

Pie Love You

MDPC Women is teaming up with Jesus Said Love to share the revolutionary love of Christ with women in the commercial sex industry. The pies we provide are taken by JSL to local businesses. Workers are treated to these gifts and spend time with a member of JSL to hear about the love of Jesus. There are two ways to help:

- **Donate a pie for just \$10.**
- **Help with pie making or assembly on Friday, Nov 16. Choose a morning or afternoon shift. Morning shift offers free lunch and childcare.**

Donate or volunteer: pieloveyou.mdpc.org

Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Thinking about membership? Plan to attend this brief informational meeting led by Pastor Alf. No commitment required! Learn what it means to be part of our faith community. Today, 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

Next New Member Class

If you are interested in membership, or in becoming a Christian, any of our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! Taught by our Pastors and Elders, the class includes an outreach service project. Sunday mornings, Nov 11-Dec 9 (No class Nov 25) Visit membership.mdpc.org to register, or contact Diann Turet (dturet@mdpc.org, 713-490-9553).

Blood Drive

Never knowing when disaster will strike makes regular blood drives so important. Not every story makes national headlines, but for the parents of a hurting child, heart surgery patients, sickle cell sufferers, and so many more, their time of crisis and need is just as urgent. Sunday, Nov 11 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall Sign up anytime at giveblood.org.

College Ski Trip

Start 2019 with a memorable few days tearing up the Colorado slopes! Cost includes lodging, meals on non-travel days, lift tickets, and ski/board rentals. Tuesday-Sunday, January 1-6 \$495 (\$200 deposit due Dec 1, balance by Dec 20) Learn more: collegeskitrip.mdpc.org

The White Rose is in memory of:

- Claudette Shelfer, who passed away October 24, 2018.

This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:

SEARCH Homeless Services helps thousands of men, women, and children each year by providing necessities such as food, showers, and laundry services. Its ultimate goal is for clients to achieve some stability so they can move into permanent housing and increase their incomes. A primary resource at SEARCH is in-depth case management tailored to individual needs. searchhomeless.org

Sewing for Missions: These special MDPC ladies work on sewing-related projects for local community needs, such as premie blankets and walker caddies for the Medical Center, as well as for global missions, such as clothes for Lulwanda Children's Home in Uganda.

For details, to get involved, or if you have fabric to donate, contact Pat Ikard at 713-461-3654.

African Enterprise (AE) is a global partnership that believes in a bright future for Africa under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Its aim is to proclaim the Gospel to the residents of Africa's major cities, making a special effort to reach the continent's leaders, since Godly governance can result in major transformations of whole countries. Through evangelism, reconciliation, leadership training, relief, and community development, AE ministers to often overlooked community crises, such as AIDS, infant mortality, street children, and polluted water. africanenterprise.org

BLESS Friday

Giving thanks for all God has blessed us with can be as simple as serving up lunch to moms and their children or filling shoeboxes with small surprises for seafarers far away from home. Be a part of BLESS Friday this year and share God's Love!

Friday, Nov 23

See home projects and/or register for service projects at blessfriday.mdpc.org.

All-Church Lunch Today!

Chef Bernie will be cooking up soul food! Choose from smothered pork chop or meatloaf, served with black-eyed peas, collard greens, mac & cheese, mashed potatoes, or white rice. The entrée salad is Tuna Niçoise. 11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Adults \$10, Kids \$4 food.mdpc.org

Family Christmas Festival: HOPE

BINGO, Christmas Amazing Race, Face Paint, Hot Cocoa Bar, Cookie Decorating, Advent Calendar Jar, a service project, and more! Please bring a 64-oz apple juice (plastic bottle) for the service project. Event is free; small cost for optional dinner.

Sunday, Dec 2 | 5:00-7:00 PM

RSVP for dinner: hope.mdpc.org

Christmas for Kids

MDPC Women is partnering with Small Steps Nurture Center to provide 160 siblings of children in their programs with Christmas gifts. We hope you will join us on this journey of generosity.

Pick up forms and large bag to put the gifts in on Sundays, Nov 4-25. Return wrapped gifts by Dec 3. More information: gifts.mdpc.org

Volunteer Opportunity!

Children's Ministries is searching for a volunteer for our Wednesday Night Bible Studies! No prep required. Just looking for caring adults to build relationships with great kids.

Time commitment: 5:30-7:30 PM on Wednesdays

Contact Lyndsey Dottavio, Elementary Ministries Director: ldottavio@mdpc.org, 713-490-9262

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 7,098,756
Actual Income to Date (10/28/18)	\$ 7,436,441
Current Income Surplus	\$ 337,685
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 4,163,559

Covenant Sunday, November 4, 2018

Passion
Into Action
— Acts 20:35



Commit



Connect



Affect

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME Dave Steane

***SONGS OF PRAISE**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Brett Hurst

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE **PASSION INTO ACTION: THE METHOD** Alf Halvorson
Matthew 25:31-41, 45-46 (NRSV)

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION

***MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE** Kyle Collins

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE **PASSION INTO ACTION: THE METHOD** Alf Halvorson
Matthew 25:31-41, 45-46 (NRSV)

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

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

PRELUDE *Sonata No. 1* Felix Borowski (1872-1956)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane

CHORAL INTROIT *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Vaclav Nelhybel (1919-1996)

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* #343; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | BEECHER

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE** Dan Aikins

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from the Apostles' Creed

OFFERTORY *Happy and Blest Are They (from St. Paul)* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

MESSAGE **PASSION INTO ACTION: THE METHOD** Alf Halvorson
Matthew 25:31-41, 45-46 (NRSV)

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

ANTHEM OF DEDICATION *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* arr. Alice Parker (b. 1925)

POSTLUDE *Menuet Gothique* Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

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

DO YOU WISH TO EXPERIENCE COMMUNION MORE FREQUENTLY? The Sacrament will be offered in the 11:15 AM worship service next Sunday. All are welcome.



HUNGER INITIATIVE



THANK YOU for your generous help & hearts!

Help our neighbors in Spring Branch have a joyful Thanksgiving!

Bags with shopping lists attached are available at the grocery carts around campus.

Pick up one (or more!) bags, fill with items from the list, and return bags next **Sunday, November 11.**

Convenient parking lot drop-off will be available!

thanksgiving.mdpc.org

All-Church Worship Night

Thursday, November 15

7:00-8:00 PM* | Chapel

Worship...it's not just for Sundays.

Come hungry for music, prayer, Spirit-filled encouragement, and space to listen and respond to our amazing God.

*Doors open at 6:30 for fellowship and snacks.

No registration required for the event.

Reserve childcare: childcare@mdpc.org

Multi-Generational Event!

Partner⁺ in Prayer

Partners In Prayer commit to praying for their fellow MDPC members and a mission partner, each day for one year. Pastor Alf's goal is to have 1,000 or more Pray-ers for 2019. Help make it happen!

Learn more and register at the link below or on **Sign-up Sundays, Nov. 4 & 11.**

pip.mdpc.org

ADVENT RETREAT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:00 AM-2:30 PM | Villa de Matel Convent | \$30 includes lunch
Register by Nov. 16: SILENTRETREAT.MDPC.ORG

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.

Preview Episode 1! Available now with more coming soon: beinghuman.mdpc.org



Help provide healthy food to students who otherwise would go hungry on weekends. Volunteers spend just a few hours at Houston Food Bank on a Monday or Saturday morning.

Next Date: Monday, November 12

< Visit the webpage for more dates, program info, and to sign up!

houston foodbank

HUNGER INITIATIVE

TREATS FOR YOUR FEAST!



ORDER BY NOV. 18

Cranberry Bread (with or without Nuts) \$7
Giant Chocolate Chip Cookies • 1/2 Dozen \$6 • Baker's Dozen \$12
Pumpkin Pie \$12 • Pecan Pie \$16

Order online: treats.mdpc.org

TODAY!



PARENT POW-WOWS

What's Influencing Our Kids Now

Select Fall Sundays
11:00 AM-12:15 PM | MDPC Gym

November 4 and 11:
Critical Conversations

powwow.mdpc.org

ALL ADULTS
WELCOME

Passion Into Action

AFFECT: The Method

Matthew 25:31-41, 45-46 (NRSV)

Pastor Alf preaching

This is the third and final sermon in our generosity series. It concludes today, Covenant Sunday, when we'll bring forward our pledges for 2019 as an act of worship to God.

In week one, we focused on Jesus' Story of the Good Samaritan. Last week we looked at how the Apostle Paul and the early church put Jesus' words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," into practice. This week we return to Jesus and look at the final story of His public ministry. It is His last lesson, His climactic

point, His parting teaching. It is not a parable really, but a real description of our real future. All humans will gather in one place, a kind of cosmic Woodstock, the biggest mass meeting of all time, to greet the Lord when He returns and participate in the separating of the sheep from the goats.

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46.
 - a. Who is at this "biggest mass meeting of all time"? (See verse 32 especially) So it's not just Christians but all people? Discuss.
 - b. Who separates the sheep from the goats? (See verse 31, 33, and 41 especially)
 - c. What activities are lauded and what *lack* of activities are punished? Do you think the list is illustrative, or exhaustive?
 - d. What is the reward? What is the punishment? (See verse 46)
2. For the sheep, the news is good; they provided food, drink, hospitality, clothing, and care for the Son of Man. For the goats, the news is bad; they did not provide for Jesus. That is not the shock of the passage. What is the surprise? What is the twist that Jesus introduces? What do both groups ask Jesus? (See verses 37-39 and 44)
3. And what is Jesus' response to their questions? (See verses 40 and 45)
 - a. How is this text similar to and/or different from The Good Samaritan story (Luke 10:25-37) we studied two weeks ago?
 - b. If we want to follow and serve and love Jesus, what is He saying with this story about the sheep and the goats?
 - c. Who is the face of Jesus? Who is His proxy on earth? Does that make sense to you? Why would He draw that comparison? Are there other passages that support this idea? Check out Mt. 5:1-9, 43-47 or Mt. 7:12 for example.
4. What does all this have to do with pledging? Why would I focus on the sheep and the goats for Covenant Sunday and the wrap-up of our generosity/stewardship focus?
 - a. Did you know that MDPC *vet*s 130 or more local, national, and international outreach ministries each year and sends money and men and women to feed, clothe, and welcome "the least of these;" to provide medical care in remote, impoverished villages; to offer visits and Bible studies in prisons; to ultimately spread the Good News of Jesus that offers forgiveness, restoration, and hope?
 - b. Join us on a mission trip. Join us on a vetting visit.
 - c. I ended my sermon talking about "The Butterfly Effect." Every single thing we do matters. How will you positively alter the world through your commitment of time, talent, and treasure?

