

Covenant Sunday, November 5, 2017



Generous Hearts, Hands, Home.

*Please stand if able.

8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

CCLI # 182374

WELCOME Rachel Poysky (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)

***WORSHIP MUSIC**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Trevor Harris (8:30), Kyle Collins (9:45)

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

MESSAGE **Generous Home** (1 Chronicles 29:10-17) Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

SONG OF CELEBRATION

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Musicians in these services: Arthur Ceker and Gisele Duque, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Daniel Martinez, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE *Church Sonata No. 9* W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP Rachel Poysky

CHORAL INTROIT *Praise* Alec Rowley (1892-1958)

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* #263; Vs. 1, 2, 3 | ST. DENIO

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *The Gloria Patri* Hymn #579

OFFERTORY *Sing to God (from The Creation)* Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

MESSAGE **Generous Home** (1 Chronicles 29:10-17) Alf Halvorson

RENEWING MY PERSONAL COVENANT WITH GOD

ANTHEM OF DEDICATION *The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* Tom Fetke (b. 1951)/arr. White

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German (b. 1954)

Musicians in this service: Miriam Belyatsky, Rasa Kalesnykaite, violinists • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organ/piano



Give Thanksgiving in a Bag

Share Christ's love with a Spring Branch family in need. Simply pick up one of the grocery bags being distributed today, fill it from the provided list of food products, and drop it off at MDPC by next Sunday.

We have 1,000 bags to fill this year - it's the most we've ever had, so we need your help!

More info & the shopping list: thanks.mdpc.org

Thank you for helping a neighbor celebrate Thanksgiving.

**HUNGER
INITIATIVE**
FIGHTING CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN HOUSTON



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To fight this crime, we've got to pull it out of the shadows...

JUSTICE INITIATIVE

November 14 at MDPC
justice.mdpc.org

All-Church Lunch Is Today

After today's services, fortify your soul with favorites like pineapple-glazed ham, fried chicken, and mac & cheese. Everyone's welcome!

11:00 AM-1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall | \$10/adult, \$4/child
More great stuff from MDPC Food Services: food.mdpc.org

Christmas for Kids

MDPC Women are partnering with Small Steps Nurturing Center to help siblings of children in their program have a fun Christmas. We have 160 children to "adopt" this year! The suggested total donation is \$75-\$125, but purchase according to your budget.

Pick up a child's wish list at our table this morning.

Wrapped gifts due to MDPC by December 1.

Contact Amanda Grace: acaldwell@mdpc.org

New Member Class Series begins Today

If you're interested in membership or in becoming a Christian, our pastors would love to meet you and discuss your questions! Classes are taught by our Pastors and Elders, and include a Saturday service project.

Sundays thru Dec. 10 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | Parlor

Registration: membership.mdpc.org

Kids' Meals Monthly Service Project

In Houston, one in four preschool children goes to bed hungry - you can make a difference! Give one hour of your time, bring FOUR loaves of bread per sandwich-maker, and make sandwiches for Kids' Meals.

Wednesday, Nov. 8 | 4:30-6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Contact Julie with questions: hempeljulie@gmail.com

Blood Drive

If you pre-register at giveblood.org, it helps plan technician staffing - but walk-ins are welcome!

Sunday, Nov. 12 | 8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Pie Love You

MDPC Women are teaming up with Ecclesia to support Jesus Said Love, an organization that shares the revolutionary love of Christ with women in the commercial sex industry. We'll visit local businesses to gift workers with the pies and for a member of JSJ to share about the love of Jesus. Here's how you can help:

Next Sunday, Nov. 12: Bring donations of canned pumpkin pie mix, 5-ounce cans of evaporated milk, metal pie pans, and cash (for eggs and crusts).

Friday, Nov. 17, 10:00 AM-Noon: Help assemble pies!

Details: pies.mdpc.org

Lion Movie Showing

Join Pastor Alf and the Safe Haven Foster Care & Adoption Ministry for a viewing and discussion of the Academy Award-nominated movie *Lion*.

Monday, Nov. 13 | 6:00-8:30 PM | Amphitheater

Free childcare available by reservation! Contact 713-490-9266 or childcare@mdpc.org to request childcare.

Human Trafficking Evening of Education

To begin fighting this insidious crime, we must first educate ourselves. A victim will share her story, and speakers include Children at Risk's staff attorney; a Houston-area anti-trafficking advocate; and commander of HPD's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

Tuesday, Nov. 14 | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

justice.mdpc.org

Pastor-led Study: Lunch or Dinner w/Calvin

Calvinism at the Airport will encourage you to live every aspect of life - business, family, education, politics, activities, and more - before the face of a generous, sovereign God. Does Calvinism have anything to do with the 21st Century? Let's find out together.

Wednesdays, thru Nov. 15 | Two time options!

11:45 AM-1:00 PM | Ciro's Restaurant

6:30-7:30 PM | Chapel

Details: airport.mdpc.org

Holiday Craft Sale

Find lovely hand-made gifts and decorations, like Christmas wall hangings, tree skirts, casserole caddies, fleece coverlets, and wired pumpkins! Pendants in agate, tiger eye, and jasper make great stocking stuffers. All proceeds support Sewing for Missions.

Nov. 15, 5:00-8:00 PM & Nov. 16, 9:00 AM-1:30 PM

Details and item list: crafts.mdpc.org

Women's Spiritual Retreat

Connect with Jesus and others at a beautiful ranch getaway. Enjoy one-on-one time with God, fellowship, or a long walk in the country. Courtney Strong and Amanda Grace will share the story of Esther and how we as women are raised up for "such a time as this."

Saturday, Nov. 18 | 9:00 AM-4:00 PM | Brenham, TX

Details and registration: brenham.mdpc.org

Bless Friday 2017 Registration Open!

This year, Bless Friday is supporting MDPC's Hunger Initiative fighting hunger in Houston. Sign up to serve lunch at one of three local ministry partners, or round up your family and friends for an at-home service project benefiting Kids' Meals and MDPC's Food Pantry.

Friday, Nov. 24 | At-home, or out in our community

Details and registration: blessfriday.mdpc.org

Pastor Rick Myers Is Retiring :(

We'll celebrate our faithful, beloved, 12-year Caring Ministries Pastor at a special All-Church Lunch in one month. Join us as we send Rick off with a look back at his wonderful ministry at MDPC while enjoying *A Few of Rick's Favorite Things*.

All-Church Lunch will be served at its usual time of 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Visit the link below to see the menu.

Sunday, December 3 | 12:45-1:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

To help us plan, please RSVP: myers.mdpc.org

Pray With Us: MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, please pray for these partners MDPC assists with your support:

Small Steps Nurturing Center early childhood program fosters the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of children from low-income families. Its two locations in Houston's First and Fifth Wards provide education, nutritious meals, and social and emotional therapy to 180 at-risk inner-city children.

ssnc.org

Souper Bowl of Caring is a global youth-led mission that raises money for people who are hungry and hurting. A Houston citywide food drive is held every February. Since 1990, hundreds of thousands of young people have experienced the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

souperbowl.org

Light of Hope Ministry in Ethiopia builds village schools and literacy programs, translates the Bible into local dialects, and has a vision of a teaching hospital. It is bringing the Good News of God's love, expressed in the life and death of Jesus, to the Muslim people groups of Ethiopia, beginning with the Arssi Oromo people both in Ethiopia and North America.

pff.net

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 6,959,930
Actual Income to Date (Oct. 29, 2017)	\$ 6,644,731
Current Income Deficit	\$ 315,199
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 4,755,269
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 731,318



Loving God. Proclaiming Christ. Living Generously. Engaging All.

11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, Texas 77024 | mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

Covenant Sunday, November 5, 2017

Generosity Session III

Learning How to Trust

*Read Genesis 14:17-20,
Leviticus 27:30-33,
Malachi 3:6-12,
Acts 2:42-47*

In a materialistic society such as ours, all of us are tempted to put our trust in things that are tangible. The only problem is that tangible things do not ultimately fulfill us.

We are made with a God-shaped void within us, and it is only the presence of God that can bring meaning and value to our lives. As we begin this lesson, let's take the pulse of our own lives and see to what degree we have been influenced by our materialistic society:

Personal Reflection Questions

- Is bill paying ever a stressful time for you and the members of your family?
- Do you ever compare what you have with what other people have? That is, do you ever compare the car you drive, the home you live in, the furniture you have, your clothing, etc. with that of other people?
- Have you ever equated your value as a person with all the things you have? Have you sometimes felt worthless as a person because you don't have something that another person has?
- When you have experienced a deep disappointment or hurt in your life, do you ever have the tendency to go to the shopping mall or a favorite store and buy yourself a new outfit or some material item as a way of soothing your soul in this time of disappointment?
- Do you ever lose sleep worrying about how you're going to pay for something?

If you answered "yes" to one or more of these questions, you have at least partially bought into the value system of our materialistic society. God wants to teach us to trust Him. He wants us to learn how to put our trust in Him as the Sustainer and Redeemer of life. Just as most of us do not dive into the ocean when the water is cold, we also do not rush into relationships. We tend to tiptoe into the ocean and also into human relationships. In the same way, we grow gradually into a relationship with God. Very few of us rush into a relationship with God because it seems frightening to us.

One of the ways that God teaches us to trust Him is in dealing with our possessions. Throughout the Old Testament, God taught the people of Israel to give the first fruits of their crops to Him. As people lived off the land, the Israelites struggled with this concept. They said, "We don't want to give away the first fruits. What if we give them and the second or third fruits are spoiled? Let's see how the fruits come out and then we will give what we can later."

God was trying to teach the people of Israel to make Him #1 in their lives. Throughout the Old Testament, the people are charged to give a percentage of their crops and money to God as a faithful response to His love. God's representatives challenged the people to give one-tenth of all that they had to God in gratitude for His graciousness in their lives. And they were to give their tithe first as a sign that they loved God and He was their highest priority.

The percentage-gift was not given because God owns 10% or 5% or 1% of all that we have. We learned in Session II that God owns everything. The gist of



a set percentage reminded the people in a very tangible way that God owns it all. We shouldn't ask the question, "How much of my money should I give to the church?" Rather, we should ask, "How should I use the money that God has entrusted to my care? How do we respond to God's grace?" A percentage gift is a discipline of obedience in response to a God who wants us. A percentage gift is a tangible way of worshiping God and making God the #1 priority in life. A percentage gift gets us away from deciding what we should give when we go to church. It is a joyous discipline that truly teaches us to place our trust in God and not in material possessions.

Christians in the early church often went beyond the legalism of the tithe to radical generosity. In gratitude to God for the gift of forgiveness and eternal life, many Christians shared all they had with one another. That is what was happening in Acts 2:42-47. The question is not how much we give – the question is the spirit in which we give. Is the gift a grateful response to God's grace and a sign of putting our trust in God? If so, then we are learning the lessons of trust that God wants to teach us. Are you willing to consider a step of faith today? Are you willing to become a percentage giver?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Read Luke 21:1-3 (The Widow's Offering). After reading this story, ask yourself, "What is the meaning of this story for our lives in 2017? What can we learn from the story about the attitude in which gifts are given to God? What does the story teach us about trust? Read Luke 12:13-21 and contrast the attitude of the "rich fool" with the widow.
2. What barriers do you have to overcome in your life to become a percentage giver? What fears do you have as you think about it?
3. What barriers do you have to overcome to write the check to MDPC or other Christian organizations first when you pay your bills?
4. If you were to become an individual who trusted God more faithfully, what impact do you think this would have in the way you live your life, and in the way you feel about yourself, others, and God? Would you like to trust God with more of your life? Why or why not?
5. One-third of all the parables in the New Testament teach about money. One out of every six verses in the New Testament deals with money. Why do you think Jesus and Paul spent so much time teaching about the proper use of money? Why did Jesus say that it is difficult for rich people to enter the Kingdom of heaven? (See Matthew 19:16-30. Focus on verses 23-26.)

