MDPC NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

Introduced in worship on Sunday, Oct 18, 2026

We are excited to welcome these **8** new covenant partners to the MDPC family!



Michael and Kristen Arnett are thrilled to be re-joining MDPC after living away for several years for a work opportunity. Prior to moving, they were MDPC members for 20 years and enjoyed raising their two sons while attending the church. Michael works in finance. Delighted to be back in Houston, Kristen and Michael enjoy traveling, volunteering, and spending time on Lake Conroe.



Brian Chase recently moved to Houston from Connecticut with his family. Brian and Karina have two kids, Alexander (11) and Victoria (8). Brian works for an energy investment firm here in Houston. The whole family loves to travel and Brian and Alex love to scuba dive.



Thomas Hodges recently lost his beautiful wife, Denise, of nearly 20 years. He and Denise began attending the 9:45 service at MDPC back last fall. While he misses his Denise beyond what words can describe, he knows that she is looking down and smiling. Thomas enjoys reading and watching sports whenever possible. He gets comfort out of helping others, and tries to live by example and spread the love of God to all.



Susan Klapesky has four children and nine grandchildren. She loves reading, walking, memorizing Scripture, and spending time with family and friends.



Jackson Stone just moved from Tennessee to start his first full-time job in oil and gas. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, watching Vanderbilt football, and exploring Houston.





Kevin Varner and Katie Dickinson have three children - Evie (12), Pita (4), and Elias (3). They are Houston-area natives and currently live in Katy. Kevin is in IT, and Katie is an estate planning attorney.







Online Giving give.mdpc.org

All Events events.mdpc.org

Congregational Meeting
Sun, Oct 25 following each service
Next Sunday, there will be a brief rolling Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing MDPC's 2029 Class of Officers and the members of the 2027 Nominating Committee.

How to Study Your Bible
Wed, Oct 14-21 | 10-11:30am | Parlor
Join other MDPC women as Pastor Beth digs into the book of Colossians while highlighting different methods of study. Be inspired by this uplifting book that reminds us of the supremacy of Christ and the incredible hope we have in Him!

Date Change: Kids' Meals
Moved to Wed, Oct 21 | 4:30pm
The Kids' Meals service project scheduled for this week will now take place on Oct 21. If you registered for the 14th, please re-register for the new date: km.mdpc.org

Aging Roadmap
Thursdays, Oct 29, Nov 5 & 12 | 1-3pm | Rm 122
The key to aging well is planning your aging journey. This free three-week program will help you determine your next steps! Details and registration: roadmap.mdpc.org

Reaching Gen Alpha
Fri & Sat, Nov 6 & 7
What's next for Gen Alpha? MDPC is hosting a two-day conference to help you discover new ways to engage 3 to 16-year-olds and help them grow in faith! $60 includes meals.
On Friday night, *everyone* is welcome to a free presentation for parents, with practical insights for understanding, supporting, and connecting with the next generation. Details on the back of this bulletin!

Sharing the BIG Story
Sundays thru Nov 8 | 11:15am | Summit Room
Sharing the Big Story of the gospel doesn't have to be big and scary. Come be equipped with simple, practical skills for sharing the love of Christ with others in a way that aligns with how God created you. Learn more: sharing.mdpc.org

Third-Grade Bibles
Sun, Nov 1 | 12:30–2pm
All third graders are invited to attend this special Bible Retreat where kids will learn how to navigate the Bible, explore the history and overview of the books of the Bible, and gain confidence and excitement to dig into God's Word. Learn more and sign up: tgb.mdpc.org

Soup Squad
Tue, Nov 10 | 9:30am-1:30pm
Join Women's Ministry at the Beacon Homeless Ministry Food Pantry as we serve lunch to our neighbors experiencing homelessness in downtown Houston. Come make a difference through compassionate service and fellowship! Learn more and register: soupsquad.mdpc.org

Veterans Coffee & Connection
Wed, Nov 11 | 9:30-11:30am | Parlor
Come enjoy refreshments and a devotional by Pastor Alf while connecting with other Veterans. All veterans are welcome, you do not need to be a church member to attend!





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

8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Dan Aikins

*Songs of Praise — *Your Grace Is Enough* | *O Praise the Name (Anastasis)*

Confession & Assurance — Matthew Adair

Song of Response — *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Introduction of New Covenant Partners — Dan Aikins

Worship Songs — *As the Deer* | *I Love You, Lord*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Integrity in the House** (Acts 5:1-14) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

Offertory — *So Much*

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

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

9:30 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship — Meliza Gómez

*Songs of Praise — *Praise* | *O Praise the Name (Anastasis)*

Confession & Assurance — Matthew Adair

Worship Songs — *The Joy* | *Worthy Is Your Name*

HEARING THE WORD

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Integrity in the House** (Acts 5:1-14) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

Offertory — *So Much*

Call to Respond — Dan Aikins

Introduction of New Covenant Partners

Congregational Response & Prayer

SENDING

*Benediction — Alf Halvorson

Blended and Contemporary Worship Leaders
MDPC Worship Team: Uvaldo Callejas, David Cavazos, Asher Pudlo, Will Story
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*Please stand, if comfortable.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude — *Voluntary on Old 100th* — Purcell/arr. Corley

Call to Worship — Beth Case

Choral Introit — *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* — arr. Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*Hymn of Praise — *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* | Vs. 1, 3, 4 — #138 | Nicaea

*Confession and Assurance of Pardon — Beth Case

*Affirmation of Faith from New City Catechism

*Congregational Response — *I Am Thine, O Lord* | Vs. 1, 2 — #159 | I Am Thine from The Methodist Hymnal

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation — *To the Lamb on the Throne* — Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Message — **Interrupted & Sent: The Church Before the Building Integrity in the House** (Acts 5:1-14) — Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response — *Take My Life* | Vs. 1, 4 — #391 | Hendon

Call to Respond — Beth Case

Offertory — *O Clap Your Hands* — Ralph V. Williams (1872-1958)

Introduction of New Covenant Partners

Congregational Response & Prayer

SENDING

*Benediction

Postlude — *Gavotte* — William Boyce (1710-1779)

Traditional Worship Leaders
Sanctuary Choir | Kathryn White, Organist | John Parker, Chris Boulais, trumpet; Deborah Harvey, French horn; Rick White, trombone; Daniel Padilla, tuba; Julio Sanchez, timpani
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director

*Please stand, if comfortable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covenant Sunday, Nov 1

The 2027 Covenant packet, including a letter from Alf and pledge card, has been mailed to homes. We invite you to prayerfully begin considering your support of ministry in the coming year.

Stay Plugged In

Sign up to receive our weekly email with Sunday details and upcoming events, and download the MDPC app for sermons, registrations, and more, right in your pocket! Scan the QR code 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 Oct 11, 2026

2026 Annual Budget	$ 14,728,728
Actual Income to Date	10,115,870
Needed to Meet 2026 Budget	4,612,858

SERMON NOTES | Acts 5:1-14 NRSV

Sun, Oct 18, 2026

Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

Acts 5 is a difficult story, but it invites us to consider what kind of people the Holy Spirit is forming us to be. Last week, we saw threats from outside to the early church; today, we encounter a major internal threat to the church's health and witness. As you discuss, resist the temptation to focus only on the judgment of Ananias and Sapphira. Consider instead the holiness of God's presence, the burden of spiritual pretense, and the freedom Christ gives us to live truthfully—fully known, fully loved, and increasingly undivided.

1. What most disturbs or surprises you in Acts 5:1–14? What does this passage reveal about both the holiness of God and the life of the early church?

2. Ananias and Sapphira did not lie about giving nothing; they lied about giving everything. Why is the desire to appear more faithful, generous, or surrendered than we really are so spiritually dangerous? What harm can unchecked spiritual pretense do to a person and to the church?

3. How is our witness—individually and as a church—compromised when our public image and our actual life do not match? Where have you seen honesty strengthen the credibility of a Christian or a church?

4. Where do you feel pressure to manage an image or present a carefully edited version of yourself? What fears tend to keep that pretense in place?

5. My sermon suggests, "The opposite of hypocrisy is not perfection; it is honesty before God and others." How do Christ's forgiveness and our secure identity in Him free us to tell the truth about ourselves?

6. What practices could help our church or group become a community where confession is safer than pretending and grace is stronger than shame? Without sharing anything that would be unwise or unsafe to disclose in the group, what is one faithful step toward greater honesty that you can take this week? And if there are deeper secrets that need to be confronted, who is a trusted pastor, counselor, or mature Christian you could speak with privately?