

# NEWSLETTER



## Join us for Easter!

Easter is just around the corner! Everyone is welcome—bring your family and friends to join us in this meaningful celebration of hope and new beginnings. We will have three Easter Sunday services at 6:30am, 9am and 10:30am. Kids' programming is available for all ages during both our 9am Traditional and 10:30am Contemporary Services. For more Easter details, please visit [mandarinpres.com/easter](https://mandarinpres.com/easter).

To help us warmly welcome guests and first-time visitors to our 9am and 10:30am services, please park on our Office Campus on Mandarin Road if you're able—shuttle service will be provided from there to the Church Campus.

For the sunrise service, please park at the Church Campus on Loretto Road to catch the shuttle to Mandarin Cemetery.

We look forward to celebrating the joy and hope of Easter with you! Invite your friends, family and neighbors!

## Maundy Thursday

**Thursday, April 2nd**

Join us for a unique worship service connecting you with Christ's sacrifice. A separate event for kids in 1st-5th grade will be available. The Nursery will be available for kindergarten and younger. Register your child at [mandarinpres.com/easter](https://mandarinpres.com/easter).



# Operational Budget



*Imagine the extraordinary impact we can create together.*

God is doing something powerful at MPC. Our church is growing, and we're grateful for what's ahead. To sustain and strengthen what He's building, we're inviting you to consider increasing your giving to our Operating Budget by 10%. Thanks to all of you who have already done so! Your generosity fuels the programs, people, and mission work that transform lives. Thank you for being part of what God is doing here.



Momentum Construction is set to begin in April, and we can't wait to make room for more people to move toward Jesus! Several families and individuals have accelerated their Momentum giving, and we're incredibly grateful. If you're able to do the same, your gift makes a real difference right now as it helps to cover initial construction costs. For construction updates, please visit [mandarinpres.com/momentum](https://mandarinpres.com/momentum). Thank you for your generous support!

## Have questions?

Building: Brian Paul | [bpaul@mandarinpres.com](mailto:bpaul@mandarinpres.com) | (904) 680-9944

Giving: Anne Petrone | [apetrone@mandarinpres.com](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com) | (904) 680-9944

# Save the Date



Mark your calendars for our All Church Retreat, September 5th - 7th, 2026 - more details to be shared soon!



Join us for Chicks and Eggs on Saturday, May 30th! Enjoy a morning of breakfast and fellowship with the ladies of our community!

## J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

### April Flower Market and Luncheon



Join us for our JOY luncheon on Thursday, April 9th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 7th at 904-680-9944.

## MPP



MPP is gearing up for Easter and the end of another successful school year! We love all the teachable moments the season offers.

We are currently registering for our amazing preschool summer camps! You can pick and choose the weeks that work for you, but hurry as camps fill up!

Weeks available and themes:

- May 26-28: Zootopia Stuffie Safari
- June 2-4: Pout Pout Fish, Calm Seas Adventure Camp
- June 9-11: Wild Wonders Bugs and Nature
- June 16-18: Sing! Little Rock Stars Camp
- June 30-July 2: Rainforest Falls VBS

Contact Lee Samuels at the preschool office if you are interested in enrolling your little camper! Call 904-680-6406 or email: [Lsamuels@mandarinpres.com](mailto:Lsamuels@mandarinpres.com).

## MPC Men's Fellowship Luncheon

The MPC Men's Fellowship Luncheon is held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from noon until 1:15pm. We strive to have a guest speaker at one of the monthly meetings and have a discussion based on the previous Sunday's sermon at alternate meetings.

We have a lunch of sub sandwiches with the fixings on the side, along with potato salad, chips, drinks and dessert. The cost of lunch is \$8.00.

All men of our church and guests are invited to join us. Please consider joining us for fellowship, prayer, interesting guest speakers and discussion.

Please contact Randy Hester at 904-859-4996 or [hesterrandy632@gmail.com](mailto:hesterrandy632@gmail.com) or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002 or [w.gaff@comcast.net](mailto:w.gaff@comcast.net) with any questions.

## Great Banquet



What is your "WHY"? Every business or organization has a Mission Statement. MPC's is "More People Moving Toward Jesus". It explains why you are, the reason you exist. Ever give thought to what your personal mission statement might be? Your why, why YOU exist? The Great Banquet is a splendid opportunity to spend 72 hours doing just that (Thursday evening - Sunday evening). Considering and establishing WHO you are, WHOSE you are, and WHY you are just might change your life; most certainly will impact your WHY. Women's weekend is April 16-19; Men's is April 30-May 3. [Nefgb.com](http://Nefgb.com) for more information.

# Save Your Spot!



Camp registration is open - save your spot today! K-Kamp is June 7th-11th; Summer Camp at MPC (SCAMP) is June 22nd - 26th; and WinShape Camp is July 13th-17th. Southwind Camp (middle school) is July 14th-18th. For details and registration: [mandarinpres.com/kidsevents](http://mandarinpres.com/kidsevents) and [mandarinpres.com/msevents](http://mandarinpres.com/msevents).



Momentum construction is set to begin in April and we need lots of volunteers to help with Sunday services. Thanks to all who have signed up so far, but we still need a few more volunteers. This is a great way to get more involved! Please visit [mandarinpres.com/momentum](http://mandarinpres.com/momentum) to sign up!



This year is our 19th year of raising funds by selling mulch! Funds will be used to offset expenses for high school mission trips this summer to Costa Rica and Dayton, Ohio, as well as a camp at Florida Atlantic University. We are excited to see God move this summer! Volunteers are needed and you can sign up [mandarinpres.com/mulch](http://mandarinpres.com/mulch).



Join J1:9 Ministries Annual Shrimp Boil on April 11th beginning at 4:00pm. Live music, great food, drinks, raffles, hit golf balls to 'Sink the Boat', raffles, and auctions - loads of fun! 100% of the proceeds benefit our Central America partners to share the Gospel with those who have not heard! Visit [j19ministries.org](http://j19ministries.org) for details.

# Event Recap

## Iron Sharpens Iron Conference



On Saturday, Feb. 28th, for the 10th consecutive year, MPC Men's Ministry hosted Iron Sharpens Iron. As a highlight, they honored Men's Ministry and MPC, by giving us their Outstanding Men's Ministry Award! More than 235 men joined from all walks of life, ages 13 to 75, traveling from FL, GA and SC. This year also brought our finest lineup of speakers and teachers to date — and no one went hungry. Pit Boss Paul and the Low 'n Slow Bros served up incredible homemade BBQ. Thank you to every speaker, volunteer, sponsor, and prayer warrior who helped make ten years of this achievement possible!

## Daddy Daughter Dance



Another fantastic Daddy Daughter Dance was held at MPC on March 6th. It was a fun night of boppin' beats, tasty treats and magical moments with old-fashioned sock hop fun! To every father (figure) who showed up: you are a living reflection of God's love to your daughter. These moments matter more than you know.

## Serve the City



Nearly 200 volunteers. 21,840 meals packed. 1 incredible day on March 7th of serving Jacksonville together! We are so grateful for every hand and heart that made this possible. And the sweetest surprise — watching two of our projects intersect as 15,000 Hunger Fight meals made their way to 3 Grains of Rice Missions. Your hands and hearts made a real difference in our city!

# SESSION UPDATE

## Session Members:

Matt Balanky, Danielle Caplin, Chris Davis, Christina Elmore, Curt Etheridge, Bob Gillander, Kim Harris, Rosa Heard, Penny Kievet, Brandon Perkins, Frank Talbot, Carol Yelinek including pastors Andrew Stepp, Jenn Arnold, Jeff Arnold, Wendy Greer and Devyn Nelson.



If you would like to reach out to our Session members, please email [session@mandarinpres.com](mailto:session@mandarinpres.com).

We invite you to join us for a meaningful Easter season this April. We begin with the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd at 7:30pm. This service allows us to connect with Christ's sacrifice in a personal, intimate way. Then join us as we celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 5th, with three opportunities for worship: a Sunrise service at 6:30am at Mandarin Cemetery, our Traditional service at 9am, and our Contemporary service at 10:30am in the sanctuary. Invite others as an invitation can make all the difference!

It's an exciting time at MPC as we move forward with Momentum construction. Beginning Sunday, April 12th, your arrival experience will look a little different. Have no worries — you'll be greeted by plenty of smiling faces ready to welcome you, assist with parking, and point you toward the sanctuary. If you have any questions beforehand, please don't hesitate to reach out to the church office and visit [mandarinpres.com/momentum](http://mandarinpres.com/momentum) for the latest updates and volunteer opportunities. We'll need many hands and feet of Jesus to welcome worshippers each Sunday morning. Thanks to all who have signed up!

Our Next Gen team is in full planning mode, and we couldn't be more excited! This summer, our young disciples will have the chance to attend SCAMP, WinShape, K-Kamp, Southwind as well as a High

School camp and High School mission opportunities.

Mark your calendars for our All Church Retreat, September 5–7, at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, GA. Whether you're a family of four or a family of one, this is a wonderful chance to rest, reconnect, and grow alongside your MPC community. If you missed the last retreat, make this the year you join us — you won't regret it!

Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and Momentum. Pray for protection of all who are involved in the planning process, pray for those who will be on-site executing the plans, pray for an easy adjustment for our MPC families as they come to worship during this Momentum season.

Our Vision and Core Values remain the foundation of all we do: Jesus First · Every Generation · Deep-Spirited Community · Courageous Faith · Whole-Life Generosity. Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and the vision that God has put before us.

*"...Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth." (Proverbs 4:4–5)*

Office Campus

11844 Mandarin Rd.

Jacksonville, FL 32223

904-680-9944

[info@mandarinpres.com](mailto:info@mandarinpres.com)

Church Campus

2501 Loretto Rd.

Jacksonville, FL 32223



[mandarinpres.com](http://mandarinpres.com)



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