

Our Pastoral Team

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Pastors Emeritus

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, or visit app.mdpc.org.

Congregational Updates for March 8, 2020

Liz Kuhn passed away February 22;
M.A. Dunscombe passed away February 24;
Charles Chang passed away February 22;
Lucy Cruce passed away February 27

MDPC Worship

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

**MINISTRY PARTNER
PRAYER FOCUS**

Casa de Esperanza de los Niños • Casa de Esperanza is a loving home for children who are in crisis due to drug abuse, neglect, or the effects of HIV. Casa

provides residential care, and coordinates medical and psychological services according to the needs of each child. casahope.org

MDPC Field Partner Dr. M and his family show God's compassion to the unreached by meeting physical needs through dental health. Dr. M practices and teaches dentistry while sharing the Good News of Jesus with tribes living in abject poverty in Southeast Asia. There, the 98% Muslim population has the least amount of dental care in the world.



Ministry in Action • This week, **MDPC** also participated in **Church in the World**, with four of our members traveling to Ethiopia to visit Light of Hope (LOH), a beloved **MDPC** ministry partner. LOH's mission is to bring God's love to the Arsi Oromo people of southern Ethiopia. Its ministry is carried out through a holistic approach, focusing on literacy, building village schools, health, church planting, Bible translation into local dialects, and the vision of establishing a Christian college to

train teachers and nurses. Teams of teacher-evangelists are trained and sent to villages that want a school in their community. Teachers build peaceful relationships between Muslims and emerging followers of Jesus and seek to plant churches that reflect the forms and traditions of the local culture. The **MDPC** team was delighted to visit a nearby school where the children sang their lessons to them. Please continue to pray for the team.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

as of 03/01/20

2020 Annual Budget	\$ 12,300,000
Actual Income to Date	\$ 1,894,471
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 10,405,529

The 2020 Annual Operating Budget was approved at the January Session meeting.

Online giving is easy at give.mdpc.org, or on the **MDPC App**.



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



MDPC
Memorial Drive
Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Lent
March 8, 2020

BELIEVE

Ascended and Sitteth

Hebrews 1:1-4; 7:23-25; 12:1-3

Alf Halvorson preaching

Hebrews 1:1-4; 7:23-25; 12:1-3 • Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and He sustains all things by His powerful word. When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the Name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently He is able for all time to save those who approach God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such hostility against Himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

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>Meditation</i>	Michael M. Horvit (b. 1932)
Choral Introit	<i>Clouds of Witness Surround Us</i>	Robert Hobby (b. 1962)
*Hymn of Praise #151	<i>Crown Him With Many Crowns</i> (Vs. 1, 3 & 4)	DIADEMATA
Anthem	<i>Arise, My Soul, Arise</i>	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Offertory	<i>He Never Failed Me Yet</i>	Robert Ray (b. 1946)
*Hymn of Response #263	<i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i> (Vs. 1 & 4)	ST. DENIO
Postlude	<i>Built on a Rock</i>	Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

Musicians in this Service: Sanctuary Choir • Sue Ofield, piano/organ • Dr. Charles Hausmann, conductor

* Please stand if able

CCLI # 182374

GO
TEXAN
DAY AT MDPC

ALL CHURCH LUNCH TODAY!

Y'all might notice lots of jeans and boots this morning! Whether you're in rodeo duds or your normal finery, stick around for a **delicious barbecue lunch** in Fellowship Hall from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.



Two Useful Links for our Congregational Family:

- Church in the City wrap-up **videos** and a follow-up **survey** are available at citic.mdpc.org. Your feedback will assist the planning team with next year's event.
- Learn more about the **MDPC** response to the Corona Virus at corona.mdpc.org.



MDPC welcomes
NANCY PEARCEY
A Former Agnostic
Turned Top Apologist

ONE Apologetics Strategy to Rule Them All

Thursday, March 26 • 7:00 PM

Ms. Pearcey will help us craft a powerful apologetics that speaks to a secular audience. Using the text of Romans I, she will “translate” its insights into modern terminology, with the ability to address any worldview.

Register at SPEAKERS.mdpc.org



POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

Are You a Family Caregiver?

Learn tools to reduce stress, communicate effectively, and deal with difficult caregiving situations.

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 AM • March 25-April 29

Registration: tools.mdpc.org

No professional caregivers, please.



Don't forget
to take care
of yourself!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Your Own Affirmation of Faith?

Pastor Alf's *I Believe* sermon series may have caused you to think more about your *own* faith and what *you* believe. If you would like to discuss this with a Pastor, any of our pastoral staff would be delighted to speak with you.

Contact any Pastor as indicated on back page

The MDPC Community Gallery is featuring

a display by artists from the Houston Art Society, a non-profit art league serving the Memorial and Houston areas. Stop by to view their beautiful art and learn more about community resources for artists.

Gallery Wall (between MC 122 and The Nook)

Easter Lily Dedications

It's time for Easter Lily dedications in memory of and/or in honor of those close to us. Dedications are \$9 each. Order online or at the Front Office or Connection Center.

Order deadline: Thursday, April 2

flowers.mdpc.org

Summer REACH Camps & Classes

Kids camps are back with loads of classes available in the areas of art, sports, theater, and music. Adult classes include Voice, Piano, and Yoga. Check them out at the link below!

Information and registration:

reach.mdpc.org or 713-490-9564

Do You Have Room to Spare?

Summer housing (without transportation) is needed for a female Children's Ministries intern.

Dates needed: May 16-August 14

Contact [Lyndsey Dottavio](mailto:Lyndsey.Dottavio@mdpc.org) for more information: ldottavio@mdpc.org

Encore Fellowship will be Out and About at The George Theater

MDPC's Encore Fellowship group is for adults of any age, gender, or marital status. Join them for *The Spitfire Grill* with A. D. Players. This award-winning musical triumph, with its modern folk score and inspiring story, is a celebration of fresh starts and the power of love and redemption.

April 23 • 7:30 PM • George Theater

(Purchase deadline is April 2)

Contact [Betsy Chalmers](mailto:Betsy.Chalmers@mdpc.org):

betsychalmersfarver@gmail.com

Young Adult Budapest Mission Trip

YWAM Budapest Ministries, an MDPC Global Partner, operates a coffee house ministry in Budapest's city center, as well as a discipleship training program and street outreach ministry. Get to know our partners and experience how they are reaching the unchurched youth of Eastern Europe. Serve with other young adults and see how Jesus is coming alive in Hungary.

July 2020 (Approximate Date)

To learn more, contact: [Kelsi McCormack](mailto:Kelsi.McCormack@mdpc.org) at kmccormack@mdpc.org

MDPC Is Committed to Fighting Childhood Hunger

THIS
WEEK!

One in four children in Houston often goes without meals, and many more lack the good nutrition needed to thrive developmentally. You can make a real difference! Here are two MDPC service projects that provide food directly to hungry Houston children:



Volunteer at Houston Food Bank

Volunteer monthly to prepare meals at Houston Food Bank (HFB). These meals are then distributed by HFB to after-school programs throughout Harris County.

Next date: Monday, March 9

8:00 AM-Noon

Registration & details: hfb.mdpc.org

Questions? Contact Suzanne Fitch:

fitchsuzanne@hotmail.com



Make Sandwiches for Kids' Meals

Make sandwiches at MDPC for local distribution by Kids' Meals. Please bring four loaves of sandwich bread per sandwich-maker to the service project (plain white or wheat, nothing fancy!). No registration required.

Next Date: Wednesday, March 11

4:30-6:00 PM • Fellowship Hall

More info: kidsmeals.mdpc.org

Contact Julie Hempel: hempeljulie@gmail.com

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES AT MDPC

Walking Through Luke with the Pastors

Weekly stand-alone lessons following the “Transformed by Hope” study of Luke. Choose either 9:45 or 11:15 AM • Amphitheater

Today: Luke 20:1-40, with Rachel Poysky, MDPC Children's Pastor



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 details.

Every other Thursday, 9:30-11:15 AM | Parlor

OR Monthly on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 PM

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

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's tip: **take a walk in your neighborhood this week and make an effort to speak to one of your neighbors.**

Join the Wedding Ministry Team

MDPC's Wedding Ministry is seeking (paid) coordinators to serve wedding groups on their big day. Those with a heart for hospitality and strong organizational and communication skills are encouraged to apply.

Contact [Meaghan Garvin](mailto:Meaghan.Garvin@mdpc.org): mgarvin@mdpc.org



THE
SPOKEN
WORD
ISAIAH 55:11

Come to read.
Come to listen.

spokenword.mdpc.org

Celebrate Holy Week by participating in a continuous cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Sign up to read aloud for one or more 15-minute spots. Our congregation is diverse, and we encourage everyone to read in their native language.

April 6-9 in the MDPC Chapel

BELIEVE

Alf Halvorson preaching
Sermon Notes by Clay Brown

He Ascended into Heaven, and Sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty

Hebrews 1:1-4; 7:23-25; 12:1-3

This sermon in our series on the Apostles' Creed addresses territory with which we're not too familiar. We do not spend much time talking about the ascension of Jesus and trying to grasp what it means for Him to be seated at the Father's right hand. Other Christian traditions may focus on these doctrines, but Presbyterians often pay little attention to them. Yet there is rich treasure here for those wanting to investigate the significance of Jesus' ascension and place of honor by the Father

1. Have you ever heard a sermon before on Jesus' ascension? Or on "sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty?" If so, what do you remember that sermon saying? Why do you think preachers rarely tackle this part of the Creed
2. When the Creed states Jesus "ascended into heaven," do you think the language is strictly geographic or spatial? Or is there something else going on along with the literal rising of Jesus to heaven (as recounted in Acts 1:6-11)? If so, what might it be? Why might it be significant?
3. In the ancient world, as well as in many cultures today, there is a hugely important social distinction between how you use your right hand and how you use your left hand. What is this distinction? How may this distinction help us understand the truth the Creed is communicating?
4. Read Hebrews 1:1-4. What do you think the author of Hebrews emphasizes about Jesus when he writes about Him, "He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and He sustains all things by His powerful word. When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..." (v. 3, NRSV) Describe the status and authority of Jesus as conveyed in this verse. How does this status compare with how many people today perceive Jesus to be?
5. Read Hebrews 7:23-25. How is Jesus's work as the Great High Priest different from all other priesthoods? What is the result of this difference? Why is this difference so important?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How is Jesus the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith"? What has He accomplished on our behalf to make such a description of Him warranted? What changes in our lives because of what Jesus has done?
7. A few Sundays ago, we discussed several ideas about the Atonement of Christ. One of them, "Christus Victor," focuses upon both Jesus' victory over sin and death and how all who follow Him also will be victorious through what He has done. How does the Creed and the sermon passages elaborate and expand upon this truth? What impact does this truth make in our lives as we walk through our own challenges, struggles, and joys?





MDPC is pleased to welcome

**NANCY
PEARCEY**

*A Former Agnostic
Turned Top Apologist*

Thursday, March 26 • 7:00 PM

ONE

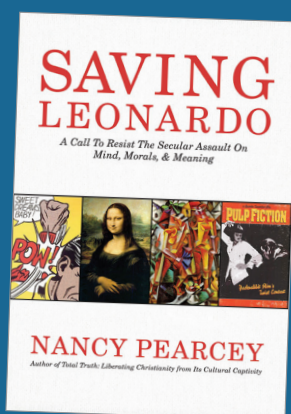
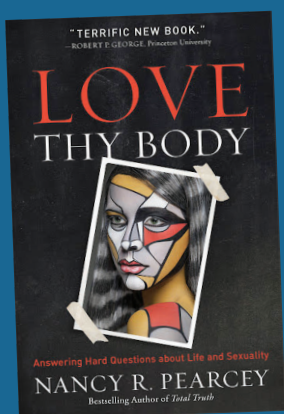
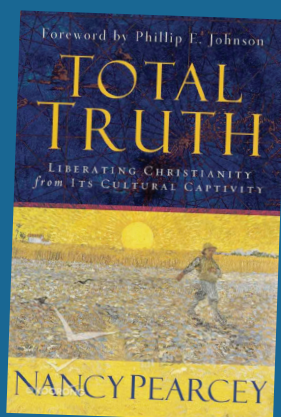
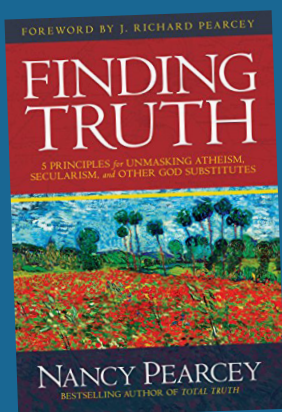
APOLOGETICS STRATEGY To Rule Them All

Apologetics is the branch of theology that is concerned with defending or proving the truth of Christian doctrines. Romans I gives us the Bible's own apologetics manual. In Romans, Paul is addressing an audience that had not heard the gospel, which means his approach is uniquely geared toward a secular audience. By "translating" its insights into modern terminology, we can craft a powerful apologetics for our own day that gives us the tools to address any worldview.

Nancy Pearcey is the author of *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions about Life and Sexuality*. Her earlier books include *The Soul of Science*, *Saving Leonardo*, *Finding Truth*, and two ECPA Gold Medallion Award Winners: *How Now Shall We Live* (coauthored with Harold Fickett and Chuck Colson) and *Total Truth*.

Her books have been translated into eight languages. Ms. Pearcey is professor and scholar-in-residence at Houston Baptist University. A former agnostic, Pearcey has spoken at universities such as Princeton, Stanford, USC, and Dartmouth. She was highlighted as one of the five top women apologists by Christianity Today and was hailed in *The Economist* as “America’s pre-eminent evangelical Protestant female intellectual.”

Register at SPEAKERS.mdpc.org



MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive
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Sponsor: Equipping Ministries

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