

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



February 2025

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Support & Connect Opportunities
- Financial Update
- Upcoming Events
- January Event Recap
- Session Update

KEY DATES

2/4 GET A GRIP ON THE BIBLE STARTS

2/9 DISCOVERY CLASS (& 2/23)

2/12 OVERCOME GROUP STARTS

2/15 LOSS OF A SPOUSE SEMINAR

2/22 IRON SHARPENS IRON EVENT

2/26 GRIEFSHARE BEGINS

Go to mandarinpres.com for all the details.

Stay connected with MPC events & updates in our weekly e-newsletter.

Subscribe to *News to Me* at mandarinpres.com/enews.

SIGN UP



GET A GRIP

— ON THE BIBLE —

GOD'S STORY FROM CREATION TO REVELATION



REGISTER NOW

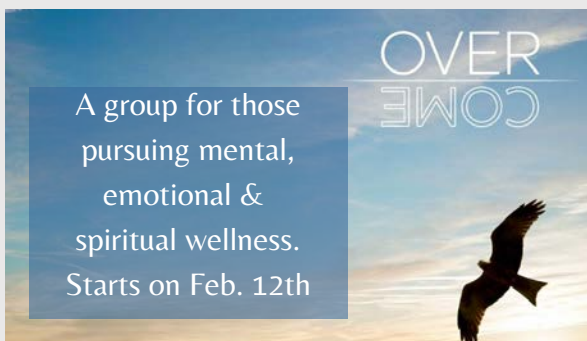
Have you ever wondered how the different books of the Bible and their stories fit together? Do you find yourself confused by the prophets in the Old Testament, or unsure how the Old and New Testaments relate to one another? If so, you're not alone! Pastor Andrew Stepp will guide us through a Bible study, *Get a Grip on the Bible*, designed to help answer your questions.

Get a Grip on the Bible is a 10-week class starting on February 4th that walks through the redemption story from Creation to Revelation, chronicling the themes and major events of Biblical history. Please join us as we walk through God's story from Eden to the Ends of the Earth!

There is a Tuesday evening session (6-7:30pm) or a Wednesday morning session (10-11:30am). Register at mandarinpres.com/getagrip.

For any questions, contact Cindy Althouse at calthouse@mandarinpres.com.

Support & Connect Opportunities



Are you struggling with anxiety, depression or loneliness? Join Overcome, an 8-week support group led by trained facilitators. For more details & registration: mandarinpres.com/overcome. Should you have any questions, contact Stephen and Jane Monks at steefen77@hotmail.com or 904-269-7360.



MPC's GriefShare is a friendly, caring group that will walk alongside you through grieving the loss of a family member or friend. GriefShare begins on February 26th and runs through May 21st.

Loss of a Spouse helps men and women grapple with the challenges of losing a spouse. The two-hour seminar is on February 15th.

You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. For more details, visit mandarinpres.com/griefshare.



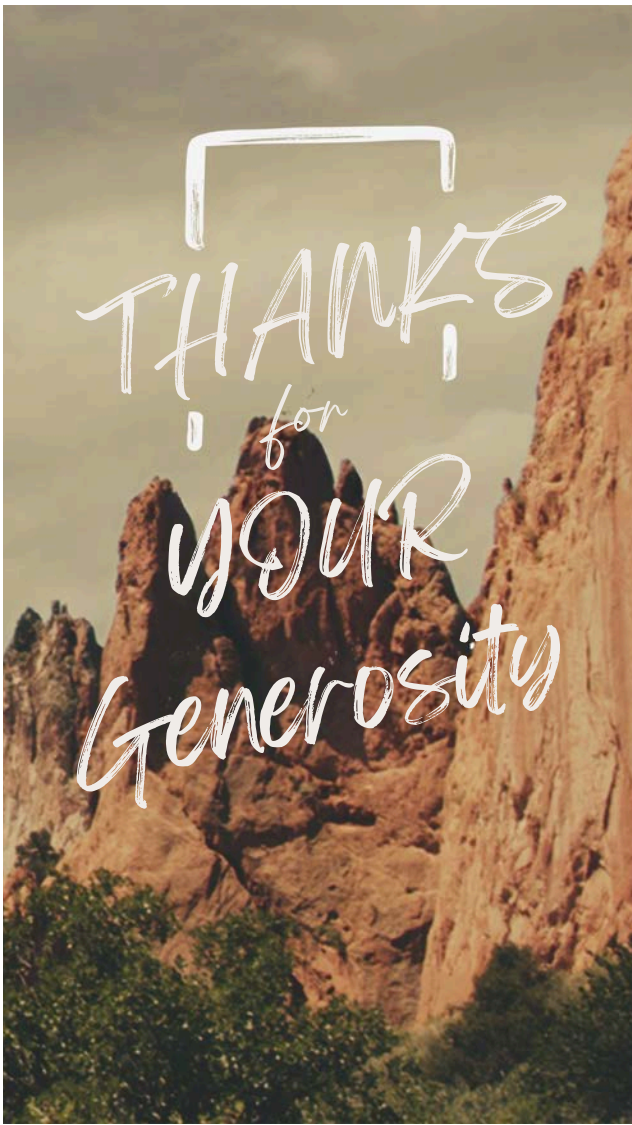
Are you interested in a fun and easy way to meet new people at MPC? Consider joining Table for 8, an MPC dinner group where you share fellowship and meals once a month.

More details and registration can be found at mandarinpres.com/tablefor8.



MPC is thrilled to be a host site for the Legacy Grandparenting Summit 2025 on Saturday, March 1st, at our Church Campus. This year's theme, "For This Purpose," focuses on perpetuating faith through generations. Nationally-known speakers and gifted content experts will encourage grandparents to build lasting spiritual legacies within their families.

Go to mandarinpres.com/legacy for more information and registration.



As we begin 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for your extraordinary generosity throughout the past year. When we stepped out in faith to increase our ministry budget for 2024, you responded with remarkable faithfulness – stepping up in such a significant way that we ended the year in a strong financial position.

Your generosity powered remarkable ministry moments in 2024. We witnessed God's hand in several incredible ways including Cover to Cover, Meals on Wheels, Daily Bread Food Pantry, Serve the City, Next Gen Ministry and more. Each gift, each act of service, each prayer has helped shine Christ's light brighter in our community and beyond.

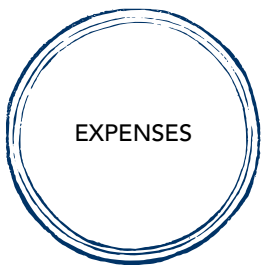
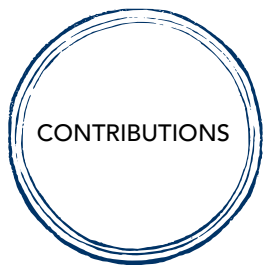
Looking ahead, to those who have already made their 2025 pledge, thank you for your faithful commitment to our shared mission. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to pledge, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so at mandarinpres.com/pledge. Your support enables us to confidently plan and fund the impactful ministries God has called us to pursue together.

We stand in awe of how God is working through MPC and look forward with excitement to all He will accomplish through our church family in 2025.

Thank you for being part of this journey of faith, service and generosity.

Give online: mandarinpres.com/give.

2024 Financial Update



Dec. 2024	\$424,114
Year-to-Date	\$2,688,963

\$259,678
\$2,800,091

\$164,436
(\$111,128)

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!



Daily Bread Food Pantry Update

Guest visitations to our **Daily Bread Food Pantry** and **Clothes Closet** continued its upward swing throughout 2024. Our dedicated volunteers continue their weekly distribution of **three** grocery bags filled with a variety of items. These include canned goods, packaged dry goods, bread & pastries, fresh fruits & vegetables, as well as dairy products. Occasionally, meat, fish, and poultry items are also available.

Weekly distribution steadily increased and now averages over 65 households and impacting more than 170 individuals with 20+ weekly guests taking advantage of the Clothes Closet! We are truly grateful for the opportunity to support those in our community who need assistance with food and clothing. Thanks for all of prayers and support!

MPP, Rotary Club of Mandarin, BSA Troop 321, Stetson Kennedy Foundation, and numerous other Groups (Bible Study, Quilters and others) along with countless individual MPC members and community neighbors have combined to contribute mightily with food, clothing and monetary gifts to power Daily Bread Food Pantry operations! Thank you to all!

**Total Guests
2025**
through January 2025

Food	Clothing
200+	95+

*Praises to all with blessings & gratitude,
Daily Bread Food &
Clothes Closet Volunteers*



Truly Grateful for you.

The MPC Staff showed appreciation to our Daily Bread Food Pantry volunteers with a dinner on January 28th. We are incredibly thankful for all of our volunteers that serve as the hands and feet of Christ.



J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



February Luncheon

Good Friends Share Everything...

Especially Chocolate!!

Please join us on Thursday, February 13th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall for our February J.O.Y. luncheon.

The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by February 11th 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 or hesterrandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002 or w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

Great Banquet



**February: Super Bowl, Lincoln and Washington's Birthdays, opening of spring training, and celebrating love with a box of candy for St. Valentine's day.

**April: A day for fools, taxes are due, and Easter are all in this month. Love is expressed through the Northeast Florida Great Banquet community, where you can enjoy plenty of candy alongside extensive expressions of God's grace and agape love. Consider spending a weekend exploring God's amazing grace and love. For more information, visit nefgb.com. The Women's Weekend is scheduled for April 3-6, and the Men's Weekend is April 24-27.

Mark Your Calendars



Are you or someone you know interested in becoming an MPC Member? Our next two session class dates are February 9th and 23rd Go to mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass for more info.



Unwrapped Bible Event: The Kids Ministry of MPC is excited to announce our very special Bible Presentation Event for 3rd graders! Go to mandarinpres.com/kidsevents for more details.



Register for the Iron Sharpens Iron men's conference on Saturday Feb 22nd. Hosted by MPC for our 9th year for men of all ages (13+)! Go to mandarinpres.com/mensminstry to register!



MPC is thrilled to be a host site for the Legacy Grandparenting Summit 2025 on Saturday, March 1st on our Church Campus. This event is designed to help grandparents build a spiritual legacy within their families. Go to mandarinpres.com/legacy for more details and registration.



Grab some coffee and gab for a bit with the Women's Ministry on Sunday, March 2nd, from 2-4pm at Woody's in the MPC Mandarin Road Campus. The Grounds of Grace coffee bus will be there to serve you! For more details and registration: mandarinpres.com/womensministry.



Save the date for our 2nd Serve the City! There will be many opportunities to volunteer in our city and make an impact by partnering with organizations such as Hunger Fight, City Rescue Mission, Seamark Ranch, Three Grains of Rice Missions and more. More details and sign-ups will be shared soon.

Event Recap: January



The Women's Ministry gathered for a "Getaway with God and the Gals" retreat in Amelia Island on January 25th. It was a blessing from start to finish. With 70 women gathered, the focus was on living out the call of 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to encourage and build one another up. For upcoming Women's Ministry events, go to mandrinpres.com/womensministry.



We were blessed to hear from Dr. Paul Copan, a Christian theologian, philosopher, apologist and author, for both services on January 26th, along with a special Q&A session in the evening. For more on Dr. Copan and his books, go to paulcopan.com.

Salvation Army Update



Thank you to all at MPC who rang Bells for the Salvation Army this past Christmas. Once again, MPC raised more money through Bell Ringing than any other organization in northeast Florida except Fleet Landing. Special recognition goes to Glenda Kelsey, who once again served as Bell Ringing Coordinator for MPC this year.



The entire Salvation Army wants you to know the good you have done. Your dollars raised went to provide food and shelter for those in need. If it went entirely to shelter, your contributions would have paid for 76 nights away from the cold. If it went all to meals, your contributions would have provided for 303 meals. Of course, your contributions made a combination of shelter and meals possible.



As you know, being a Christian entails more than just attending church every Sunday. It means living the life of a Christian, and mission work is a fundamental part of that. We want you to know that the Salvation Army recognizes the good works that MPC and its members do, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your many contributions, both time and money.

For those who did not ring bells, we want to remind you that The Salvation Army also has an Angel Tree Program, which provides gifts for children of the less fortunate during the Christmas season. It is a huge operation and can always use volunteers' assistance in November and December.

In closing, we want to thank you again. We look forward to working together with you in 2025!

Peter Darbee, The Salvation Army

Just a note from the Session



(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

Invite the men in your family, friends, and neighbors, and bring your teenage sons.

Summer is already filling up for our Next Gen ministry (elementary, middle and high school students). K-Kamp, Summer Camp @ MPC and WinShape camps are on the calendar. Be on the lookout for registration to open so you don't miss the fun.

Our Middle School Students have weekly activities through our Hang 10 program. Our High School Ministry looks forward to 3 different mission trips this summer. Watch for fundraising opportunities where you can help send a student to share the good news of Jesus with others.

You have many exciting opportunities to connect with MPC, either through joining a small group or volunteering. These opportunities and more are found on the website or Sunday morning announcements. If you're unsure where to begin, visit one of our Welcome Desks on Sunday mornings, and we'll help you connect.

Our core values drive everything we do:

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

We continue to pray for you, our community, our country, our world.



Though the Session did not meet in January, we have a quick update for you.

We are beginning the year with our "Invited" Sermon Series with stories from the Gospel of Luke. If you've missed any of the messages in the series, you can view them at mandarinpres.com/sermons. Join us on Sunday mornings as we hear the invitations that Jesus extends to us. For Gospel of Luke reading resources, go to mandarinpres.com/luke.

Our 2nd Get a Grip on the Bible class will begin in February. If you missed it the 1st time or want a refresher, be sure to join in. Registration is available at mandarinpres.com/getagrip.

For the 9th year, the Men's Ministry will host Iron Sharpens Iron on February 22nd. Registration is now open at mandarinpres.com/mensministry.

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