



January  
2022

## From The Transitional Pastor

*Rev. Joel Giles*

**WHEN JESUS CAME TO CHURCH** – In November, we completed a study of Revelation 1-3. These are timeless lessons in letter form that Jesus dictated to John to help churches of all times and places to determine where they stand and what they need. There was a pattern for the letters. And each letter concludes with an invitation: **“To the one who overcomes....”** In spite of what we undergo, it's nice to know we can overcome! You can be a winner if you follow the will of God!

Then in **Revelation 2-3** he calls each church to a particular trait. (All churches need every trait all the time, but not all churches lack each trait at the same time.) He calls on the churches to have: LOVE (Ephesus), FAITHFULNESS (Smyrna), PURITY (Pergamun), DISCERNMENT (Thyatira), OBEDIENCE (Sardis), ENDURANCE (Philadelphia), and DEPENDENCE (Laodicea).

That's what he says when Jesus comes to church!

**CHRISTMAS STORIES** - In December, we used cultural traditional stories to springboard into timeless biblical Christmas stories. HOW THE GRINCHES STOLE CHRISTMAS utilized the character by that name and was a challenge to not let the traditions of the culture steal the real meaning of Christmas for you. THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS TREE utilized A Charlie Brown Christmas and the fact that the cross was the destiny of the Christ child from before he even occupied the manger. SCROOGE AND OTHER VILLIANS utilized the famous Dickens character and reviewed prominent Scrooge attitudes in history including the Serpent Satan, the Rebel Rulers, and Horrid Herod. A HALLMARK CHRISTMAS utilized the stories that Hallmark cranks out each year to point out that the true Christmas was much more than a sentimental story. We hope you have received the wonderful life of hope, peace, love and joy found only in Jesus!

**HERE WE GROW AGAIN** - In January, we will study from the Biblical writings of Rocky Johnson. Who is he and what is he doing in my Bible? Come in (or tune in) on January 2<sup>nd</sup> to find out! The encouragement to grow is a message that every church needs to hear in a new year – especially a church in transition!

**COMEBACK CHARACTERS** - Beginning in February, we will turn our attention to the Gospels to consider the TOP TEN COMEBACK CHARACTERS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST. Who are they? We will reveal a new one each week. We will end on Easter with the greatest comeback character of all – the risen Christ!

**BIBLE TIME** - On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will begin 89 DAYS WITH JESUS. It is a reading plan designed to take us through all four of Jesus' authorized biographies – also known as the Gospels – in 89 days (one chapter a day for 6 days a week) from the first of the year through Resurrection Sunday. If you don't already have a Bible Time plan, you are invited to join us as we spend 89 DAYS WITH JESUS!

**PRAYER WALK AT MPC** - January is a time of new beginnings and new goals. As our church looks forward to 2022, we would like to invite you to join us on a prayer walk covering both the Mandarin Road and Loretto Road Campuses starting Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am on the Mandarin Road Campus. Our focus is on praying to pave the way for our new pastor. We will pray for our Pastoral Nominating Committee, our Session, and our Staff. We encourage you to bring your family or small group to walk around our campuses and pray together for the future of MPC. We have so much to be thankful for, so bring your coffee if it's cold or your water bottle if it's hot. Looking forward to praying together! We will start at the Mandarin Road Campus on the lawn by the church offices.

**UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE** - "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43: 18-19. As we head into this new year, the PNC is excited to see what new thing God has planned for MPC in 2022. We are very encouraged by conversations we are having with candidates and our ECO partners. We trust in God's plan and ultimate selection of the next senior pastor of His church. We remain grateful for your encouraging words and prayers for the committee and we wish you and your family a blessed new year.

**MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW)** - Happy New Year Church! - As we bid farewell to 2021 and welcome all that 2022 may bring us, I wanted to take a moment to thank our dedicated MOW volunteers. Many of our volunteers are MPC members and y'all are some of the most servant hearted folks I've ever met. Thank you for your willingness to serve others! I'd also like to thank many of you that donate funds to the MOW ministry. The MPC Meals on Wheels program is not affiliated with the national MOW program. It's a community outreach program of MPC supported solely by a combination of funding by recipients and members of MPC for the benefit of those in need in our community. Most of our recipients don't have the means to contribute so you can surmise where our funding comes from. You! If you feel so moved, we'll always accept a year end donation! If you know of someone who may need our services, are interested in serving or have any questions about MOW, give Earl Bittner a call 904-868-6067 or email [rebittne@bellsouth.net](mailto:rebittne@bellsouth.net); or contact Van Hogan at 904-631-8309 or [vhogan@bellsouth.net](mailto:vhogan@bellsouth.net).

**DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY** - Our volunteers would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your ongoing support throughout 2021. Your support for this ministry enabled us to serve over 1,700 households last year - over 6,000 individuals - and provide these households in excess of 80,000 pounds of food (canned goods, packaged goods, bread products, fresh produce, fresh vegetables and dairy products). It is humbling not only to see the support from our congregation, and from those in our community, but also the joy, thanks and sometimes tears expressed from our guests for the food support we are able to provide. We are truly blessed to be a blessing to our guests. Additionally, we were able to reopen the Clothes Closet in November of last year (2021), and that has been a very welcome benefit our guests are able to enjoy. Your donations of gently worn clothes (no lingerie, undergarments or shoes, please!) solely provide the selections offered, and you keep our racks full! Blessings, indeed. Lastly, we hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and we look forward to another year of helping those in our community in need of a helping hand, and in the process show them the love we have for them that comes from the love that Jesus has for us.

**GREAT BANQUET** - It's baaaack...It's baaaack...It's baaaack!!!! The GREAT BANQUET is back, Jack (and Jill). Save these dates: March 31 - April 3 (Women) April 21 - April 24 (Men) More information coming out soooooon.

**J.O.Y (Just Older Youth)** – Where to find JOY in 2022!! Here we are at the beginning of another year. That is just crazy when you think about it. But what a blessing it is! We hope that you will join us for our January JOY Lunch on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate this New Year and look forward as to what it has in store for each of us. Mark your calendars and RSVP by calling the church office at 680-9944 by, Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$7.00 per person paid at the door.

**ARE YOU EXPECTING?** – If you are expecting a child, we want to know! We have an ongoing maternity prayer list, as well as a gift from the church once your precious baby is born. Please email Anne Petrone, [apetrone@mandarinpres.com](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com).



***MEN PROCLAIMING CHRIST***

**Leader:** Bob Graumann | 860.573.5195 | [bob.graumann@ironsharpensiron.net](mailto:bob.graumann@ironsharpensiron.net).  
Visit our web page at [mandarinpres.com/men](http://mandarinpres.com/men)



**Save The Date today: Saturday Feb 26<sup>th</sup>!**

*Iron Sharpens Iron City-Wide Men's Conference is here again, Live and In-Person!* MPC will be hosting the conference for our 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for All Men <> All Ages <> 13 and older  
Contact Bob if you would like to help with the hosting team.

Do You Have a Heart for Building the Next Generation of Men? Jeff Arnold, Bob Graumann and Heath Kinnunen are assembling a **Men's Ministry Leadership Team** to set the strategy and direction for serving MPC and to disciple ALL men of MPC. Our primary areas of focus are: Men's Discipling | Service and Outreach | Events | Connect Leagues | Ministry Liaisons. We will meet 3 times a year. Our first meeting is **Saturday morning on January 15<sup>th</sup>** Contact Jeff, 708.6893, Bob, 860.573.5195 or Heath, 814.5275 if you are interested.

# STUDENT MINISTRY

Save the dates! More details coming soon.

Kids Min:

- KKamp – June 12-15 for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grades
- SCAMP – July 11-15 for VPK-5<sup>th</sup> grades

Middle School:

- Hang 10 starts back on January 19
- Southwind Camp – July 19-23

High School:

- Crave starts back on January 16
- Tennessee Mission Camp – June 6-10 in Milligan, Tennessee – applications open January 9 at [mandarinpres.com/hsmiissions](http://mandarinpres.com/hsmiissions)
- Costa Rica Mission Trip – July 4-10 - applications open January 9 at [mandarinpres.com/hsmiissions](http://mandarinpres.com/hsmiissions)

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**WOMEN'S MINISTRY TAKE ME AWAY SPA DAY - Saturday, January 29, 2:00 - 6:00pm.** Ladies, refresh yourself with family and friends in 2022! Light snacks and various activities to help you feel renewed in body and spirit! Fellowship Hall on the Mandarin Road Campus. Event is free, but RSVP is requested. RSVP by email to Kim Kelley at [kbott27@gmail.com](mailto:kbott27@gmail.com).

**MILITARY PRAYER LIST** - We are currently updating our Military Prayer List. Please email [apetrone@mandarinpres.com](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com) to add a name to this list.

*In the spirit of thoughtfulness, please refrain from stronger perfumes and colognes when coming to church. Someone around you may be sensitive or allergic. Thank you!*

## MPC ONLINE MEDIA TOOLS

**RIGHTNOW MEDIA** - RightNow Media is like the Netflix of Christian Bible Studies. Through MPC, you can sign up to have access to thousands of Bible study videos and movies for all ages. Email Carla in the church office, [cmayo@mandarinpres.com](mailto:cmayo@mandarinpres.com). She will provide your email to RightNow Media and you will be sent an invitation to sign up. There is no cost for this service.

Follow MPC on our social media channels:



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