

**Tech Check**

Parents, volunteers, and anyone who cares deeply about young lives: Youth and Children's Ministries want to equip you to guide, protect, and nurture your kids in an increasingly digital world. So we are excited to bring Tommy McGregor to MDPC! He will share tools and resources to help you navigate obstacles related to smartphones and social media.

**Sunday, Sept 29 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | CLC 171/172**  
[techcheck.mdpc.org](http://techcheck.mdpc.org)

**Meet Our Extraordinary Partners**

Mark your calendars for Outreach Sunday next weekend! MDPC's local and global mission partners will join us for worship in the 9:45 and 11:15 services where we will celebrate and pray for them. Drop by the Sanctuary Lobby before and after worship to welcome them and let them know how glad we are to have them here!  
**Next Sunday, September 29**

**"The Big Ten" Bible Study**

Taught by pastors Beth Case, Rachel Poysky, and Clay Brown. Not to be confused with the start of college football! This "Big Ten" walks us through the Ten Commandments and reveals their continuing insight for today's world. No homework or pre-registration. Tuesday Morning Bible Study is back!

**Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 AM | MC 122 (Near the Nook)**

**Download the New MDPC App**

We've created a powerful new mobile app, with all the features you enjoyed in the former app, PLUS expanded features in the area of event info and easy registration, group communication, personalized notifications, check-in, and so much more!  
*For download links and additional details, visit [app.mdpc.org](http://app.mdpc.org).*

**Young Adult Fall Retreat**

Join our community of Young Adults as we retreat from the city to enjoy the tranquility of the country. This is for you if you are looking for a chance to breathe and relax and experience the glory of the Lord with great friends. We leave Friday after work and get back around lunch time Sunday. Food and room provided!

**November 2-4 | Montgomery, TX**

**\$145 for a bunk | \$85 for campers**

Register: [yaretreat.mdpc.org](http://yaretreat.mdpc.org)

**WEEKLY MINISTRY PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS**

**Piney Point Elementary:** MDPC partners with the children and staff of this local school through daily programs that include reading with second graders, teacher projects, staff appreciation events, outreach workdays at the school, field trips, classroom help, and more. MDPC is considered part of the Piney Point Family! *For details or to get involved, contact Judy Hartman ([judyehart@gmail.com](mailto:judyehart@gmail.com)) or Chris Gehrman ([chrishgehrman@gmail.com](mailto:chrishgehrman@gmail.com)).*

**Prayers of the People**, which began at MDPC in 1974 as POPS Ministry, visits patients in the Medical Center and hospitals throughout greater Houston. The volunteers purpose in visiting is to listen, offer comfort and support, and affirm God's loving, healing presence. [popministry.org](http://popministry.org)

**MDPC Field Partner Rev. Kristin Huffman** serves with Frontier Fellowship, engaging in ministry to reach the unreached. She is working to mobilize churches in San Antonio and Houston (and anywhere else she is called to go) and with Fuller Seminary to offer a discipleship/mission program for young adults from across the U.S. It will focus on spiritual formation, vocational discernment, and the call to the unreached, both in the U.S. and across the world. [frontierfellowship.com](http://frontierfellowship.com)

**Youth Confirmation**

Our yearly program for all students currently in 8th grade or above. Join us for a time of focusing on what it means to follow Jesus and be part of His Church.

**Kick-off: Sunday Evening, January 5, 2020**

**Sundays, January 12-March 1 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM**

**Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, March 8**

Register: [confirmation.mdpc.org](http://confirmation.mdpc.org)

*\$125 fee covers Confirmation Retreat expenses.*

**Houston City-Wide Prayer for Freedom**

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something." Join us to stand together in the fight against the sexual trafficking of our youth! Hosted by Street Grace, a ministry brought to Texas by MDPC's Justice Initiative ([justice.mdpc.org](http://justice.mdpc.org)).

**Sunday, October 6 | 6:00-7:30 PM**

**Christ Evangelical Presbyterian (8300 Katy Fwy)**

Contact: [kathy@streetgrace.org](mailto:kathy@streetgrace.org)

**The Well Speaker Series for Women: "It's Not Supposed to Be This Way"**

Has life gone differently than expected? Have you wrestled with envy, contentment, joy? Join us at The Well, our semi-annual gathering for women of all ages and life stages to commune and connect. This fall, we have the honor of hearing from Teri Adair, Meliza Gómez, Debbi Nager, and Rachel Poysky.

**Wednesday, October 9 | 6:30-8:00 PM | Chapel**

**Light refreshments at 6:00 PM | Parlor**

*We sure hope you'll join us. To help us prepare for the evening, please RSVP at [thewell.mdpc.org](http://thewell.mdpc.org).*

**Concert Series: Hymn Festival**

*All the Hymns You Love* performed by the MDPC Sanctuary Choir conducted by Charles Hausmann. Featuring six brass players, timpani, percussion, cello, piano, and organ. Free and open to the public.

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 | 6:00 PM | Sanctuary**

[concerts.mdpc.org](http://concerts.mdpc.org)

**College Ski Trip 2K20**

Start 2020 with a memorable few days tearing up the Colorado slopes! Cost includes lodging, meals on non-travel days, lift tickets, and ski/board rentals.

**Saturday-Thursday, January 4-9**

**\$595 (\$200 deposit due Dec 1, balance by Dec 20)**

Learn more: [collegeskitrip.mdpc.org](http://collegeskitrip.mdpc.org)

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

at 9/15/19

2019 Annual Budget \$12,240,000

Actual Income to Date \$6,638,307

**Needed to Meet Budget \$5,601,693**

Sunday, September 22, 2019



# INTO THE MARGINS

## THE PARABLES OF LUKE

**The Persistent Friend**  
Luke 11:5-13  
**Alf Halvorson preaching**

**Note: If you are looking for the sermon, it can always be found here at the top of the page.**

**The Persistent Friend (Luke 11:5-13 NRSV)**

<sup>5</sup> And He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

**8:30 AM BLENDED & 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY****PRAISE & WORSHIP • CONFESSION • MESSAGE • OFFERING**

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

**11:15 AM TRADITIONAL MUSIC**

<b>PRELUDE</b>	<i>Prelude, Fugue and Variation</i>	César Franck (1822-1890)
<b>CHORAL INTROIT</b>	<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	Carl Nygard (b. 1947)
<b>*HYMN OF PRAISE</b>	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	#288; vs. 1, 2, 3   ELLACOMBE
<b>*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE</b>	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
<b>ANTHEM</b>	<i>Sweet RiverS</i>	Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	<i>Give to My Eyes, Lord</i>	Ronald Corp (b. 1951)
<b>*HYMN OF RESPONSE</b>	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	#333; vs. 1, 2   LAFFERTY
<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<i>Meditation</i>	George Dyson (1883-1964)

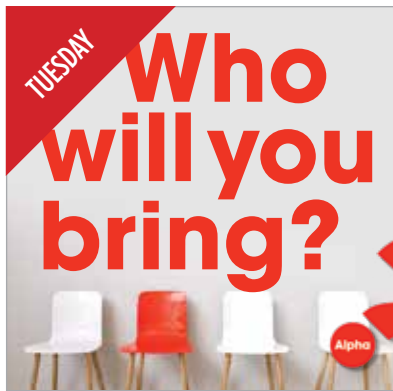
Musicians in this service:

Charles Hausmann, conductor; Kathryn White, organ/piano

**TUESDAY** **Who will you bring?**

Alpha is for Christians and non-Christians. With no question or subject off-limits, it's a comfortable setting to talk about the tough stuff, like doubts or fears or inadequacy. Mark your calendar, and maybe start thinking...who will you bring?

**Tuesdays, Sept. 24 to Nov. 19**  
**6:30-8:15 PM • MDPC**  
**Free dinner, free childcare**  
 Learn more: [alpha.mdpc.org](http://alpha.mdpc.org)



**NEXT SATURDAY!** **NOCHE DE SABOR**

**Saturday, September 28 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

MDPC Hispanic Ministries invites you to its annual celebration of the many traditions and cultures represented here in our church. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

Invite others to this free event: [flavor.mdpc.org](http://flavor.mdpc.org)



**A Fall to Connect**

Ladies, no matter your age, and whether you're new to MDPC or have been here "forever," we're sure you'll find something you'll enjoy. Learn something new, work out your stress, or just make new friends. With morning, lunchtime, and even evening events, there's an something to fit everyone's schedule!

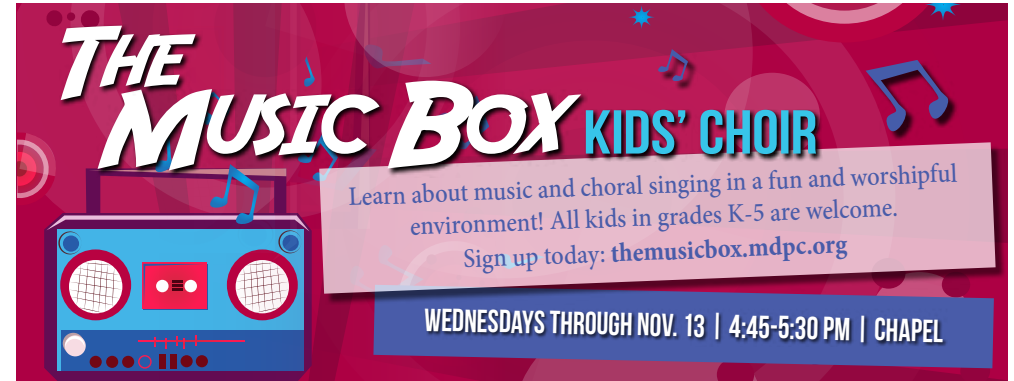
[ftc.mdpc.org](http://ftc.mdpc.org)



**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. Sign up today: [themusicbox.mdpc.org](http://themusicbox.mdpc.org)

**WEDNESDAYS THROUGH NOV. 13 | 4:45-5:30 PM | CHAPEL**



**You can Change the Life of a Child!**

Come to the tables in the Breezeway this morning to learn more about MDPC's mentoring, tutoring, and volunteering programs in three local schools. Find out how you can be the difference in a young student's life!

[change.mdpc.org](http://change.mdpc.org)



**MEN'S LIFE: Man Alive!**

**Tuesdays through December 3**  
 6:30-7:45 AM (Continental Breakfast at 6:00 AM)  
 Learn more and register: [ml.mdpc.org](http://ml.mdpc.org)

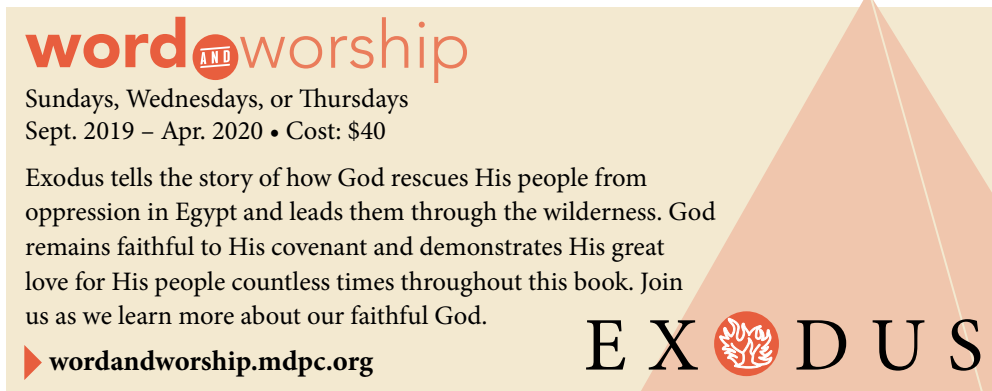


**word AND worship**

Sundays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays  
 Sept. 2019 – Apr. 2020 • Cost: \$40

Exodus tells the story of how God rescues His people from oppression in Egypt and leads them through the wilderness. God remains faithful to His covenant and demonstrates His great love for His people countless times throughout this book. Join us as we learn more about our faithful God.

[wordandworship.mdpc.org](http://wordandworship.mdpc.org) **EXODUS**



**Walking Through Luke with the Pastors**

Stand-alone lessons following the "Transformed by Hope" study. Choose either 9:45 or 11:15 AM, Amphitheater.

**Today:** Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor  
 "Grace and Judgment," Luke 3:1-38

**Next week:** Luke 4:1-13

**Other Opportunities to join Transformed by Hope**

- **9:45 and 11:15 AM:** 15 participating Sunday-morning classes
- **Together in the Word, 9:45 AM, MC 127:** A new in-depth group study. Weekly preparation and readings, registration required. Limited to 18 participants
- **Wednesday Evening Study & Discussion group, 6:30-7:30 PM:** MDPC's Kitchen is open so you can have dinner beforehand! Prices/menus at [food.mdpc.org](http://food.mdpc.org).

**transformed by HOPE**  
 A Study of the Gospel of Luke

Nothing transforms you like studying the words and deeds of Jesus Christ in Scripture! Come grow by exploring the Gospel of Luke.

Learn more at [luke.mdpc.org](http://luke.mdpc.org) or visit one of the classes listed at left.

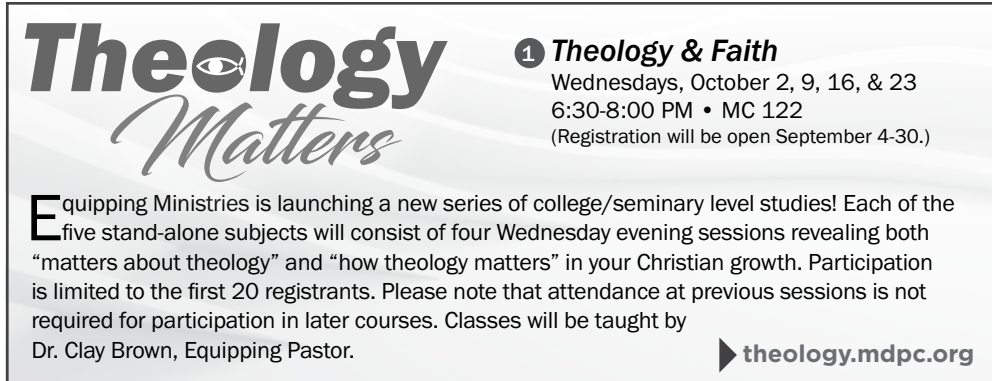


**Theology Matters**

**1 Theology & Faith**  
 Wednesdays, October 2, 9, 16, & 23  
 6:30-8:00 PM • MC 122  
 (Registration will be open September 4-30.)

Equipping Ministries is launching a new series of college/seminary level studies! Each of the five stand-alone subjects will consist of four Wednesday evening sessions revealing both "matters about theology" and "how theology matters" in your Christian growth. Participation is limited to the first 20 registrants. Please note that attendance at previous sessions is not required for participation in later courses. Classes will be taught by Dr. Clay Brown, Equipping Pastor.

[theology.mdpc.org](http://theology.mdpc.org)



**WE GOT YOU, MOM!**

Mothers Of Preschoolers (MOPS) provides a break in the week to relax over breakfast, chat with other moms, and enjoy great content.

**Alternating Thursdays (Next meeting: Sept 26) | 9:30-11:15 AM**

**Evening MOPS**  
 If you're a working mom or evenings better fit your schedule, join us for dinner and meaningful conversations.  
**One Weds Monthly (Next meeting: Oct 16) | 6:00-7:00 PM**  
**Registration for either group: [MOPS.MDPC.ORG](http://MOPS.MDPC.ORG)**

**FREE childcare at both times!**

**TO THE FULL**



# INTO THE MARGINS

## THE PARABLES OF LUKE

### The Persistent Friend

Luke 11:5-13 NRSV | Alf Halvorson preaching

This is the third in our fall series of messages on the Parables from Luke's Gospel. Last week we focused on "The Good Samaritan" and how to *love neighbors as ourselves*. It was a horizontal emphasis on doing, giving, and helping someone in need around us. Today there is a shift to the vertical and teaching on how we are to approach God in prayer. The emphasis is on "*loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind.*" Both the vertical and the horizontal are important in the Christian faith; it is not either/or, but rather both/and. So after Jesus teaches His disciples The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4), He tells a parable to teach them more about prayer, the character of God, and how to ask for what you need from God.

1. Read Luke 11:5-13, first focusing on verses 5-8. There are all sorts of ways in which God is not like a sleepy friend. But Jesus is focusing on only one point of comparison here. What is the comparison we are supposed to grasp?
2. In verse 8, the word in Greek for *persistence* also can be translated *shamelessness*. Why is persistence or shamelessness a quality we are to possess as we pray? Doesn't God already know what we need before we ask? Why do we need to ask in the first place? And why persist in asking, do you think?
3. Verses 9 and 10 have the words *ask*, *seek*, and *knock* as present imperatives; that is, we are to continuously ask, seek, and knock. Jesus promises that if we do, we will receive. Do we always receive what we ask for from God? Can the answer to "Shall I go here?" be "no," or "grow," or "low," or "go"? Discuss.
4. Read verses 11-13 closely. It is an argument from lesser to greater. In other words, *If this is true, how much more will that be the case*. What does Jesus reveal here about the character of God? And how does knowing more and more about the recipient of our prayers affect how we pray and what we ask for from God?
5. Before this study today, what was your definition of prayer? Now, because of Luke 15:5-13, how has your definition changed? Do you view God differently as well? How will these insights change the way you pray this week?

