

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

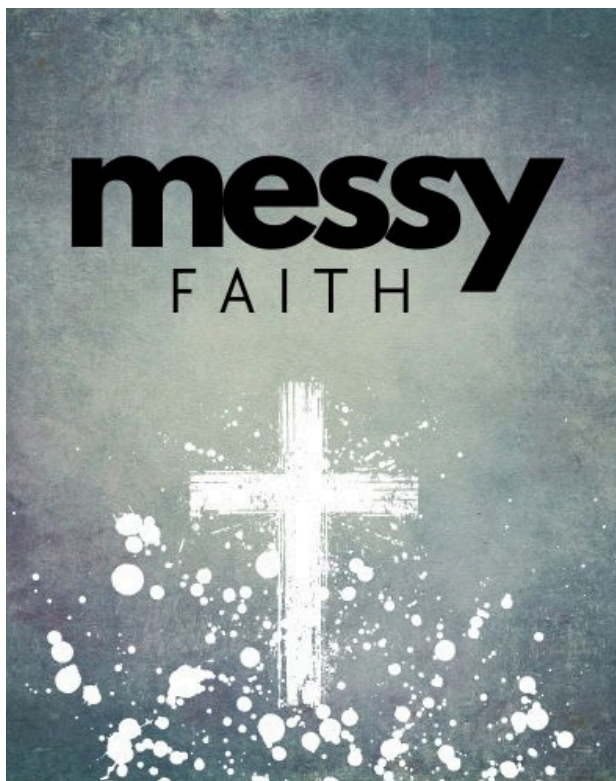
June 2024



A JOURNEY THROUGH PSALMS WORKSHOP WITH DAVID TAYLOR SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

Join us for our June 8th workshop in the Sanctuary to kick off our next sermon series, "Messy Faith," with theologian, author, speaker, priest, and director of initiatives in art and faith, David Taylor.

He will share what it's like to encounter God in a new way as we explore Psalms as gifts from God that help us navigate the "messiness" and range of human emotions. Sign up at mandarinpres.com/messy.



MESSY FAITH SERMON SERIES SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

This summer, we are exploring the Book of Psalms in a series called "Messy Faith." Like the rest of our lives, our faith can sometimes be messy (perhaps often!). God has given us this beautiful book of prayers to teach us how to express and live out our faith during the messiest seasons: anger, hurt, doubt, grief, betrayal, revenge, etc. Biblical scholar and theologian Ellen Davis writes that the Psalms "enable us to bring into our conversation with God feelings and thoughts most of us think we need to get rid of before God will be interested in hearing from us." Join us this summer as we embrace the mess, using Psalms as our guide to bring our whole, unfiltered selves before God.



In this newsletter you will find: upcoming events, a financial update, a mission spotlight, an events recap & more. Keep reading!

Daily Bread Food Pantry Update



Through the first five months of 2024, guest visitations to our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet remain vibrant. Our faithful volunteers have contributed to the weekly distribution of three grocery bags full of canned and packaged dry goods, bread & pastries, fresh fruits & vegetables, dairy products – and occasionally some meat, fish, and poultry items! We are genuinely blessed to be a blessing to those in our community who need food and clothing assistance!

*Total 2024
Food Pantry
Distributions
to Guests*

Food	Clothing
1200+	350+

Numerous individuals and organizations/groups continue to contribute with food, clothing, and monetary gifts to power Daily Bread Food Pantry operations.

At present, due to a transition of a major source of provisions (Feeding Northeast Florida) to a new warehouse & distribution location, we are seeking an increase of canned and dry goods to meet demand. **We need canned veggies, soups, fruits, tuna and chicken, as well as boxed pasta and cereals at this time.**

We appreciate and are grateful for your prayers for this ministry and our guests as we continue stepping joyfully toward Jesus to support our neighbors in need. God has indeed shown his light on this ministry. The love and support our covenant partners have consistently given since our first day has enabled us to be a steady beacon and positive provisioner in our community.

Praises to all with blessings and gratitude,
Daily Bread Food Ministry (Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteers)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Praise God for All of Our Blessings

2024 Financial Update

	CONTRIBUTIONS	EXPENSES	NET INCOME/LOSS
April 2024	\$198,745	\$216,416	\$(17,671)
Year-to-Date	\$1,018,297	\$841,506	\$176,791

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!



*For where your
treasure is,
there your heart
will be also.
Luke 12:34*

Have you considered Recurring Giving?

Recurring Giving is an Effective Way to Help MPC

Benefits to You:

- It's easy, convenient and secure
- It's an action you can take off your "to do" list with automation
- You'll have easy access to your donation records
- You can adjust your monthly donation amount anytime

Benefits to MPC:

- It provides consistent, reliable funding throughout the year
- It provides steady cashflow for operations and ministries
- It opens up opportunities for long-term, strategic thinking

How to set up Recurring Giving in the Church Center App:

- Tap the "Give" tab at the bottom of the screen
- Enter desired donation amount and tap "Next"
- Select Frequency option from the drop-down menu
- Enter preferred payment method and you're all set!

Questions:

- Contact our front office at 904.680.9944 at any time for assistance.
- For instructions on setting up the Church Center App, visit mandarinpres.com/churchcenter.



ALL CHURCH RETREAT

This Labor Day weekend, join MPC at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island! We'll stay in hotel-style accommodations on this beautiful property, just a short drive from the beach. Expect fun and connection as we grow in Christ together!

What's Included:

- Gatherings for worship
- Adult speaker
- Kids and Student Ministry programming
- Plenty of afternoon activities (beach, pool, putt putt golf, crafting and more)
- All meals provided by Epworth
- Evening fun for everyone – Bingo, Glow in the Dark games, campfire and a Square Dance!

The All Church Retreat will start on Saturday at 11:15am with a Welcome & Gathering and end on Monday at 10:30am with a special closing and departure at 11:00am. For more details and registration, go to mandarinpres.com/retreat.

If you need any help with registration or have any questions, reach out to Cindy Althouse at calthouse@mandarinpres.com.

The All Church Retreat is for everyone! Save your spot today!

Great Banquet

What is even better news than when Krispy Kreme's are hot? The Great Banquet dates for fall 2024 have been established! The Women's weekend will be Oct. 24-27 and the Men's weekend will be Nov. 14-17. Go to Krispy Kreme, buy half a dozen, and read all about the Great Banquet at nefgb.com as you imbibe. Both your tummy and your soul will be forever grateful.



Men Proclaiming Christ

The next men's Huddle Up will be on
June 10th, V's Pizza 6:30 – 8:30pm.

For any questions or to connect, contact:
Chris Davis: cpdavis1180@gmail.com/
904.382.0771 or Bob Graumann:
bob.graumann@ironsharpensiron.net/
860.573.5195.

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 (904-859-4996/hesterrandy632@gmail.com) or Wayne Gaff (904-318-0002/w.gaff@comcast.net) with any questions.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



ADVENTURE AWAITS

Thursday, June 13th at 11:30am
Fellowship Hall

Join us for the June J.O.Y. luncheon, whether by car, plane, train, or boat, as we cruise into summer! We will celebrate this beautiful world that God has given us. Please bring a special photo, souvenir, or memory from somewhere you visited—we will have display tables for everyone to enjoy.

Cost is \$7.00 per person
Please RSVP by June 11th
Contact us at 904-680-9944

Mission Spotlight: The Antioch Partners

Mandarin Presbyterian Church supports a variety of missions around the world and locally. The focus of this month's Mission Spotlight is The Antioch Partners and their missionary in Turkey, Pam. Pam asked that we not use her last name.



The Antioch Partners (TAP) is a sending agency that partners with Presbyterian churches in sending people to participate in God's work. Their conviction is that every follower of Jesus is a minister of the Gospel, but for those called to long-term cross-cultural engagement, special training and support structures are necessary, which is what TAP provides.

Those serving through TAP are engaged in many aspects of Kingdom work, including discipleship, evangelism, social justice, supporting church planting movements, leadership development, and business outreach endeavors. Two priorities for TAP are working among least-reached people groups and helping strengthen the outreach capacity of global partners.

Pam is sent out by TAP; her home church is University Presbyterian Church, which she began attending after studying International Relations. Pam has been in the field for 33 years, serving in Albania and Azerbaijan where she was involved in pioneering InterVarsity university student ministry and supporting local church planting. For the last 21 years, she has been serving in Turkey in the same capacity.

In each of these countries, God has been opening doors and hearts in unique ways, through the collapse of the communist system and through interest in Christ that has increased over time. Pam has had the joy of seeing student ministries start and be passed on to local leaders, and has had the privilege to be part of leadership teams of local church plants, supporting their work and investing in emerging leaders.

Revelation 7:9-10 excites her because we see God glorified and bringing about His plan in our world. "...behold, there was a great multitude... from every nation... crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Pam expresses thankfulness for how TAP and MPC partner together and join in how God is bringing the above verses to fruition. For more information on The Antioch Partners ministry, please visit <https://www.theantiochpartners.org/>.

MPC Next Gen Ministry



Join us for a wacky and fun event called Summer Jam! The event will take place on Sunday evening, June 2nd, at 6pm in the Sanctuary on the Loretto Road Campus. It will be a great opportunity for families with kids to enjoy silly games, hilarious skits and some worship time together. All are welcome! Visit mandarinpres.com/summerjam.



SCAMP (Summer Camp at MPC) is coming soon! It's June 24-28, 9-12. We still have lots of volunteer spots open for adults and students! Sign up here: mandarinpres.com/scamp. For any questions, contact Wendy Greer at wgreer@mandarinpres.com, Thank you!



We meet at the River House every Thursday night from 7 to 8:30pm. Come for food, activities and time to connect! Check out our webpage for worship nights, gatherings and more. For more info, contact Jenn Arnold at jennarnold@mandarinpres.com or visit mandarinpres.com/college.



Join us for Summer Nights meeting every Tuesday from 7-9pm at the River House. We will gather for dinner, community, Bible study and prayer. This is a group for those aged 20-30, looking to connect and navigate life's transitions together. For more details, visit mandarinpres.com/youngadults.

We're Looking For...

Join Our Team!



Discipleship Pastor or Director: We are looking for a Discipleship Pastor/Director who will play a pivotal role in the spiritual growth and development of individuals within our congregation. For more information, go to mandarinpres.com/jobs.

Kids Ministry Assistant: This 20-hour/week position provides support for our Kids Ministry. The job includes preparing curriculum, weekly updating of database, website, and social media, communication with parents, and Sunday morning support. Contact Wendy Greer at wgreer@mandarinpres.com.

Sunday Morning Nursery Team: We are looking for adults (18 and older) with childcare experience to work on our Sunday morning nursery team. This position includes implementing curriculum, communicating with parents and caring for children 0-2 years old. Contact Wendy Greer at wgreer@mandarinpres.com for details.

Please share with anyone that may be interested.

Register Now for MomCo



Calling all moms with kids from pregnancy to 5th grade! This fall, we are starting our very own MomCo ministry for moms. Formerly known as MOPS, this group will provide connection and friendships that will last a lifetime. This group will meet every other Tuesday from 9:45 – 11:45am. Childcare will be provided! For any questions, contact MOPS@mandarinpres.com. Limited spots - register at mandarinpres.com/momco.

WANTED FOR SUMMER!

WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR
NEXT GEN SUMMER ACTIVITIES



We are collecting the below items for Next Gen summer activities:

- Paper towel rolls for SCAMP (June)
- Ball Pit balls for K-Kamp (June)
- Unused school supplies for Uganda (July)
- Baby and Toddler clothes (new or gently used) for Uganda (July)

Items can be dropped off in the church office!

Scholarship Winner



Congratulations to our 2024 MPC Endowed Scholarship recipient, Caroline Maffett! Caroline graduated from Mandarin High School and will attend the University of Utah to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Ballet. Many blessings to your bright future, Caroline!

Congratulations to all our graduates! Wishing each of you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

– Joshua 1:9

Meet Our Newest Staff Member

Introducing Renata Kamp, our new Connections Coordinator! We're thrilled to have her on board and can't wait to see the creativity and expertise she brings to our connections ministry.

Welcome, Renata!



May Events Recap



We wrapped up Cover to Cover in 100 Days this month with special celebrations for participants and leaders. It's quite the feat to read the entire Bible in 100 days. Congratulations to all 600+ participants - God is doing amazing things here at MPC!

In addition, we held our annual Daddy/Daughter Dance on May 4th with a "Splish Splash" theme. We hope everyone had blast and can't wait until next year!



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

We're excited to welcome 26 new covenant partners through our Discovery Class and 12 young disciples through our Confirmation Class. It's a joy to have these students and adults join our MPC community.

Registration is now open for our first All Church Retreat on Labor Day weekend. We'll gather at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, with programs planned for all ages. We are very excited for this unique opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth.

Have you been blessed by our current sermon series unveiling our new core values? If you've missed any of the messages, you can watch them at mandarinpres.com/sermons.

Messy Faith, our next series, kicks off with a workshop on Saturday, June 8th, led by David Taylor. Register on our website or the Church Center app.

Our Next Gen Ministries have an action-packed summer ahead! High schoolers are heading on mission trips to Georgia, Costa Rica and Uganda. Middle schoolers will enjoy camp at Southwind, while elementary students have K-Kamp, SCAMP and WinShape camps. There are also fun days and service days planned for all of our students. We didn't leave out our college-age students or young adults. There are weekly gatherings at the River House for fun and worship. Please pray for all of these activities and for our pastors and staff.

We want to hear from you! If you have a question or want to say hello, you can reach out to us individually or email the Session at elders@mandarinpres.com.

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:4-7

Please join the Session as we continue to pray for our church, our community, our world.

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 come together as one church family to worship. The service will incorporate elements from both the traditional and contemporary services.

Church Office
11844 Mandarin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904.680.9944
info@mandarinpres.com

Sanctuary Address
2501 Loretto Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223



mandarinpres.com



@mandarinpres



@mandarinpres



YouTube @mandarinpresbyterianchurch