

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Each year on Christmas Eve, MDPC collects a special offering to support select ministry partners. This year's Christmas Eve Offering will be sent to our 13 MDPC-supported global mission field workers, and the four local ministries listed below. When you put a gift into the offering plate on Christmas Eve evening, you are making a direct impact on a hurting world. All checks with "Christmas Eve Offering" on the memo line and cash donations will be sent to bless these mission field workers and organizations.

- Camp Blessing
- ESCAPE Family Resources
- Open Door Mission
- Freedom Place

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 AM BLENDED Service • Chapel

A service incorporating both traditional hymns and contemporary music

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY Service • Sanctuary

Contemporary music led by our praise band

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL Service • Sanctuary

Traditional hymns and liturgy

11:15 AM SPANISH Service • Chapel

Worship in Spanish led by MDPC Fuente Ministries

LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT MDPC?

- > For Sunday Worship info: worship.mdpc.org
- > To live stream Sunday morning services: livestream.mdpc.org
- > To connect with a class or small group: groups.mdpc.org
- > To learn more about upcoming events: events.mdpc.org
- > Have kids? Visit kids.mdpc.org or youth.mdpc.org.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT YEAR-END GIVING

For gifts of check or cash to be included in your 2017 giving statement, the gift must be received or postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. Since December 31 falls on a Sunday, you may want to either drop your gift in the offering that Sunday or bring it by the church office that day. The most convenient option is to give online at give.mdpc.org.

If you plan to make gifts from your IRA or Donor Advised fund, please request those soon to insure they are dated before the end of the year to be posted to 2017 giving.

If you plan to make a gift of stock, please request transfer from your account as soon as possible, those gifts must arrive in the church's account before close of business December 29. Please contact Ava Caliendo at acaliendo@mdpc.org or 713-953-2574 for information on making a stock gift.



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

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24, 2017



MDPC
Memorial Drive
Presbyterian Church



COMING UP AT MDPC

B90: Read the Bible

Read 12 pages a day starting January 1, and meet once a week for support and encouragement. This could be the best new year's resolution you'll ever make.

First Meeting: Sunday, Jan. 7 | 11:15 AM | MC 218

Details: b90.mdpc.org

Young Adults: Bible365

Your challenge: Read the Bible in a year using the Bible app on your phone. Sign up with us to get reminders, and to be notified if/as accountability groups form.

Learn more and sign up: bible365.mdpc.org

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Do you care for an older family member or friend? Has it left you feeling drained and frustrated? Come learn tools to take better care of yourself, from reducing stress to communicating effectively and more.

Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 14 | 3:30-5:00 PM

\$30 registration fee for program resources.

Class size is limited. No professional caregivers, please.

Registration: tools.mdpc.org

Join Pastor Alf as a Partner In Prayer

Through MDPC's Partners In Prayer program, thousands of people are prayed for every day. God uses the power of this quiet ministry to bring health, life, and peace to our church family.

Online registration is open at pip.mdpc.org.

Confirmation 2018

Confirmation is for students currently in the 8th grade or above. It'll be a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 7

Details and registration: confirmation.mdpc.org

Sacred Rhythms

We believe that there is an eagerness, a longing, a thirst within each of us to deepen our spiritual journey with God. Join us as we pay attention to the ways God is moving in our lives.

Sundays at 9:45 or Wednesdays at 11:45

Jan. 7-Feb. 14 | More info: sacred.mdpc.org

Romp Through the New Testament

We believe that God invites us to experience the good life through His Word. At the Tuesday Bible Study, gather with others who seek God through study, prayer, and the sharing of life with one another. There's always room for one more!

Tuesdays, Jan. 9-April 3 | 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

One in four preschool-age Houstonians goes to bed hungry, but you can help there be one less empty tummy! Just bring 4 loaves of bread per sandwich-maker and come make sandwiches for Kids' Meals.

Wednesday, Jan. 10 | 4:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Discover MDPC with Alf

Want to know more about MDPC? Interested in membership? This brief info meeting introduces you to who we are, what we believe, and how we operate.

Sunday, Jan. 21 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

New Member Class Intensive

If you think you're ready to join our faith family, this one-weekend intensive course covers the same material as the normal four-Sunday new member class.

Friday PM & Saturday AM, Feb. 2 & 3 | Parlor

Learn more and register: membership.mdpc.org.

WELCOME TO MDPC



Christmas Greetings!

Merry Christmas, friends! Welcome to Christmas Eve services at MDPC. Revelation 5:6-14 reveals a future time when people of all nations will bow before Jesus and say, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive...honor and glory and blessing...forever and ever." This verse reminded me that on several of the trips I've been blessed to take to Israel, our group visited Bethlehem. A plain but beautiful church marks the recognized birthplace of Jesus. Behind the altar in the church is a cave, lit by lamps.

There is a star embedded in the floor of the cave to recognize the birth of the King. However, to see the inside of the church as well as the cave, there is a hurdle to overcome. The door to the church is so low, you can't go in standing up. You have to crouch down to enter. Our guide said that when the church was built, the door was constructed this way to prevent vandals from riding in on horses and desecrating this holy place.

I took a more spiritual explanation away from our visit to the site. As we approach Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Savior and Lord, we can only get a close look, we can only witness God in human flesh, we can only worship Him as Lord when we symbolically get down on our knees. Why wait for some future date? Why not crouch low now? "O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

Alf Halvorson

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson
Senior Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

CCLI # 182374

PRELUDE	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> with Bach's <i>Sheep May Safely Graze</i>	McKechnie/White
*OPENING HYMN	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	#31; Vs. 1, 2, 3 MENDELSSOHN
WELCOME		Dave Steane
*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	arr. John Rutter
SCRIPTURE	Matthew 1:18-25	5:30 PM • Brett Hurst 7:00 PM • Beth Case 8:30 PM • Dave Steane
ANTHEM	<i>The First Noel</i>	arr. Dan Forrest
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:15-20	
ANTHEM	<i>Masters in This Hall</i>	Wilberg/White
*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Vs. 1, 3 Adolphe Adam
OFFERTORY	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Hunter/White
REFLECTION	<i>Christmas Playlist: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"</i>	Alf Halvorson
SERVICE OF CANDLES		
CONGREGATIONAL CAROL	<i>Silent Night</i>	#60; Vs. 1, 2, 3, 4 STILLE NACHT
POSTLUDE	<i>The Shepherds from Glad Tidings</i>	Randol Bass

*Please stand if able.

Musicians participating in tonight's services:

Miriam Belyatsky, violin • Louis-Marie Fardet, cello • Rasa Kalesnykaite, violin • Chavdar Parashkevov, viola • Sheryl Sanchez, flute • Julio Sanchez, percussion • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organ

Is There More To Life Than This?

Alpha is for you if you are on the fence about Jesus, are a new Christian, want a refresher on the basics of Christianity...

Alpha is for you.

Tuesdays starting January 23

Details and registration:
alpha.mdpc.org

Married Life Prep

A fun, four-week course for engaged and newly-married couples.

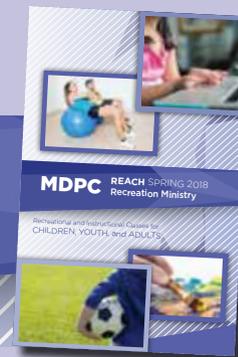
Sundays, January 7-28
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Visit mlp.mdpc.org to register!

Most couples who take this free course will be able to waive their marriage license fee through the Twogether in Texas initiative.

RECREATIONAL CLASSES SPRING 2018

MDPC offers fun and educational classes for children, youth, and adults through our REACH program! Pick up a copy of the spring booklet for a full class listing or visit reach.mdpc.org.



CONNECTION

MDPC Youth's weekly program for middle and high school students to come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship

Join us on Sundays!

10:45-11:15 AM • Donuts, games, and hangout time with friends

11:15 AM-12:15 PM • Dive into Scripture and worship



MDPC College and Young Adults
ya.mdpc.org

Gertrud Schroeder in memory of Hermann Schroeder
 The James Shelton Family in memory of Arthur Edwin Shelton, Jr.
 The James Shelton Family in memory of Ida Cash Perkins
 The James Shelton Family in memory of Anne Perkins McMurry Bumstead
 Leslie and Larry Sloan in memory of Theodoric (Todd) C. Bland
 Judy and Brad Smith in memory of their beloved parents
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in honor of Lollie Taylor
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in honor of Ashley, Sean, Jordan, Travis, Nobel, and Sharon
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in honor of Betty and Tom Lancaster
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in memory of Jean and Doyle Stegall
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in memory of Lannie and Jack Murchison
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in memory of Floyd Taylor
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in memory of Bonnie and Joe Thelen
 Sheila and Rick Stegall in memory of Barbara and Pres Presley
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in honor of Owen and Evan Stout
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in honor of Margaret and Chuck Gall
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in honor of Gus Gray
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in honor of Barbara, Randy, and Jami Stout
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in honor of Chase, Brett, and Mary Gall
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in memory of Pat Gray
 Lindsay and Trent Stout in memory of Ryan Stout
 Tracy Stidam in memory of her brother, Christopher Shepherd
 Tracy Stidam in memory of her grandfather, James L. Figures, Sr.
 Tracy Stidam in memory the McDade sisters – Evelyn Figures and Thelma Jefferson (her granny and her aunt)
 Tracy Stidam in honor of MDPC Worship and Music volunteers - elders, choir board, music librarians, and all the ushers for worship services and concerts. We couldn't do this without you!
 The Ken Stockton Family in memory of Ken Stockton
 Lorita and Walt Stone in honor of Marianne Jones
 Lorita and Walt Stone in honor of Nathan and Jessica Stone
 Lorita and Walt Stone in honor of Marianne Stone and Jawid Azin
 Lorita and Walt Stone in honor of Hunter and Savannah Stone
 Lorita and Walt Stone in memory of Al Jones
 Lorita and Walt Stone in memory of Walter and Virginia Stone
 Lorita and Walt Stone in memory of Zelma McQueen
 Rusty and Robin Sturgis in honor of the engagement of Alyssa Sturgis to Joe McGinn
 Rusty and Robin Sturgis in memory of Christine Van Osdall
 The Suthers Family in memory of their loving father and grandfather, Brian R. Suthers
 The John Todd Family in memory of William Illg
 The John Todd Family in memory of Carolyn Todd

Anne Turner and the Turner Family in memory of Rupert Turner
 Robert and Mary Ruth Valerius in memory of Lillian and John Sheldon
 Robert and Mary Ruth Valerius in memory of Marguerite and Claude Valerius
 Sue and Joe Warren in honor of Marilyn and Neil Blakely, their Harvey angels
 Sue and Joe Warren in honor of John, Stephanie, Ben, and Joe Wilkinson
 Sue and Joe Warren in honor of Dianne and Dan English, IV
 Sue and Joe Warren in honor of Cora Sue and Joe Warren
 Sue and Joe Warren in honor of Jacky Woike
 Marc and Whitney Walsh in honor of Jodie and Willie Jordan for their faith and strength in the aftermath of Harvey
 Marc and Whitney Walsh in memory of Kent Anderson and Frank Walsh
 Linda and David White in memory of Mr. and Mrs. G.A. White
 Linda and David White in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ame Vennema
 Mona Williams, the Rick Bradford Family, and the Chris Jaeger Family in memory of Barbara Smith
 Scott and Liz Williams in memory of Mary Ruisard
 Bonnie Yezak in honor of Charlie and Maryanne Bass
 Bonnie Yezak in memory James Bass
 Ray Young and Kathy Hooks in memory of Susan D. Young
 Ray Young and Kathy Hooks in memory of Laura Young
 Ray Young and Kathy Hooks in memory of Evelyn Datweiler
 Gene Zeier and the Nowlan Family in honor of Otto Zeier

We strive for accuracy and regret any errors or omissions.

2017 Christmas Poinsettias

The poinsettias that adorn our Sanctuary Chancel were given in honor or memory of loved ones by...



Drs. Barbara C. and Laurence Abrams in honor of Aaron and Jeanette Marie Abrams
 Drs. Barbara C. and Laurence Abrams in honor of Richard and Dorothy Cameron
 Drs. Barbara C. and Laurence Abrams in honor of Joseph G Vollmer
 Gayle Adamson in memory of her parents, Burt and Olga Ostrander
 MDPC Administration Staff in honor of the wonderful volunteers in the admin area at MDPC: Larry Biestek, Sue Warren, Jan Fawley, Kathy Redden, and Peter Ham. Thank you for your help all year!
 Kathy and Sam Anderson in memory of Dr. Otto and Bette Brandt
 Kathy and Sam Anderson in memory of Millie and Arthur Anderson
 Linda C. Anderson in loving memory of D. Kent Anderson
 Linda C. Anderson in loving memory of Lindsay Lewis
 Linda C. Anderson in gratitude for Alf and Shari Halvorson
 Linda C. Anderson in gratitude for their loving children, Dan and Huntley Kubitza
 Linda C. Anderson in gratitude for their loving children, Clarke and Elle Anderson
 Linda C. Anderson in gratitude for their loving children, Marc and Whitney Walsh
 Linda C. Anderson in honor of their precious grandchildren, Sutton, Andy, and Quinn Walsh
 Linda C. Anderson in honor of their precious grandchildren, Parker, Caroline, and Kent Kubitza
 Linda C. Anderson in honor of their precious grandchildren, Ellison and Evans Anderson
 The Michael Arnett Family in honor of Carolyn and Butch Arnett
 The Michael Arnett Family in honor of Bert Clark
 The Michael Arnett Family in memory of Linda Stafford Clark
 John and Kay Atchison in memory of Kay's parents, Jack and Lillian Martin

John and Kay Atchison in memory of John's parents, Red and Peggy Atchison

Beth and David Black in honor of Mary Beth Black

Beth and David Black in honor of Brin, Barton, Billie, and Jess Black

Beth and David Black in memory of Leita and Barton Welsh, and Mary and Palmer Black

T.J. and Dennis Beck, Judie and Ridge Stockdale, and Melanie and Al Jaksa in loving memory of Tommie and Ed Jaksa, Louise Stockdale, and Blake Jaksa

T.J. and Dennis Beck, Melanie and Alan Beck, and Julie and Scott Waidelich in loving memory of Essie and Ray Beck, Tommie and Ed Jaksa, Kay Granberry, and Leni Jaehn

Susan, Mickey, and John in memory of Michael Ryan Branisa

Susan, Mickey, and John in memory of Richard James Pape

Susan, Mickey, and John in memory of Frank Branisa

The Bushong Family in memory of Bill Chase

The Bushong Family in memory of Jeanne Gerdes

Laura Bushong in honor of the HUG Volunteers

Mary Jane Dickerson in memory of Dave Dickerson

Mary Jane Dickerson in memory of Ron and Villette Smith

Mary Jane Dickerson in memory of Patsy Ingels

Mary Jane Dickerson in memory of Avanelle Mattingly

Tom, Betsy, Joe, Ben, and Sam Dodson in memory of Mr. Pete Hawkins

Tom, Betsy, Joe, Ben, and Sam Dodson in memory of Mrs. Marjorie Dodson

Tom, Betsy, Joe, Ben, and Sam Dodson in memory of Mr. Bill Dodson

Betsy and Thom Farver in memory of Thom's Parents, Alice and Hans Farver

Betsy and Thom Farver in memory of Betsy's Parents, Betty and Bill Vance

Sue Ann and Rollin Fischer in memory of Mary and Jack Holle

Sue Ann and Rollin Fischer in memory of Bea and Roy Fischer

In memory of Ruth and Charles Forrester, beloved parents and grandparents, by their loving children and grandchildren.

Beverly and Bob Fluke in memory of Beverly's mother, Francis Hughes

Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Going, II in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Melford S. Carter, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Going, II in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Going, Sr.

The Doug Goodson Family in memory of Edward Alt, III

The Doug Goodson Family in memory of Kyle Goodson

Sons Mike and Bill Gruber in memory of their father, Kenneth Carl Gruber

Sons Mike and Bill Gruber in memory of their mother, Margaret Gruber

The Gustafson Family in memory of the Ralph E. Gustafson

In honor of Ed and Barbara Hess by their children and grandchildren

Debbie and Marc Irvin in honor of Martha Fluker

Debbie and Marc Irvin in honor of Jennifer and Michael Osborn

Debbie and Marc Irvin in honor of Rachel Irvin

Debbie and Marc Irvin in honor of Reid and Ryann Osborn

Debbie and Marc Irvin in honor of family and friends

Debbie and Marc Irvin in memory of Marina and Don Irvin

Debbie and Marc Irvin in memory of Ralph Fluker

Debbie and Marc Irvin in memory of Jim Harbor

Debbie and Marc Irvin in memory of MaryAnn and Bert Deaver

Ginger Benfield and Steve Jarvis in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Don Jarvis

Ginger Benfield and Steve Jarvis in memory of Mr. and Mrs. L.R. Bowden

Ginger Benfield and Steve Jarvis in memory of Dr. and Mrs. W.A. Benfield, Jr.

Bob and Ann Johnson in memory of James and Eunice Fielder

Bob and Ann Johnson in memory of Wayne and Marjorie Johnson

Bob and Ann Johnson in memory of Maude McCain Culver

Bob and Ann Johnson in memory of Bertha Schubert Culver

Pat and Janell Kelleher in honor of their grandchildren, Caleb, Caroline, Jack, Callie, Parker, Henry, and Keller

Janell Kelleher in honor of the MDPC Outreach Staff and Committees

Janell Kelleher in honor of the MDPC Food Service Volunteers

Pat and Janell Kelleher in honor of those affected by Hurricane Harvey

Pat and Janell Kelleher in memory of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kelleher, and Pat Bailey

Janell Kelleher in memory of Mrs. Billie King

Nancy Kimmey and family in honor of Bill Kimmey

Nancy Kimmey and family in honor of Dana Dowler

Calvin and Dorothy Koomey and family in memory of Hal and Lois Robb

Calvin and Dorothy Koomey and family in memory of Victor B. (Barry) Koomey

Kay and John Krebs in honor of their sons and their sons' wives

Kay and John Krebs in honor of their grandchildren

Kay and John Krebs in memory of their parents

Gale Lemer in memory of Mike Kot

Bob Lemer in memory of Joyce Lemer

Ernie and Beth Leyendecker Family in memory of Beth's father, Raymond Allen McDaniel, Jr.

Ernie and Beth Leyendecker Family in memory of Ernie's father, Ernest A. Leyendecker, Jr.

Alan, Sonya, Leigh, and Lauren Lloveras in honor of family and friends who have offered love and support of their family during and after Hurricane Harvey

Alan, Sonya, Leigh, and Lauren Lloveras in memory of Quin and Jane Baker

Alan, Sonya, Leigh, and Lauren Lloveras in memory of Jay Faulkner

Alan, Sonya, Leigh, and Lauren Lloveras in memory of Bob Lloveras

The Donald H. Mackay Family in memory of Donald H. Mackay

The Donald H. Mackay Family in memory of Gayle Mackay

The Ryan McLearn Family in honor of Eva Garza

The Ryan McLearn Family in honor of J.L. McLearn

The Mavergeorge Family in honor of Grant Samuel Mavergeorge

Janet and Bob Menzie in memory of Heather Michelle Menzie

Carolyn Moore in honor of MD Anderson

Carolyn Moore in memory of beloved grandmother, Betty Fitts

Carolyn Moore in memory of beloved father, Carroll Sartin

Carolyn Moore in memory of beloved brother, James Sartin

Husband Preston, Kathryn, Kristen, and son Preston in honor of Cheryl Moore

The Moore Family in memory of Preston Moore, IV

Allison, Michael, Jeremy, Jackson, Gracie, and Janie Mitschke in memory of their grandparents, Grace and Bill Allen

Allison, Michael, Jeremy, Jackson, Gracie, and Janie Mitschke in memory of Grant Mavergeorge

Barbara Mueller in memory of Deb Frye

Barbara Mueller in honor of the volunteers for Special Blessings and Parents' Night Out

The Nelson, Butrum, and DeLaat Families in honor of Dennis and Sally Nelson

The Nelson, Butrum, and DeLaat Families in memory of Gus and Anne Snellgrove

Sally and Dennis Nelson (Sassy and Baloo) in honor of their precious children and grandchildren, Kimberly and Kevin, and Cameron and Conner DeLatt

Sally and Dennis Nelson (Sassy and Baloo) in honor of their precious children and grandchildren, Reid and David, and Cooper and Brantley Nelson

Sally and Dennis Nelson (Sassy and Baloo) in honor of their precious children and grandchildren, Kelly and Grant, and Will and Ellie Butrum

Sally and Dennis Nelson (Sassy and Baloo) in memory of their beloved parents, Anne and Gus Snellgrove

Sally and Dennis Nelson (Sassy and Baloo) in memory of their beloved mom, Betty Nelson

Mitch and Sara Nieto in memory of Alison Bosl

Mitch and Sara Nieto in memory of Gene and Betty Bosl, and Lester and Dorothy Bedient

Mitch and Sara Nieto in memory of Dave Richens, Sr.

Sandy Norris in honor of her mother, Lavonne Watts

Sandy and John Norris in honor their grandchildren, Marion and Mort Mertz

The Owens Family in memory of Mary Lee Roberts

The Owens Family in memory of Kyle Bean

Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Purifoy in memory of their loving son, Dr. W.L. Purifoy

Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Purifoy in memory of their loving parents

The Pyburn Family in memory of Ruthie and Bill Vogel

The Pyburn Family in memory of Frances and Ted Pyburn

Lesli J. Riopelle in memory of Steven Riopelle

Beverly and Charles Roberts in honor of the new MDPC ministers

Trae and Amy Roby in honor of their loving parents

Trae and Amy Roby in honor of their children and spouses

Trae and Amy Roby in honor of their six grandchildren!

Jan Roe in memory of Scottie Parsons, Clyde Parsons, and Michael Parsons

Jan Roe in memory of Frank D. Stewart

Jan Roe with love and deep appreciation for Pat and Janell Kelleher

Martha and Terry Sabom in memory of Connie and Bob Sabom