

The third message in our Job Journey invites us to consider how faith responds when pain cannot be neatly explained. Job's friends say some things that sound religiously correct, but their words wound because they rush to diagnose rather than sit with him in grief. What is the difference between explaining suffering, which is a very tall task, and offering faithful presence? And how might God call us to become better companions to those walking through darkness?

1. I walked through several short sentences by Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and Elihu in Job 3-37: Job 8:4, 22:21, 8:3, 11:6b, 15:11a, 18:5a, 18:2a, and 35:6a. Which of their words stood out to you most, and why did they function as bad advice?
2. Job's friends knew some true things about God but used them in the wrong way, at the wrong time, and with the wrong person. Where do you see people today offering "true but unhelpful" words to someone who is suffering?
3. Why do you think we are often tempted to explain another person's pain rather than simply sitting with them in it?
4. The message asks whether Job's friends were trying to protect Job's faith or their own worldview. How can suffering challenge the way we think the world is supposed to work?
5. What is the difference between honest lament and faithlessness? How can Job help us bring our real questions to God more honestly, and how can we gently help someone who is suffering find mercy and help before the *throne of grace*?
6. I said in the message, "Sometimes the most faithful thing we can offer is not an answer, but our presence." What might that look like practically when walking with someone who is grieving?
7. How does Jesus show us a better way than Job's friends—entering suffering with truth, mercy, patience, presence, and hope—and how might we practice that this week with someone who is hurting?



Online Giving give.mdpc.org



All Events events.mdpc.org

Labor Day Lunch & Kona Ice

Next Sun, Sep 6 | 11am-1:30pm

We'll fire up the outdoor grill for a delicious meal of burgers and hot dogs, served fresh and hot inside in the air conditioning! There is no charge for lunch; freewill offerings accepted.

Word and Worship

Weekly, Sep 2026-Feb 2027

Grow deeper in your faith through the book of Daniel. It contains some of the stories we are most familiar with, but also many others that are often neglected - this study will cover all of them! Many day and time options for groups. Learn more and register: wandw.mdpc.org

Alpha Launch Night

Tue, Sep 8 | 6:30-9pm

Guests enjoy great food and watch an Alpha series episode on a question of faith. Everyone's welcome, no matter your background or beliefs. The evening and childcare are free, so come see if it's for you! More info and RSVP: alphalaunch.mdpc.org

Ladies Bingo Night

Thu, Sep 10 | 5:30-8:30pm | MDPC

Get ready for a night of fun, laughter, and connection with women of all ages at MDPC, complete with great prizes and a grand prize finale! Sign up online: bingo.mdpc.org

MomCo: Good Company

Every other Thu, Sep 10-Apr 29 | 9:30-11:30am

Calling all moms looking for community, encouragement, and a sense of belonging! Whether you're navigating diapers, school drop-offs, or somewhere in between, you'll find women who understand. Free childcare. Sign up: momco.mdpc.org

The Family Impact Project

Sat, Sep 12 | Times vary

Looking for a meaningful way to serve alongside your family? Join us for a one-day opportunity to bless others through simple acts of service. No special skills required! Registration: FIP.mdpc.org

Men's Life: Finding Your True Identity

Tue, Sep 15-Nov 17 | 6:30-7:45am

In Men's Life 2026, we'll discover who you already are in Christ and learn to live from the identity God has given you—not the one the world tries to assign. Learn more and register: ml.mdpc.org

Blast Off for 1st-5th Graders

Wed, Sep 16-Nov 18 | 5:30-7pm

Get ready to zoom into a galaxy of fun, faith, and friendship at our awesome mid-week program!

Blast Off Moms Book Club

Drop off your kids, grab dinner from the cafe, then join us in room 207! \$15/person covers the book and dinner provided each night.

Details and sign up for Blast Off and/or Book Club: blastoff.mdpc.org

Noche de Sabor, "Night of Flavor"

Sat, Sep 19 | 6-9pm

Everyone's invited to our free annual multicultural celebration! We come together each year to lift up the different cultures represented in our MDPC congregation. Come hungry and get to know your whole church family! nds.mdpc.org

Make an IMPACT!

Training: Sun, Sep 20 | 12:30pm

Games. Conversation. Friendship. That's all it takes to make a difference! Spend just 30 minutes each week with a child who would benefit from another caring adult in their life: impact.mdpc.org





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

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Marcus Vajdos
*Songs of Praise	<i>Everlasting God 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)</i>
Confession & Assurance	Jeff Taylor
Song of Response	<i>Nothing but the Blood</i>
Prayer	Rachel Poysky
Worship Song	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Bad Friends; Better Silence (Job 3-37 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>There Was Jesus</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship	Meliza Gómez
*Songs of Praise	<i>Here for You Glorious Day</i>
Confession & Assurance	Hillary McMullen
Songs of Response	<i>Only Jesus Medley Holy Forever</i>
Welcome	Sally Henien
Worship Song	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Bad Friends; Better Silence (Job 3-37 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	<i>There Was Jesus</i>
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SENDING

*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
Meliza Gómez, Contemporary Worship Director | Michael Middleton, Generational Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Preludes	<i>Meditation from Thaïs</i>	Jules Massenet (1842-1912)
Call to Worship		Marcus Vajdos
Choral Introit	<i>All the Earth Will Worship</i>	Tom Fettke (b. 1941)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand</i> Vs. 1, 3, 4	#262 NATIONAL HYMN

Confession and Assurance of Pardon	Beth Case
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*Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8

*Congregational Response	<i>Psalms 96 – O Sing a New Song</i> Vs. 3, 4, 5, 6	#217 arr. Hal Hopson
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HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	<i>Immortal, Invisible</i>	arr. Craig Courtney (b. 1954)
Message	Faith After the Funeral: The Job Journey Bad Friends; Better Silence (Job 3-37 NRSV)	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	<i>O Lord, Our God, How Excellent</i> Vs. 1, 3, 5 #162 WINCHESTER OLD
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Prayer	Beth Case
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Anthem of Response	<i>Our Song Shall Rise to Thee</i>	Becki Slagle Mayo (b. 1956)
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SENDING

*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	#592 OLD 100TH
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*Benediction	Alf Halvorson
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Postlude	<i>When in Our Music God Is Glorified</i>	Matt Limbaugh (b. 1949)
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Traditional Worship Leaders
Sanctuary Choir | John Parker, Trumpet | Rob Landes, Guest Organist
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

* Please stand, if comfortable.

HAPPENING AROUND MDPC

Come Try the Choir!

The Sanctuary Choir welcomes singers of all ages and experience levels! With varied music and flexible commitments—one Sunday, one month, or all season—there’s a place for you. Learn more: choir.mdpc.org

Join Our Team

MDPC Kids needs teens and adults to help with Sunday School! Training and materials are provided. For more information, please email Keri Mosk: kmosk@mdpc.org

Stay Plugged In

Sign up to receive the weekly email with Sunday information and upcoming events, and download the MDPC app for past sermons, event registrations, and more, right in your pocket! Scan the qrc or visit mymdpc.mdpc.org





Remember Our Frontline Mission Partners

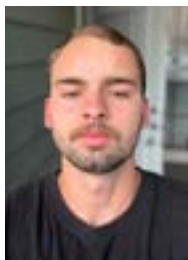
MDPC partners in local and global ministry truly covet your prayers! Find out this week’s prayer recipients by picking up the prayer booklet available around campus or visit partners.mdpc.org.

Financial Update as of Aug 23, 2026	Births and Deaths
2026 Annual Budget	\$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	8,362,050
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	6,366,678
	Stewart Kepper passed away August 24.
	More information at memorials.mdpc.org .

MDPC FUENTE

NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

Sunday, August 30, 2026



Matheus Wrege Amaro enjoys woodworking and spending time studying Reformed theology.



Shirley Stephanie Martinez is dedicated to creating opportunities for immigrant communities and families through education, leadership, and community empowerment. Her work promotes personal development, integration, and the formation of partnerships that strengthen communities and generate lasting social impact.



Alex McMullen was born in Clear Lake and grew up in a family of five. He was raised in a loving Christian home in Navasota, where he enjoyed small-town life. He currently works at MDPC and has a wonderful wife and three children.



Lisbeily Navas was born in Colombia and has lived in Houston for six years. She has two children.



Maritza Ortiz was born in Colombia and is married to César Pichardo. God has blessed them with four children. She is a certified nurse and an immigration document preparer. She enjoys reading and loves to travel, particularly because she likes learning about new cultures and having new cultural experiences.



Cecilia Piedrahita graduated as an accounting assistant/secretary. She currently works as a caregiver for the elderly, including individuals with Alzheimer's disease.



Luz Valencia as born in Colombia and has lived in Houston for 15 years. She is married to Lader Lerma and has three children and two grandchildren. She is a professional in Business Administration and Finance.