



Sunday, July 8, 2018

WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE

From Crisis to Wonder: Experiencing Growing Pains in Our Theology | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



8:30 AM BLENDED

WELCOME		Beth Case
*SONGS OF PRAISE		
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Clay Brown
SONG OF PREPARATION		
OFFERTORY		
MESSAGE	From Crisis to Wonder: Experiencing Growing Pains in Our Theology (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Christyn Knoop
RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE		

9:45 AM CONTEMPORARY

WORSHIP INVITATION		
MOMENT OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE		Laura Miller
MESSAGE	From Crisis to Wonder: Experiencing Growing Pains in Our Theology (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Christyn Knoop
OFFERTORY		

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

PRELUDE	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine</i>	Faure/arr. White
WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP		Beth Case
*HYMN OF PRAISE	<i>All Hail the Power</i>	#142; Vs. 1, 2, 4 CORONATION
*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE		Clay Brown
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, United Church of Canada		
*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	<i>The Gloria Patri</i>	Hymn #579
HYMN SING • THANKSGIVING	<i>Come, Ye Thankful People, Come</i> <i>Now Thank We All Our God</i> <i>We Gather Together</i>	Charles Hausmann #551; Vs. 1, 4 ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR #555; Vs. 1, 3 NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT #559; Vs. 1, 3 KREMSER
OFFERTORY	<i>I'll Walk with God</i>	Nicholas Brodszky (1905-1958)
MESSAGE	From Crisis to Wonder: Experiencing Growing Pains in Our Theology (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)	Christyn Knoop
*HYMN OF RESPONSE	<i>Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life</i>	#408; Vs. 1, 6 GERMANY
POSTLUDE	<i>Jubilant March</i>	Gordon Young

Musicians in this service: Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organ • Brian Yeakley, soloist

*Please stand if able.

CCLI # 182374

Know the Bible Better with Pastor Pods

MDPC staff teachers, seminarians, and pastors paired up for podcasts on the *Wrestling with Scripture* summer sermon series, tackling some of the toughest texts of the Bible!

All five episodes are available online, or for streaming through iTunes or Google Play.

More info: pastor pods.mdpc.org



Young Adults: Come Play Volleyball!

Bump, Set, Spike at SideOut Volleybar with other 20s & 30s from MDPC. All abilities welcome - it's just for fun!
Thursday, July 19 | 7:00 PM | 2623 Keene St, 77009
Text/call Edgar Torres for more info: 361-793-6344

Bible Study for 20s & 30s

All young adults are invited to come out on Tuesday nights for dinner, conversation, and discussions about Scripture.
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM | The Heights
For more info, text or call Sarah Stone: 832-605-8129

Host Homes Needed for Counselors

Families are needed to host college-age counselors for Kanakuk Kampout, providing a place to stay plus breakfast and dinner each day. We also need medical volunteers for the week (CPR and First Aid trained).
August 5-10 (Camp info: kampout.mdpc.org)
Please contact Alicia if you can be a medical volunteer or host family (aboykin@mdpc.org, 713-490-9261).

Summer Ushering Opportunity

Summer is here and we need you! Join the Ushering Ministry at MDPC. Only one Sunday a month, or as often as you'd like - you set your ushering schedule!
For more info, contact Tracy Curtis-Stidam: tstidam@mdpc.org or 713-490-0946

Frustrated in Your Job Search?

WorkFaith Connection's 8-Day Job Search Workshop can energize your job search and possibly change the course of your life. WorkFaith, located at 4555 Dacoma Street, offers hope, encouragement, and resources to job seekers.
For more info, visit workfaithconnection.org or contact 713-984-9611 or gthouse@workfaithconnection.org.

Mentoring at Spring Woods Middle School

Are you an empty nester who misses one-on-one time with a young person? Do you want to help shape a student's future? Consider being mentor to a 6th grader at Spring Woods MS. It involves 40 minutes a week for 8 months of the school year - and it will bless your life!
Contact Jan Roe: jroe@mdpc.org, 713-490-9552

Make a Difference this Summer!

Our local ministry partners need volunteers all summer long. From serving a family dinner to facilitating fun activities at a Christian camp, these opportunities are a way for you to make a real impact for Christ!
See a variety of ways to serve: summeroutreach.mdpc.org

Bread for Kids' Meals at Summer Celebration

Kids at VBS will be helping feed hungry Houston pre-schoolers. Please donate loaves of plain wheat sandwich bread so we can beat 2017's record of 16,525 sandwiches!
Bring bread to the Front Office this Monday-Thursday, 1:00-4:00 PM (Summer Cel traffic will have cleared).

All-Youth Tubing Trip

Float the river in New Braunfels!
Tuesday, July 24 | 8:00 AM-8:00 PM | Meet at MDPC
Details and registration (\$40): tubing.mdpc.org

Fear

It's a normal human emotion...but what do we do with it? Where is God in it? Hear from Pastor Beth Case and counselor-in-residence Amanda Grace Caldwell.
Sunday, August 5 | 11:00 AM-12:15 PM | Amphitheater
Let us know you're coming: fear.mdpc.org

We're All in This Together!

Psalm 133:1 "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity..." Mark your calendar for Annual Teacher Training for volunteers in Equipping, Youth, Children's, Relationships, and anyone in discipleship, teaching, or leadership ministry! It'll include lunch, prayer & commissioning, and breakout time with your ministry area.
Sunday, August 12 | 12:30-3:00 PM
Details will be sent out closer to event.

Perspectives

Interested in learning more about God's global purpose and how you can be involved in His plan? The Perspectives course is a 15-week study around four vantage points or "perspectives" on the world Christian movement - Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic. This class has been held around the nation since the mid-80's and will be offered this fall at a church in the Heights.
Mondays, August 20-Dec. 10 | 6:30-9:30 PM
For more information and registration details, contact Kelsi McCormack: kmccormack@mdpc.org

Marriage Retreat: Save Your Spot!

Get away for a fun and intentional weekend together focused around your married life. This special experience includes a comfortable atmosphere, excellent food, a one-on-one date night with your spouse, and expert teaching from Brett and Kellie Hurst, longtime marriage educators.
Sept. 29-30 | Woodlands Waterway Marriott
Register (\$220/couple): marriageretreat.mdpc.org

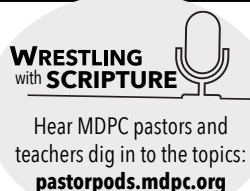
Please Pray for MDPC Ministry Partners

This week, join us in lifting in prayer these MDPC partners in ministry:
Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers provide high-quality, affordable counseling and educational services from a Christian perspective, serving men, women, and children in the Houston area who might not otherwise have access to quality mental health care
interface-samaritan.org
Interfaith Care Partners provides free support to individuals with chronic health conditions. It offers respite to caregivers through its AIDS Care Team, Alzheimer's Care Team (MDPC's The Gathering), Second Family, and Kids' Pals.
interfaithcarepartners.org
New Life With Education in Guatemala is a Christ-centered school that provides education for disabled students through the sixth grade. These children struggle to gain an education in the overcrowded Guatemalan school system. Judy Kerschner, MDPC member and partner in ministry, designed this school to give dignity and education to students who would otherwise be forgotten.
newlifeguatemala.com



WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE	
2018 Operating Budget	\$ 11,600,000
Expected Income to Date	\$ 4,535,586
Actual Income to Date (7/1/18)	\$ 4,630,960
Current Income Surplus	\$ 95,374
Needed to Meet 2018 Budget	\$ 6,969,040

WRESTLING WITH SCRIPTURE



From Crisis to Wonder: Experiencing Growing

Pains in Our Theology • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV) • Christyn Knoop preaching

Our summer sermon series, *Wrestling With Scripture*, continues today as we look at the tough texts of the Old and New Testaments; texts you selected for us to address either in sermons or podcasts. Today's sermon is on a passage from 1 Thessalonians 4 that could have very different interpretations depending on in which stream of Christianity you find yourself. This can be a troubling reality, but a reality nonetheless. How do we handle disagreement within the church when it comes to "wrestling with Scripture"? How do we find peace when we ourselves are struggling with doubt or confusion? Where can we turn for comfort, help, and answers? Rather than a "pat" answer, we will look at the extraordinary grace of God as our rock-solid hope in these challenging situations.

1. Before reading the passage for the day, familiarize yourself with the context of 1 Thessalonians. Read from its introduction in a study Bible or chime in with things learned in the sermon about when it was written, who it was written for, what kind of congregation they were, etc.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What can you infer about what the Thessalonians are going through? What questions and fears might they be dealing with? How does Paul respond? What seems to be the Big Idea(s) of the passage?
3. Christyn shared about how this passage was cause for great confusion as she wrestled with which interpretation was better: welcoming King Jesus at His return like the royal customs of the day, or proof of a rapture of Christians. Have you ever wrestled with a tough text? Tell us about it. What resources helped you navigate this challenge (e.g. books, mentors, spiritual disciplines, etc.)?
4. Christyn sought answers and wisdom from her professor and he graciously made time for her. Have you ever felt safe enough to share your doubts or struggles with someone? How did that help or hinder you? How do we care for people who are struggling with doubt and confusion in their faith?
5. The Lord knows us very well. Each of us is one of His unique and beloved children. Christyn shared how she felt God calling her to seminary as an act of great love and mercy. Describe a time when you felt God meet you, lead you, or speak to you in your hurt, confusion, or frustration.
6. We all have struggles and victories within our Christian life. What are some areas in which you need to be personally encouraged? Also, where are you feeling strong and are able to encourage others?
7. What other challenging Bible passages do you want to revisit and learn more about, knowing you have the grace and mercy to be honest about your doubt or confusion?

