

MDPC Coordinating Team

Mauricio Chacón | Latino Ministries Pastor
 Amy Delgado | Interim Outreach Director
 Ginny Glass | Communications & Media Director
 Meliza Gómez | Contemporary Music Director
 Alf Halvorson | Senior Pastor
 Charles Hausmann | Traditional Music Director
 Brett Hurst | Relationships Pastor
 Christyn Knoop | Young Adults Director
 Gena Kookon | Senior Leadership Ministry Coord.
 Laura Miller | Youth Director
 Rick Myers | Caring Ministries Pastor
 Rachel Poysky | Children's Pastor
 Becky Riggs | Business Administrator
 Dave Steane | Executive Pastor
 Kathryn White | Coordinating Music Director
 Karen Winship | Human Resources Director

Pastors Emeritus

Dave Peterson
 Gary Bowker

STUDY & SMALL GROUP SPOTLIGHT



Eat Pray Lent Study Groups

Savor Jesus' 7 Last Words from the Cross in worship and through the community of an Eat Pray Lent small group. Various groups would be delighted to welcome you, or start your own! This week's group spotlight is on:

For 60s+: Sundays at 9:45 AM in MC 126

Details and registration: epl.mdpc.org

The Red Rose is given in honor of:

Alaric Tyler Steane, born March 29, 2017, to Tyler and Kate Steane. He is the grandson of Dave and Jenny Steane.

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

This week, we ask that you pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

Cornerstone Family Ministries is a multicultural, faith-based nonprofit in Spring Branch that believes when parents do well, their children do well. It partners with churches to address practical and spiritual needs in a less threatening setting outside the institutional church.
cfmhouston.org

East Spring Branch Food Pantry is a small, completely volunteer-run organization. Located at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, they distribute food five days per week to families residing in 77055, 77043, 77024, 77092, and 77080 zip codes.
eastspringbranchfoodpantry.com

Berea Bible Institute in Monterrey, Mexico began as one family's dream to educate young leaders in Scripture. Students at this small college are ingrained with a love for serving and for teaching their communities to reach out to one another in service. Each year, graduates are sent into remote parts of Mexico where they lead churches and teach the sacrificial love of Christ through the way they live.
institutoberea.org

Operating Income

2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,400,000	100%
Actual Income to Date (April 2, 2017)	\$ 2,215,644	19%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 9,184,356	81%

Looking for a Place to Serve?

Cornerstone Family Ministries is a multicultural Christian nonprofit in Spring Branch partnering with churches to address practical and spiritual needs. In a (less threatening) setting outside the institutional church, its family night includes dinner, worship, recreation, and Bible classes for the whole family.

Lead teachers and assistants are needed to facilitate classroom time on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Contact Rhett Edwards: rhett@cfmhouston.org, 713-255-2945



The Sixth Word

John 19:28-30

Coming Up at MDPC

Easter Lily Dedications due Tomorrow!

Purchase a lily in memory or honor of a loved one at the Connection Center or at flowers.mdpc.org.
Deadline: Monday, April 10 | \$9/dedication

Parking Today and Easter Sunday

To help guests feel welcome, consider parking at The Kinkaid School (201 Kinkaid School Dr, 77024) to free up on-campus spaces. Shuttles every 15 minutes will drop off right in front of the Sanctuary!
Sundays, April 9 and 16 | 6:30 AM-12:45 PM

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make sure there is one less empty tummy! Bring two loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and fix sandwiches for Kids' Meals. That's all it takes to make a difference.

Wednesday, April 12 | 5:00-6:00 PM

Contact Julie with questions: hempjeljulie@gmail.com

Poverty Simulation

Living life on the edge...how many of us can say we know what that's like? This interactive experience will give you a better understanding of the day-to-day struggles of many in our community.

Tuesday, April 25 | 5:30-7:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Details and registration: poverty.mdpc.org

Stephen Ministry Lunch & Learn

A Stephen Minister walks beside those who are hurting or facing trials in life. Learn more about this special ministry at an informational "Lunch & Learn." You can ask questions, meet current Stephen Ministers, and hear about their experiences.

Sunday, April 20 | 12:30-1:30 PM

RSVP to Beverly Fluke: bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542

Journey to the Cross for Families

Walk with us through Holy Week on a guided tour of the stations of the cross.

Good Friday, April 14 | Tours run 9:30-11:30 AM

Register to receive a tour time: journey.mdpc.org

Special Guest Speaker:

Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben

Pastor Alf says, "While away from my previous church for four straight weeks, I brought in a power-packed series of big name preachers, seminary presidents, etc. When I returned, the person deemed the most impactful in her talk was my friend, Margaret Kibben. Make the time to attend, and invite family, friends, and neighbors. You will be glad and blessed that you did."

Thursday, April 27 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

kibben.mdpc.org

Course for Babysitters

The American Red Cross presents this class that prepares boys and girls (ages 11-15) to be responsible babysitters. Students will receive an ARC Babysitting Certificate. Cost is \$116 per student.

Saturday, April 22 | 9:00 AM-6:00 PM | MC 103

Details and registration: reach.mdpc.org

Prime Timers presents: Worried About Your Memory? It May Not Be Dementia

Sally Davis, Health Services Director at The Amazing Place, returns to speak about memory loss and how to distinguish dementia from what's normal.

Tuesday, April 18 | Fellowship Hall

Free Program: 10:30 AM | Lunch (\$9.50): Noon

Your check is your reservation. Checks made out to MDPC must be received at the front office by April 12.

Visitors are welcome for the program but must make a reservation for lunch.

Maundy Thursday



April 13 • 6:30 PM

A special interactive Celebration of the Passover Story and the Lord's Supper

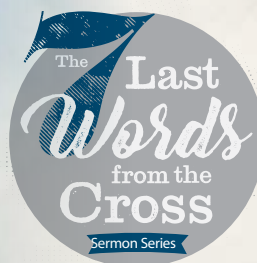
In order to prepare the elements needed, this service requires an **RSVP**. Seating will be at tables in Fellowship Hall. Visit maundy.mdpc.org.

Good Friday

April 14 • 12:00 PM

A Good Friday Service at Noon in the Sanctuary

Alf Halvorson preaching



Easter Sunday

April 16

We'll celebrate Easter morning in five unique services:

7:00 AM Sunrise: Acoustic praise music

8:15 AM Blended: A mix of traditional and contemporary music

9:45 AM Contemporary: A family-friendly service

11:15 AM Traditional: Brass, choir-led hymns, and Hallelujah Chorus

11:15 AM Spanish: Spanish-language, led by Mauricio Chacón

For everything Easter, visit lent.mdpc.org.

MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Dave Steane

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Dan Aikins

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Amy Delgado with John Nadolski of Living Water

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Sixth Word

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

9:45 AM SERVICE

WORSHIP INVITATION

Meliza Gómez

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Clarissa Escamilla

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Kyle Collins

SONG OF RESPONSE

The Music Box

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachel Poysky

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Amy Delgado with John Nadolski of Living Water

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Sixth Word

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Worship Leaders, Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton • Guitar, Joe Gavito • Keys, Craig Gysler • Drums, Asher Pudlo • Bass, Dennis Whittaker

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

Meditation and Toccata on 'All Glory, Laud, and Honor' arr. Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

WELCOME

Dave Steane

CALL TO WORSHIP

Clarissa Escamilla

CHORAL INTROIT

Doxology

The Music Box

*HYMN OF PRAISE

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#88; Vs. 1, 4 | VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#89; Vs. 3 | ELLACOMBE

ANTHEM

The Palms

Jean-Baptiste Faure (1830-1914)

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Amy Delgado with John Nadolski of Living Water

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Gilbert Martin (b.1941)

MESSAGE

The 7 Last Words from the Cross: The Sixth Word

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#98; Vs. 1, 3 | PASSION CHORALE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Sacred Head

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Musicians in this service: Anthem soloist, Lisa Borik • Conductor, Charles Hausmann • Organist, Kathryn White

OPEN TO YOUNG ADULTS (20s & 30s)

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Exploring the Denominational & Theological Distinctions Between Us

Tuesday, April 11
7:00-9:00 PM

Location and more info: facebook.com/theologyontaphouston

I spoke The Word at MDPC!

THE SPOKEN WORD
HEBREWS 4:12

Celebrate Holy Week by participating in a continuous cover-to-cover reading of the Bible. Sign up for one or more 15-minute spots:

spokenword.mdpc.org

Reading takes place **April 10-13** in the MDPC Chapel.

Come to read. Come to listen.

THE WELL WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

WHY I HOPE...

Meet us at The Well, a gathering place for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. This April, we come together to hear a panel of real, honest women share their personal stories of hope.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 • CHAPEL
6:30-8:00 PM (LIGHT SNACKS @ 6:00 PM)

For details, to RSVP, and to reserve free childcare: thewell.mdpc.org

MDPC Women
WOMEN.MDPC.ORG

MDPC **10** **YEARS**

Fuentes Anniversary

Sunday, April 23
12:15 PM | Fellowship Hall
fuentes10.mdpc.org

Come celebrate the 10th Anniversary of MDPC Fuente Hispanic Ministries! We'll have music, testimonies, cultural dances, food, and lots of fun.

RSVP to Luz Pérez: lperez@mdpc.org

MDPC Concert Series

2016-2017

concerts.mdpc.org

A German Requiem, Opus 45

by Johannes Brahms
Sung in English



Begin Holy Week with Brahms' largest and most popular work. Combining his beautiful Romantic style of composition with some of the most profound words of scripture, Brahms focused on consoling those who grieve and providing hope for all.



Tonight!
6:00 PM
Sanctuary

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Invite your friends and family!

WHY WATER?

It's simple. Everything begins with water. It's the foundation for all other levels of development. For the millions of thirsty people throughout the developing world—safe water can ultimately transform:

Health

- Over 840,000 are estimated to die annually from diseases related to unsafe drinking water.
- The deaths of 360,000 children under the age of five could be avoided each year if these risk factors were addressed.

Sanitation & Hygiene

- 2.4 billion people lack access to sanitation technologies like flush toilets and piped sewers.
- When they DO have access, water sources can be kept safe and free of fecal contaminants.

Education

- Waterborne parasites impact children's ability to attend school and focus in the classroom.
- These and other diseases—along with the time-consuming chore of hauling water for the family—cause absenteeism and early drop-out.
- Safe water access at or near schools, can keep kids in class.

Justice Issues


- Globally, women and children spend 200 million hours every day collecting water, often for water that's already contaminated.
- Too often the journey is not safe. And when women walk alone, they are often vulnerable to sexual assault.
- Women and their children are the ones who suffer most without water, but they're also poised to make the biggest changes in their communities once they gain safe-water access.

Livelihoods

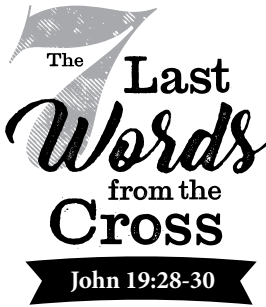
- Safe water removes the single heaviest burden from the lives of the poor people.
- Not having to deal with this daily crisis means time for school, work, life, and health. Every dollar you invest in safe water and sanitation yields \$4 in health care savings, improved health, and time saved.

Today's Palm Sunday offering will go to benefit the life-saving efforts of **Living Water International**, a global ministry transforming communities by offering clean water in Jesus' Name.

Please use the envelopes provided in the pews.

MDPC Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church 1102 Memorial Drive Houston, Texas 77024 713-282-8710		PALM SUNDAY OFFERING Offering to benefit Living Water International
	Name (please print clearly) _____	
	Amount \$ _____	Envelope # (if known) _____
	Address _____	
	City, State, Zip _____	





The **Last Words**
from the **Cross**
John 19:28-30

The Sixth Word: Justified (jəstə, fɪd) adj.

1. declared or made righteous in the sight of God
2. to be made right with God through the death and return to life of Jesus Christ

Spent a few minutes reflecting on this word before reading further. Use the back of this sheet to jot some thoughts.

Notice the passage this week is the same as last week with the addition of one verse (30) where Jesus says, “It is finished,” and then dies. While the circumstances of Jesus’ death are brutal and sad, we are stunned and deeply grateful for what it means. Let me explain.

We have a problem...and it’s a big one. Sin, the state of continually “missing the mark,” unfortunately separates us from our loving Creator. Sin creates a giant chasm or gulf between us, making it impossible for us to enjoy intimacy with our Creator. This is not at all what the Lord desires for His people. God knows that we will be miserable without Him and without His refining and cleansing of our souls. Consequently, reflecting the true character of God’s ongoing pursuit of us, the Lord has historically taken steps to bring us closer to Him.

First, the temporary solution. In the old complicated Jewish sacrificial system, a sacrifice of a specific animal would act as a substitute on behalf of a person’s specific sin. The result of offering that animal sacrifice was a temporary cleansing before God. Not a bad deal, until one realizes that going through the motions of such an exhausting system is both tedious and incomplete. This short-term system would not permanently solve the problem. As you have probably noticed in your own experience, our tendencies as human beings is to commit sins with ongoing frequency.

Enter Jesus and His work on the Cross. Now the greater plan would forever replace the temporary plan. On Calvary (the Latin name of the hill where Jesus is crucified), the stage is set for the most important and compassionate death in human history. Our Savior Jesus wasn’t just crucified between criminals. He was lovingly crucified for criminals as a criminal. God “made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). This is a phenomenal accomplishment that only the Lord Himself could orchestrate. As a result, we are provided with a permanent solution to our ongoing sin problem. When Jesus says, “It is finished,” we know that our debt has been fully paid. This is a complete atonement that came at an appalling cost...and we are the beneficiaries.

There is nothing further to be done. Jesus, out of great faithfulness and love for us, volunteered to leave the glory of Heaven itself for this dirty and distasteful job. Yet, upon completion, Jesus was 100% confident that He had perfectly discharged the Father’s purpose and that His triumph over sin was flawless. Mission accomplished.

In Christ’s victory, we should also live each day actively in this amazing triumph. We now can stand and even bask in the security of God’s generous grace. Although we brought nothing to this table, God nevertheless wants us to fully receive the blessings of this victory as His children. In this way, we will glorify God fully and be continual witnesses of His endless mercy.

Begin by reading aloud the opening reflection, followed by the Scripture passage (John 19:28-30).

1. Read Romans 3:21-24. The Lord has given us a remarkable gift that we did not earn. We receive this tremendous generosity by faith. Why do you think this free gift of grace was so hard for the Jews to accept? What aspects of grace are hard for you yourself to grasp?
2. Righteousness can be defined as “the state of moral perfection required by God.” Through faith in Jesus, believers miraculously receive this kind of righteousness from Christ Himself. This doctrine is called “imputation.” Being righteous in this way also allows believers the privilege of becoming children of God. Have members of your group each name a benefit of being a child of God.
3. John 1:14 tells us, “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” When Jesus entered the world, everything changed. From then on, salvation would now be possible by faith through the wonderful grace of Christ. Our good works would no longer be a necessary requirement for salvation. How would you attempt to put grace into your own words?
4. We have read that our righteousness is by faith, yet it is so easy for us to drift back to a performance-based version of Christianity...which actually isn’t Christianity at all! This negative drift back to our own self efforts is a subtle trap. When we try to do things in our own strength, we don’t get very far. Ask members of your group to share times when they have noticed themselves trying to “earn” God’s approval. Why do you think we have this tendency?