

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

November 2025



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Middle School Ministry Weekend
- MPP Registration 2026-2027
- Momentum Campaign
- Financial Update
- Advent/Christmas 2025
- Session Update



Join our 24-hour prayer vigil on Friday, November 14th, as we seek God's guidance and blessing over our Momentum Campaign. More details and sign-ups are available at mandarinpres.com/momentum.

All Momentum videos including the Campaign Introduction and Vision Gathering recording, are available at mandarinpres.com/momentum.



Join us as we will be electing Elders, Deacons and Trustees for the next term.

KEY DATES

- November 2nd: Congregational Meeting
- November 2nd: Fall Fest on the River
- November 14th: Momentum Prayer Vigil
- November 16th: Momentum Commitment Sunday & Family Worship
- November 22nd: Women's Ministry Mix & Mingle
- November 30th: Momentum Celebration Sunday
- November 30th: Pancakes & Pajamas

For more information and details,
visit mandarinpres.com or the Church Center app.



Middle School Ministry



Middle School Ministry after the annual "Messy Games" competition at the October Hang 10 Weekend.

Another Hang Ten Weekend in the books! From October 3rd to 5th, we brought together 100 middle school students, leaders, and high school work crew at North Florida Christian Camp for our annual Middle School retreat! Throughout the weekend, we worshiped God, met in small groups, played games, heard testimonies, made s'mores, and enjoyed an unforgettable experience!



Bell Ringing



MPC will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Mandarin Oaks Publix from December 8th to December 20th. You may sign up in the Church Lobby on Sundays beginning November 16th or by scanning the QR code.

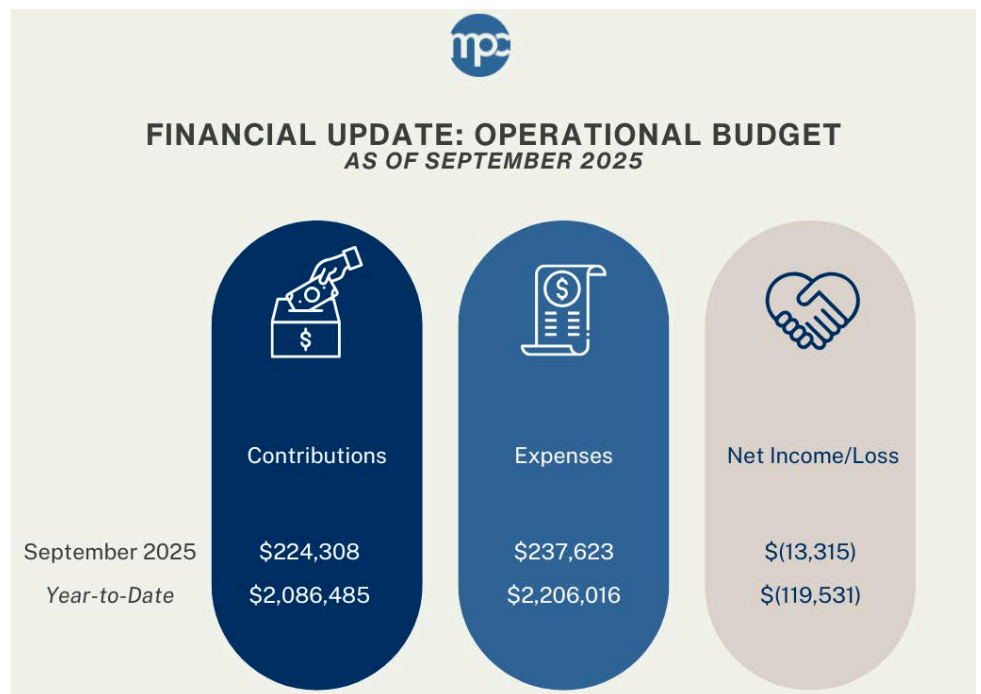
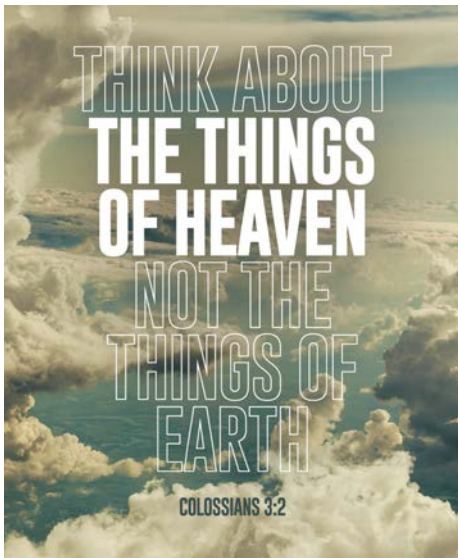


This is an exciting time at MPC as we continue with our Momentum Campaign—a special initiative beyond our regular operational budget—to **create more space for more people to move toward Jesus**. We invite every household to make a financial commitment above your regular giving for the next 25 months as we remain committed to worshipping together as a community, teaching children how to follow Jesus, and caring for people in our local community and around the world.

Our Momentum Campaign will amplify our mission by:

- Creating a multipurpose, welcoming space outside our sanctuary
- Expanding our Next Gen ministry so children and youth can grow and thrive in their faith
- Providing more room for adult classes and groups to dive deeper into God's Word
- Enhancing safety across all our buildings
- Growing our community impact through our Daily Bread Food Pantry and other outreach ministries
- Establishing a peaceful riverfront retreat for worship, reflection, and recreation
- Restoring and renewing our existing spaces for lasting ministry

Now is the time for us to step boldly into God's vision for MPC. Thank you for your generosity and participation in this journey. Please mark your calendar to join us for Commitment Sunday on **November 16th** to make your Courageous Gift (your largest one-time gift) and your ongoing commitment to help launch Momentum! Visit mandarinpres.com/momentum for all campaign updates.



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!!

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. As we move into the fall season, we anticipate continued demand and remain committed to serving with compassion and care.

**Total 2025
Distributions
to Guests**
(as of 10/21/25)

Food	Clothing
2472	887
	

On Sunday afternoon November 2nd, MPC's annual Fall Fest on the River will take place in celebration of our community at large. Admission is one non-perishable food item for our Daily Bread Food Pantry or monetary donation for our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Please select "Fall Fest Food Pantry" from the drop down menu @ mandarinpres.churchcenter.com/giving.

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

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Friendsgiving Luncheon



Join us for a Friendsgiving Luncheon on Thursday, November 13th as we celebrate our special friend, Dave Stull, as he begins his retirement. Our luncheon will be at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7.00 per person. Please RSVP by November 10th at 904-680-9944.

MPP



Our MPP students are all settled into this school year, and we are sailing into autumn! October was a busy month for our students and families. The VPK had a firefighter visit to teach them about fire safety and they went on a field trip to a pumpkin patch. All ages participated in the annual MPP Halloween Costume Parade and Treat Emporium. We have just a few spots open in our three-year-old program and VPK Fours (free for Florida residents) for this school year. And we start registration for the 2026-2027 school year on **November 3rd**! If you or someone you know needs a spot at an amazing preschool, please contact Lee Samuels at 904-680-6406 or email lsamuels@mandarinpres.com.

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. **(Please note: Due to holiday conflicts there will be no meeting on November 26th or December 24th.)**

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



Thanksgiving. A unique and special holiday. Family, food, football, shopping, and a four-day weekend. But it's one that often gets lost in the busyness surrounding Halloween and Christmas. There is no Thanksgiving season—and life can be like that too. What is important and special can get overlooked in the hurry and scurry. Hopefully, you have heard about the Great Banquet. It's a rare and unique opportunity to be bathed in and nourished by the love and grace of Jesus. Consider this to be your invitation to attend next spring (dates forthcoming). Don't let a busy or overloaded schedule keep you from this chance to experience more of Jesus and be strengthened in your faith by Him. Visit nefgb.com for more details.

Mark Your Calendars



Join our MPC Fall Celebration on **Sunday, November 2nd** from 3-6pm at the River House Property! We will have live music, delicious BBQ, yummy desserts, games and fun for ALL ages! Register at mandarinpres.com/fallfest.



Experience the Great Banquet - a 72-hour weekend retreat designed to grow deeper in your faith. The men's Great Banquet weekend is **November 6th - 9th**. For more details, go to nefgb.com or contact Jeff Arnold at jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com.



Mark your calendar for our 24-hour prayer vigil on **Friday, November 14th**, as we seek God's guidance and blessing over our Momentum Campaign. More details and sign-ups at mandarinpres.com/momentum.



This is our time to make room for more people to move toward Jesus. We're inviting every household to step into this 25-month journey with prayer, generosity and trust. Join us on **Sunday, November 16th** for our Commitment Sunday & Family Worship.



Join the Women's Ministry on **Saturday, November 22nd** for food, fellowship, worship music, a silent auction and entertainment. The cost to attend is \$10, and childcare will be provided for those who pre-register by **November 17th**. Save your spot at mandarinpres.com/mingle.



A family event with pancakes, Christmas crafts, photo booth and Advent activities...all while wearing your pajamas! The event is **Sunday, November 30th** at our Office Campus on Mandarin Road and you can register for your time slot at mandarinpres.com/pancakes.



Advent/Christmas 2025



This season we will reflect on hope, peace, joy and love.

Operation Christmas Child - Spread joy this Christmas! Make a real difference in a child's life through Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse initiative that delivers shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items to children in need around the world. Pick up shoeboxes on Sundays, November 2nd and 9th and return filled shoeboxes on **Sunday, November 16th**.

Pancakes & Pajamas - Unpack your Christmas jammies and select one of the two seating times (4:30 or 5:30 pm). It will be a night full of syrup, sprinkles, pancakes and fun on **Sunday, November 30th** in the Fellowship Hall at the Office Campus on Mandarin Road! Kick off the season of Advent with your family in a fun and meaningful way! This event is free but requires pre-registration at mandarinpres.com/pancakes or the Church Center app.

Poinsettias - We are offering an opportunity to give poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. They will be displayed in the church Christmas Eve. Place your order online at mandarinpres.com/poinsettia or with the church bulletin insert. Plants are \$10 each. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 14th.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing - MPC will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Publix at Mandarin Oaks (corner of San Jose Blvd. & Mandarin Road). Dates begin Monday, December 8th through Saturday, December 20th. You can sign up in the church lobby on Sundays beginning on November 16th, scan the QR code on page 2 or [click here](#).

Alternative Gift Market - You have the opportunity to join our congregation in supporting a number of missions both local and abroad. Purchase meals for a day for a local family, or chickens & goats through World Vision, or even send a child to a Young Life Camp; the possibilities are endless. AGM will be available on Sundays, November 30th, December 7th & 14th.

Annual Christmas Music Celebration - Come enjoy an evening of music and scripture at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 14th. Hear the Christmas story with special music by the Sanctuary Choir, Concert Band and Handbells!

Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Services

4:30pm - Family and Children's Celebration with live Nativity

7:00pm - Candlelight Christmas Message, music by Worship Team

9:00pm - Candlelight & Communion Christmas Message, music by Sanctuary Choir & Concert Band

Please note activity bags will be provided for kids during the 7:00pm and 9:00pm services. Childcare will be provided for kindergarten and younger children.

Just a note from the Session: October Update



(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

to make a Courageous Gift and turn in your commitment card. We will end the month with Celebration Sunday on **November 30th** as we see the great things that God has done. Spend time in prayer, be still, and listen for God to speak to you.

Mark **November 2nd** on your calendar, as there are two events that you will not want to miss. A Congregational meeting will be held between services to elect officers for the coming year, followed by our annual Fall Fest on the River that afternoon. Look for ways in which you can volunteer for this fun-filled event.

Cover to Cover is returning in January 2026. Watch for registration information and join in as we read the Bible, from cover to cover, in 100 days.

All 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.

We look forward to upcoming opportunities to worship, connect and serve together.

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. "Have I not commanded you? 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)

Can you feel the buzz in the air? Not just because of fall, but because Momentum is gaining. God has given us a vision for MPC that will allow us to create more space so more lives can be transformed by the Gospel. Three Vision Gatherings were held in October, where our church was able to hear and see the future God has in store for us. If you couldn't attend any of the gatherings, you can watch the Momentum Initiative introduction video, Vision Gathering replay and see other updates at mandarinpres.com/momentum.

Key activities are happening in November that you will not want to miss. **Friday, November 14th**, will be a Day of Prayer as we pray for the future of our church, as well as ask God to guide us on our part in the Momentum Initiative. The following **Sunday, November 16th**, is Commitment Sunday and Family Worship. During this time of worship, you will be able

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