

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June 2025



May Serve Day with Three Grains of Rice

21 Serve Day Volunteers - 100 Bags of Mulch Spread - 414 Books Donated - Numerous Food & Pantry Items Sorted & Some Rain!



We are grateful to our May 10th volunteers and the generous book donations from our congregation. Your selfless contributions of time and resources have truly made a difference for Three Grains of Rice and the community they serve. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ, even when those hands and feet got a little wet and muddy!

What a joy to serve together! We will announce upcoming volunteer opportunities soon!



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

Daily Bread Food Pantry



School Supply Drive

We are collecting school supplies for students of all ages for our Daily Bread Food Pantry until July 15th to help local students start the year prepared. Needed items include notebooks, notebook paper (college and wide ruled), markers, composition notebooks, 2-pocket subject folders, subject notebooks, #2 pencils, colored pencils, highlighters, crayons, glue sticks, and backpacks. Please drop off donations in the Food Pantry bins located on both campuses. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE

22

DAY

06

MONTH

25

YEAR

Join us for Devyn Nelson's Ordination
Ceremony at 10:30am! Refreshments
following the Service.

May at MPC

What an inspiring month we've had at Mandarin Presbyterian Church! Our office and church campuses were filled with energy as we continued our journey of worship, fellowship and service throughout this beautiful spring season.

In May, we were blessed to host the following events:

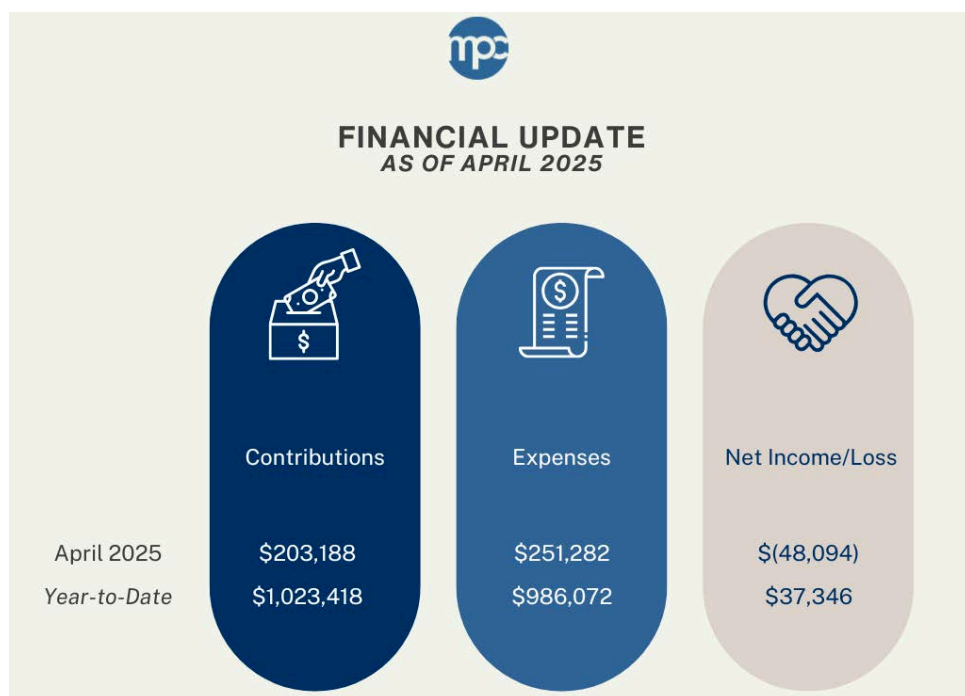
- An appreciation brunch for our office volunteers and an appreciation lunch for our hospitality teams (ushers, greeters, servers, and welcome desk volunteers).
- Inspiring testimonies from our High School Ministry Director, Brandon Gober, along with senior students Deborah, Caleb, and Drew during Sunday worship on May 4th.
- The Middle School Ministry's End of the Year Awards Ceremony, known as "The Mandies."
- A 5Up end of the year Hawaiian celebration for our fifth graders.
- A J.O.Y. Kentucky Derby celebration that featured hats, bowties, and fun games.
- A Senior Brunch honoring 27 high school graduates and their families.
- Our May Serve Day in partnership with 3 Grains of Rice (details on page 1).
- Graduations and end-of-the-year parties for Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool.
- A Men's Ministry lunch with Devyn Nelson as the featured speaker, and more!

Thank you all for your participation and support! It's what makes MPC a special place to worship, connect and serve!

Looking to find your place at MPC? We're here to help! Stop by one of our welcome desks on Sunday mornings or email our connections coordinator, Renata, at rkamp@mandarinpres.com.



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!!

Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to our 2025 MPC Endowed Scholarship Recipients!



Deborah Mendes graduated from Bartram Trail High School and will attend the University of North Florida as a Music Education major with a minor in Spanish. We wish Deborah the best of luck in her future endeavours!

Kaitlynn Ellis graduated Mandarin High School and will attend Southeastern University Jacksonville to earn her AA in Ministerial Leadership. We wish the best to Kaitlynn on her next chapter!



Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool still has some openings for both our preschool summer camp sessions (children ages 3-5) and school year preschool program that starts in August. If you have preschool age children, or know someone who does, we'd love to serve them in our amazing program! We are committed to providing age-appropriate experiences through hands-on activities and play in a Christian environment and would love to help your child develop in the formative early years. For more information, call Lee Samuels at the preschool at 904-680-6406 or email lsamuels@mandarinpres.com.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



June Coastal Beach Brunch

**Please join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Thursday, June 12th at 11:30am**

Join us for our Coastal Beach Brunch!
The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please
RSVP by Tuesday, June 10th at 904-
680-9944.

Hope to see you there!

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to SCAMP, we will meet only on June 11th and not on June 25th.

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.

The Great Banquet

SAVE THE DATE: The Women's Great Banquet weekend is Oct 23-26, and the Men's is Nov. 6-9. This is a great opportunity to journey deeper with Jesus while experiencing authentic Christian Community. For more information, go to NEFGB.com. See ya there!

Volunteer at SCAMP

Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people and make a difference. SCAMP (Summer Camp at Mandarin Presbyterian) is coming soon! It's June 23-27, 9am-Noon. We still have lots of volunteer spots open for adults and students! Sign up on our Church Center app or email Wendy Greer at wgreer@mandarinpres.com. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars



Join us this summer as we explore the timeless principles of the 10 Commandments that reveal God's heart of compassion, our need for grace and practical wisdom that transforms our relationships. Experience why the 10 Commandments are still relevant today and how they lead to a fulfilling life. This is a perfect opportunity to invite someone new to MPC!



Come be a part of something meaningful and see God at work in our world! We're heading to San Miguel Chicaj, Guatemala, for a week of impactful service - combining community outreach and medical mission work. Whether you're experienced or simply have a heart to serve, we'd love for you to join our team! Visit mandarinpres.com/adultmission for details -the application deadline is **June 23rd!**



If you're a rising college freshman through senior, we'd love to have you at our College Summer Ministry! We meet Thursdays from 7-9pm. Come hang out, grow in community and stay rooted in your faith this summer. For more information, go to mandarinpres.com/college.



Have the summer of a lifetime close to home! MPC is hosting Winshape Camp again this year from July 14-18. Campers completing grades K-5th cultivate their God-given skills and talents in a mix of indoor and outdoor moments, physical activity and creative play. Go to mandarinpres.com/kidsevents for details and registration.



Save your spot for a fun evening this summer. Come for dessert, fellowship and fun with the ladies on July 30th. We'll also have an opportunity to shop and hear from a representative from Rethreaded, an organization that works with survivors of human trafficking. Their artisans create unique scarves, suede jewelry and handcrafted home goods. More details and registration are available at mandarinpres.com/womensministry.

May Recap: End of the Year Fun

May burst with celebration as we honored some of our volunteers and students who make MPC a special place! The pictures below are from some of the celebrations: our Middle School Ministry "Mandies" Awards Celebration, a heartfelt Senior Brunch for our 2025 high school graduates as well as our 5Up end of the year celebration. Pastor Andrew personally thanked our hospitality teams at an appreciation lunch, while our hardworking office volunteers were celebrated with a delicious appreciation brunch. The photos below capture some of these joyful moments of community and gratitude here at MPC.



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

May Session Update

Our May sermon series has been a wonderful reminder of the invitations that Jesus extends to us: invitations to move closer to Him, to follow Him and to know Him more. We were also blessed to hear from Brandon Gober, our High School Ministry Director, along with Drew, Caleb and Deborah, high school seniors, who shared their testimonies with us. We can see God at work in our Next Gen ministries.

This summer promises to be very busy for our Next Gen Ministry, with K-Kamp, SCAMP, Middle School Southwind camp and High School mission trips in Georgia and Costa Rica. Volunteers are needed in our Kids Ministry this summer. You can sign up to volunteer on the Kids Min page of our MPC website or reach out to Assistant Pastor of Kids Ministries, Wendy Greer, at wgreer@mandrinpres.com.

There is no better way to serve God than through serving our youngest disciples.

With the upcoming summer camps and mission trips, let's be in prayer for both students and adults "...to not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of their minds. Then they will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Following our "Ten" summer sermon series, we'll transition into "Jesus Changes Everything" this September, exploring discipleship and how Christ transforms every aspect of our lives. October brings "Nehemiah: Faith in Action," a journey that will carry us through to Advent.

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 that we stay faithful to the Vision and Core Values that God has placed on MPC. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV).

One Worship Service in July

We will be having one worship service in July at 10:00am. As we have done in previous summers, we will gather as one church family to worship. The service will incorporate elements from both the traditional and contemporary services.

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