

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2025



SOUTHWIND

From July 15-20, our middle school students attended Southwind Camp in Ocklawaha, Florida. Each morning began with recreational games, followed by their first worship session of the day, featuring messages from former Miss Illinois and author Grace Hurtubise. Afternoons included free time and fellowship at the pool, game room, lake and basketball courts. In the evenings, they enjoyed worship led by Lighthouse Worship and inspiring messages from chalk artist Ben Glenn. He spoke about God's love and concluded each night by creating chalk art on a bed sheet in just 12 minutes. The camp helped students grow closer to each other and God. We're excited to see how they continue to follow His plan!

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



Limited spots available for fall - register today!

Page 7



In August, we return to our regular worship schedule:

- 9am Traditional
- 10:30am Contemporary

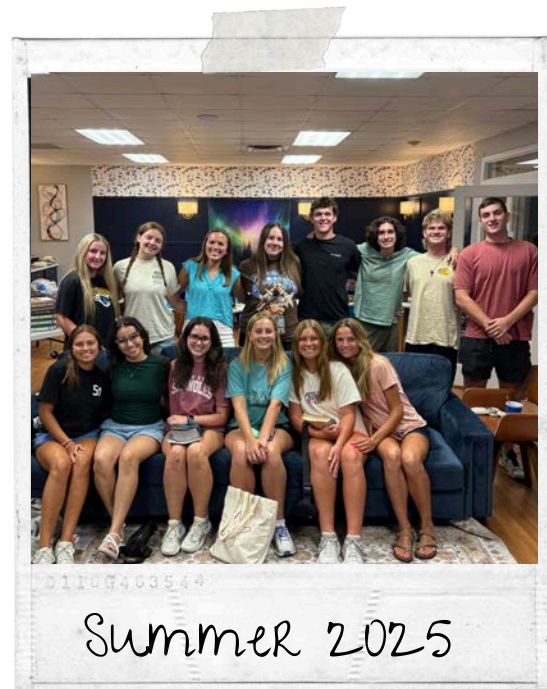


In this newsletter you will find: upcoming events, a financial update, an events recap & more. Keep reading!

HS Ministry: Costa Rica Mission Trip



Our High School Ministry had an impactful week of service, worship and sharing God's love on our July Costa Rica mission trip. From digging trenches to dancing at VBS, teaching English classes, purchasing groceries for families in need and visiting refugee camps, our high school students and leaders experienced incredible ministry moments.



More than 30 college students participated in our College Connect weekly meetups this summer. We discussed how to walk in Christian faith during college and what it looks like to trust Jesus in this season of life. This fall, MPC will continue supporting these students as they head back to school, whether they're returning upperclassmen or incoming freshmen. May God guide and bless them throughout the school year ahead!

July at MPC

What a remarkable first half of 2025 we've experienced together! God continues to work powerfully at MPC and we're deeply grateful for each of you who make MPC the vibrant church and community it is today.

Celebrating Our Journey Together: January - July 2025

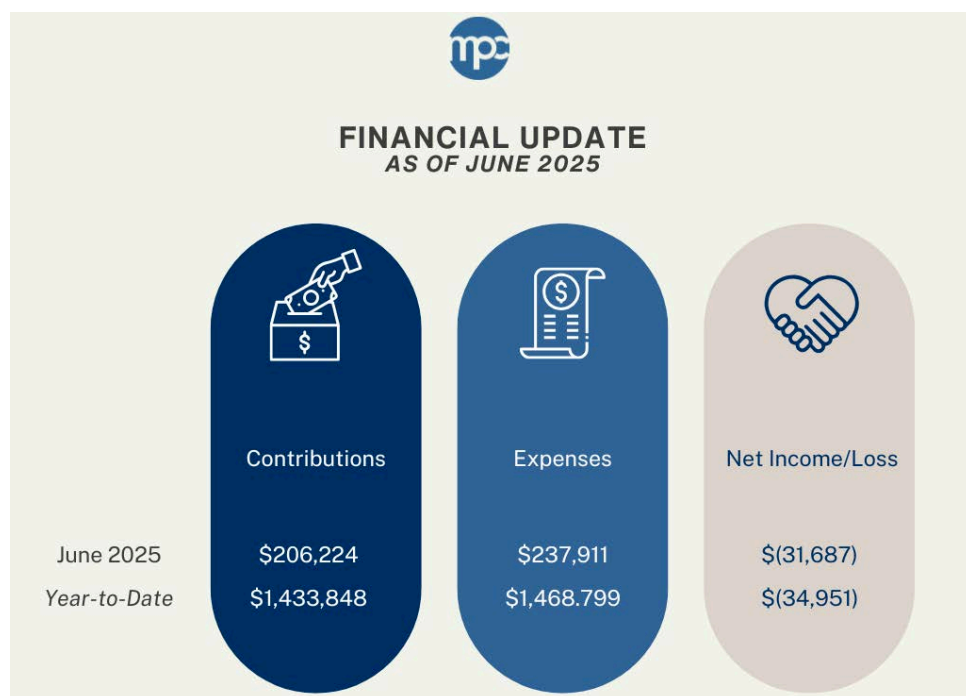
- Easter Season - Over 2,300 worshippers joined our moving Maundy Thursday experience and Easter Sunday services, plus more than 1,200 people celebrated at our Eggstravaganza family event.
- Bible Study Growth - More than 300 people participated in our "Get a Grip on the Bible" study, growing together in faith and understanding.
- Community Service - Our congregation demonstrated Christ's love through our March Serve the City initiative and May Serve Day, making a powerful difference in our community.
- Next Gen Summer Ministry - Nearly a thousand youth experienced God's transformative power through K-Kamp, SCAMP, WinShape, Southwind, mission trips and other activities shaping our next generation for Christ.
- Celebrating Milestones - We celebrated Devyn Nelson's ordination ceremony and honored Carla Mayo's remarkable 20 years of faithful service at MPC.

Looking Ahead

Your participation, prayers and support make MPC a special place to worship, connect and serve together. As we enter the second half of 2025, we're excited about the opportunities God has in store for us as a church family!



Give online: mandarinpres.com/give.



Recurring donations provide the most reliable support for our ministries. They're easy to set up and help us plan effectively. Need assistance? Contact Anne Petrone: (904) 680-9944.

Thank you for your generous support!!

Daily Bread Food Pantry



Guest visits to our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continue at a steady pace. Now over six months into 2025, our faithful volunteers continue supporting weekly distributions of three grocery bags filled with canned goods, packaged dry goods, breads, pastries, fresh produce, and dairy products - plus occasional meat, fish, and poultry items. We at MPC are truly blessed to be a blessing to those in our community who need food and clothing assistance.

Total Guests through July 22nd

Food	Clothing
1711	642

Thank You MPC!

We are grateful for your prayers and continued support of our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet as we joyfully serve our neighbors in need. God has truly blessed this work and the love from our congregation has enabled us to be a consistent beacon in our community. Thank you also for your generous school supply donations - we filled many backpacks for our Food Pantry families, with extras going to families at the Isaiah House. Your ongoing contributions and open hearts make all the difference in our community!

Explore MPC Membership

Join our Discovery Class to explore what it means to be part of our MPC family and mission of *More People Moving Toward Jesus*. Connect with our church community, share your faith journey and learn about meaningful involvement opportunities.

The next class is September 21st, 10:15am - 1:30pm. During this session, you'll discover our church's mission, understand membership and have the opportunity to become a new member with celebration at our New Member Luncheon immediately following.

Interested? Contact Renata Kamp at rkamp@mandarinpres.com.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



J.O.Y. August Luncheon
Thursday, August 14th
11:30am
Fellowship Hall

Here's the scoop...J.O.Y. is going bananas! Join us for the July J.O.Y. luncheon at our "J.O.Y. Soda Shop" as we celebrate national banana split day!

Cost is \$7.00 per person
Please RSVP by August 12th
Contact us at 904-680-9944

MPC Men's 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/hesterandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002/w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

Great Banquet



Waiting can be challenging, whether you're at the airport, in a doctor's office, or hoping for that job callback. But Isaiah reminds us that by waiting upon the Lord, we renew our strength and will not grow weary. So where can we go to wait upon the Lord? Here's a suggestion: schedule a Great Banquet weekend. It's about being in His presence, experiencing His goodness and waiting on Him. The women's weekend is October 23-26; the men's is November 6-9. Visit nefgb.com for more information.

Ways to Get Involved!



We are currently seeking adults (18 years and older) with childcare experience to join our Sunday morning nursery team. You'll help create a safe, nurturing environment for children ages 0-2 through curriculum activities, parent communication and attentive care. For more information, please contact Wendy Greer at wgreer@mandarinpres.com.



Enjoy singing? We are looking for people who love to worship through song. NO audition required and ALL skill levels are welcome! Weekly rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00pm. For any questions and to sign up, contact Bill Vasko at bvasko@mandarinpres.com.



Join the Men's Ministry Fifth Annual Burger Bash for delicious food, fun competitions and prizes on Saturday, August 23rd at our Office Campus. Get all the details and register at mandarinpres.com/burgerbash.



Fellowship for moms with hot coffee, breakfast and childcare. Gatherings will be held every other Tuesday from 9:45 to 11:45am at our Church Campus. Get all the details and save your spot at mandarinpres.com/momco.

Special Notices

Save the Date



Mark your Calendar for MPC's Connect Fest!

Ready to dive deeper into community at MPC? Connect Fest is your one-stop opportunity to discover all the amazing ways you can get more involved at MPC!

Join us in the courtyard between services to explore:

- Small Groups – Find your group and grow in faith together
- Volunteer Opportunities – Serve with your gifts right here at MPC
- Local Missions – Make a difference in our community
- Support Groups – Journey through life's challenges with others

Whether you're new to MPC or have been here for years, Connect Fest is the perfect chance to take your next step. Discover ways to connect and find meaningful ways to serve God and others.

This is also a great Sunday to invite friends, family and neighbors!

MPP



MPP Kicks Off A New Preschool Year - A Joyful New Beginning!

We are excited to announce that Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool will begin a brand-new school year on Monday, August 18! The classrooms are being prepped, supplies are being stocked, and our teachers are full of excitement as we get ready to welcome our smiling students back through the doors.

A few spots are still available, so if you or someone you know is looking for a warm, welcoming preschool home, now is the time! Don't wait - space is limited in our loving, faith-filled environment. We can't wait to see what this school year holds. It's going to be a wonderful journey and we're so glad to be taking it together!

Please contact Lee Samuels at 904-680-6406 or lsamuels@mandarinpres.com for more information or to schedule a tour.

July Events Recap



We had another incredible week of WinShape at MPC July 14-18. When you combine epic camp activities with faith-filled moments, magic truly happens. We already can't wait until next year!



MPC hosted a fiesta-themed volunteer appreciation lunch to celebrate our amazing volunteers from Meals on Wheels and our Photography and Garden Ministries. Gracias to all who serve!

Just a note from the Session: July Session Update



(Left to right)

Front Row: Curt Etheridge, Tami Shepler, Rev. Jenn Arnold, Danielle Caplin, Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp

Middle Row: Frank Talbot, Carol Yelinek, Rosa Heard, Kim Harris, Penny Kievet, Chris Davis

Back Row: Rev. Jeff Arnold, Matt Balanky, Hawley Smith III, Bob Gillander

This month, we continue our sermon series on the Ten Commandments. Have you memorized them, and do you know them in order?

We look forward to upcoming opportunities to worship, connect and serve together.

Our Vision of **More People Moving Toward Jesus** and our Core Values drive all that we do:

- Jesus First
- Every Generation
- Deep-Spirited Community
- Courageous Faith
- Whole-Life Generosity

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."
– Matthew 28:19-20

Though the Session did not meet in July, we continue to pray for our MPC family, our community and our world.

Our Next Gen Ministries had a significant impact this summer through mission trips, camps and various service opportunities. They traveled to Georgia, Costa Rica and Jamaica, sharing the Gospel with those who may never have had the chance to learn about Jesus. They also enriched their own souls through overnight camps at K-Kamp and Southwind. Additionally, they served many elementary-age campers at SCAMP and WinShape, providing an experience filled with fun, worship, and lessons about God's creation. For some of these campers, it was the first time they heard about Jesus. We thank you for your prayers for the Next Gen Ministries leaders and volunteers who wholeheartedly dedicate themselves to serving Jesus Christ.



mandarinpres.com/churchcenter

Download and use our Church Center app for secure giving, prayer requests, check-in & events.



Office Campus
11844 Mandarin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-680-9944
info@mandarinpres.com

Church Campus
2501 Loretto Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223



mandarinpres.com



@mandarinpres



@mandarinpres



@mandarinpresbyterianchurch