

**Outreach Sunday Is September 16**

Meet our extraordinary partners! MDPC's local and global mission partners will join us for worship during the 9:45 and 11:15 services where we will celebrate and pray for them. Drop by the Sanctuary Lobby before and after worship to welcome them and let them know how glad we are to have them here.

Next Sunday, September 16

**Outreach Ministries Needs You...**

MDPC Local Outreach needs four additional volunteers to join one of the committees. Committee members go out in teams of two annually to visit, review, and pray with our local outreach partners. The reviews inform consideration for financial support by MDPC. It is a unique blessing to see God at work through these hardworking, compassionate partners.

*Is God is calling you to local outreach? Contact Jan Roe, jroe@mdpc.org*

**Interest in Evening Knitting Group?**

Knitting for Missions knits preemie caps for Ben Taub, comfort dolls for Guatemalan children awaiting surgery, and so much more. If you feel led to this ministry, but are unavailable on Monday mornings (the group's regular meeting time), would you be interested in a Tuesday evening group at the Halvorson home? Let Shari Halvorson know of your interest by emailing her at halvorsons4@yahoo.com.

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers**

Has being a caregiver left you feeling drained and frustrated? Come learn some new tools to take better care of yourself. This six-week educational program is designed to equip family caregivers with effective self-care tools to reduce personal stress, communicate more effectively, and deal with difficult caregiving situations. Space is limited. No professional caregivers, please. Wednesdays, Oct 10-Nov 14 | 3:30-5:00 PM  
Registration: [caregivers.mdpc.org](mailto:caregivers.mdpc.org) (\$30 for resources)

**Word & Worship 2018-2019**

In this study we'll saturate ourselves in Genesis. The stories of Adam & Eve, Noah & his ark, Joseph & that multi-colored coat...these inspired not only people who lived long ago, but also encourage us today to orient our lives around our God, who relentlessly pursues us. Sunday, Wednesday, & Thursday options  
Info and registration (\$40): [wordandworship.mdpc.org](http://wordandworship.mdpc.org)

**This week, please pray for these MDPC Ministry Partners:**

**Outreach Center of West Houston** offers programs that restore purpose and productivity to clients' lives, helping them learn new skills, develop healthy relationships, and experience positive growth. Its core programs include Palmer Drug Abuse Program, Alcoholics Anonymous, Family Point Resources, Young Life, and Fellowship of Memorial.

[oc-wh.org](http://oc-wh.org)

**Palmer Drug Abuse Program** helps youth and their families recover from the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse. The program is run in Houston-area churches, providing 12-step programs, support, and education and prevention workshops. It also offers free individual and family counseling. [pdaphouston.org](http://pdaphouston.org)

**MDPC Field Partners Steve and Barbara Johnson** serve in Budapest, Hungary, through Youth With a Mission. They operate a coffeehouse that serves as an evangelism center, reaching out to the Budapest community with music and conversation that sparks spiritual discussion. [ywambudapest.hu](http://ywambudapest.hu)

**ALPHA Starts this Week**

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions for those who are questioning, seeking, or wouldn't even call themselves Christian. For believers, too. For anyone ready to explore Christian faith in an open, accepting forum. Even if you're not interested, invite that friend or loved one for whom you've been praying...

Tuesdays, Sept 11-Nov 13 | 6:30 PM

Alpha is free and childcare is provided

Learn more and register: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

**Young Adults: Let's Sport!**

Bump, set, spike with other 20s & 30s. All abilities welcome! We've got a court reserved at SideOut Volleybar. Saturday, Sept 15 | 7:00 PM | 2623 Keene St, 77009  
MDPC YAs are playing in a Monday-night kickball league at Memorial Park! Fans and players welcome. Season starts Sept 10 • 5 weeks of double headers

Join the "MDPC Sports" FB group for weekly info or text Edgar Torres: 361-793-6344

**Youth Confirmation Class 2019**

Confirmation is for all students currently in the 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church. Sundays, Jan 6-Feb 24 | Confirmation: March 3  
Details and registration: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)  
\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.

**Houston Pilgrimage, A Renewal Weekend**

When was the last time you did something to ignite your faith, renew your soul, and fill you with peace? Pilgrimage is for adults (18+) from any Christian denomination to prepare them to help bring about God's Kingdom on earth; follow-up groups are offered for those wanting to continue in fellowship and service. Oct. 25-28 in Palacios, Texas. \$150 all-inclusive. Scholarships available. You only have to register and show up; God will take care of the rest. Contact Bart Henson: [bartshenson@gmail.com](mailto:bartshenson@gmail.com)

**Walking the Mourner's Path**

A Christ-centered grief program designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. Limited to 10 participants, it's a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group. Thursdays, Sept 20-Nov 8 | 6:00-7:30 PM  
Register with Beverly Fluke ([bfluke@mdpc.org](mailto:bfluke@mdpc.org), 713-490-9542) or at [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org); \$30 fee for materials.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 2018 Operating Budget          | \$ 11,600,000 |
| Expected Income to Date        | \$ 5,693,635  |
| Actual Income to Date (9/2/18) | \$ 5,992,316  |
| Current Income Surplus         | \$ 298,681    |
| Needed to Meet 2018 Budget     | \$ 5,607,684  |

Sunday, September 9, 2018



# All In

NORESTRICTIONS. NO RESERVATIONS. NO REGRETS.

IN HIM  
JOHN 3:16-21 (NRSV)

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME

Dave Steane, Candy Provine, Daniela Mulato

\*SONGS OF PRAISE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Clay Brown

BAPTISM

Kelly Burns Bennett

Alf Halvorson

SONG OF PREPARATION

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

IN HIM

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION

BAPTISMS

Ford James Albrecht, son of Clay and Megan Albrecht  
Sage Rhoden Dillingham, daughter of Taylor and Elizabeth Dillingham  
Amelia Ann Trevino, daughter of Xavier and Ginny Trevino

Alf Halvorson

SONGS OF PRAISE

MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

MESSAGE

IN HIM

Alf Halvorson

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Musicians in these services: Gisele Duque and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE

Cantabile

Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dave Steane

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

#341; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | ASSURANCE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Amy Delgado

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Romans 8

BAPTISMS

Hope Catherine Newman, daughter of Mary Catherine Newman (Shindler)  
Whitney Katharine Stowe, daughter of William and Rebekah Stowe  
Brooke Avery Wallis, daughter of James and Jennifer Wallis

Alf Halvorson

ANTHEM

Ye Followers of the Lamb

Edwin Earle Ferguson (1910-1999)

OFFERTORY

Hear Me, Redeemer

Henry Mollicone (b. 1949)

MESSAGE

IN HIM

Alf Halvorson

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Jesus, I Have Promised

#388; Vs. 1, 3 | ANGEL'S STORY

POSTLUDE

Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Musicians in this service: Jason Amos, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, piano/organ; Sanctuary Choir

\*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

**Blood Drive Today**  
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall  
Walk-ins are welcome



**Free**  
Pair of Hero Socks  
for Donors!



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.  
11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | [mdpc.org](http://mdpc.org) | 713-782-1710



TODAY

Start with **Discover MDPC...**

...then explore **New Member Classes**

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

**This morning • Drop-ins welcome!**  
10:45-11:10 AM • The Nook

This four-week series is taught by the MDPC associate pastors and elders.

**Sundays, September 16-October 14**  
9:45-11:00 AM • MC 122

More info: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

BEGINS  
TOMORROW



**MDPC Backpack Buddy**

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

houston  
foodbank

HUNGER  
INITIATIVE

Help provide healthy food to students who otherwise would go hungry on weekends. You spend just a few hours in the morning volunteering at Houston Food Bank.

**Select Mondays & Saturdays in the Fall**

< Visit the webpage to learn about the program and sign up to fill backpacks!

TODAY



**Change the World  
One Child at a time...**

Help young students succeed through mentoring, tutoring, or volunteering. Mentee/mentor Daniela Mulato and Candy Provine, who you'll meet in each service, would love talking to you about their experience! Come say hello in the Lobby, before and after 9:45 and 11:15 worship.

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

SATURDAY

**CRISIS TRAINING**

**The Church's Role in Healing After  
Man-Made and Natural Disasters**

*Free and open to all. No previous training necessary.*

**Saturday, September 15**

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM • MDPC Amphitheater**  
\*Optional Support-Group Training, 12:00-1:00 PM

Register: [crisis.mdpc.org](http://crisis.mdpc.org)

**Are You  
Prepared to  
Help Your  
Neighbor?**

BEGINS  
TUESDAY

**MEN'S LIFE 2018**

**CORE  
TRAINING**

Start your day working on the core of Men's Life, principles that have been life-changing for men from all over Houston. Find an accountability buddy and commit to this 12-week series that will rebuild the inner workings of your life.

**Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Dec. 4**  
6:30-7:45 AM (NEW TIME!)

**MEN'S  
LIFE**

Register: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)

BEGINS  
WEDNESDAY

*The Living Well*

Revival of Heart  
Renewal of Mind  
Rest for Soul

*A Study of Jesus through the  
Gospel of Luke*

led by Charlotte Crawford

**Wednesdays, 6:00-7:15 AM**  
**Begins September 12, 2018**

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

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."*  
- Luke 1:47

MDPC  
Women



**NOCHE DE SABOR**

**Saturday, September 29 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

MDPC Fuente Ministries invites you to its annual "Night of Flavor" celebrating the many traditions and cultures represented here in our church. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Invite others to this free event: [flavor.mdpc.org](http://flavor.mdpc.org)

**THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR**

Learn about music and choral singing in a fun, worshipful environment!  
All kids grades K-5 are welcome. Sign up at [themusicbox.mdpc.org](http://themusicbox.mdpc.org).



**WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19-NOVEMBER 14**  
**4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL**

**SCIENCE & FAITH**  
**IS GENESIS HISTORY OR LEGEND?**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 13, 5:00-8:00 PM at MDPC**  
[speakers.mdpc.org](http://speakers.mdpc.org)





**MARRIAGE** *Is Not*  
*for* **WIMPS!**

**MDPC Marriage Retreat 2018**

Get away for a weekend with your spouse and take your marriage to the next level! Led by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement.

**Saturday & Sunday, Sept 29-30 | The Woodlands**

Details & registration: [marriageretreat.mdpc.org](http://marriageretreat.mdpc.org)



**IN HIM • JOHN 3:16-21**

SENIOR PASTOR ALF HALVORSON PREACHING

This is message four in our fall sermon series, *All In*. We focused on our choices, habits, and disciplines in week one; weighed the truth of “connect or die” in week two; and, in week three, looked at a parable in which Jesus shared that barrenness is overcome by grace, truth, and time. Today, we look at perhaps the most famous words in the New Testament, John 3:16, and the verses that follow.

1. Read John 3:16-21. Many Christians know John 3:16 and even have memorized it, but what about verses 17-21? What do they say? And how do you think they relate to verse 16? In other words, how do those later verses inform our reading of and understanding of verse 16?
2. I focused in the sermon mostly on John 3:16. We started with the idea of God. I mentioned a research study that two Baylor sociologists, Paul Froese and Christopher Bader, turned into a book, *America's Four Gods*. The four options, if you believe in God, are The Authoritative God, The Benevolent God, The Critical God, and The Distant God. Which version of God did you grow up with, if you believed in God? Which one do you lean toward now? Why?
3. “God **so loved...**” That was the second focus. Many people see Jesus coming to pacify an angry God, to change the Father’s mind, or to at least take the punishment, which calms down a mad God. Jesus has another view. I argued from this text that “Jesus didn’t change God’s mind toward us on the cross. Jesus revealed the heart of God, not changed the heart of God.” Why would I make such a big deal of this point? Why might this point matter?
4. “God so loved **the world...**” I quoted historian Arthur Schlesinger, who died over a decade ago, but still postulated that “the world is becoming more nationalistic, sectarian, and fundamentalist.” He called this trend, “the dis-uniting of America and humanity.” Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Is your love mostly for your immediate family, your school, your company, your ethnic group, your political party, and your/our nation? How do Jesus’ words challenge this attitude?
5. “God so loved the world that **He gave...**” Love is not really love until it is willing to give, to seek, and to engage in a costly, risky search or sacrifice. In what ways do Jesus’ life and death show this “all in” quality of love from God? I shared the stories of people trapped in mines and how others risked their lives to save them. Which of the four Gods (or combination of them) described by the Baylor researchers squares best with John 3:16-21 and the miners? Discuss.
6. “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that **everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.**” This passage invites, anticipates, leads toward, and encourages “belief.” After dwelling on this passage and mining its richness, how might you respond? Where could you be more “all in”? How can you come more fully to the light, as illuminated in verses 19-21?

