

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 | Adult Ministries Director
 Gena Kookan | 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**

Tuesday Morning Men's Group



A men's group that discusses sermon notes and other material to seek greater insight into growing our faith and service. All are welcome.

Tuesdays at 8:00 AM, MDPC Parlor
 Contact Milt Hempel with questions:
mdhempel@yahoo.com

The White Rose is given in memory of:

- Earle Alexander, who passed away February 11, 2017.

The Red Rose is given in honor of:

- Harris William Prochaska, born January 30, 2017 to Drew and Courtney Prochaska. Harris is the great-grandson of Carrietta Gentry.
- Gabriel W. Miller, born February 8, 2017 to Andrew and Laura Miller. Gabriel is the grandson of Susan and Rick Ashcroft.

Ministry Partners 2017

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

Camp Aranzazu is a year-round barrier-free camp located on Copano Bay. There, the lives of children and adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities are enriched by environmental study and unique camping and retreat experiences.

camparanzazu.org

Camp Blessing Texas shows the love of Christ to people with disabilities and their siblings in a summer camp setting. The Camp believes children should enjoy experiencing the love of Christ in a beautiful camp setting, no matter what their level of ability!

campblessing.org

MDPC Field Partners Tihomir and Christine Kukolja direct Renewing Our Minds (ROM), a reconciliation program in Croatia that brings together different faiths, ethnicities, and cultures in the Balkan region by sharing how following the teachings of Jesus transforms lives. Participants in the ROM program are chosen based on leadership potential, with the hope that they will return to their home countries and impact their spheres of influence.

forumforleadership.blogspot.com

Operating Income		
2017 Annual Budget	\$ 11,348,600	100%
Actual Income to Date (Feb. 12, 2017)	\$ 1,257,235	11%
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 10,091,365	89%

MDPC Dollar-for-Dollar in Action
 At MDPC's Kids' Meals service project on February 8, our staff was floored by how many people took the time from their busy schedules to help feed a child they had never met. We had over 80 volunteers who made 2,880 sandwiches - nearly one sandwich per second! >



The Temptations

The Temptation to Make a Deal with the Devil
 Matthew 4:8-10

Coming Up at MDPC

Congregational Meeting

Called by MDPC Session for the purpose of approving the Pastors' terms of call for 2017, and to provide a Pastor Nominating Committee update.
Sunday, February 26 | Following 9:45 Worship

Newspring Art Teachers Needed

MDPC partner, Newspring, is looking to hire two part-time, after-school art teachers. Newspring's Visual Arts program encourages Spring Branch area students to work hard, stay in school, and turn their gift of art into a career.

Contact Robert Westheimer: rwestheimer1@comcast.net

BSD Visitor Days

Knowing God's Word and will are important for us in our daily living. Join us for a BSD Visitor Day to see how meaningful and rewarding Bible Study can be. You potentially could dive into our new unit on the Apostles' Creed the following week!
Today at 9:45 or 11:15 AM, MC 102
Weds, February 22, 5:00 (122) or 6:30 PM (102)
bsd.mdpc.org

Mo-Ranch Registration

Plan to be at this year's Memorial Day weekend retreat with Pastor Alf and the whole church family!
Opens next Saturday, February 25, 8:00 AM
 Details and registration: mo.mdpc.org

2nd & 3rd Grade Pizza Party

Come for pizza & games at your grade's Pizza Party!
Sunday, February 26 | 12:30-2:30 PM
Save the Date: 4th-5th Grade, March 31, 6:00 PM
 Please RSVP: pizza.mdpc.org

Ash Wednesday, March 1

Pastor Alf will preach at both services, which will include communion and imposition of ashes.
Noon in Amphitheater (45 minutes)
6:30 PM in Sanctuary
 Lenten season schedule: easter.mdpc.org

Blood Drive Today!

Walk-ins welcome for this simple, valued outreach.
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Opportunity to Serve

We're looking for 10 people with hearts for outreach interested in serving on an outreach committee. Committees connect with local and global ministries to develop partnerships through prayer, site visits for funding consideration, and much more.
 Contact Jan Roe to learn about this inspiring, faith-growing opportunity: jroe@mdpc.org

The 7 Last Words from the Cross

Eat Pray Lent: 7-week Study (March 5-April 20)
 This year's Lenten study encourages you to discuss, in community, how God's Word and Spirit are impacting your lives! There are a variety of groups to join, or start your own with friends or family.
 Details on today's bulletin insert.

Kids These Days Podcast: New Episode!

Rachel Poysky and Tara Reynolds, with guest Keri Mosk, Director of Special Blessings, have released another episode of their popular parenting podcast, *Kids These Days*. This episode deals with anxiety and depression in children.
 Listen for free on-demand: ktd.mdpc.org

MDPC MORNING WORSHIP

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

8:30 AM SERVICE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Rachel Poysky

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Christyn Knoop

SONGS OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE

The Temptation to Make a Deal with the Devil
Matthew 4:8-10

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

9:45 AM SERVICE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Dan Aikins

SONG OF RESPONSE

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Rachel Poysky

MESSAGE

The Temptation to Make a Deal with the Devil
Matthew 4:8-10

Alf Halvorson

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Joe Gavito, guitar; Meliza Gómez, worship leader; Craig Gysler, keys; Michael Middleton, worship leader; Asher Pudlo, drums; Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

Meditation from Thais

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Rachel Poysky

CHORAL INTROIT

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him

David McCullough (b.1933)

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

#476; Vs. 1, 2, 5 | LYONS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostle's Creed

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

ANTHEM

Shut the Door, Keep Out the Devil (Shut De Do)

arr. Mark Hayes (b.1953)

OFFERTORY

I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes (from Every Purpose Under the Heaven)

Howard Goodall (b.1958)

MESSAGE

The Temptation to Make a Deal with the Devil
Matthew 4:8-10

Alf Halvorson

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

I've Got Peace Like a River

#368; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | PEACE LIKE A RIVER

POSTLUDE

Allegro Maestoso from Sonata No. 2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Musicians in this service: Tomer Eres, Anthem soloist; Alberto Graulau, violinist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Julio and Sheryl Sanchez, percussionists; Kathryn White, pianist/organist

MORE ON MDPC SUNDAY MORNINGS

11:00 AM FIFTH SERVICE: Join folks in the Amphitheater for energetic worship, dynamic teaching from a diverse line-up of guest speakers, and casual community. Visit fifthservice.mdpc.org for more.

11:15 AM SPANISH SERVICE: MDPC's Fuente Hispanic Ministries worships in the Chapel. For more information on Spanish and bilingual community events and programs, visit fuente.mdpc.org.

VISITORS: If you are visiting MDPC today, we are delighted that you have come to worship with us! Allow us to welcome you personally at the Connection Center located in the Sanctuary Lobby.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? For inquiries on how to become a member of MDPC, contact Diann Turet at dturet@mdpc.org and join one of our New Member Classes that run throughout the year.

Join a group from MDPC to pray over concerns for our families and ourselves, our city, nation, and world - all while taking in a lovely nature walk.

Tuesday Mornings

March 7-April 11 • 6:15 - 7:00 AM

Meet at the trail entrance at Yorkchester and Indian Creek, in the Wilchester neighborhood.

Contact prayer leader **Robin Sturgis** with questions at 713-398-4574 or robinsturgis@sbeglobal.net.

Lenten Prayer Walking

At Terry Hershey Park

GO TEXAN DAY^{AT} MDPC



Sunday, March 5

Get in the rodeo spirit and wear your jeans or Western duds to church, then plan to stick around for a special BBQ All-Church Lunch!

Menu & more:
gotexan.mdpc.org



SPRING BREAK SERVICE DAY



Let's serve our neighbors on the island with Galveston Urban Ministries!

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 • 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Register by March 1: springbreak.mdpc.org



Walking the Mourner's Path™

TRANSFORMING GRIEF INTO JOYFUL LIVING

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

Wednesdays, March 22-May 17 | 3:30-5:00 PM

Chapel Bride's Room (116) | Cost: \$30 (Scholarships available)

Register online at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke of Caring Ministries (bfluke@mdpc.org, 713-490-9542).



The Venturers at MDPC present

4 The Effects of WWII on Generations of Women

with Marion Takehara & Ann Wilson



In the winter of 1942, FDR signed Executive Order 9066, sealing the fate of thousands of Japanese Americans, who would be relocated from their homes to internment camps. Speakers Marion Takehara and Ann Wilson will share their family's experiences. Everyone is welcome.

Monday, March 6 at the Westchase Hilton
Social Hour at 6:00 PM • Dinner & Program at 7:00 PM

RSVP by March 1.
Pick up a flier for details.

Eat, Pray, Lent Small Groups

Meet Weekly, March 5-April 20

This year's Lenten study guide leads you through personal reflection on the weekly Scripture in anticipation of Sunday Worship. Classes and group will meet to discuss, in community, how God's Word and Spirit are impacting our lives!

There are a variety of groups to join, or consider starting your own with friends or family.

Marrieds* in their 20s AND 30s

Sundays, 11:15 AM | Room 122
(Life 2.0 Class; begins March 5)

Women in their 20s AND 30s

Tuesdays, 6:30 PM | The Heights
(Women's Dinner & Discussion Group led by Sarah Stone; begins March 7)

Men

Tuesdays, 8:00 AM | MDPC Parlor
(led by Milt Hempel; begins March 7)

Fifth Service Group

Tuesdays, 7:00 PM | Memorial Area
(Fifth Service Small Group; begins March 7)

All (Large-Group Option)*

Wednesdays, Noon (MDPC Summit Room) **or 6:30 PM** (MDPC Amphitheater)
The MDPC Pastors will lead a large-group study, March 8-April 19.

All

Thursdays, 7:00 PM | 1111 Bering Drive
(BRAND NEW GROUP: Disciples, led by Bart and Jane Henson; begins March 9)

Women

Thursdays, 11:30 AM | MDPC Parlor
(Lunchtime Ladies Group, led by Kelly Howell and Amber Caver; begins February 23)

60s+

Sundays, 9:45 AM | MDPC Room 126
(Students of Scripture Class, led by David White; begins March 5)

*Indicates free childcare available by reservation. Email Mimi Wells (mwells@mdpc.org) with children's names, birthdates, and desired childcare time.

Information as of February 15. Check at the table, or online for newly formed groups.

Online registration is preferred, or you may bring this completed form to the EPL table in the Sanctuary Lobby.

I/we are joining an Eat Pray Lent group.

Full name _____ Phone number _____

Email _____ Which group? _____

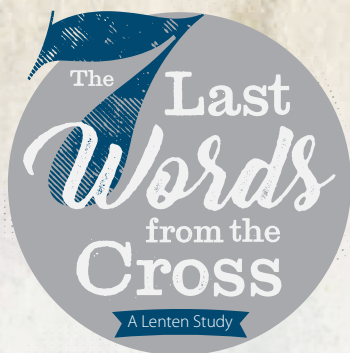
I am registering a group.

Group Name _____ Group Leader _____

Group Members _____

When/where will you meet? _____

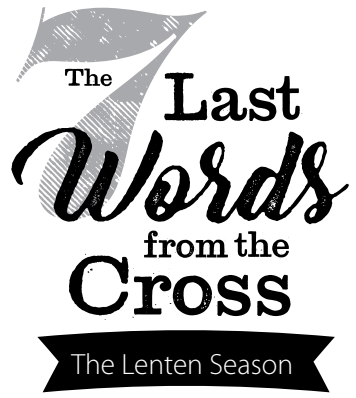
How many new members will you accept? _____ How many Study Guides needed? _____



Register: epl.mdpc.org

Several groups have welcomed new members for Eat Pray Lent who became regular members and new friends after the series ended. This is a great way to extend hospitality and friendship to visitors and members looking to get connected!

In addition to the Eat Pray Lent study, **MDPC** is offering these additional opportunities to help you fully embrace the Lenten Experience.



Lenten Podcasts: Testimonies of Faith

March 5-April 19

MERCY. REPENT. TRIBE. ABANDONED. THIRSTY. JUSTIFIED. ZEST. These seven words exemplify the passion and the person of Jesus as He hung suspended on the cross. Beginning the week of March 5, MDPC will post podcasts of a few of our staff and members as they share their personal stories, each centering around one of these words. Podcasts will be available for download on iTunes, or you may listen on the website at lentenpodcast.mdpc.org.

Lenten Prayer Walking

Tuesdays, March 7-April 11

6:15-7:00 AM

Join a group from MDPC to pray over concerns for our families and ourselves, our city, nation, and world - all while taking in a lovely nature walk in Terry Hershey Park. For meeting location and registration, visit lent.mdpc.org. Questions? Contact prayer leader Robin Sturgis at robinsturgis@sbcglobal.net or 713-398-4574.

Sermon Series:

The 7 Last Words from the Cross

Ash Wednesday, March 1

An Overview | John 1:29; 1 John 4:9-10; Romans 1:18-25

Noon | Amphitheater (approximately 45 minutes)

6:30 PM | Sanctuary (approximately one hour)

Both services are led by Alf Halvorson and Meliza Gómez and will offer communion and imposition of ashes.

The sermon series continues **Sunday, March 5 through Easter Sunday, April 16**.

Holy Week Services AND Events

The Spoken Word

Monday, April 10, 6:00 AM through Thursday, April 13, 3:30 PM

The Spoken Word is a cover-to-cover reading of the entire Bible. Pastor Alf will start us off with Genesis 1 at 6:00 AM on the Monday of Holy Week, and we expect to finish in the afternoon of Maundy Thursday. Come to read, or come to listen! Sign up for 15-minute reading slots at spokenword.mdpc.org.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

This unique and family-friendly service will include Seder elements, special music, a meditation by Dr. Halvorson, and communion. (No meal will be served - please eat before the event.)

Good Friday, April 14

Noon | Sanctuary

The Seventh Word | Luke 23:44-49

Journey to the Cross

9:30-11:00 AM | Register at journey.mdpc.org

Walk through the last week of Jesus' life with a tour through Holy Week.

Easter Sunday, April 16 (Note Service Times!)

The Final Word | Mark 16:1-8a

6:45 AM Sunrise Service | Columbarium

8:15 AM Blended Service | Sanctuary

9:45 AM Family-friendly Contemporary Service | Sanctuary

11:15 AM Traditional Service | Sanctuary

11:15 AM Spanish Service | Chapel

The Temptations

The Temptation to Make a Deal with the Devil
Matthew 4:8-10

This is the third in a series of messages on The Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness at the beginning of His ministry.

In the first temptation, the devil meets Jesus where He is, in the wilderness. In the second temptation, the devil takes

Him to the pinnacle of the temple. Now, in the third temptation, the devil takes Jesus higher still...

1. Read Matthew 23:11-12. How do the temptations physically play out this principle of God?
2. In verse 8 of Matthew 4, the devil takes Jesus to a very high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. In verse 9, what does the devil offer Jesus? Does the devil have the authority to offer these things? Read John 12:30-32, 14:30-31, and 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6; and Ephesians 2:1-9. Discuss.
3. Because of our sin, the scriptures above teach that the devil has power over this world for a time and in a “boundaried” sort of way. So the temptation offered to Jesus is real: The devil *can* deliver the world to Him for a time. And Jesus came to the world because of His love for the world. Jesus came to secure the salvation of the world. What do you think is at work in this third temptation of Jesus?
4. For you, what is the fundamental problem with the devil’s request in verse 9? Do you think the devil really would have given Jesus the world if He had bowed down, or was the devil lying?
5. What is Jesus’ response in verse 10? He quotes Deuteronomy 6:13. What do you think is the significance of the short phrase “only Him”? The word “only (or “alone”) also is used in verse 4. Why does that matter here?
6. It seems to me that one way to look at this temptation is as the devil offering Jesus the goal He wants, but through a means that goes against Jesus’ beliefs and the teaching of Scripture. Do the ends justify the means? Where have you been tempted to worship the wrong thing to get the right thing; to use the wrong means for a right end?
7. Where, right now, is this temptation real and challenging for you? As each member of the group shares their genuine struggle, pray for each other—right then and there. Offer other support as needed.

