

Sunday, November 12, 2017



THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF FALSE LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a
Pastor Alf Halvorson preaching

**PARENTS,
PLEASE NOTE:**
TODAY'S SERMON
IS RATED PG-13.

Today's sermon deals with mature subject matter that is not suitable for young children. Following the Offertory, Children's Ministries staff will escort children out of each service to enjoy some fun activities during the sermon time. Parents may pick up children from the Gathering Room in the Sanctuary Lobby.

8:30 AM BLENDED • 9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

- WELCOME Dave Steane (8:30), Worship Team (9:45)
- *SONGS OF PRAISE
- *PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE Dave Steane (8:30), Hillary McMullen (9:45)
- SONG OF RESPONSE
- GIFTS OF GRATITUDE Dave Steane (8:30), Laura Miller (9:45)
- MESSAGE **The Supply and Demand of False Love** Alf Halvorson
- RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • Joe Gavito, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM TRADITIONAL

- PRELUDE *Rhosymedre ("Lovely")* R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
- WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Dave Steane
- CHORAL INTROIT *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven* Carl Freeman
- *HYMN OF PRAISE *God of Grace and God of Glory* #420; Vs. 1, 2 | CWM RHONDDA
- *PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE
- *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Apostles' Creed
- ANTHEM *Peace I Give to You* Craig Courtney (b. 1948)
- OFFERTORY *The Love of God* Dan Forrest (b.1978)
- MESSAGE **The Supply and Demand of False Love** Alf Halvorson
- *HYMN OF RESPONSE *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #298; Vs. 1, 2 | IN BABILONE
- POSTLUDE *God of Grace and God of Glory* arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Bill Lundgren, violinist • Kathryn White, organ/piano

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

Thank you to MDPC member **Hal Lundgren** for today's Veterans Day Tribute in all three services.

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

HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY EVENT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • 7:00-8:30 PM • MDPC SANCTUARY

Join us for an evening to educate and engage our community about Human Trafficking in our own backyard. Expert speakers will define the problems, identify the challenges in fighting it, and share how you can help fight this insidious crime that is infecting our city.

Invite your friends and neighbors to this important event.

Organizations represented: Operation Texas Shield • The Refuge • A 2nd Cup • Freedom Place • The Landing • Free the Captives • Elijah Rising • Rescue Houston • Children at Risk • Houston Police Department (Special Victims Division)

JUSTICE INITIATIVE

JUSTICE.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

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

Treats For Your Feast!

Pies: Pumpkin \$12 • Pecan \$15

Chocolate Chip Cookies: Six for \$6 • Baker's Dozen \$12

Cranberry Bread (with or without pecans) \$6

Thanksgiving order deadline: Thursday, Nov. 16

Pick up Nov. 20-22 • 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Christmas order deadline: Thursday, Dec. 14

Pick up Dec. 19-21 • 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

Order in the kitchen, or at treats.mdpc.org.

Your Covenant with God

If you weren't able to submit a paper covenant card last Sunday, your 2018 pledge can be made online. Visit the link below where you'll find a form to give, and a devotional to help with your prayerful decision.

generosity.mdpc.org

Pastor-led Study: Lunch or Dinner with Calvin

Calvinism at the Airport encourages us to live every aspect of life - business, family, education, politics, activities, and more - before the face of a generous, sovereign God. Pastor Alf leads this Wednesday's study at both times.

Wednesdays, thru Nov. 15 | Two time options:

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

6:30-7:30 PM | MDPC Chapel

Details: airport.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 by reservation: childcare@mdpc.org

Blood Drive Today

A simple and effective way to help post-Harvey rebuilding.
8:00 AM-2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Pie Love You

MDPC Women once again are supporting 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 pies we'll make together at MDPC (see below), and for a member of JSL to share about the love of Jesus. Here's how you can help:

Today: Drop off your ingredient donations at our Breezeway table. We also will gratefully accept cash donations to purchase eggs and crusts.

Friday, Nov. 17 | 9:00 AM-Noon: Help make pies!

Details: pies.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 beloved, 12-year Caring Ministries Pastor with a look back at his ministry at MDPC while enjoying *A Few of Rick's Favorite Things*. Rick's program begins at 12:45; All-Church Lunch will be served at its usual time of 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

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

To see details and the menu, and to RSVP: myers.mdpc.org

Family Christmas Festival: Angels

The evening starts with caroling in the Chapel, then dinner will be offered along with crafts, a hot chocolate bar, a service project, and more. All activities are free; dinner is affordably priced (more info at the link below). Invite your neighbors along - the entire family is welcome!

Sunday, Dec. 3 | 4:15-7:00 PM

angels.mdpc.org

Mission Market: Give a Gift. Change a Life.

When you purchase Mission Market Christmas cards, 100% of the money you give is sent to the MDPC ministry partner of your choice. These partners live out Christ's mission to help the hungry, homeless, and voice-less.

Sundays, Nov. 26-Dec. 17 | Sanctuary Lobby

Contact Jan Roe with questions: jroe@mdpc.org

Pray With Us: MDPC Ministry Partners

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

Spaulding for Children is an adoption, foster care, and post-adoption ministry for children who have endured abuse, neglect, or abandonment. It specializes in placing older children, sibling groups, minority children, and children with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.
spauldingforchildren.org

SIRE Therapeutic Equestrian Center improves quality of life for the disabled through therapeutic horseback riding. Equestrian therapy improves muscle tone, balance, cognitive skills, and feelings of self-reliance and accomplishment. Students benefit socially by developing meaningful relationships with volunteers, and bonding with the horse.
sire-htec.org

Living Water International demonstrates God's love by helping communities across the globe acquire desperately needed clean water. Mission teams work in poor communities to provide a water well and hygiene education, and to share the love of Christ.
water.cc

The White Rose is in memory of

Jack Anderson, who passed away November 1, 2017.

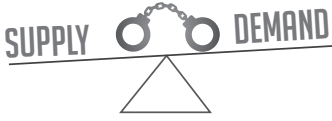
WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

2017 Operating Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 7,126,710
Actual Income to Date (Nov. 5, 2017)	\$ 6,970,996
Current Income Deficit	\$ 155,714
Needed to Meet 2017 Budget	\$ 4,429,004
Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund	\$ 742,693



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

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



THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND OF FALSE LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a
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Bookending our Human Trafficking educational event this Tuesday, November 14 at MDPC, I have been asked to preach two sermons about love: one getting at *false* love and the other getting at *true* love. When we read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, we find maybe the supreme words ever penned (prose or poetry) on love. Scripture has some high mountain peaks, and some amazing views. This is one of the highest; it is rare air. Paul wrote these words with the Holy Spirit's inspiration. He didn't write them only for weddings but, first, for Christians trying to follow Christ in all areas of their lives, including their sexual lives. Chapter 12 teaches us about spiritual gifts and ends with the phrase, "but strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way." And then chapter 14 begins with the challenge, "Pursue love." My guess is, as Christians, we have experienced slivers, glimpses, and hopefully big slices of true love. Yet, as sinners, we also have been on the giving and receiving end of false love. All of us know the pain of love wrongly offered.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a. What are the three aspects of life mentioned in verses 1-3 that become nothing without love? Why do you think that is so? Give examples from your own life history.
2. Verses 4-8a describe the love of God toward us and the kind of love we are to have for all people, including our spouses if married. There are 16 qualities listed in those four short verses. Which do you offer best? Which do you receive the most? Where are the areas of greatest struggle to live out this section of Scripture?
3. In verses 4-9a, if you reverse each quality of love and reduce it to its opposite, how does the passage read? I talked about three or four of the specific words in Greek and what they mean. What do you have in your relationships if the opposite qualities are present?
4. I shared some staggering statistics about sex trafficking and pornography, and that it is closer to home than we would like to admit. How do these behaviors go against the heart of God? In what ways do they dehumanize, objectivize, exploit, and counter the love we are called to offer?
5. There is a sobering quote I read recently: Sin will always take you further than you wanted to go, keep you longer than you wanted to stay, and cost you more than you wanted to pay. Where might you and I need to confess? How might God be calling us as a church to counter sex trafficking?

Statistics on sex trafficking and pornography: purehope.net; covenanteyes.com; "Undeified: Redemption from Sexual Sin, Restoration for Broken Relationships" by Harry Schaumburg

