

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



January 2025

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Upcoming Classes & Study
- Financial Update
- MPP Registration 2025-2026
- Upcoming Events
- Session Update

HAPPY
2025
NEW YEAR

What a blessed year of ministry! In 2024, God moved in extraordinary ways through our MPC family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/12 NEW SERMON SERIES: INVITED

1/12 BUDGET INSIGHT MEETING

1/19 BUDGET INSIGHT MEETING

1/19 SIX WEEK PRAYER CLASS BEGINS

1/25 WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREAT

1/26 AN EVENING WITH DR. PAUL COPAN

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



Through your faithful hearts and hands:

- Our community grew deeper in faith with 600 participants journeying through Cover to Cover together
- The next generation flourished as 718 unique youth grew in God's love through camps and mission trips
- We joyfully welcomed 89 new Covenant Partners into our church family
- Our first Serve the City united 324 volunteers to serve in various capacities including packing 2,100 meals and impacting many lives
- Our Galatians study gave 300 participants a deeper understanding of the Word
- Our Daily Bread Food Pantry reached 3,180 households and welcomed 954 guests to the Clothes Closet
- Celebrations brought God's love to 1,500 guests at Eggstravaganza and 830 at Fall Fest

Each number represents lives touched, prayers answered and hearts transformed. May God's blessings overflow in your life as we step into a new year of serving Him together!

Upcoming Classes & Study



MPC is offering a six-week prayer training class from January 19th - February 23rd. This class is designed to equip you to pray confidently for the people God puts in your path, and it's a great opportunity for personal growth. More details and registration at mandarinpres.com/prayer.



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.



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!

Senior 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 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!

For more details and registration, go to mandarinpres.com/getagrip.



GIVE THANKS to the LORD

1 Chronicles 16:34



Our hearts are full as we remember the candlelit glow of our Christmas Eve services and the countless ways God blessed our church family in 2024. Here are some additional ways God moved through MPC this year:

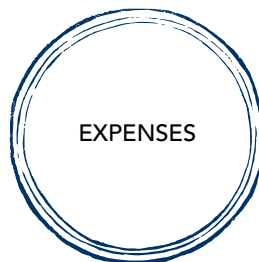
- Our Meals on Wheels Ministry served more than 3,000 meals, providing nourishment and connection
- Our All Church Retreat drew more than 200 registrants for worship and fellowship
- We hosted two Plan it Forward events to help participants plan their future and legacy
- The Great Banquet hosted successful fall and spring weekends for men and women to grow in their faith
- We welcomed a new MPC Pastoral Intern and a Connections Coordinator, as well as celebrated the ordination of Wendy Greer, our Kids Min Director
- Our weekly impact continues for City Rescue Mission with Bible studies, food, clothing and support

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged their support for 2025. Your faithful commitment helps us continue sharing Christ's light in our community. If you haven't yet had the chance to make your pledge, you can easily do so at mandarinpres.com/pledge.

As the echoes of Christmas carols fade and we look toward a new year, may the season of joy and reflection inspire even more generosity and compassion, embodying the love of Christ in everything we do. May God's blessings overflow in your life as we step into 2025.

Give online: mandarinpres.com/give.

2024 Financial Update



Nov. 2024	\$168,826
Year-to-Date	\$2,264,849

Nov. 2024	\$262,280
Year-to-Date	\$2,540,413

Nov. 2024	(\$93,454)
Year-to-Date	(\$275,564)

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!

**Total 2024
Distributions
to Guests
through December 2024**

Food	Clothing
3180	954
	

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!

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



Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool is currently registering students for the 2025-2026 school year for two year olds, three year olds, and Florida VPK four year olds. Space is limited and classes are filling quickly at our amazing school!

If you know of someone who might be interested in sending their preschooler to our school, please have them contact Lee Samuels at 904-680-6406 or lsamuels@mandarinpres.com.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



January Luncheon

Twas 2 weeks after Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring except a big o' white elephant hanging out at your house!

So wrap him up; it's time to re-gift, bring him to the luncheon, and see what you get....no need to spend money; he's in front of you now. If you want to participate, wrap him up now!

Join us for our January J.O.Y. Luncheon on Thursday, January 9th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall to ring in the new year with a comfy, cozy celebration! The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by January 7th 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



"The pause that refreshes." Coca-Cola developed a slogan and campaign to bring hope in the midst of difficulty and provide respite in adversity. The year was 1929. Almost 100 years later, circumstances have changed, but the quest has not. HOPE is still primary to life. God is in the business of providing hope. He accomplishes that through his son Jesus, not a 12-ounce can. The Great Banquet weekend is an opportunity to be bathed in God's grace and filled with hope. If that is what you want in this new year, you can find more information at nefgb.com.

Mark Your Calendars



We are very excited for God's plans for MPC in 2025. Join us for our 2025 Budget Insight meetings at the Loretto Road Campus between services (10am - 10:30am) in Room 8 on January 12th or January 19th. Bring your questions!



MPC will be offering a six-week prayer training class starting on January 19th designed to equip you to pray confidently for people God puts in your path. Registration is available at mandarinpres.com/prayer.



Save your spot for the Women's Ministry January 25th Getaway with God & the Gals retreat in Amelia Island to laugh, enjoy fellowship and spend time with God. Go to mandarinpres.com/getaway for more details.



We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Paul Copan, Christian theologian & author of many books including, "Is God a Vindictive Bully?" on January 26th as our guest preacher. Join for a special Q&A session in the evening! Visit mandarinpres.com/drcopan for more details and to submit advance questions.



Get a Grip starts on February 4th for Tuesday evening sessions (6-7:30pm) and February 5th for Wednesday morning sessions (10-11:30am). Sign up for Senior Pastor Andrew Stepp's 10-week class chronicling the themes and major events of Biblical history at mandarinpres.com/getagrip.



Save the date for the Iron Sharpens Iron men's conference on Saturday Feb 22nd. Hosted by MPC for our 9th year!!! Registration will open on Jan 26th.

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

Happy New Year! The Session prays you have a year full of peace, hope, love, joy and Christ.

Three services on Christmas Eve welcomed over 1700 worshippers to Mandarin Presbyterian. It was a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth – His birth changed everything. "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 NKJV.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Paul Copan on January 26th. Dr. Copan will bring our message at both morning services, then be with us again that evening for a time of Q&A. Bring your most pressing Bible questions.

Our second 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 us. Information and registration are available on the MPC website.

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 in Sunday morning announcements. If you're unsure where to begin, visit the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings and we'll help you connect.

Though the Session did not meet in December, we continue to pray for you, our community, our country, our world.

We pray that 2025 will be the year you take the next step, then the next step to draw closer to Jesus.



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