

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



March 2025

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Support & Connect Opportunities
- Financial Update
- Upcoming Events
- February Event Recap
- Session Update



KEY DATES

3/2 WOMEN'S MINISTRY GRAB & GAB

3/5 ASH WEDNESDAY

3/8 SERVE THE CITY

3/10 CAMP REGISTRATIONS OPEN

3/29 DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

4/13 EGGSTRAVAGANZA

4/20 EASTER SUNDAY

Go to mandarinpres.com for all the details.



Support HS Mission Trips! Church volunteers needed for mulch delivery! Sign up at mandarinpres.com/mulch

Join us for Serve the City - a chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our city! Work alongside mission partners as we serve in various capacities. Come on your own or bring your small group, family or friends - together we'll share Christ's love through various service projects. For more information and to sign-up, go to mandarinpres.com/servethecity.

Here are some of the opportunities:

- Hunger Fight - preparation of meals and books
- City Rescue Mission - sort and organize goods for the CRM Thrift Store as well as gardening
- Seamark Ranch - prepare for their Mud Run fundraiser
- Waste Not Want Not - organize groceries for distribution
- Three Grains of Rice Missions - general clean-up and repair, as well as organize groceries for distribution
- Prayer Team - pray for the ministries taking place throughout our community

There's something for everyone. We look forward to serving together!

Generosity



Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the extraordinary generosity shown by our church in January and February!

As pictured above, the families of Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool (MPP) joyfully contributed many items to our Daily Bread Food Pantry, helping to bring hope and sustenance to those in need. Our church congregation also united to provide financial and emotional support to a fellow church family after a recent tragedy, truly exemplifying Christ's love in action.

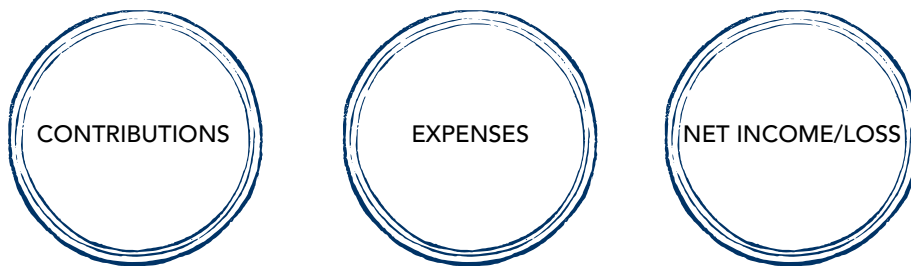
God's work continues to flourish at MPC, from our thriving Get a Grip Bible study—now reaching over 300 participants—to our vibrant Next Gen Ministry and beyond.

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2025, we're filled with anticipation for the ways we'll worship, connect, and serve together. Your faithful support enables us to pursue the impactful ministries God has called us to steward.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey of faith, service, and generosity. Together, we're making a lasting difference in our community and beyond.

Give online: mandarinpres.com/give.

2025 Financial Update



	CONTRIBUTIONS	EXPENSES	NET INCOME/LOSS
Jan. 2025	\$309,201	\$216,492	\$92,709
Year-to-Date	\$309,201	\$216,492	\$92,709

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!



Daily Bread Food Pantry Update

Weekly distributions steadily increased in 2024 and now averages 65 households impacting more than 170 individuals with 20+ weekly guests taking advantage of the Clothes Closet. 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.

We are truly grateful for the opportunity to support those in our community who need assistance with food and clothing. Thank you for all of the prayers and support!

**Total Guests
2025**
through January 2025

Food	Clothing
200+	95+

MPP, Rotary Club of Mandarin, MPP, BSA Troop 321 & 474, 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 now accepting registrations for "Summer Fun at MPP" - our dynamic preschool camp for ages 3-5 years old. Each week features unique theme-based activities that spark curiosity and joy in young learners. For more information, call or email Lee Samuels at the preschool office at 904-680-6406 or lsamuels@mandarinpres.com. Space is limited, so sign up quickly!

Session dates and themes:

1. May 27-29 – Hakuna Matata Mindfulness and Meditation
2. June 3-5 – Castles, Dragons, and Fairy Tales
3. June 10-12 – Galaxy Explorers
4. June 17-19 – Moana’s Luau
5. July 29-31 – Rascally Robots

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



March Luncheon

**Celebrate St. Paddy's Day!
Wear your green as everyone is Irish
on St. Patrick's Day!**

Please join us on Thursday, March 13th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall for our March J.O.Y. luncheon.

The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 11th 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



Need a spiritual pick-me-up stronger than your morning coffee run? The Great Banquet might be just what your soul is craving! This incredible 72-hour journey at MPC offers deep connections, meaningful exploration of Jesus' teachings, amazing food and more joy than you can imagine. Think of it as a spiritual recharge that'll leave you more energized than a quadruple espresso! Ready to feed your soul? Visit nefgb.com and discover what awaits!

The Women's Weekend is April 3-6, and the Men's Weekend is April 24-27. Contact Jeff Arnold at jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars



March 2nd, 2-4pm
Office Campus (Mandarin Road)

Grab some coffee and gab for a bit on Sunday, March 2nd, from 2-4pm at Woody's in the MPC Mandarin Road Campus. The Grounds of Grace coffee bus will be there to serve you! Sign up at mandarinpres.com/womensministry.



Join our Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 7pm at our Church Campus. Childcare is provided for kindergarten and under. Please contact Beth Wolfram at bwolfram@mandarinpres.com to RSVP for childcare.



Join us for our 2nd annual Serve the City event - where our community comes together to make a real difference in our city by partnering with a variety of mission partners to make an impact. Sign up at mandarinpres.com/servethecity.



Mark your calendars! Registration for our Next Gen Ministry summer camps opens on Monday, March 10th! Go to mandarinpres.com/kidsevents for kids camps and mandarinpres.com/msevents for our middle school camp.



Join us for an evening of dancing, feasting and magical moments at our "Once Upon a Time" Daddy/Daughter celebration on March 29th, 6-8pm. Sign-up at mandarinpres.com/dance by March 24th.



We're inviting our community to enjoy an exciting Easter celebration with egg hunts, pony rides, crafts, a petting zoo and more on Sunday, April 13th, 3-5:30pm! Bring your loved ones and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a fun-filled afternoon. Go to mandarinpres.com/eggstravaganza for more details.

Event Recap: February

Unwrapped Bible Presentation Event



On February 20th, the MPC Kids Ministry celebrated a significant milestone in our third graders' (and up) faith journeys with the Unwrapped Bible presentation event. Families joined together as each child received their own personal Bible during a meaningful ceremony. Seeing these young believers eagerly anticipate exploring God's Word deeply touched our hearts and perfectly embodies our commitment to partnering with parents in nurturing an enduring, vibrant faith that is both known and fully alive!

Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference



On February 22nd, MPC hosted the City-Wide Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference for the ninth consecutive year. Over 230 men of all ages attended from 35 different churches, with participants traveling from as far away as Tampa, Melbourne and St. Mary's, GA. Trinity Rescue Mission received the Outstanding Men's Ministry award, bringing 19 men to the conference! It was a great day!

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

This summer, we have many opportunities for our Next Gen kids and students, including three interns coming on board—one for Kids Ministry, one for Middle School, and one for our High School ministry. Additionally, there are seven camps and mission trips planned for students of all ages. Fundraisers have begun to help support our high school students going on mission trips, so be sure to get your TPC tickets or mulch for your flower beds. Many of these camps will need volunteers, so please look for opportunities to serve all generations.

March 8th marks our 2nd Annual Serve the City day, offering a place for all ages to serve. Those who cannot participate can sign up to pray for the various teams that will be serving in the community. To sign up, go to mandarinpres.com/servethecity.

Our core values drive everything we do: Jesus First, Every Generation, Deep-Spirited Community, Courageous Faith and Whole-Life Generosity. Please join the Session in praying for MPC as we strive to become more committed to Christ every day. Let us pray that we continue to bear the Fruit of the Spirit, and join us in praying for our community, our nation, and our world.

In February, we joyously welcomed 32 new Covenant Partners into our church family! Most of our new members have regularly attended MPC, and all had heartfelt faith journeys shared with their Deacon Shepherds and the Session.

As we celebrate our new Covenant Partners, we also grieve with those in our church families who have recently lost loved ones. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." - Matthew 5:4.

Our core value, Every Generation, emphasizes that we disciple all generations to follow Jesus, recognizing that each one is essential in the Body of Christ. Our Next Generation Ministry embodies this value through a wide range of programs, from Kids Ministry to Young Adults. These programs are attended not only by MPC families but also by families from the community.



mandarinpres.com/churchcenter

Download and use our Church Center app for secure giving, prayer requests, check-in & events.



Office Campus
11844 Mandarin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-680-9944
info@mandarinpres.com

Church Campus
2501 Loretto Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223



mandarinpres.com



@mandarinpres



@mandarinpres



@mandarinpresbyterianchurch