

Congregational Meeting

The Session of MDPC has called a congregational meeting for the purpose of approving revised bylaws for MDPC. Next Sunday in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, March 24 | Following 9:45 AM Worship
View the bylaw revisions at bylaws.mdpc.org.

40 Days of Prayer

The season of Lent is an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and deepen your commitment to Jesus Christ. The world in which we live is busy; we find ourselves busy. But during Lent we are encouraged to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. With His passion, His death, His resurrection in mind, we pray more deeply, sorrow more honestly, rejoice more freely, and give more readily!

What might you do, during Lent, to increase your awareness of God's love in Christ for you? You might add a rhythm of Scripture reading, or subtract your intake of chocolate. Or, perhaps consider adding prayer... This year, we are offering 40 Days of Prayer: 1-2 sentences of prayer, many drawn from Scripture and often coinciding with Pastor Alf's Lenten sermon series or Pastor Clay's Lenten Scripture study.

To enrich your Lenten prayer life in this way, follow MDPC on Instagram (instagram.mdpc.org) or Facebook (facebook.mdpc.org).

Easter Lily Ordering Open

Dedications in memory of and/or in honor of those close to us may be purchased online or in person at the Front Office or Sanctuary.

Deadline: Thursday, April 11
flowers.mdpc.org

Men's Retreat 2019: Trust or Rust

What happens when you mix an amazing ranch in nearby Fayetteville, TX with live music, outdoor games, fishing, great food, and an entertaining speaker? A life-changing weekend! Grab this chance to get away from the rat race and focus on fun, fellowship, and a closer walk with Christ.

Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14 | \$150 | Lazy A Ranch
Details and registration: mensretreat.mdpc.org

Prayer & Worship for Jesus Said Love

Men, women, and teens are invited to join us in an evening of worship and prayer to send out the Jesus Said Love team into the city's men's clubs. JSL shares the revolutionary love of Christ with women in the commercial sex industry. We look forward to interceding alongside you for the sake of these exploited women!

Friday, March 22 | 8:30-9:30 PM | Amphitheater
With questions, or to join the prayer chain covering 9:30 PM-2:30 AM when the team is out ministering, email Amanda Grace Caldwell at acaldwell@mdpc.org.

"Heights" Meet & Greet

Are you an MDPC'er in the Greater Heights area (Washington Corridor, Oak Forest, Carden Oaks, Montrose, Mid-Town, etc.)? Meet with others who call MDPC home in a smaller setting, and invite friends to an intergenerational neighborhood meet 'n greet.

Saturday, March 30 | 4:00-6:00 PM
Cedar Creek (1034 W 20th St, 77008)
RSVP to Christyn Knoop: cknoop@mdpc.org

Vision Trip to Central Asia

Sean and Bethany Walker are leading The Antioch Partners' (TAP) vision trip to Central Asia. They lived there for 11 years so they know the area and people well! This is a great opportunity to see what God is doing in the world and learn how TAP partners are serving.

June 15-24 (extended trip option through 27)
Application and \$250 deposit due April 1

Contact Hope Whitney: admin@theantiochpartners.org

New Member Class

The four-week New Member class series is taught by the Associate Pastors and Elders, and includes a Saturday service project at one of the organizations supported by MDPC.

Sundays, April 7-May 5 | Parlor | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM
(No class Easter Sunday, April 21)
Register: membership.mdpc.org

Save the Dates: Alpha

Who will you invite?

Tuesdays, April 23-June 11 | 6:30-8:15 PM | MDPC
alpha.mdpc.org

Today's Chancel Flowers are given by:

• Gayle Adamson, in loving memory of Olga and Burton Ostrander.

This week's Ministry Partner prayer focus is on:

Casa El Buen Samaritano shares the love of Jesus Christ while providing whole-person (body, soul, and spirit) healthcare to low-income and uninsured Houstonians. Volunteer nurses and doctors treat patients for a number of general health issues, including women's health, diabetes, and hypertension.

casaelbuen.org

Child Advocates mobilizes court-appointed volunteers to break the vicious cycle of child abuse. Its volunteers speak up for abused children in Harris County who are lost in the system, and guide them into safe environments where the children can thrive.

childadvocates.org

MDPC Field Partners Alyssa and Joe live and work among high caste Hindus in South Asia. Through developing relationships with college students and young professionals, their aim is to start ongoing house churches amongst families. Their prayer is for India to be revolutionized by the gospel from the highest caste to the most forgotten street children.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2019 Operating Budget	\$12,240,000
Actual Income to Date (3/10/19)	\$1,882,773
Needed to Meet 2019 Budget	\$10,357,227



Sunday, March 17, 2019

REFLECT

Take up your cross and follow Me.

EXODUS 20:1-17 • 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25
Alf Halvorson preaching

8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME		Christyn Knoop
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON		Rachel Poysky
SONG OF PREPARATION		
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
MESSAGE	REFLECT Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
BENEDICTION		

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP		
MOMENT OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Trevor Harris
MESSAGE	REFLECT Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
GIFTS OF GRATITUDE		
BENEDICTION		

Musicians in the first two services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders; Daniel Amaya, bass; George Heathco, guitar; Daniel Martinez, keys; Asher Pudlo, drums

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

PRELUDE	<i>Midnight Cry</i>	Chuck Day; Greg Day
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Christyn Knoop
CHORAL INTROIT	<i>Holy Ground</i>	arr. Clayton White (b. 1941)
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>The Old Rugged Cross</i>	Vs. 1, 2 OLD RUGGED CROSS
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Rachel Poysky
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FROM ROMANS 8		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	#280; Vs. 1, 4
ANTHEM	<i>Praise His Holy Name</i>	Keith Hampton (b. 1957)
OFFERTORY	<i>Lay Aside Every Weight</i>	Glenn Burleigh (1949-2007)
MESSAGE	REFLECT Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)	Alf Halvorson
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Rock of Ages</i>	Vs. 1, 4 TOPLADY
POSTLUDE	<i>Lay Aside Every Weight reprise</i>	

Musicians in this service: Rodney Sharp, prelude soloist; Jason Amos, introit soloist; Charles Hausmann, conductor; Julio Sanchez, percussion; Kathryn White, piano/organ; Sanctuary Choir

* Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374



THURSDAY



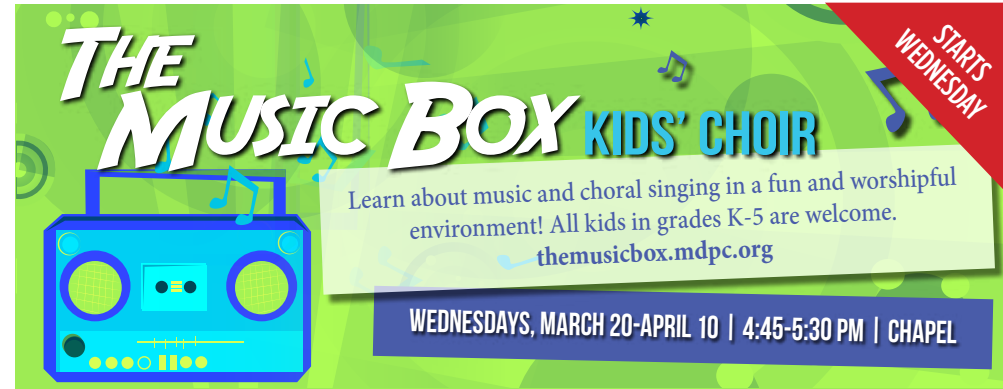
More than just an evening of listening! You'll leave with practical tools to share your faith.

Finding Delight in Spiritual Conversations

Drawing on 25 years of parachurch and church ministry, ECO pastor and award-winning author, Don Everts, will use original research from Barna and a simple Bible-based conversation model to help all of us re-discover the delight of spiritual conversations.

Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 PM

MDPC Fellowship Hall • Light refreshments • speakers.mdpc.org



THE MUSIC BOX KIDS' CHOIR

Learn about music and choral singing in a fun and worshipful environment! All kids in grades K-5 are welcome.
themusicbox.mdpc.org

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 20-APRIL 10 | 4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL

STARTS WEDNESDAY



THE WELL
SPECIAL EDITION

"EVEN IF"

We will have the honor of hearing from Nancy Mavergeorge and how her family is living proof that God can meet us in our deepest sorrow and bring joy into our sad hearts.

WEDS, MARCH 27 • 6:30-8:00 PM • CHAPEL

Come at 6:00 for light refreshments. Please RSVP:

THEWELL.MDPC.ORG



Night of Worship & Prayer

Friday, March 22 | 8:30-9:30 PM

Details on the back of this bulletin.



REACH Recreation Ministry

Fun camps and classes all summer long! For children, youth, and adults...

Explore classes & register:

reach.mdpc.org



Join Pastor Alf for a casual conversation about MDPC and its ministries. No commitment required! It's an engaging opportunity to explore what it would mean to be part of our faith community.

Sunday, March 31 | 10:45-11:10 AM | Gathering Room

membership.mdpc.org

DISCOVER MDPC



FAMILY MISSION DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
10:30 AM-2:30 PM

Families with kindergarten kids & older, we need you! We're putting on a carnival for children involved in MDPC Special Blessings and Safe Haven ministries. Come serve with other MDPC families at this fun, faith-building way to teach your kids about the importance of service.

Register today:
FAMILYMISSION.MDPC.ORG



SAFE HAVEN CONFERENCE

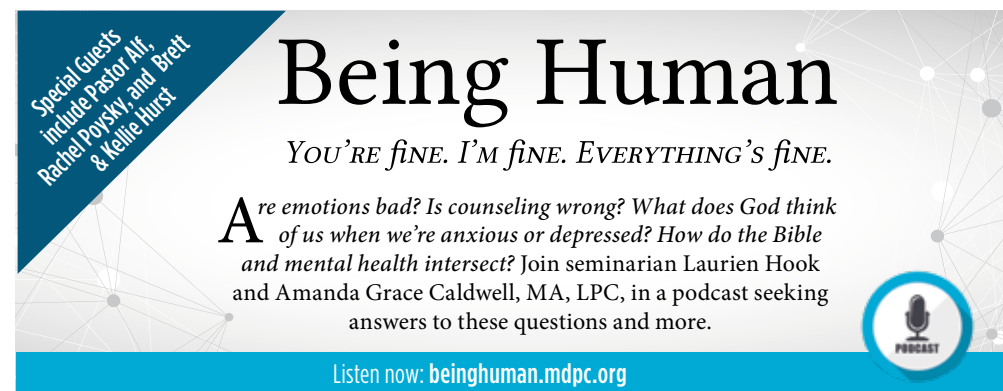
All members of the foster care & adoption community are invited to join us for Safe Haven Conference 2019!

Hear from mental health experts, ministry leaders, and foster care/adoption professionals as we seek to educate, encourage, and empower our community.

Saturday, April 27, 2019

8:00 AM-12:00 PM • MDPC Amphitheater • \$10

See speakers and register: safehavencon.mdpc.org



Being Human

YOU'RE FINE. I'M FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE.

Are emotions bad? Is counseling wrong? What does God think of us when we're anxious or depressed? How do the Bible and mental health intersect? Join seminarian Laurien Hook and Amanda Grace Caldwell, MA, LPC, in a podcast seeking answers to these questions and more.

Special Guests
include Pastor Alf,
Rachel Poyosky, and Brett
& Kellie Hurst

Listen now: beinghuman.mdpc.org



These notes come from MDPC's 2019 Lenten Study. Visit reflect.mdpc.org to learn more. It is recommended to read both translations (ESV & NLT) of each scripture passage.

REFLECT

Take up your cross and follow Me.

Week 2: Ex. 20:1-17; 1 Cor. 1:18-25 (ESV & NLT)

When we were children, adults often asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up. Answers varied from astronaut to artist to superhero to veterinarian and everything in between. Interestingly, many of us can trace our current professions to some sort of childhood play we loved and engaged in often when we were younger. Did any of us ever say we wanted to be one of Jesus' disciples? Arguably being a Jesus follower has been the most important and life changing vocation we have pursued. And yet, compared to our professional vocations, most of our training to become a disciple has been much less formal.

The word "vocation" comes from Latin "vocare," which means "to call." So *vocation*, from the Christian perspective, is God calling His followers to partner with Him in the work He is doing. How has God been inviting you to partner with Him lately? Have you heard His call? Through this week's Scripture passages and the discussions shared by your covenant community, listen for God's voice to you. Trust that He is speaking to you and wants you to hear His voice through His written word, through this community of friends, through your prayers.

Introducing: Getting Ready to Discuss the Passage

- Share a brief amusing story of a time you broke one of the Ten Commandments as a child. What were the circumstances? What were the repercussions? How did you make amends?
- What are the wisest and the most foolish pieces of advice you've ever received?

Discovering: What the Passages Say

- Read aloud and compare the two translations above. What jumps out as you read them? Similarities? Differences? Overlaps? Things to pursue?
- Briefly describe how it came to be that God's people were living in Egypt and how they had become slaves. How did God rescue them? (See Exodus 6-14 to be reminded.)
- Read Exodus 19:1-7. What does God tell Moses will happen if the Israelites fully keep God's covenant? What is their response?
- Read Exodus 19:10-14. How are the people to prepare themselves for the receiving of the Ten Commandments? What were some of the ways that even Creation itself prepared for this event?
- The Ten Commandments can be divided neatly into two groups. Who is the focus of the first four? Who is the focus of the second six? What five or six things come to mind that are significant about these commandments? What is noteworthy that the first four commandments address idolatry?
- Paul wrote letters to the church in Corinth because it was experiencing quarrels and divisions about various issues. Using 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, what does Paul suggest is a possible source of these arguments?
- What does Paul say about the foolishness of the cross? Why is the cross foolishness to Gentiles? How is it a stumbling block for the Jews?

Exploring: What the Passages Mean

- Share what you know about various covenants found in the Bible. How has God already revealed He is a worthy covenant partner?
- Exodus 19 informs us God was creating a new relationship with the Israelites. How do the commandments guide, prepare, and shape them to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation? What is God's purpose for His people in this endeavor? How would these efforts make them His treasured possession?
- What would be three or four reasons for having rules and responsibilities for the Israelites to follow in order to have this covenant relationship with God?
- Even though the commandments are written as "you shall not," how can they be seen in a positive light?
- In what ways would preaching Christ crucified appear foolish? In the world's wisdom, what would be a better way to preach Christ?
- Last week we saw Peter struggle when Jesus told the disciples He would have to suffer and die. What are ways Jesus' crucifixion has been a difficult concept to accept, for both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles)? Today, what are ways people use the crucifixion as a reason for not following Jesus?
- How is Christ both the power of God and the wisdom of God? What makes Christ crucified both wise and powerful?

Applying: Wrestling with the Implications for Our Lives

- Please read aloud the following Scripture passages: Isaiah 49:6-7; Isaiah 60:1-3; Luke 2:32; Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 13:47; Acts 26:23; 1 Peter 2:4-9; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 21:22-27. What are 2-3 reoccurring themes, repeated phrases, similar ideas addressed in all these passages?
- Starting with the Old Testament passages, what is the progression of how the light came into the world?
OT _____
NT _____
Us _____
- God has always been at work and has always called us to partner with Him in His Kingdom work. Who comes to mind as the OT characters who partnered with God? Who are NT characters? How do their stories inform us today in our discipleship journey? What are the implications of both their failures and success in our stories of discipleship today?
- N. T. Wright comments in his book, *The Day the Revolution Began*, "Mission... is the Spirit-driven, cross-shaped work of Jesus' followers as they worship the true God and, confronting idols with the news of Jesus' victory, work for the signs of his kingdom in human lives and institutions." How do these truths change the way you think of discipleship? What are 1 or 2 ways you sense God's call in your life? What are your first steps?

