

Click here to  
meet our New  
Members

# Vines that **CHOKED** OUT Life

A Lenten Sermon Series

Sunday, March 10, 2024

## 8:30 SERVICE

Rev. Dan Aikins preaching

Welcome & Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
New Members		Dan Aikins
Songs of Praise	<i>Rejoice / Jesus Paid It All</i>	
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Brett Hurst
Song of Response	<i>How Deep the Father's Love</i>	
Song of Preparation	<i>I Believe</i>	
Message	<b>Keeping It to Yourself</b> ( <a href="#">John 4:27-42 ESV</a> )	Dan Aikins
Songs of Response	<i>Good News / Amazing Grace</i>	

## 9:45 SERVICE

Welcome & Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
Opening Song	<i>Come, Now Is the Time to Worship</i>	
New Members		Dan Aikins
Meet & Greet		Raphael Aboorvanathan
Song of Praise	<i>Praise</i>	
Moment of Confession & Assurance		Raphael Aboorvanathan
Songs of Worship	<i>I Believe / What a Beautiful Name</i>	
Message	<b>Keeping It to Yourself</b> ( <a href="#">John 4:27-42 ESV</a> )	Dan Aikins
Songs of Response	<i>Good News / Amazing Grace</i>	
Moment of Prayer and Connection		Rachel Poysky

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar;  
Daniel Martinez, keys; Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

## 11:15 SERVICE

Preludes	<i>Ave Maria</i> <i>The Swan</i>	Bach/Gounod Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns
Welcome & Call to Worship		Andrew Adair
Choral Introit	<i>My Jesus, I Love Thee</i>	Dan Kreider (b. 1975)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>	#281 Vs. 1, 2   CWM RHONDDA
*Prayer of Confession & Assurance		Andrew Adair
*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed		
Anthem	<i>Agnus Dei from Eternal Light</i>	Howard Goodall (b. 1958)
New Members		Dan Aikins
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine (O Divine Redeemer)</i>	Gabriel Faure' (1845-1924)
Message	<b>Keeping It to Yourself</b> ( <a href="#">John 4:27-42 ESV</a> )	Dan Aikins
*Hymn of Response	<i>Take Time to Be Holy</i>	Vs. 1, 4   HOLINESS
Postlude	<i>Wondrous Love</i>	Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Musicians at 11:15: Chris Childress, soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor;  
Emily Klein, harp; Kathryn White, organ

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

See more events at MDPC at [events.mdpc.org](https://events.mdpc.org).



Give Online  
[give.mdpc.org](https://give.mdpc.org)



**Tue, Apr 2 • 6:30-9pm**

Curious about faith? Know someone who is? Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

At **Alpha Launch Night**, we eat great food and watch an episode on a question of faith - then have a chance to share your thoughts. Everyone's welcome. Free food and cash bar at White Elm Brasserie in West Houston. Learn more at [alpha.mdpc.org](https://alpha.mdpc.org).



**Sat, Mar 30 • 10am-Noon**

Tour our Jerusalem village of booths telling the story of Easter! Learn through activities and interaction. Then fast-forward 2,000 years with a stop at the egg hunt.



**Order deadline: Palm Sun, Mar 24**

Dedicate Easter Lilies in memory of and/or in honor of loved ones. Dedications may be purchased online at [flowers.mdpc.org](https://flowers.mdpc.org) or in person at the Front Office.



**Mon-Thu, Mar 25-28 • Chapel**

Whether you are five or eighty-five, 15 minutes in The Spoken Word will enrich your Holy Week in an amazing way! Learn more and sign up at [tsw.mdpc.org](https://tsw.mdpc.org).



**Mon-Thu, Mar 25-31 • Parlor**

As you interact with Scripture and other tactical elements, you will experience different ways to engage prayerfully with God. Details at [silentword.mdpc.org](https://silentword.mdpc.org).



**Wed-Sat, Apr 17-20**

Join Outreach Ministries as we visit two mission partners serving in Mexico: Faith Ministry and Berea Bible Institute. Learn more and register: [mexico.mdpc.org](https://mexico.mdpc.org)



**Thu, Mar 14 • 7-9pm**

Young adults, come for a night of musical worship, interactive stations of the cross, discussions, and delicious food. Learn more and RSVP at [ya.mdpc.org](https://ya.mdpc.org).



## YOUTH MISSION TRIP LEADER SPOTLIGHT: **BRENDA VEGA**

**What are some things you enjoyed while leading on the San Antonio and Waco mission trips?**

The excitement and readiness of the youth to serve with a purpose on each trip. The Learned experience in teamwork, taking turns in getting jobs done, and being considerate of others. Lastly, how fulfilling it is to see the kids be obedient in their calling to serve others and bring joy to other's lives. .

**Ready to get in the game for Jesus? Be a Youth Mission Trip leader!**  
Contact Mitchell to learn more: [mkearney@mdpc.org](mailto:mkearney@mdpc.org)

### Financial Update as of Mar 3, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,723,677
Income to Date	\$ 2,320,816
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 11,402,861

### Births and Deaths

**Jim Shatto** passed away Feb 24, 2024.  
**Melba Bates** passed away Feb 1, 2024.  
*More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).*

## The Vines that Choke Out Life: Keeping It to Yourself [John 4:27-42 ESV](#)

Jesus is talking about food. The disciples are talking about food. But...they aren't talking about the *same* food. The disciples are trying their best, but they have missed the forest for the trees. Jesus' food is not bread (or even Texas BBQ!), but doing the will and work of the Father. Jesus' conversation with His disciples offers them an invitation to re-envision what it means to follow Jesus, to embrace His mission as their mission, and to enjoy the life-sustaining resources the Father offers. Jesus offers His disciples today the same invitation.

1. Think of a time when you missed the most important thing for something more urgent, immediate, or seemingly important. What would you have changed about that situation? What would have been different if you had correctly identified and pursued the most important thing?
2. This conversation between Jesus and His disciples takes place immediately after Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well. Refresh your memory of that conversation by reading John 4:1-26. Jesus talks with the woman, not of food, but of water. What is her response to the water Jesus offers her?
3. The disciples and Jesus talk about food. Read John 4:27-42. What is the food that Jesus wants His disciples to enjoy? How is this food the same or different from the water Jesus offers the woman?
4. Jesus' invitation to His disciples is to enjoy a food that is more sustaining and more satisfying than physical food—doing the will and work of the Father. From this story, what specifics can we learn about the Father's will and the work He has for us? Here's a tip: the disciples in this story are a bad example while the Samaritan woman is a good example.
5. Joining Jesus in His mission to do the will and work of the Father requires us to share about Jesus to others with words: evangelism. Scary word! But Jesus also tells us that this practice provides us sustaining food for faith. What could be the effect in our lives if we neglect this practice? What could be the effect if we begin sharing about Jesus with others?
6. Dan shared four core elements of evangelism: **Pray** (for our hearts to be aligned with God's and for others to be saved), **Look** (pay attention to witness opportunities already around you), **Host** (extend hospitality to others), and **Invite** (to places like church or Alpha and to faith in Jesus). Of these four, what are you best at and what do you most need to grow in?
7. **Pray** and **Look** are practices all of us can be doing right now without any preparation or existing relationship with a non-Christian. Take a moment to pray something like this now. Sit in silence and ask God to bring people, places, or situations to mind where He is already working: "Father, put in my heart a great desire to do Your will and work of bringing people to Jesus. Give me eyes, even now, to recognize where You are already working in people around me."
8. **Host** and **Invite** take greater intentionality and courage. Prayerfully consider one non-Christian friend, family member, neighbor, or coworker. What would a faithful next step be to either extend hospitality to this person or to invite this person to church or Alpha?

# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Introduced in worship on  
Sun, Mar 10, 2024

We are excited to welcome these **23** new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to MDPC.

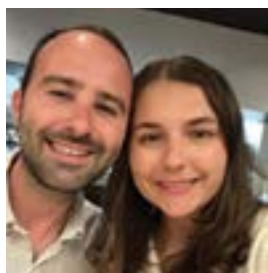


**Lynne and Bruce Connery** have been married for 42 years. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. Bruce does some consulting work, but spends more time playing golf and practicing yoga. Lynne is an avid reader and walker. She also enjoys baking and an occasional round



of golf with Bruce. God has blessed them in many ways, and worship is central to their lives.

**Susan Cornett** has been married to Casey for 35 years and they have two grown sons. Susan began Bible study at MDPC with BSD in the late 90's and now attends Word and Worship. Realizing the importance of corporate worship, she began attending the 8:30 service with her older son and immediately felt welcome



and a sense of belonging. Her goal each day is to trust God and be generous.

**Allison and Zack Dotson** got married two and a half years ago, and they live in a townhome inside of the loop. They have two cats, Mr. Boots (7) and Kevin (4). Allison is originally from San Antonio and has lived in Houston for 5 years working as a civil engineer. She enjoys cooking and walking along White Oak Bayou. Zack works as an engineering consultant.



**Allison Farrell and Austin Freitas** have one child, Emma (6 months). They both work in oil and gas, she in business development and he in finance. In their spare time they love to travel, cook, go on hikes with their dog, Kona, and spend time with friends and family.



**Robert and Paige Graf** have lived in Houston going on five years. Robert works in commercial real estate and Paige is in the oil and gas sector. The Graf's have a passion for the outdoors and can usually be found in the wild out on the trail.



**Carter and Laura Grinstead** have been married for 28 years and have three adult children: Emily, David, and Caroline. Carter is a retired cardiologist and Laura runs a baking business.



**Keith and Kari Malloy** have two children: Burke, a junior at Stratford HS, and Lance, an eighth grader at Memorial MS. Keith owns and operates Keith Malloy Construction and has been building homes in the Memorial area for 25+ years. Keith and Kari spend most of their free time watching Burke and Lance play baseball and basketball.



**Regan and Claire Nielsen** have one child, Molly (18 months). Regan works in corporate development at Civeo Corporation and Claire works in legal operations at Chevron. On the weekends they like to go on family bike rides, travel, and play pickleball.



**Lauren Peyton** is a native Houstonian and grew up attending MDPC. She loves spending time with her family and friends. She enjoys listening to music, reading, and doing anything crafty.



**Catherine and Collin Reedy** got married on November 11, 2023. Catherine works at a natural gas pipeline company and Collin works as a civil engineer at a structural firm in Houston. They love to travel, go camping, and spend time outdoors with their dog, Bandit.



**Leigh Schaub** moved to Houston after living in San Antonio for 50 years! She has one daughter named Allison who also attends MDPC. Leigh is retired and works part-time. When she's not working, she can be found playing pickleball or volunteering with the cats at Houston Pets Alive.

(Continued on back)



**Blake and Julie Swoboda** have four kids: Jonah (17), Elizabeth (16), Micah (7), and Evelynn (5). They enjoy traveling and coaching, playing, and watching sports.



**Jackie Vicars** has lived in Houston for over 50 years. She and Mel Vicars were married for 62 years before he passed away in 2015. They have two grown children and five grandchildren. Jackie has always been involved in music programs, choir, and handbells. Her kids take her on trips every year to help her with her bucket list! She enjoys her neighborhood book club and game night.

New member not pictured: **Joan Lotz**

## Ready for *Your* Next Step at MDPC?

### Discover MDPC

Get to know MDPC! *Discover MDPC* is a casual, 30-minute get-together where MDPC Pastors share about the history, mission, and vision of MDPC.

Sun, Mar 17 • 10:45-11:10am • Sanctuary Lobby

### Explore Our New Member Class!

Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will explore whether becoming a member is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. New members are introduced to the congregation at a worship service and invited to meet with our Session to be received as MDPC members.

To see upcoming dates for New Member Classes, visit [discover.mdpc.org](https://discover.mdpc.org).



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