

# MDPC NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

We are excited to welcome these **18** new covenant partners to the MDPC family! Learn a little more about them below, and join us in welcoming them to **MDPC**.



**Angie Bouzerand** has three children: Anna (a sophomore at Vanderbilt), Maddie (a freshman at NYU), and Luca (4th grader at the Awty International School). Angie has worked in various industries as a Director of Corporate Communications. The family loves the mountains and traveling regularly back to France to visit family.



**Jerred and Kelly Crumley** have three children: Archer (10), Abigayle (6), and Annie (8 mos). Jerred is a Baird financial advisor for oil and gas retirees and Kelly works in health administration overseeing outpatient clinical services at Texas Children's Hospital, West Campus. They love to explore new places and spend time with family and friends.



**Kate and Steven Henderson** have two daughters: Lia (5) and Sophie (3). They moved back to Houston three months ago after seven years in New Orleans where they were very involved in their church and community. Steven runs a start-up and Kate works with Shell.



**Damien and Kelly LaPar** and their daughters, Jacqueline (14) and Claire (9), relocated to Houston from New York in 2020. Their family has attended MDPC since their relocation, but wanted to proceed with formal membership in this wonderful church community.



**Emily and Trey Lewis** have two children: Palmer and Brooks. Trey is in banking and Emily is a jewelry designer. They love to travel, play games, and spend time with family and friends.



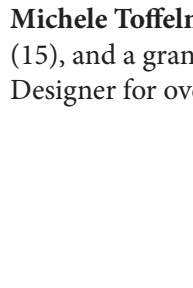
**Hannah and Russell McGowan** have two children: Frances (2) and Georgette (8 mos.). Hannah works in investor relations at Coterra Energy and Russ runs NonOpWells, a tech-enabled oil and gas marketplace.



**Bill and Lisa Schwartz** have been married for 43 years. Bill is retired from the City of Houston and Lisa co-owns the Houston Office of Jostens Yearbooks. They have two children: Cody is a teacher and coach at Memorial High School and Brittany is a teacher at Magnolia High School. They have six grandchildren and enjoy family, football, pickleball, and traveling.



**Michele Toffelmire** has two children: Amelia (22) and Audrey (15), and a grandson, Ezekiel (3). Michele has been a Usability Designer for over 30 years and enjoys animals and art.



**Kevin and Angela Winslow** live in the Sugar Land area. Kevin's hobbies include music and cycling, and Angela follows the NHL and NFL. They both enjoy fitness. They are looking forward to where God directs them to serve at MDPC.



**Loyd and Wendy Wright** have been married 42 years and have two grown children, and two beautiful grandchildren with another on the way. Loyd is an attorney and retired Judge. They enjoy spending time with friends and family.



## Ready for Your Next Step at MDPC?

Check out our New Member Classes, led by associate pastors, elders, and staff. You'll explore whether becoming a covenant partner is the right next step in your faith in Jesus. New covenant partners are introduced to the congregation at a worship service. For 2026 dates, use the QR code, or visit [newmembers.mdpc.org](https://newmembers.mdpc.org).



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at MDPC

**Contemporary Service • 2pm • In the Sanctuary**  
Contemporary worship with MDPC praise band and message by Pastor Alf

**Family Service • 4pm • In the Sanctuary**  
Energetic, kid-friendly, and interactive! Join Pastors Rachel Poysky and Alf Halvorson as they tell the Christmas story in a way the whole family will love.

**Candlelight Services • 5:30, 7, 8:30pm • In the Sanctuary**  
Traditional worship with a message from Pastor Alf and full choir, organ, and a chamber orchestra

Experience the Nativity Animal Petting Zoo! Open 3-8pm.  
Childcare is available for all five services for children aged 3 months-5 years.



**Poinsettia Dedications**  
**Orders must be received by Fri, Dec 12.**  
Dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. On Christmas Eve, dedications will be at the Connection Center and included in the on-line bulletin. Purchase at [flowers.mdpc.org](https://flowers.mdpc.org).

**Share the Joy of Communion!**  
Current and former Elders and Deacons, please consider signing up to serve communion in 2026. See next year's communion dates and roles (help needed with set up, service, or clean up) at [communionsservers.mdpc.org](https://communionsservers.mdpc.org).

**Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed**  
We need help in children's Sunday School! Join us just once a month to help our young ones grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk with questions: [kmosk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmosk@mdpc.org)

**Apply to Become a Stephen Minister**  
**Applications due in Dec | Training starts Jan 13**  
Do others turn to you in times of need? Do you have a compassionate heart and a listening ear? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister, providing confidential one-to-one Christian care. To learn more, visit [stephentraining.mdpc.org](https://stephentraining.mdpc.org).

**Sing with Our Littles!**  
Do you play an instrument and sing a little? Do you enjoy children? If so, have we got a volunteer opportunity for you! We're looking for volunteers (age 14 and up) to help lead singing during Pre-school Worship on Sunday mornings. Email Keri Mosk for more information: [kmosk@mdpc.org](mailto:kmosk@mdpc.org)

**Sign up to Serve on Christmas Eve**  
*Many hands are needed to welcome visitors and help with the offering. Sign up at [greet.mdpc.org](https://greet.mdpc.org).*



*As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.*





8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship   Meet & Greet	Clay Brown
*Worship Songs	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> <i>King of Kings</i>
Advent Candle Lighting	The McCormack Family
*Confession & Assurance	Dan Aikins
Introduction of New Covenant Partners   Congregational Response	
Worship Song	<i>Holy Forever (Christmas)</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	<i>Beautifully Broken</i> 2 Cor. 5:11-21 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>Behold (Christmas)</i>
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SENDING

	<i>Doxology</i>	OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship   Meet & Greet	Clay Brown
*Worship Songs	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> <i>King of Kings</i>
Advent Candle Lighting	The Davidson Family
*Confession & Assurance	Dan Aikins
Introduction of New Covenant Partners Baptisms: Frances Queenie McGowan and Georgette Blythe McGowan daughters of Hannah Stuckey and Russell McGowan	
Congregational Response	
Worship Song	<i>Holy Forever (Christmas)</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	<i>Beautifully Broken</i> 2 Cor. 5:11-21 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Offertory	<i>Behold</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums   Chris Parrott, guitar   JJ Blanco, keys Uvaldo Callejas, bass   Coppelia Acevedo and Michael Middleton, worship leaders		

\*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	<i>O Holy Night</i>	arr. Bennett/Berry
Welcome   Call to Worship		Clay Brown
Choral Introit	<i>Hail the Heaven Born Prince of Peace</i> (from Glad Tidings)	Randol Bass (b.1953)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Lift Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	#8, vs. 1-3   TRURO
Advent Candle Lighting		The Shelfer Family
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Clay Brown
*Affirmation of Faith from New City Catechism, Q. 1		
*Congregational Response	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	#5, vs. 2   PICARDY
Introduction of New Covenant Partners   Congregational Response		

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	arr. Taylor Davis (b.1980)
Message	<i>Beautifully Broken</i> 2 Cor. 5:11-21 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>What Wondrous Love Is This</i>	#85, vs. 1   WONDROUS LOVE
Offertory	<i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	arr. Dan Forrest (b.1978)

SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592   OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune on ‘Sleepers, Wake!’</i>	Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

Musicians: MDPC Sanctuary Choir | Kathryn White, organ; Beth Case, piano  
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

### Mission MARKET Christmas Cards

Give the gift of hope for Christmas this year when you purchase cards in honor of friends and loved ones. Donations go directly to an MDPC ministry partner to fund life-saving surgeries, safe and loving homes for children, life-transforming education, wheel-chairs, and so much more.

**Shop Nov 30-Dec 23**  
Sundays in the Lobby or weekdays in the Front Office    [missionmarket.mdp.org](https://missionmarket.mdp.org)

**Sat, Dec 13 | 1-4pm**  
Join us for a festive afternoon as we celebrate Christmas at the pickleball courts and MDPC field for an evening packed with fun, laughter, and a little friendly competition. Grab a friend and your ugliest festive sweater and come celebrate the season with us!

Sermon Notes

[2 Corinthians 5:11-21](#) | Pastor Alf Halvorson

This is the tenth in our fall sermon series on Paul’s second letter to the church in Corinth. Some might say, why are we continuing to study 2 Corinthians during Advent? Shouldn’t we be using texts from the Gospels that talk about Jesus’ birth and the prophecies from the Old Testament leading up to it? Perhaps. But what 2 Corinthians does is reveal why it was necessary for Christ to come; why we needed a Savior; why humans have wandered away from God; and why we (after receiving help and salvation from Christ through faith) are given the ministry of reconciliation ourselves. We have a purpose as ambassadors of this new creation, this new reality in our world, and this new kingdom in our midst.

- Did your thanksgiving celebration meet expectations or fall flat this year? What do you hope happens in your life and schedule around Christmas this year? And where do you feel the weight of responsibility or expectations surrounding these celebrations?
- Read 2 Cor. 5:11-21. This section contains some very well-known verses and a couple of amazing concepts. One of those is the idea from vs. 17 that in Christ we become new creations. The old is gone; the new is breaking in. Where do you feel you are experiencing new life in Christ? And where do your old habits threaten to drag you back into your old way of life?
- In verses 14-16, Paul suggests the Christian life is motivated by the love of Christ, and that Christ’s death on the cross opens up for us a whole different way of life. What is the life he suggests here?
- In verses 18 & 19, Paul says twice that, in response to being reconciled to God through Christ’s action paired with our faith, we are then given the ministry/message of reconciliation. What do you think that ministry/message entails?
- I spent the most time in my message on the concept of us being called “*ambassadors for Christ, since God is making His appeal through us.*” Where did my explanation make sense or help you think about your Christian life in a new way? Was there anything unhelpful? Or would you have shared a story or illustration or idea that I didn’t cover?
- Finally, verse 21 provides quite an amazing short summary of the purpose of Christ’s coming. It is “for us.” He is Immanuel, God with us; but He also came with a purpose, to overcome our estrangement with God because of our sin. His goal is to exchange hostility for friendship, change enmity to partnership. How has God through Christ done that in your life? And how are you extending that reconciliation in your life? What questions do you still have about becoming a Christian or living out the Christian faith in the world? Talk to your group, a friend, or a pastor for clarification, closure, and confidence.

Financial Update as of Nov 30, 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$14,203,292
Actual Income to date	\$ 11,180,234
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	\$ 3,023,058

New Arrivals:

**Emmett Weinblatt** was born on Nov 14 to Caroline and Benjamin Weinblatt. Grand-parents are Becky and David Funderburk.  
**Lawson Joseph Layne** was born on Nov 25 to Mindy and Chris Layne. Grandparents are Joe and Lindy Stockdale.