



Click Here  
to meet our  
New Members!

Sun, Dec 8, 2024

**8:30 SERVICE**

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching

- Welcome and Call to Worship Rachel Poysky
- Songs of Praise *Angels We Have Heard on High / King of Kings*
- \*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Sally Henien
- New Members Dan Aikins
- Song of Preparation *Behold*
- Message **Artful Advent: The Journeys** Alf Halvorson  
[Luke 1:39-45; 2:1-5 \(NRSV\)](#)
- Songs of Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**9:45 SERVICE**

- Welcome and Call to Worship
- Song of Praise *Angels (Glory to God)*
- New Members Dan Aikins
- Songs of Praise *Angels (Glory to God) / King of Kings*
- Moment of Confession & Assurance Hillary McMullen
- Song of Response *Behold*
- Message **Artful Advent: The Journeys** Alf Halvorson  
[Luke 1:39-45; 2:1-5 \(NRSV\)](#)
- Song of Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- Moment of Connection Dan Aikins

Musicians at 8:30/9:45: Asher Pudlo, drums; Uvaldo Callejas, bass; Chris Parrott, guitar; Coppelita Acevedo, Meliza Gómez, and Michael Middleton, worship leaders

**11:15 SERVICE**

- Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
- Welcome and Call to Worship Rachel Poysky
- Choral Introit *E'en So, Lord, Quickly Come* Paul Manz (1919-2009)
- \*Hymn of Praise *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #2; Vs. 1, 2 | HYFRYDOL
- \*Prayer of Confession and Assurance Christyn Knoop
- \*Affirmation of Faith from the Apostles' Creed
- Congregational Response *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23; Vs. 1 | GLORIA
- Anthem *Ave Maria, Angelus Domini (Hail Mary, Angel of the Lord)* Franz Biebl (1906-2001)
- Pastoral Prayer Rachel Poysky
- Anthem of Preparation *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
- Message **Artful Advent: The Journeys** Alf Halvorson  
[Luke 1:39-45; 2:1-5 \(NRSV\)](#)
- \*Hymn of Response *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* #8; Vs. 1, 3 | HYFRYDOL
- Postlude *Trumpet Tune on 'Sleepers, Wake!'* Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

Musicians at 11:15: Su-Jin Cho, Christine Oakes, John-Alan Gourdine, anthem trio; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ

Join us Tue, Dec 24

*Christmas  
Eve*

Contemporary Service • 2pm [Christmas.mdpc.org](http://Christmas.mdpc.org)

Family Service • 4pm

Traditional Services • 5:30, 7, 8:30pm

Nativity Animal Petting Zoo • 3:30-8pm

Services are in the Sanctuary and include a message from Pastor Alf. The 2pm and traditional services are candlelight.

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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



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



### Open Now in the Sanctuary Lobby

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](https://missionmarket.mdpc.org)



### \$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](https://flowers.mdpc.org).



### Sun, Dec 8 • 3:30-5:30pm

A free community event! Bring the whole family to enjoy inflatables, games, and so much more. Please bring canned fruit to support our food pantry. [kids.mdpc.org](https://kids.mdpc.org)



### Sun, Dec 8 • 6pm • Sanctuary

Ring in Advent and the Christmas season with Handel's *Messiah*, Puccini's *Gloria*, and congregational carols. Free childcare: [concerts.mdpc.org](https://concerts.mdpc.org)



### Sun-Sat, May 4-10 • Honduras

Serve alongside fellow MDPC ladies helping communities acquire clean water and experience "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ. [livingwater.mdpc.org](https://livingwater.mdpc.org)



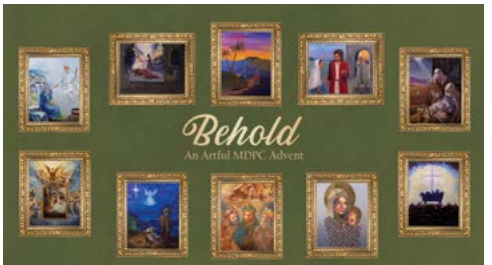
### Collecting through Dec 22

Help bring some Christmas cheer to an international seafarer in the Port of Houston this season! Item list and instructions for boxes at [seafarers.mdpc.org](https://seafarers.mdpc.org).



### Through Tue, Dec 24 • The Nook

Explore devotionals and Scripture-based activities designed to deepen our sense of wonder, and our joy on the journey to Christmas Day!



**Advent Devotionals** will be available next Sunday. These beautifully crafted devos, written by Leigh McLeroy, follow along with Pastor Alf's advent series: *Artful Advent*. Details at [adventdevo.mdpc.org](https://adventdevo.mdpc.org).

### Join Pastor Alf's 2024 Challenge



The New City Catechism

Learn more: [52qs.mdpc.org](https://52qs.mdpc.org)

**Question 50:** What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?

**Answer:** Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in Him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come. Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.

[1 Thessalonians 4:13-14](https://1thessalonians.com/4:13-14)

### Financial Update as of Dec 1, 2024

2024 Annual Budget	\$ 13,719,797
Actual Income to Date	\$ 11,765,385
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 1,954,412

### Births and Deaths

Agnes Adair passed away Dec 3, 2024.  
More information at [memorials.mdpc.org](https://memorials.mdpc.org).

## An Artful Advent: The Journeys • [Luke 1:39-45; 2:1-5 NRSV](#)

This is the second in our series leading up and through Christmas using art to tell the Story of *Immanuel, God with us*. This week, we look at texts where first Mary travels and then Mary and Joseph travel. Mary takes her journey to be with Elizabeth, who the Angel Gabriel said was pregnant, even in Elizabeth's old age and even after years of barrenness. Mary and Joseph take the second journey because the Emperor Augustus required mandatory registration for tax and military-service purposes. And while one trip was voluntary and the other compulsory, God used both to confirm the Good News and get the primary actors to the place where prophecy said the birth of the Messiah would occur. But it is difficult and not without challenges.

1. Do you enjoy or try to avoid travel? Can you describe a favorite destination? What has made it special to you?
2. Each journey took several daunting days, the second one when Mary was nine months pregnant. I talked in my message about the difference between traveling and touring. How does travel that includes travail result in much more transformation than just being a tourist somewhere in comfortable conditions?
3. Read Luke 1:39-45 & 2:1-5. In the first passage, what does Mary learn from Elizabeth? What does Elizabeth learn from the Holy Spirit about Mary and the baby? Why would those gleanings profoundly encourage each woman? In what ways do they support each other?
4. In the second passage, Luke 2:1-5, how is it contrasted from the first passage? To me, the first passage is very spiritual; the second is very governmental, procedural, and power-driven. But why was it important for the holy couple to get to Bethlehem? Read Micah 5:2-5. And, if you have been doing Clay's Class, why is Jesus being in the line of David so crucial?
5. Jesus said His disciples would "take up their crosses and follow Him." Where might you need to leave something behind this Advent? Where might you need to take on some physical or spiritual journey to put you in a place of dependence on God and receptivity to the birth of the Savior? What would an investment in your faith look like this year? And who might be your traveling companion(s) so that support, encouragement, and critical insights might be shared and received?

# MDPC NEW MEMBERS

Introduced in worship on  
Sun, Dec 8, 2024

We are excited to welcome these **6** new members to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to **MDPC**.



**Luke and Alyssa Davis** are joining with their two children, Vivienne (9) and Wesley (7). Luke runs a sheet metal fabrication company and Alyssa is in management consulting.



**Tom and Chris McClurkin** have been married for 50 years. They have two kind and beautiful daughters and a fabulous son-in-law. Plus, three wonderful grandchildren!



**Judy Memmel**, born and raised in Iowa, has lived in Houston since 1978. She has two daughters and five grandchildren who live in Germany. Judy has been attending MDPC for the past five years.



**Nancy Polis** is a retired lawyer who enjoys reading, travel and trying new restaurants. She and her husband Nyle have one adult son, Robert, and a daughter-in-law, Barrington.

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

**Discover MDPC** Sun, Jan 19 • 10:45-11:10am • Lobby

Get to know MDPC at a casual, 30-minute get-together where our Pastors share about the history, mission, and vision of this church.

**New Member Class** Fri evening & Sat morning, Jan 31 & Feb 1

Led by Associate Pastors, Elders, and staff, you will explore whether becoming a member is the right next step for you.

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



## MDPC

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
11612 Memorial Drive, 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710