

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

Connect with Us**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

Stan Simmons passed away January 13, 2020.

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.

The Ogengas from Lulwanda Children's Home

are at MDPC today. Stop by The Nook this morning for a meet and greet.

Sunday, January 19 • 10:45-11:10 AM • The Nook

WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS

Alpha Houston • Alpha Houston trains, equips, and encourages Christian communities to effectively utilize the Alpha Course as an evangelism tool. This discipleship program is taken to churches, homes, businesses, and – more recently – prisons/jails with the Good News of Jesus Christ. alphahouston.org

Amazing Place • Amazing Place is an interactive, affirming, state-of-the-art daytime wellness center for adults with mild to moderate memory loss. Its programs serve participants age 51 to 98 who suffer from Alzheimer's or related dementia, and their care-giving families. amazingplacehouston.org

MDPC Field Partner Jeff Burns has a call on his life to reach North American Muslims with the love of Jesus Christ. He and his family live near Wilmington, North Carolina, where Jeff teaches Christians ways to reach out in friendship to Muslims in peaceful, respectful witness. He has trained Presbyterian Church members in the U.S. and around the world.

Giving: The weekly financial updates will not be printed in the bulletin until the 2020 annual budget is approved by Session in late January. Online giving is available at give.mdpc.org.



Sunday, January 19, 2020

BELIEVE

In God the Father

Exodus 3:7-15 and John 14:1-6

Alf Halvorson preaching

Exodus 3:7-15 (NRSV) Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to Me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM who I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is My name forever, and this My title for all generations.

John 14:1-6 (NRSV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**Praise & Worship • Confession • 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>Sonata No. 3 in A Major</i>	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Choral Introit	<i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>	Carl Nygard (b.1947)
*Hymn of Praise #379	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i> (Vs. 1-3)	SOLID ROCK
Offertory	<i>He, Watching Over Israel</i> (from Elijah)	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Communion Meditations	<i>I Am With You Always</i> <i>Give Me Jesus</i>	John Rutter (b.1945) arr. Robert Sterling
Postlude	<i>Menuet Gothique</i>	Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Musicians in this Service:

Sanctuary Choir • Kathryn White, organ • Dr. Charles Hausmann, conductor

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

partner in prayer

Pick up your new Partner in Prayer packets at the Connection Center.

Today between services.
pip.mdpc.org

Contact Annette Erickson for late pick-up:
aerickson@mdpc.org or 713-490-9544

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Read the Bible in 90 Days

Gain fresh insight into God's character, His plan of salvation, and His love for each individual person in this 14-week course. You'll read twelve Bible pages a day, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. Led by Hobert Plunkett.

Sundays, January 12-April 19 • 11:15 AM-12:15 PM
Pastor's Conference Room
Pre-register: B90.mdpc.org

The Enneagram & Marriage

The Enneagram is a body of wisdom that can help foster greater communication, connection, and compassion in our relationships.

Sundays, through Feb. 16 • 11:00 AM • MC Room 217
Hosted by the Nearly and Newly Class
(20s & 30s engaged or married 5 years or less)
YA.mdpc.org

Spring Recreational Classes

MDPC's REACH classes are now registering. A plethora of classes are offered for both children and adults.

Register: reach.mdpc.org

Dr. Richard Mouw at MDPC

Fuller Seminary Texas invites you to attend a series of dynamic conversations on questions facing the church in this city. Conversations will be led by a combination of Christian scholars, artists, pastors, and community leaders. His next lecture is "*Our Uncivil Society: Can Evangelicals Be Part of the Solution?*" Dr. Richard Mouw, the former president of Fuller, has been working on this issue

for decades in his writing and in his dialogues with Mormons, Jews, and other groups.

Wednesday, January 29 • 7:00 PM (free)
MDPC Amphitheater
Register at fuller.mdpc.org

Annual MDPC Meeting

Next month, MDPC will conduct an annual church business meeting during All Church Lunch. The MDPC pastors will provide a year-end financial report, unveil the 2020 Operating Budget, and present the Pastors' Terms of Call. We hope to see you there.

Sunday, February 9 • 12:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Man vs. Machine at Theology on Tap

With the rise of artificial intelligence, let's examine what it means to be human, whether human nature is fixed or evolving, and where the soul fits in. Come hear Dr. Julie Miller discuss the promises and perils of Transhumanism. Open to young adults in their 20s and 30s.

Tuesday, February 11 • 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
Location: Kindred Lutheran Church
\$5 Suggested Donation (includes Craft Beer & Food)
Contact Sarah Stone: ssone@mdpc.org

Girls' Getaway: Spring Is Coming!

Join us for a time of refreshment, laughter, and fun while enjoying a five-star retreat complete with an outdoor movie, teaching time, and free time to relax. All adult women are welcome, so invite a friend and register today.

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5 (Jordan Ranch)
Register: getaway.mdpc.org
Contact Amanda Grace Caldwell:

MDPC
CHURCH IN THE CITY

February 23: Register at CITC.mdpc.org

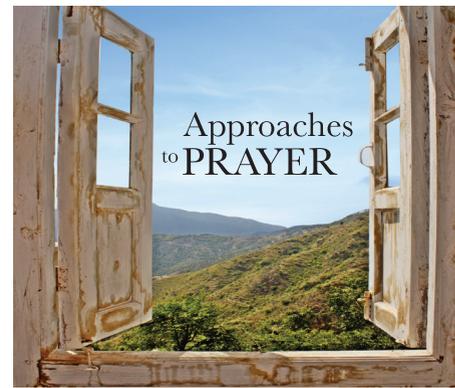


The Mission of Yahweh

houston
foodbank



Houston
Habitat
for Humanity



Wednesdays, January 15- March 4

6:30-7:30 PM • Summit Room

Need a fresh approach to prayer in the New Year? Curious what the Scriptures have to say about prayer? Join **Beth Case** and **Leigh McLeroy** as they explore the practice of prayer and share contemporary and ancient resources to deepen your prayer life and bring new intimacy to your relationship with God.

prayerpractice.mdpc.org

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

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. Consider using your social media platforms in a way that shows you are a person who trusts God. Share a Scripture or a meaningful "God moment" story.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Taught by pastors Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, and Clay Brown, this semester will focus on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. No homework.

Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122

MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Are you a mom of young children who could use a little break in the week to drop off the kids, relax, and chat with other moms? Then MOPs

is for you! Come for connection, solid content, adult conversations, and free childcare. Visit MOPS.mdpc.org for all the deets.

Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:15 AM | Parlor
OR Monthly on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 PM

Serve on an Outreach Committee

Outreach Ministries needs 10-12 volunteers to fill local committees. When you serve on one of these teams, you will see God at work through the ministry of our partners. Local committee members will make site visits, and all will work to get to know their partners, resulting in committee funding recommendations.

Contact: Jan Roe, jroe@mdpc.org

2020 Mission Partner Prayer Books

Pick up a copy of the Mission Partner Prayer Books at the Connection Center this morning.

Free Live Art Demonstration with Painter Zhaoming Wu

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30-8:30 PM • Amphitheater Visit art.mdpc.org for details.



Invite a friend from any faith or non-faith to try Alpha together. 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 (feels we all sometimes feel). Or 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 at MDPC

Free dinner, free childcare

Learn more: alpha.mdpc.org

Registration for Church in the City is now open! This year, **FOUR** opportunities for service are provided: two here at MDPC, and two on location with MDPC mission partners, Houston Food Bank and The Mission of Yahweh. A Habitat for Humanity build will take place in the MDPC parking lot.

MDPC Food Service Ministries Hosts International Chef

Tiffany Derry

Tiffany Derry is the owner of Roots Chicken Shak, Roots Southern Table, Derrywear, and Tiffany Derry Concepts. She gained international notoriety on the seventh season of Bravo's *Top Chef* and as a finalist on *Top Chef All-Stars*. The evening will include heavy appetizers, Ms. Derry's tips for nourishing both your stomach and your soul, and a Q&A session.

Thursday, January 23 • 6:30-8:30 PM

MDPC Fellowship Hall • \$10 per person



Register: derry.mdpc.org

BELIEVE

In God the Father Almighty

Exodus 3:7-15; John 14:1-6

Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the second in our Apostles’ Creed Series to begin 2020. If you missed the first message, you might want to listen to it because it spells out the rationale for the whole series, and also gets at why it is important that we know what we believe and why we believe it (sermons.mdpc.org).

The Traditional Version of The Apostles’ Creed has 110 words. It goes as follows: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.”

1. React to week one’s sermon. What was helpful to you? And what questions were not answered that you still have regarding the Apostles’ Creed?
2. What is your picture of God? Can you recall where that picture came from—life, a parent or friend, reading, a movie, a sermon, etc.? How and where was it formed?
3. The phrase we will look at today is “I believe in God the Father Almighty.” What if you break that phrase into three sections: I believe in God; the Father; Almighty? From my sermon, why is each part important? What does each add that the other parts need? How do they complement and correct each other? Why might they need to stay in tension together?
4. *Read Exodus 3:7-15.* What do you learn about God from this passage? How does it fit into the three phrases above? Is there anything that could have been added to the Creed that was not covered based on Ex. 3?
5. *Read John 14:1-7.* How does Jesus describe God? How does Jesus’ description of Himself harken back to Exodus 3? What in verse 6 adds to your understanding of the qualities of God and the role Jesus plays as God the Son?
6. Has your picture of God morphed, expanded, or become more nuanced, because of these readings and discussion? In what way? How might that help you trust or follow God this week?
