

## Learn More About MDPC's Childhood Hunger Initiative



### Action Plan

To achieve its objective, MDPC's strategy is to pursue two parallel efforts:

1. Provide immediate **Food Assistance** to food-insecure children and households.
2. **"Lift up" Families** by addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity.

In pursuit of these goals, the Task Force creates service opportunities for MDPC members to volunteer with partner organizations. The idea is to enable the work of existing agencies with extensive experience and proven success in hunger relief, rather than starting from scratch. For example, throughout the fall of 2018, volunteers from MDPC spent a morning at Houston Food Bank twice per month assisting in a variety of tasks.

### Food Assistance

MDPC's Task Force concentrates its efforts in nearby Spring Branch, helping make healthy, nutritious food available to those in need. 2018 activities included:

- Partnering with Houston Food Bank to expand the Backpack Buddy program at Spring Woods Middle School. The teams' work benefited (and continues to benefit) 120 students at Spring Woods Middle School that school counselors had identified as food-insecure. While these kids receive weekday meals at school, the Backpack Buddy program supplements over-the-weekend needs of their entire family. In addition to funding for the program, MDPC members volunteered at Houston Food Bank two mornings a month, as described above. This initiative is slated to continue into 2019. Stay tuned for the project dates being planned!
- Participating in East Spring Branch Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Meal-in-a-Bag drive, for which MDPC collected and delivered almost 600 bags of food. MDPC volunteers also helped deliver the huge amount of donations to ESB Food Pantry.

### Lift Up Families by Addressing Root Causes of Food Insecurity

Typically, food insecurity is not an isolated issue for families and is linked to other factors. Fighting food insecurity is more successful when underlying causes such as poverty, lack of education, and meager job opportunities also are addressed. To that end, the following efforts are currently underway:

- Sponsoring English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at Spring Branch Family Development Center (an MDPC mission partner).
- Sponsoring and teaching a Computer Skills training class at Spring Branch Family Development Center. This class is attended by parents and young adults in communities affected by food insecurity.
- Partnering with Houston Community College and Houston Food Bank to open the Eagle Food Pantry at Houston Community College's Spring Branch campus. Studies show that many college students drop out of school because of food insecurity at home. The new Eagle Food Pantry offers students a variety of nutritious foods and perishables (e.g. dairy, fresh produce) to take home. Its purpose is to enable students to focus on schoolwork instead of how they and their families will eat that day. Volunteers are needed to stock shelves with food at the Pantry.

Future plans include the coordination of other MDPC ministry partners on educational opportunities for parents and children. The Task Force also plans to invite guest speakers to inform the congregation about the issue of food insecurity in Houston.

If you would like to join MDPC's fight against hunger, visit [hunger.mdpc.org](http://hunger.mdpc.org) to view specific opportunities, or, contact Jan Roe at [jroe@mdpc.org](mailto:jroe@mdpc.org).

# FOCUS



mdpc.org • 713-782-1710

Winter/Spring Issue 2019

## MDPC CHURCH IN THE CITY

MDPC's second annual Church in the City will take place in February! Once again, you'll have the opportunity to serve at **Houston Food Bank** or here on our campus.

FEB  
24  
2019

**Registration is open!**

Details and updates are available at [CITC.mdpc.org](http://CITC.mdpc.org).



[CITC.mdpc.org](http://CITC.mdpc.org)

## THIS IS US The Story of Joseph's Family...and Ours

A gripping drama of jealousy, sibling rivalry, blended families, betrayal, temptation, heartache, and revenge. It's the story of Joseph - but it's our story, too. Whether families of origin or families we've built, few leave their members completely free of scars.

In this **six-week sermon series**, Pastor Alf explores familial dysfunctions against the backdrop of Joseph's own experience with these emotionally-charged issues. We'll learn that while we cannot escape the hurts of our past, we need not be defined by them. With God's eternal hope and healing, it's possible to embrace a new future and, like Joseph, find forgiveness, redemption, and purpose.

**Sunday, February 3**

Overcoming Temptation | Genesis 39:1-12

**Sunday, February 10**

Disappointment & Despair | Genesis 39:19-23; 40:1-8

**Sunday, February 17**

From Revenge to Reconciliation  
Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-20

**Sunday, February 24**

Break for CHURCH IN THE CITY

**Sunday, March 3**

God Behind the Scenes | Genesis 50:20-21



[joseph.mdpc.org](http://joseph.mdpc.org)

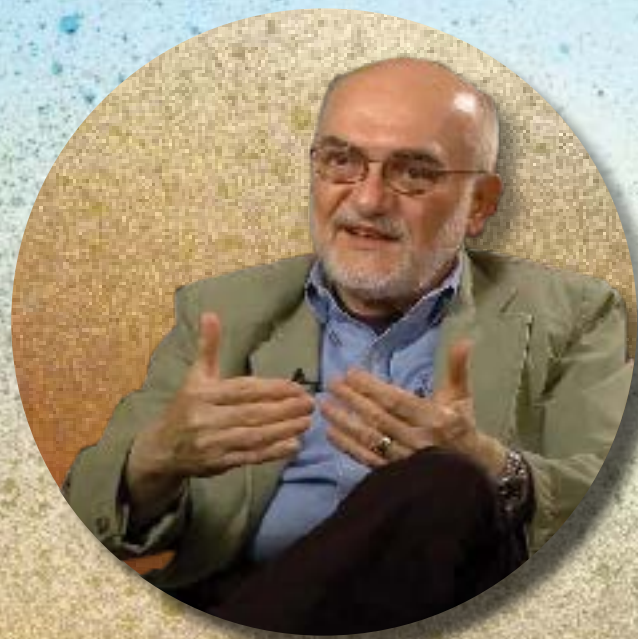


11612 Memorial Drive • Houston, TX 77024  
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# HUMAN SEXUALITY

MARRIAGE, FIDELITY, & SEXUAL SIN



## HARRY SCHAUMBURG

Wednesday, February 13 • At MDPC

Mr. Schaumburg is a speaker, author, and counselor specializing in the area of sexual sin in the church. He is the director of Stone Gate Resources and the author of *False Intimacy: Understanding the Struggle of Sexual Addiction* and *Undefined: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration for Broken Relationships*.

**MDPC JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

[justice.mdpc.org](http://justice.mdpc.org)

## Discover MDPC with Alf

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

June 2

10:45-11:10 AM • The Nook

Drop-ins welcome!

## New Member Classes

The New Member Classes are taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and include a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

Summer Intensive

Friday PM & Saturday AM: June 7-8  
In the Parlor

[membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.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. Episode Two includes special guest **Alf Halvorson**.

Look for episodes in January that will align with Pastor Alf's new sermon series, **This Is Us**. The series will look at family dysfunction through the story of Joseph.

[beinghuman.mdpc.org](http://beinghuman.mdpc.org)

# Second SUNDAY SUPPERS

FIRST Sunday Lunch is moving to **SECOND** Sundays!  
Same great food - new day!

## SPRING DATES:

Sunday, February 10  
Sunday, March 10  
Sunday, April 14

[food.mdpc.org](http://food.mdpc.org)

# THE Lenten Season AT MDPC

*Ash Wednesday*

MARCH 6 • SERVICES AT NOON & 6:30 PM

*The Spoken Word*

APRIL 15-18

*Maundy Thursday*

APRIL 18 • 7:00 PM

*Good Friday*

APRIL 19 • NOON

*Easter Sunday*

APRIL 21 • 7:00, 8:15, 9:45, 11:15\* AM

\*ENGLISH AND SPANISH

[lent.mdpc.org](http://lent.mdpc.org)

*Where is God leading you?*

# 2019

## Global Mission Trips

### Far East Broadcasting Vision Trip

Ukraine and Russia • Dates TBD  
Cost: Estimated \$1,500 + airfare

Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) seeks to make Jesus known among the least reached people of the world by sharing the Good News through various media methods, broadcasting in 113 languages in 49 countries from 149 stations and transmitters.

### Young Adult Mission: The Micah Project

Honduras • March 20-24, 2019

Cost: \$1200 Total  
(\$600 out of pocket / fundraise \$600)

The Micah Project ministers to street children in Tegucigalpa, providing a home, family, and an education. See the love of Christ in action!

### Free Wheelchair Mission Vision Trip

Peru • September 8-14, 2019 (Approx.)

Cost: Estimated \$2,200 + airfare

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) provides wheelchairs to places around the world where the impoverished disabled do not have access to mobility.

### Living Water International Mission Trip

Honduras • December 7-14, 2019

Cost: \$2,200 Total

On a Living Water Trip, you'll 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 impact the community you visit forever!

Contact Kelsi McCormack at [kmccormack@mdpc.org](mailto:kmccormack@mdpc.org) if interested.



[missiontrips.mdpc.org](http://missiontrips.mdpc.org)



# ECO All-City Worship & Prayer

January 6, 2019  
5:00 - 6:30 PM  
At MDPC

We will join with our sister ECO Congregations, First Presbyterian and Grace Presbyterian, for an evening of worship and prayer for our congregations and our city as we begin the New Year.



[allcityworship.mdpc.org](http://allcityworship.mdpc.org)



## B90 READ THE BIBLE

**New Year's Challenge:**  
To read attentively every word of the Bible in 90 days

**Sundays at 11:15 AM  
Beginning January 6**

Gain fresh insight into God's Word in this 12-week course.

[b90.mdpc.org](http://b90.mdpc.org)

Confirmation is our yearly program for all students currently in the 8th grade or above. It's a time to **focus** on what it means to **follow Jesus** and be part of His church.

**Confirmation Begins Sunday,  
January 6, 2019**

# CONFIRMATION 2019



[confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

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**Beginning Sunday, January 20**



[joseph.mdpc.org](http://joseph.mdpc.org)