

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec 10, 2023

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 SERVICE

Welcome and Call to Worship		Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High / Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Christyn Knoop
Song of Response	<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>	
New Member Introduction		Dan Aikins
Song of Preparation	<i>Prince of Heaven</i>	
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 4:2-9	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>O Holy Night</i>	

9:45 SERVICE

Opening Song	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	
New Member Introduction		Dan Aikins
Meet and Greet (In person / Online)		Dan Aikins / Beth Case
Songs of Praise	<i>Prince of Heaven</i>	
Moment of Confession		Beth Case
Song of Worship	<i>O Holy Night</i>	
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 4:2-9	Alf Halvorson
Song of Response	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	
Moment of Connection		Dan Aikins

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrot, guitar; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Boyer, keys; Tim Hughes, violin; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

11:15 SERVICE

Preludes	<i>Fantasy on 'Greensleeves'</i> <i>Good Christian Men, Rejoice</i>	Brian Henkelmann (b. 1950) arr. Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Choral Introit	<i>E'en So, Lord, Quickly Come</i>	Paul Manz (1919-2009)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	#2 Vs. 1, 2 HYFRYDOL
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Clay Brown
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	#23 Vs. 2 GLORIA
Anthem	<i>Romance of the Angels from Christmas Cantata</i>	Howard Goodall (b. 1958)
New Member Introduction		Dan Aikins
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Free Us, Emmanuel</i>	Pepper Choplin (b. 1960)
Message	Joy on the Journey: Philippians 4:2-9	Alf Halvorson
*Hymn of Response	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	#8 Vs. 1, 3 TRURO
Postlude	<i>Now Is Born the Child Divine</i>	arr. Richard Warner (1909-1966)

Musicians at 11:15: MDPC Children's Choir with Steffanie Dean, director; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at events.mdpc.org.



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



Donate a Box through Dec 25

Donate to boxes packed at MDPC or pack your own! They're huge blessings to sailors far from home and onboard for months at a time. Details at seafarers.mdpc.org.



Accepting Donations Through Today!

Thank you to everyone who has given to the Toy Train (benefitting FORGE)! If you'd like to participate, drop new, unwrapped toys for kids ages 6-12 in the Toy Train.



Open til the Dec 24 morning service

Give the gift of hope when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones! Learn which partners you can support and how it works: missionmarket.mdpc.org



Dec 1-25 • East Hallway near the Office

All ages are invited to explore devotionals and Scripture-based activities designed to deepen our sense of wonder and our Joy on the Journey to Christmas Day.



\$9/dedication • Order by Dec 15

The poinsettias adorning the chancel may be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. To order and make your dedication, visit flowers.mdpc.org.



Candlelight services at 9:45am, 5:30, 7, and 8:30pm will have the same Christmas-Eve message by Pastor Alf. The family-friendly service is at 4pm, Fuente at 11:15, and the Portuguese-language service at 5:30!



Apply Now • Begins in January

Has God been nudging you to do more to help people in need? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister. Accepting applications now. Learn more: stephen.mdpc.org



Fri-Sun, Feb 9-11 • Iron Horse Ranch

Connection, gourmet food, and a chance to rest in the presence of God with others. Last year's retreat sold out - reserve your spot today! getaway.mdpc.org



Let's Get Out There and Serve!

Get to know your MDPC family while helping some of our local ministry partners! Mark your calendar and check out what we're doing in 2024: citc.mdpc.org

Births and Deaths

Robert Cagle passed away on Dec 1.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week's prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.

Joy on the Journey • [Philippians 4:2-9 \(NRSV\)](#)

This is the tenth in our sermon series on Paul's Letter to the Church in Philippi, his "Epistle of Joy." Today's scripture might be the most familiar section in the entire letter, and it is tremendous guidance for us when we are stressed or anxious. But it also reveals the Prince of Peace who we are waiting for this Advent. Peace is only found in and through the Prince of Peace. We light the Candle of Peace this Sunday through our worship videos for families (available at advent.mdpc.org).

1. What is the most stress-producing and anxiety-inducing part of this time of year for you? Is it a person? A place? Preparations? Financial pressures? End-of-year deadlines? Your own or others' expectations? How do you normally try to deal with all the challenges of the season?
2. Read Phil. 4:2-9. In verses 2-3, part of the stress in Philippi is because of disunity between Euodia and Syntyche. Paul "calls them out" but then offers perspective and guidance. What is his advice? Does he pick sides? Are they both Christians to Paul or has one lost the faith?
3. In verses 4-5, why can they *rejoice in the Lord*, according to Paul? What does it mean for the Christian to ponder, believe, and live knowing "The Lord is near"?
4. In verses 6-7, Paul's advice is to not stew without doing (worry), but to instead pray. Why is that good advice? Do you take it? And what is the promise associated with us turning worry into worship (prayer, supplication, thanksgiving)?
5. In verse 8-9, I talked about how Christianity (as opposed to most other Eastern religions) is a *filling tradition* not an *emptying tradition*. What does Paul advise us to fill our minds and hearts with this Advent/Christmas season? Practice doing that right now.
6. Paul finishes this fantastic section with advice in verse 9 to keep doing the things we have learned and heard and seen in him and Jesus, assuring that the God of peace will be with us. Why does peace need to be brought up twice in this passage? And why is *the doing* of the faith important, not just thinking about it? How might you put some of Paul's advice into practice this week, so that the "the peace which surpasses all understanding can guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"?

MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Introduced in worship on
Sun, Dec 10, 2023

We are excited to welcome these **29** new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to MDPC.



Don Baird is married to Becky (Weatherall) Baird. He is currently with Silver Fox Advisors doing business consulting for small for-profit and non-profit organizations pro bono, as well as doing prison ministry with the Prison Entrepreneurial Program.



Liz Esch has been attending MDPC since last fall. She has two children, Matthew and Megan. Liz loves entertaining and traveling with friends and family.



Nancy and Bruce Barclay have been married for 38 years. They laugh a lot and are thankful for moments shared, keep busy with hobbies and friends, and have one daughter

(Lisa) and two grandchildren (Aubrey and Cooper). Bruce is from Houston and met Nancy while attending LSU. Bruce retired two years ago after a 42-year career in commercial banking in Houston.



Pete and Dorothy Foster have two children, Sarah (41) and David (39), and enjoy spending time with their grandson William (5). Pete is a retired attorney/landman after 48 years in the oil industry. Dorothy retired from an accounting career in the oil industry to raise her family.



Benjamin Bass grew up in San Antonio attending First Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Annie, met at Texas A&M, were married at MDPC, and welcomed a baby girl, Marigold Louise, this September. An engineer by trade, Benjamin currently works for a digital technology studio here in Houston.



Olga Griffin is married to Tom Griffin and has two grown daughters, two wonderful sons-in-law, and four fabulous grandchildren. Her passion is for women to grow more in love with Jesus and for lives to be changed by Him.



Holly Blausen has two boys, John (24) and Luke (20). She teaches fourth grade and enjoys her cottage in Northern Wisconsin.



Virginia Harris and her husband, Russell, have two children, James (2) and Bennett (10 months). She is a stay-at-home mom and loves to cook, eat, entertain, and spend time with family and friends.



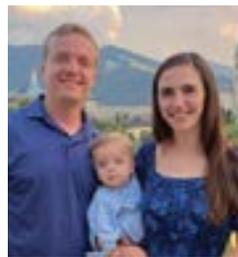
James and Natasha Breaux have three children, Arabelle (5), Coraline (3), and Jameson (1). James is a commercial insurance broker, and Natasha is an appellate litigation attorney. While not working, they enjoy spending time outdoors and traveling.



Kirk and Lisa Hawkins have two children, Hayley (21) and Seth (18). Kirk is a graphic designer and Lisa works with STEM and innovation in high schools. They enjoy staying active, travel, and spending time with family and friends.



Georgia Drager graduated from Baylor University in August, where she studied Apparel Design and Product Development and Business. She now works as an Assistant Buyer and is excited to join this church community. She hopes to strengthen her faith through a meaningful relationship with the church and its members.



Daniel and Kristina Lakenmacher are proud new parents of Nora (1). They enjoy traveling and spending time with family. Daniel works in oil and gas and Kristina is a pediatric dietitian at Texas Children's Hospital.

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Anne and Zach Ormsby have two daughters, Ellie (4) and Charlotte (1.5). Zach works in tax consulting and Anne is a real estate paralegal. They love to travel, spend time with their friends and family, are avid sports fans, and love to cook.



Roy and Hunter Smith have one daughter, Louise (6 months). Hunter works in the Philanthropy at MD Anderson and Roy is a music producer. They love to spend time with family, attend sporting events, and cook.



John and Moriah Snelling are newlyweds looking forward to starting their family. They enjoy spending time with their friends and family, and of course their yellow Lab, Bo. John and Moriah were married here at MDPC and are excited to join the church community!



Jeffrey and DeLisa Strege have two adult children, Olivia and Keith. Jeff is a corporate risk manager and DeLisa teaches second grade. They enjoy traveling and spending time at their house on Lake Tyler.



John and Kim Thompson share seven kids and six grandchildren. John is a retired judge and enjoys consulting on issues surrounding economic development and transportation. Kim is the Chief Development Officer for A21, a global organization working to combat human trafficking. John and Kim both enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, and can often be found spending relaxing holidays and long weekends at their family farm in Louisiana.



David and Nia Watson have three children, Walker (14), Gracie (13), and Annie (7). David works in private equity at Voyager Interests and Nia is a stay-at-home mom. They love spending time together as a family, hunting, fishing, and traveling.

