

**Alpha Winter 2019**

Alpha is a great place to invite people to explore faith and discuss the big questions of life. An 8-week series of interactive sessions that allows people to experience Jesus for themselves and make their own decisions about faith. Free dinner and free childcare.

**Tuesdays, February 5-March 26 | 6:30-8:15 PM**  
 Info and RSVP: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

**Youth Summer Mission Trips**

Mission trips are planned for students in 6th grade, 7th-8th grade, and high school. Visit the link below to learn more and sign up! Scholarships available.  
[youthmissions.mdpc.org](http://youthmissions.mdpc.org)

**2019 Church in the City**

The entire MDPC family will again serve together on a Sunday morning at Houston Food Bank!  
**Sunday, February 24**  
 Register today: [citc.mdpc.org](http://citc.mdpc.org)

**Youth Baseball/Softball and Volleyball**

Baseball/softball is for boys and girls in pre-K to 6th grade. Volleyball is for girls in 4th through 8th grade who are not in club volleyball.  
**All practices begin the week of March 18.**  
**Games: Saturdays, March 23-May 18**  
 Register by February 17 (\$120): [sports.mdpc.org](http://sports.mdpc.org)

**Outreach Committees Need You!**

We're seeking 18 volunteers to join the five subcommittees. When you serve on one of these local or global teams, you have the privilege of seeing God at work through the work of our ministry partners. Between February and September, you'll learn about, pray with, and participate in annual reviews of the ministry partners. Meet monthly to report on the reviews, make recommendations for funding support, and vote, and these are sent to Session for approval.  
 If you feel God calling you to serve in Outreach, email Stan Simmons ([cssimmons49@gmail.com](mailto:cssimmons49@gmail.com)) for details.

**Discover MDPC**

Want to know more about MDPC? Thinking about membership? Plan to attend this brief informational meeting led by Pastor Alf. No commitment required! Learn what it means to be part of our faith community.  
**Sunday, Jan 27 | 10:45-11:15 AM | Gathering Room**

**This week's Ministry Partner prayer focus is on:**

**Aldine Family Hope Center** is for residents of all ages in Aldine, a low-income, unincorporated, often-overlooked area of Harris County. Its educational, vocational, social, recreational, and spiritual programs empower positive change in the lives of youth and families.  
[buckner.org](http://buckner.org)

**Alpha Houston** trains, equips, and encourages Christian communities to effectively utilize the Alpha Course as an evangelism tool. This discipleship program is taken to churches, homes, businesses, and – more recently – prisons/jails with the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
[alphahouston.org](http://alphahouston.org)

**MDPC Field Partner Jeff Burns** has a call on his life to reach North American Muslims with the love of Jesus Christ. Jeff teaches Christians ways to reach out in friendship to Muslims in peaceful, respectful witness. He has trained Presbyterian Church members in the U.S. and around the world.

**New Member Class Intensive**

If you are interested in membership, or in becoming a Christian, any of our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! The February session is an "intensive," condensing the normally four-Sunday course into a Friday evening and Saturday morning.  
**February 1-2 | Parlor (Friday eve & Saturday morn.)**  
 Register: [membership.mdpc.org](http://membership.mdpc.org)

**2019 Young Adult Mission Trip**

MDPC mission partner The Micah Project is doing amazing work in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, ministering to children who live on the street. Come with us to see the love of Christ and the beauty that is Honduras, and grow in community with other young Adults.  
**March 20-24 | \$600 out of pocket/\$600 fundraise**  
 Details: [micah.mdpc.org](http://micah.mdpc.org)

**Women's Backpacking Trip \* Colorado**

"A change of pace plus a change of place equals a change of perspective." There's something transformational about getting away from city life for a wilderness adventure with a community of women from church. For five days this summer, we'll carry all our supplies up and over a mountain, sharing life stories, devotional times with God, campfire meals, and majestic views. Led by Beth Case and Christyn Knoop.  
 Details: [wayforwardadventures.com/mdpcwomen](http://wayforwardadventures.com/mdpcwomen)

**Scuba and Gems & Jewels**

Bible study for kids in 3rd-5th grade to get to know Jesus! Boys meet at 5:30 PM and girls at 6:30 PM.  
**Wednesdays, Jan 23-April 10**  
 Register: [children.mdpc.org](http://children.mdpc.org)

**PIP Packet Pick-up**

Through Partner In Prayer, 1,000s of people are prayed for every day. Are you excited to see who you're praying for this year? We're excited to show you!  
**Pick up your packet today in the Sanctuary Lobby.**  
 Contact Annette with questions: [aerickson@mdpc.org](mailto:aerickson@mdpc.org)

**Galaxy Guys Game Night**

2nd-5th grade guys: Come hang out at YOUR game night! We'll eat pizza & ice cream, play Laser Tag, and much more. You're not going to want to miss this!  
**Saturday, February 2 | 5:00-7:30 PM | The Galaxy**  
 Register: [guys.mdpc.org](http://guys.mdpc.org)

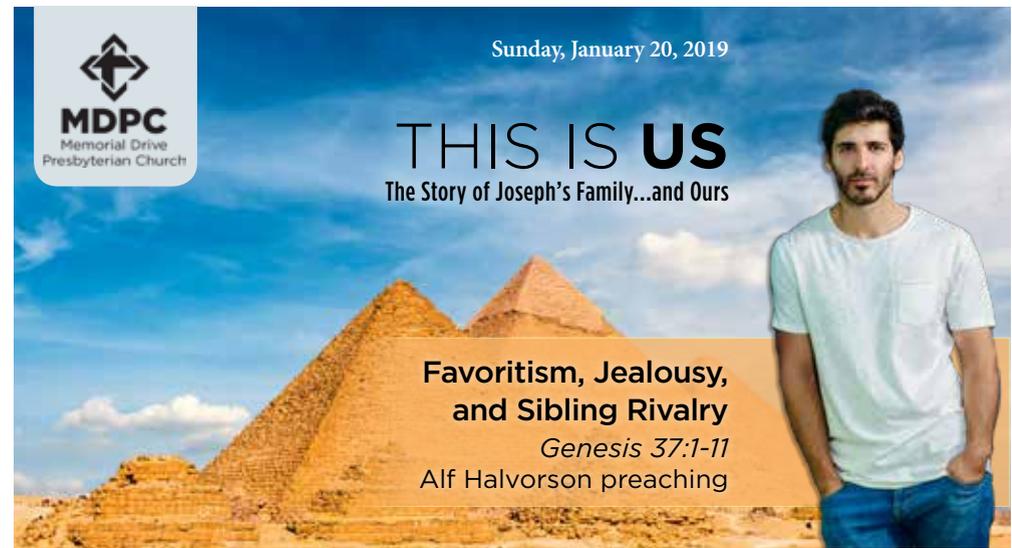
**Get to Know and Pray for All the MDPC Ministry Partners!**

The new 2019 Ministry Partner prayer booklet is here! MDPC has over 150 local and global ministry partners and ministries and YOU are a vital part of their work. Three ministries are listed each week to pray for. Pick up a booklet at the Connections Center and get to know and pray for them.



**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

MDPC's 2019 Operating Budget is pending review and approval by MDPC Session.



**THIS IS US Caring Contacts & Counseling**

If you're feeling the let-down after the tinsel and joy of Christmas and finding the January blues sneaking in, book a session with our in-house counselor, Amanda Grace Caldwell ([acaldwell@mdpc.org](mailto:acaldwell@mdpc.org)), for some extra care and support in this season. For more on the family issues that Pastor Alf will tackle during this sermon series, check out our newest podcast, *Being Human*.

**8:30 AM BLENDED**

WELCOME	Dave Steane
*SONGS OF PRAISE	
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON	Brett Hurst
MESSAGE	THIS IS US   Genesis 37:1-11 (NRSV) Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	

**9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY**

WORSHIP INVITATION	
SONGS OF PRAISE	
PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE	
MESSAGE	THIS IS US   Genesis 37:1-11 (NRSV) Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	

Musicians in the first two services: Gisele Duque and Meliza Gómez, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Asher Pudlo, drums

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL**

PRELUDE	<i>Adagio in E Major</i>	Frank Bridge (1879-1941)
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Dave Steane
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Praise My Soul the King of Heaven</i>	Carl Freeman
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>I Come with Joy</i>	#507; Vs. 1, 2, 3   DOVE OF PEACE
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Amy Delgado
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	from The Apostles' Creed	
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
OFFERTORY	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	arr. Jack Schrader (b. 1942)
MESSAGE	THIS IS US   Genesis 37:1-11 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
†CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER		
COMMUNION MEDITATIONS	<i>Agnus Dei (from Requiem)</i> <i>Prayer at Notre Dame</i>	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata</i>	Léon Boëllmann

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

\* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

† Communion at MDPC is shared by intinction. All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table. As directed by the ushers, come forward to the communion stations at the front of the section where you are seated. Dip the bread in the cup and eat, before returning to your seat.

**NEXT SUNDAY**

# MDPC Concert Series

2018-2019

## Gulf Coast Brass

*Music for brass, organ, and choir*

**Sunday, January 27**  
6:00 PM | Sanctuary

Made up of top brass professionals in the Houston area, Gulf Coast Brass will make its debut concert as a group at MDPC. If you love the sound of brass, this is a must-hear concert! The group will perform exciting works with organist Kathryn White and the MDPC Sanctuary Choir.




[concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org) | Free Admission

## Is there more to life?

Alpha's interactive sessions start with a free meal and a short talk on a faith-related topic, followed by time for discussion. No question, belief, or idea is off limits. Say as much or as little as you want.

**Tuesdays, February 5-March 26 • 6:30-8:15 PM**  
Alpha is **FREE**. Dinner and childcare are provided.  
Info and registration: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)

**Try it once or come each week. No pressure and no follow-up to return.**

### MDPC Young Adults on Mission 2019

We're traveling to serve with MDPC's amazing mission partner, The Micah Project. Come see the love of Christ while experiencing the beauty that is Honduras.

**HONDURAS** Tegucigalpa

**Wednesday-Sunday, March 20-24, 2019**  
\$600 out of pocket/\$600 fundraising

Email Trevor to learn more: [tharris@mdpc.org](mailto:tharris@mdpc.org)




## Walking the Mourner's Path™

This Christ-centered eight-week grief program is limited to 10 participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 6-April 3 | 3:30-5:00 PM | MC 116 | \$30 for materials**  
Register online at [grief.mdpc.org](http://grief.mdpc.org) or with Beverly Fluke of Caring Ministries.

## Bake Cookies for U.S. Troops

**MDPC: Put on your aprons, dig out your bowls & spoons, and bake!**  
Sewing for Missions is collecting homemade cookies to make care packages for U.S. military abroad. Our soldiers receive any gift with hearts full of gratitude...but it's homemade treats they really crave.

**CARE PACKAGE ASSEMBLY: February 7 • 9:30 AM-1:00 PM • CLC 170**  
Drop your cookies off or stay to help package. All are welcome!




### FAITHFUL FATHERING

MDPC DADS & FAITHFUL FATHERING PRESENT

## MARCH DADNESS

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

**Tuesdays**  
February 12-March 5  
6:30-7:45 AM | Amphitheater

Step up your game as a dad! Join other fathers and father-figures for a 4-week "Exploring the Seasons of Fathering" study.

# HUMAN SEXUALITY

## MARRIAGE, FIDELITY, & SEXUAL SIN

**SPEAKER DR. HARRY SCHAUMBURG**  
Wednesday, February 13 • 7:00 PM • MDPC

Harry 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 welcomes Dr. Schaumburg as part of our Justice Initiative, undertaken as part of the fight to end human trafficking. Gaining an understanding of what fuels demand for sex-for-purchase and pornography can help decrease it, thus decreasing supply.



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

## Partner in Prayer

**PARTNER PACKETS ARE HERE!** Are you excited to see who you're praying for this year? We're excited to show you!

Pick up today between services in the Lobby, or this week in Caring Ministries.

*Through Partner In Prayer, 1,000s of people are prayed for every day. If you haven't signed up yet, you can still be a 2019 Partner In Prayer. Visit [pip.mdpc.org](http://pip.mdpc.org).*

02.24.19

REGISTER  
NOW

# MDPC

## CHURCH IN THE CITY

**O**n **Sunday, February 24**, join us for a morning of church-wide service. **Instead of the usual worship services**, we'll serve at **Houston Food Bank** (HFB), or here at **MDPC**. For those traveling to the food bank, we'll board buses at 8:00 AM and travel to HFB to work side-by-side on projects that help feed Houston's hungry. (Registrants will be emailed their bus "color" shortly before the event, and may go straight to a **blue** or **yellow** bus - no check-in needed.)

Ages 6+ may serve at HFB; younger kids and their families will stay at **MDPC** to work on important, age-appropriate outreach projects. Folks of any age who prefer to stay and serve at **MDPC** are invited to do so. Just look for the "Serve at **MDPC**" form when you register.

Free childcare is provided for children ages two and under for those serving at **MDPC** or at HFB.

Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall to both groups at the conclusion of the service projects. HFB participants will be served immediately upon their return to **MDPC**.

Though we won't spend the morning in pews, we'll still worship, hear the Word, and offer our gifts of gratitude.

**PLEASE register ASAP so we can responsibly prepare for service projects, T-Shirts, and lunch.** The \$10\* per person fee includes the items listed above.

### **A few projects are in need of donations:**

- We will be collecting gently-worn clothing for **Gracewood** and **MAM** (both **MDPC** mission partners). Please bring items to the donation bins located around campus before February 24 so that we may sort them on that morning. Socks and undergarments always are needed, but we ask that you only donate **NEW** items in this category.
- Sandwich bread is needed for our **Kids' Meals** project. Please bring plain loaves of white or wheat bread on February 24, and drop them off at the designated locations (those boarding buses will be able to drop bread at the bus loading zones).

For further details, FAQ, and registration, please visit: [CITC.mdpc.org](http://CITC.mdpc.org).

**Didn't make it last year?** Watch the wrap-up video at [CITC.mdpc.org](http://CITC.mdpc.org).

\*If needed, **MDPC** will gladly waive the fee for you and/or your family. Just email Alicia at [aboykin@mdpc.org](mailto:aboykin@mdpc.org).



# THIS IS US

## The Story of Joseph's Family...and Ours

### Favoritism, Jealousy, and Sibling Rivalry

*Genesis 37:1-11*

Alf Halvorson preaching

We begin the New Year with a new sermon series on *Family Relationships and the Faith*. Most of us first pondered faith in and through our imperfect families. How has that positively, and potentially negatively, affected us? What baggage might we carry? What work might we need to do to overcome negative issues? How can being part of the family of faith help?

1. Describe your family of origin to the group. Were you an only child? First of four? A middle? The Baby? Do you think your birth order played any role in your upbringing? Was faith positively or negatively shared and instilled there?
2. The critically acclaimed TV drama "This Is Us" began airing in 2016 and now is in its third season. It's received many awards, including The People's Choice Award for Best New Drama. This Is Us tracks three children, Kevin and Kate and Randall, all born on the same day. Kevin and Kate's parents were to have triplets, but one of the babies dies during delivery. The parents, Jack and Rebecca, believing they were to have three children, adopt a different-race baby who was left at a fire station that day by a struggling parent. The baby arrives at the hospital just in time for Jack and Rebecca to assuage their grief with this joy and challenge. The show, through present-day coverage of the family and flashbacks to critical times in the past, explores themes of trust, jealousy, love, addiction, disappointment, hate, insecurity, revenge, reconciliation, and faith. It has been a show that has helped me think about my own family of origin. If you have seen the show, why do you recommend it (or not) to your friends in the group?
3. Read Genesis 37:1-11. Remind each other who Jacob is: Who are his brothers, father, mother? What has been his life up to this point? Then get the basic facts straight on Joseph. How many brothers does he have? What is his order in that group? And how many mothers are in the picture beside Jacob? (See Genesis chapters 29-36)
4. In verses 1-4, what family dynamics are in play here? Who is the favorite? Why? How is that known? What is the result of this favoritism?
5. In your family of origin, who, in your mind, was the favorite? Who wore the "robe"? What are the pluses of being the favorite and what is the burden of being the favorite?
6. In verses 5-11, Joseph has two dreams. How could the sharing of those dreams have been handled differently by Joseph? By Joseph's brothers? By Jacob?
7. The result of this first episode in the Life of Jacob's Family (vs. 2) ends with hatred and jealousy (vs. 4, 5, 8, 11). Where is there hatred and jealousy in your family of origin? Or, in your immediate family now? I talked some about ways to respond if you find yourself in the parent or grandparent or mentor role. What might be necessary so that the hate and jealousy don't result in tragedy? Note: Next week I will talk more about being the favorite or not—being Joseph or one of the other brothers.

