

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2026



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Operational Budget Update
- Momentum Campaign
- Upcoming Events
- Session Update



Join our church-wide Bible reading journey as we read the Bible cover to cover in 100 days, completing 12 pages daily. Reading the entire Bible in a short timeframe is transformative. You won't journey alone; we'll gather weekly to discuss insights, ask questions, and encourage one another.

Choose between a Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning session, beginning January 27th or 28th respectively. Register at mandarinpres.com/cover. For any questions, please contact Cindy Althouse at calthouse@mandarinpres.com.



Upcoming Events

- Budget Meetings: January 11th & 18th
- Women's Retreat: January 24th
- Cover to Cover: January 27th/28th
- Overcome: January 28th

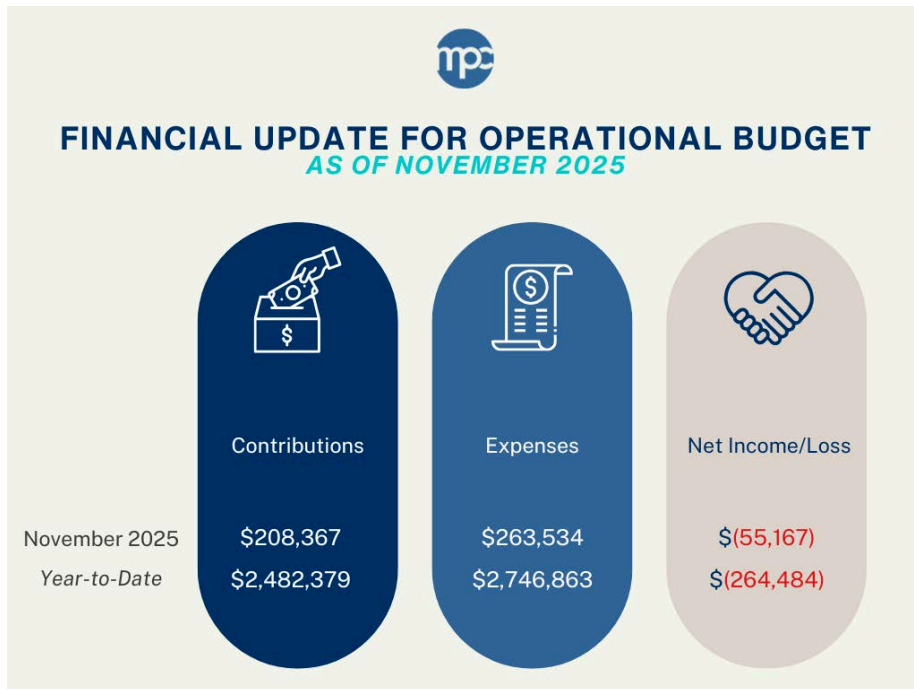
mandarinpres.com



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

Operational Budget Update

We are excited for what God is doing at MPC and for all that God has planned for us in 2026! We encourage you to strengthen our operating budget—the engine that powers every aspect of MPC: our ministries, outreach, programs, and facilities. Your year-round giving ensures we can sustain and grow these essential operations even as we begin construction.



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!!

Give online: mandarinpres.com/give.



We thank God for His vision and your generosity! The Momentum Campaign has been a great success. We received almost \$8.9million in total commitments, which will be used to create space for more people to move toward Jesus! This is a very exciting time at MPC - please expect temporary changes (ie parking, small group spaces). Rest assured, we'll communicate changes and it will all be worth it for His glory!

What's Next?

- Groundbreaking is scheduled for 1st Quarter 2026 with construction to begin in early 2nd Quarter.
- Continued focus is needed on **Prayer** and **Alignment** with God's will as we move forward together.
- Ongoing support is needed for both our operating budget and Momentum Campaign.

We'll keep you informed every step of the way. For the latest updates, visit mandarinpres.com/momentum.

Daily Bread Food Pantry Update



Our **Daily Bread Food Pantry** and **Clothes Closet** continues at a steady pace. 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.

These numbers below reflect a substantial impact on our local community, demonstrating the ongoing **need** and the **importance** of the Pantry and Clothes Closet. Each guest represents a story and a family touched by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners. We anticipate continued demand and remain committed to serving with compassion and care.

**Total 2025
Distributions
to Guests**
(through Dec. 16th)

Food	Clothing
2969	1089
	

Most recently, the amazing (increased) response in all manner of donations, including Fall Fest on the River, individuals, local club and church youth groups as well as businesses has served to catapult the Food Pantry into 2026! All going to the benefit of those guest households we strive to serve. Thank you for your ongoing support!

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

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

January Luncheon



Join us as we crown our first ever trivia winners at our "Mr. and Mrs. Know it All" luncheon. Our luncheon will be on Thursday, January 8th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 6th at 904-680-9944.

MPP



Happy New Year! The MPP Preschoolers put on a rousing Christmas Program just before taking a two-week break to celebrate our Savior's birth. We love to put on a show for our sweet families!

Registration is in full swing and preschool classes are filling for the 2026-2027 school year that starts in August 2026. Spots are still available, so if you need a spot in our amazing program, reach out to Lee Samuels at lsamuels@mandarinpres.com or call 904-680-6406.

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



An advertising slogan suggests 'new year, new you.' Oh, if it were only that easy! A flip of the calendar and the old has passed away, the new has begun. Anyone who has ever made a New Year's resolution knows that is NOT the case. For most of us, 'new year, old you' is closer to the truth. We got you covered - try out the Great Banquet, a 72-hour feast on Jesus. The apostle Paul said, "If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away, the new has begun." Want change? Want more than you are experiencing in life and Jesus? The great banquet is worth considering. For more information, visit nefgb.com. The women's weekend is April 16th-19th and the men's is April 30th-May 3rd.

Mark Your Calendars



Join us for Getaway with God & the Gals in Fernandina with speaker Hannah Rowen Fry! This is a great opportunity for the ladies of MPC to get together, laugh, enjoy fellowship and spend time with God in beautiful Amelia Island. For more details and to save your spot, go to mandarinpres.com/getaway.



Many of us feel depressed, lost, lonely, scared, angry, or hopeless. We struggle with distant relationships and exclusion. Join Overcome, an 8-week support group led by trained facilitators to help ease your burdens and find hope. For details and registration, visit mandarinpres.com/overcome.



Discover what it means to be part of MPC and our mission through our Discovery Class. You'll connect with our church family and learn about our vision for serving Christ as well as explore ways to get involved. Sign up at mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass.



Save the date for the Men's Iron Sharpens Iron Conference. This is one-day event designed to equip and encourage men through fellowship, worship and inspirational speakers, focusing on strengthening their faith and character. More details at mandarinpres.com/mensministry.

Just a quick update 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 worshippers to Mandarin Presbyterian Church. 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 KJV.

Our 2nd Cover to Cover in 100 Days reading plan will begin on January 27th (Tuesday evening) or January 28th (Wednesday morning). 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: mandarinpress.com/cover.

There are many exciting opportunities for you to connect with MPC, either through joining a small group or volunteering. You will find these opportunities and more on the website or in the Sunday morning announcements. If you're not sure where to begin, then visit one of our Welcome Desks on Sunday mornings and we'll help you get connected.

Though the Session did not meet in December, we continue to pray for you, our community, our country, our world. We pray that 2026 will be the year you take the next step, then the next step to draw closer to Jesus.

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

Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and the vision that God has put before us. "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

All event details can be found on our website, mandarinpres.com, the [Church Center app](#) or have it delivered to your inbox with our weekly e-newsletter by signing up at mandarinpres.com/enews.

HAPPY
New Year

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