Focus on verses 16-19. What is the first request that Jesus makes here? How does the woman answer Jesus? Is she honest? Is it the whole truth? How does Jesus reply to her answer? And what is the name she gives Jesus in verse 19? What is the possible significance of that title?

2. Why the woman says what she says in verse 20 is debated by scholars. Some think she is asking Jesus one of the most significant questions she and her people have. *Where is the right place to worship?* That she is going deeper with Jesus into what really matters to her. (The word "worship" or "worshipper" is used 10 times in this short section.) Others believe she is trying to evade the spotlight that has been shown on her in verses 16-18 by starting an argument. Which do you think it is? And why? Could it be both?

3. If and when you talk about the faith to someone who has problems with Christianity or the person of Christ, what are the usual arguments they make? How have you approached responding to them in the past? How does Jesus respond in verses 21-24? From last week's sermon and this week's message, will your tactics change? How and why?

4. If everyone worships "something," including atheists, that means everyone has a "god" or gods. Isn't the topic of worship a great one to help people wrestle with their lives, their thoughts, and their beliefs?

5. Jesus' response to the woman in verses 21-24 somehow leads her to think of and hope for the coming of the Messiah. She says, "When He comes, He will proclaim all things to us." He will offer the definitive answers to this question about worship and all questions. What is Jesus' response? This is the first "I Am" of many in the Gospel of John. What does it mean to you that this woman is the first to hear it? Not Nicodemus, not the disciples, but this woman. How do Jesus' words compare to the words in Ex. 3:13-15? What is Jesus' claim here? If Jesus is really the Messiah, what does that mean for this woman and for you and me? We will find out the conclusion of the story next week, but Jesus' claim to be God the Savior demands a response, doesn't it? What are people's responses to that claim, including yours?

