

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2022



A group of Summer Costa Rica Missions Team members pray over a local family.

## Regular service times return

As summer is winding down and families are preparing to return to school schedules and related activities, MPC will be returning to our regular Sunday morning services: 9:00am Traditional and 10:30am Contemporary beginning August 7<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone!

**Sunday Service Times:**  
9:00am Traditional  
10:30am Contemporary

Streaming services online at both worship times.

## Inside this issue



### S.C.A.M.P. kids raise money for Ukrainian families

Read about this awesome fundraiser-set up by one of our MPC families.

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### Meet the Stepp Family.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp and his family will be join us August 21<sup>st</sup> for their first Sunday! Come by and greet them.

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### Men's Event: Burger Bash

Men's end of summer bash coming up August 27<sup>th</sup>.

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# Recap: High School Missions Trip to Costa Rica

Our second High School Missions group travelled to Costa Rica during July. The team consisted of 44 teens and leaders who travelled to the village of Horquetas to the Living Waters Ranch for the week, splitting up into three teams. Each team served in different areas of the community in and around the ranch. Activities included digging a trench on the ranch for plumbing, building a walkway through the ranch, serving kids through vacation Bible school, blessing families in the community with a week's worth of groceries, assisting in painting a new community center for 6:8 Ministries to serve the community, taking prayer walks and ending the day with team devotion time and free time in the river. The team shared about their time in Costa Rica on July 17th for our Student Missions Sunday. If you would like to see the service led



entirely by the missions teams from both the Tennessee and Costa Rica, you can visit [mandarinpres.com/sermons](http://mandarinpres.com/sermons) and find the July 17th service.



## Update from the Daily Bread Food Pantry



The summer temperatures are rising and so are the number of guests being served at the food pantry. We have seen a 30% increase year over year, as well as an uptick in the quantity of clothes being pulled from hangers

in the clothes closet. The Food Pantry has also seen more new guests on a weekly basis than usual, some of whom are coming to us from beyond the five zip code areas we serve. We do not turn anyone in need away; we serve them once, then help them to locate food pantry opportunities closer to where they live.

The offerings provided to our guests are intended to bring a little comfort to their lives and one less thing to worry about. The reality is that the gratitude and joy expressed by a guest when a car is loaded with well-rounded bags of dry goods, produce and bread brings as much satisfaction to the volun-

teers as the guests.

The increased demand for our food offering is putting a strain on the volume of food we try to maintain for prospective guests, but that is a good challenge to face. We have faith that God will provide, and it means we are able to share the glory and love of our Lord and Savior with more individuals and families. The Food Pantry would not be able to thrive without the continuing support of our covenant partners.

We thank you and are grateful for your generosity! Feel free to come by and see us on a Tuesday afternoon between 4:30 and 6:00 and see firsthand the smiles on the faces of those who come to be blessed by God's daily bread.





## Recap: S.C.A.M.P. Week (Summer Camp at Mandarin Presbyterian)

In July, MPC held it's version of VBS, S.C.A.M.P. Approximately 320 children, Pre-K through 5th grade, attended the week long activities. The week consisted of group activities and games outside, Bible lessons, crafts, music, snacks and water slides!

Our new Children's Ministry Director, Wendy Greer, shares a touching moment from her first season of being a part of S.C.A.M.P.:

"One of our Bible teachers was beginning to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection using an illustration with a candle and water tinted red. The teacher explained what each of the things on the table represented. The flame was sin. The red water was Jesus' blood. The 4&5 year olds were gathered around a table with wide eyes as she showed how the "blood" of Jesus would miraculously be pulled into the cup that held the candle and make the "sin" disappear. The Bible teacher was just beginning to explain what this illustration meant when a little girl at the table began to jump up and down in her seat. "Wait, wait, wait, wait," she said. "Jesus can take away all my sins?!?!?" "Yes!" the teacher exclaimed!

In that moment, I gave thanks to our Lord God for each of you. Every one of you who sorted crafts, made decorations, planned snacks, or cut out craft armadillos. . . and all of you who prayed, played with children, or served on the team who worked security. Each of you had a hand in that little one who



understood the Gospel of Christ for the first time in her life! And for that little one and countless others who heard the truth from God's Word this week, I am grateful! God bless you for what you gave, knowing that our purpose was outside of ourselves. God used this church in a mighty way during S.C.A.M.P. and it was a great joy to watch. We also did a special fundraiser for Ukrainian children affected by the ongoing war in their country. You can read about this fundraiser and how it came about below.

## S.C.A.M.P week raises money to support the Ukraine

Each year of SCAMP, funds are raised by the kids and donated to a charity or local non-profit supported by MPC. This year, SCAMP collected \$1,265.00 for the Samaritan Purse Project to benefit the children of Ukraine. This project donates full back-packs to Ukrainian children affected by the Ukraine/Russia War.

The idea for this project was the brainchild of Chloe Barnett, a fourth grader at MPC. Chloe states that she got the idea after learning about the conflict from her school studies. Chloe brought the idea to Pastor Jenn and together they planned a competition between the boys and girls of SCAMP. The children earned money to fund the project. The girls won but according to the children the blessing was to be able to participate in this worthwhile project. GOOD JOB SCAMP!





# Next Sermon Series for August

## “INFLUENCE”

None of us live in isolation, and we all have influence on the world around us. In this series we will look at people in the Bible who used their influence to bring Kingdom change, and we will explore what it means for us to be influencers for Jesus today.

This series will start the third Sunday in August (August 21<sup>st</sup>).

## Women's Ministry Event - Chicks & Eggs



The Women's Ministry of MPC will be hosting a morning meetup in the Fall! Join us for a fun breakfast, just for the ladies. Enjoy food, fellowship and laughs. Saturday, September 17, from 9am - noon in the Fellowship Hall.

Event is \$12 and childcare will be provided for those that pre-register. You can register by visiting the women's ministry webpage or scanning the QR code below.

We also have a new MPC Women's Ministry Facebook page that we would love for you to join! You can find the page by visiting Facebook and searching for 'MPC Women's Ministry' in the search tab.



## MPC Men's Luncheon

The MPC Men's Luncheon takes place at noon in the Fellowship Hall on the Mandarin Road Campus on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

The meetings generally have a guest speaker once a month. On the other Wednesday, we have an open discussion about the previous Sunday's sermon and enjoy fellowship with each other.

Lunch is brought in (sandwiches with sides, drinks and dessert). Cost is \$7.00 per person.

Please contact Randy Hester for more information. **Phone 904-859-4996 or email [plsalesco@aol.com](mailto:plsalesco@aol.com).**







## UPCOMING SUPPORT CLASSES

MPC will be hosting two upcoming classes for those dealing with loss.

MPC's GriefShare is for people grieving the loss of a family member or friend. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.

**Our next Griefshare class will be August 23 - November 5 from 6:00 - 8:00pm in 'The Loft' on the Loretto Road Campus.**

## LOSS OF A SPOUSE™

Loss of a Spouse helps men and women grapple with the challenges of losing a spouse. This two hour seminar features an inspiring video that's filled with moving stories, practical advice and a variety of perspectives on spousal loss.

You'll discover that you're not alone in your grief and what you are going through is normal.

**Our next Loss of A Spouse class will be August 13 from 10:00am - Noon in the Chapel on the Mandarin Road Campus.**

**To learn more or to register for Loss of a Spouse and/or Griefshare, visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) or contact Carla Mayo [cmayo@mandarinpres.com](mailto:cmayo@mandarinpres.com) | 904.680-9959.**

# Stepps First Sunday... ...meet and greet.

Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp's first official day at MPC is Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. The Stepp Family's first Sunday at MPC will be August 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to help the Stepps put names with faces, there will be a photo booth set up for three Sundays (8/14, 8/21, and 8/28). We encourage you to get your picture taken on one of these days and to decorate a page for their book. On August 14<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>, the photo booth will be available after both services on the Loretto Road campus.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, the photo booth will only be available immediately following the 10:30am service in Fellowship Hall at the Mandarin Road campus. The Stepps plan to be in Fellowship Hall from about 11:30am-12:30pm please come by to greet them; they are eager to get to know you!



## PRELIMINARY JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

### CONTRIBUTIONS

**JULY**  
**7/1 - 7/31**

\$210,108

**YEAR TO DATE**

**1/1 - 7/31**

\$1,366,356

### EXPENSES

**JULY**  
**7/1 - 7/31**

\$149,889

**YEAR TO DATE**

**1/1 - 7/31**

\$1,015,263

### NET INCOME/LOSS

**JULY**  
**7/1 - 7/31**

\$60,219

**YEAR TO DATE**

**1/1 - 7/31**

\$351,093

# J.O.Y (Just Older Youth) Ministry- News & Events



## J.O.Y. Fall Kickoff and Football!

Our next JOY Luncheon will be on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be kicking off another year of food, fun, fellowship and friendship! We'll throw in a little football, too! Mark your calendars and watch for more details coming soon!



## Fall Great Banquet is coming!

Dinner time! The feast that is the Great Banquet is approaching. Join with us for a 72 hour feeding on the goodness and grace of Jesus. Women's weekend is November 3–6. Men's weekend is November 17–20. See [nefgb.com](http://nefgb.com) for further details.

An advertisement for Financial Peace University. It features a man with a beard and a blue shirt, smiling and looking to the side. The text 'SHOW YOUR MONEY WHO'S BOSS!' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below this, in smaller text, it says 'Defeated by your empty bank account?' and 'Paycheck-to-paycheck living is no longer an option. Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to take control of your money.'

## Financial Peace University is back this Fall

We will be hosting another FPU class this fall. Classes begin Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and go through November 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be held each Sunday evening from 5:00 to 5:30 via Zoom. The cost is \$50 per family. Registration will be available beginning August 15<sup>th</sup>.

An advertisement for Discovery Classes. It features a dark background with a blue and white 'DISCOVERY Classes' logo. Below the logo, it says 'For those interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members at MPC.'

## New Member Discovery Class

Our Discovery class is for those interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members at MPC. We would love for you to join our MPC family and our mission to "Love People to Love Jesus Christ."

Our next Discovery classes will be Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30 - 11:30am in Quad 2 on the Loretto Road Campus. Sign up on [mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass](http://mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass)





## MPC Meals On Wheels

Earl Bittner, Meals on Wheels Coordinator

Hello Church! Your Mandarin Presbyterian Church Meals on Wheels program continues to serve "The least of these and angels."

We are currently serving meals to 14 clients. We often help with small chores and of course offer a smile and some conversation. We try to be a blessing and in return we are blessed. If you'd like to be a blessing to some of our angels, financial gifts are always welcome.

If you know of an angel who may need our services or have any questions about MOW, contact:

**Earl Bittner 904.868.6067 / rebittne@bellsouth.net or Van Hogan at 904.631.8309 / vhogan@bellsouth.net.**

Thanks for your support to this ministry and our angels and the least of these.

**BURGER BASH**  
HOSTED BY **mpc MEN**

**BBQ/BLOCK PARTY FOR GUYS OF ALL AGES**  
**AUG. 27 | 4:00 - 8:00PM**  
**MANDARIN ROAD CAMPUS**  
**SIGN UP AT MANDARINPRES.COM or SCAN:**

Men of MPC! The Burger Bash is back! Join us August 27th for an afternoon of food, games and fellowship! For all men of all ages. Last summer we had a blast playing football, kickball, basketball, cornhole and enjoying a great meal prepared on the grill! We hope to see you there! Cost is \$5.00 per person and you can register on our website or by scanning the QR code above.

## Upcoming Events

**Griefshare - Fall Class -**  
**August 23<sup>rd</sup> - November 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Financial Peace University Class -**  
**Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Women's Ministry - Chicks & Eggs**  
**Breakfast - Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The Great Banquet -**  
**Women's Weekend: Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Men's Weekend: Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**

### Church Office:

11844 Mandarin Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32223

### Sanctuary Address:

2501 Loretto Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32223

### Contact:

904.680.9944  
info@mandarinpres.com

### Website:

mandarinpres.com



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@mandarinpresjax