



November

2021

From The Transitional Pastor

Rev. Joel Giles

WHEN YOU WELCOME A NEW SENIOR PASTOR... You will welcome a new Senior Pastor sometime soon. When you do, please keep them in your prayers as they go through the sweet sorrow of saying farewell to their current church and as they do the hard work of moving to a new place. They must manage the sale of their home there, buy a new home here, pack and move, find new stores and doctors and mechanics, learn hundreds of new names, start new relationships, and a whole lot more. Pray for them!

Speaking of the new pastor:

When that person comes, speaking of them in positive ways is one of the ways you can help them and your church.

Speak well of them to others. It is tempting to focus in on a few minor differences between a new person and the previous pastors and to discuss those differences with others. But it is best to avoid criticism. And to encourage others to do so. Focus on good things to talk about. (It won't be hard to find them!)

Speak honestly of them to them. There may be a thing or two that a new person could do better or could do in a way that fits better in this setting. Tell them about it – but do so kindly and confidentially (and not on Sunday morning!). Some of the best advice I ever heard is: “Be a raving fan in public and an honest critic in private.”

Speak prayerfully of them to the Lord. Prayer is the most important kind of speech. Talk to the Lord about them. Ask the Lord to give them a solid spiritual life, a balanced life with home and church, and an effective life of ministry. Pray regularly for your pastor. Pastors need all the prayer support we can get!

WHEN JESUS COMES TO CHURCH - What should we do when Jesus comes to church? That's what happened during the life of John the Apostle. Jesus visited 7 churches of that day to offer a divine assessment. John wrote it down in 7 letters preserved for us in Revelation 2-3. Those letters give an opportunity for self-assessment by every church everywhere ever since. We began the series on September 21 with a look at Revelation chapter 1 which describes the glorified Christ who will visit every church. Now we are looking at the main lesson from each of the 7 churches. (If you so desire, you can find the previous messages on our website.) Please join us – in-person or online – at 9:00 or 10:30 each Sunday. Or you can view the message on Facebook later.

BIBLE TIME AND PRAYER TIME ARE VITAL - This fall, we are spending time reading Genesis and Exodus. These readings will remind us of the origins of the universe and the origins of the Hebrew nation. Just one chapter a day will take you through the books of Genesis and Exodus by the end of November. (In December, we plan to provide an Advent Reading schedule.) Feel free to join me as we read these foundational books. If you don't already have a Bible Time and Prayer Time plan, don't feel like you have to catch up - just dive in! (On Monday, November 1st, we read Exodus 12.) You can view an animated overview of each book at <https://bibleproject.com>.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021

PANCAKES & PAJAMAS – November 28th – A family event with pancakes, Christmas crafts, photo booth and Advent Activities...all while wearing your pajamas! **SUNDAY**, November 28th on the Mandarin Road Campus. Three time slots to choose from: 4:00-5:00pm, 5:00-6:00pm, or 6:00-7:00pm. **There is no cost but registration is required.** This is an open house style event; you can come anytime during your designated time slot. Register online starting November 7th. Pajamas are fun but not required! Deadline is Wednesday, November 24th to register. ***You'll be able to pick up this year's Family Advent Devotion at this event. They will also be available on December Sundays in the church lobby.***

POINSETTIAS – We are again offering an opportunity to give poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones. They will be displayed in the church on December 19th. Place your order online at mandarinpres.com/poinsettia or in person in the church lobby beginning November 28th. Plants are \$10 each.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - Samaritan Purse's OCC Shoe Boxes must be returned to church by Sunday, November 14th. Our goal this year is 250 filled shoeboxes!

ANGEL TREE PROJECT - The "Angels" in this program are children whose parent(s) have been approved for Christmas assistance through the Salvation Army. We have pledged to take care of 30 Angels at MPC. To participate, select an "Angel" tag from our tree, **sign it out** and purchase a minimum of a new toy and a new outfit of clothing for the child described on the tag. Some "Angels" have requested more expensive items such as bicycles. Please consider asking your small group to collectively sponsor one of these "Angels." Tags will be on the tree in the Narthex beginning November 14th. Return the filled bag to MPC no later than Sunday, December 5th.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING - 'Tis the Season! MPC will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Publix of Mandarin Oaks (corner of San Jose Blvd. and Mandarin Rd.) Dates begin Saturday, November 27th and go through Saturday, December 18th. You may sign up in person on Sunday mornings beginning November 10th at the Information Center in the lobby or click on this link to sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ABAF28ABFAC52-salvation1>.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET OPENS DECEMBER 5th - 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 through Sunday, December 19th.

JINGLE & MINGLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENT – Women of MPC! We are excited to announce that Women's Ministry is back and our kickoff will be at the start of the Christmas season...Jingle & Mingle! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 11th from 11:30am–2:30pm. We will enjoy lunch, a speaker, music, silent auction and entertainment. Tickets are \$10 and are available on the church website at mandarinpres.com/JingleMingle.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION – December 12th – Come enjoy an evening of music and scripture at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Hear the Christmas story, special music by Sanctuary Choir, Concert Band, and Handbells! Invite your neighbors...refreshments served before the program beginning at 6:30pm on the piazza.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – The Holiday season is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Blue Christmas service is Tuesday, December 21st at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall on the Mandarin Road Campus. Childcare is available with RSVP to: kidrsvp@mandarinpres.com. For information, call the church office, 680-9944.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Friday, December 24th:

4:30pm Family & Children's Celebration

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

9:00pm Candlelight & Communion Christmas Message, music by the Sanctuary Choir



HELLO FROM THE SESSION!

We are thrilled with how hard our staff and Pastors are working to get things ready for the Holiday season, and are meeting regularly to make sure the business of the church is being readied for the year ahead.

Our roof project is underway, and we have covered 20% of the cost of it through your generosity. Thank you! There is still time for you to designate any extra giving to the roof fund to ensure we are protected from the snowy season (we can dream, can't we?)

Lastly, we are also looking for those who are technologically savvy and watching from home who can help Jonah with the online church hosting. Please reach out with any questions!

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - November 14th at 10:00am (in between the worship services). The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers (Deacons, Elders & Trustees) for the class of 2024 and to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Chris & Jessica Konker.

UPDATE FROM THE PNC - In the last month, the PNC reported that we were excited about and were working closely with a particular candidate. Unfortunately that candidate is no longer an option for our next Senior Pastor.

We continue to work diligently to bring our new pastor home. We are actively engaged with ECO and continue to receive interest from candidates across the country. We are confident that God, in His time, will place the right person in His Church in Mandarin.

Thank you for your input, your support and your prayers.

J.O.Y (Just Older Youth) –Please join us on **Wednesday, November 10th** in the Fellowship Hall for our “*Simply Grateful*” Luncheon. Come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. Members of our staff will be joining us again and we even have a few surprises in store. Cost is \$7 per person and RSVP’s are due to the church office, 680-9944, by November 8th.

H.E.L.P. AT MPC - The mission of MPC's Mental Health Support Group (termed H.E.L.P. - Hope, Encouragement, Love, Prayer) is to assist and advance the quality of life for those with mental health diagnoses and their loved ones. Examples of illnesses our group discusses include bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety, borderline personality disorder and depression, to name a few. H.E.L.P. offers a space to converse with and encourage others while also educating the group about symptom management and advocacy. Our meetings take place in person every Monday in the Chapel (11844 Mandarin Road) and also via Zoom at 6:45PM. Contact Vance Meyer, vmeyercomm@gmail.com.

ARE YOU EXPECTING? – If you are expecting a child, we want to know! We have an ongoing maternity prayer list, as well as a gift from the church once your precious baby is born. Please email Anne Petrone, apetrone@mandarinpres.com.

MILITARY PRAYER LIST - We are currently updating our Military Prayer List. Please email apetrone@mandarinpres.com to add a name to this list.

PRELIMINARY OCTOBER FINANCIAL UPDATE:

	<u>October</u>	<u>Calendar YTD</u>
Contributions	\$205,231	\$1,441,029
Expenses	\$151,059	\$1,541,035
Net Income/ (Loss)	\$54,172	(\$46,122)

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC! *As a reminder, when we changed over to the Church Center app., there was a one-time entry made in April to giving statements that moved over any giving from the old Servant Keeper system. If you have any questions, contact Liz Whyard, 680-9969.*

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

FRAT HOUSE - At MPC, we have a unique experience just for 5th graders! FRAT (Fifth Graders Racing Ahead to Tomorrow) is a fun place to invite friends and connect with other 5th graders getting ready to head into Middle School. We will meet once a month on our Loretto Road Campus for games, a message and pizza! Fall dates are Sunday, November 7th and Sunday, December 5th from 4:30-6pm. Bring \$5 for pizza, a chair and a friend! RSVP by the Friday of the event week to jloehle@mandarinpres.com.

ADVENT IN A BOX – This year’s family Advent experience is coming in a box! Pick yours up on Sunday, Nov. 28th at worship or that evening at Pancakes and Pajamas. They will also be available on December Sundays in the church lobby.

VILLAGE OF BETHLEHEM – Beginning on Sunday, Nov. 28th, we will be bursting with energy and excitement in Children’s Ministry! Our courtyard classrooms will be transformed into Bethlehem, the hometown of Jesus’ birth. At 9:00 and 10:30am, Kindergarten through 5th graders will come to the Village of Bethlehem and experience first-hand the sights, aromas and tastes that were part of our Savior’s life in Bethlehem.

STUDENT MINISTRY

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DIVE IN is on Sundays from 9-10am in the Quads. Come for breakfast and a deeper dive into the Bible.

HANG 10 is on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00pm at the Mandarin Road Campus. Bring \$5 for dinner and bring your friends! There will be lots of fun, games, a message and small group time.

Moving On – Oct. 27th - Nov. 10th – This series is all about forgiveness and how we need it in our lives.

Go Big Night – Nov. 3rd – A night all about doing things bigger – bigger dinner, bigger games, bigger prizes and BIGGER PEOPLE! Contest for who comes wearing the most layered t-shirts

Pajama Jam – Nov. 17th – Pajamas, breakfast for dinner and a whole lotta jammie fun!

Countdown to Christmas – Nov. 17th, Dec. 1st – We'll talk about the true meaning of Christmas and it will be joyful and happy.

Not So Silent Night Party – Dec. 8th from 5:00-8:00 pm – Ain't no party like a Hang 10 Christmas party! Wear all your LOUD Christmas cheer and be ready to make some noise! Sign up online at mandarinpres.com/msevents.

HIGH SCHOOL

9:08 is on Sundays from 9:00-10:15am in the Quads. Come have breakfast and go deeper into the Bible and what it means to you personally.

CRAVE is on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:30pm at the Mandarin Road Campus. Bring your friends for games, food, worship and small group time.

Even If – Nov. 7th & 21st – Although so many things in this life are subject to change, God isn't.

Crave at the Ranch – Nov. 12th & 13th – Friday night campout...tents, campfire, worship! Saturday, we will be doing a service project for Seamark Ranch. Sign up online at mandarinpres.com/hsevents.

Holy Ground – Nov. 14th from 6:30-8:30pm – Holy Ground is a night for HS students who want to experience worship and prayer in a personal way. It's a time set aside for students to connect with God and focus on their relationship with Christ.

Dash and Bash – Dec. 5th from 5:00-9:00pm – Join us for our Crave Christmas Event. Register online at mandarinpres.com/hsevents.

MANDARIN PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL (MPP) If you're interested in having your child be part of an amazing Pre-K program, Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool (MPP) is the place to be! MPP will soon begin registering students for the 2022-2023 school year. MPC members are eligible to register your child/children before the general registration begins in December.

MPP offers the following classes:

- 2 year olds: **M/W/F** and **T/TH** (8:45 – 12:00)
- 3 year olds: **M-F**, **M/W/F** and **T/TH** (8:45 – 12:00 w/ option to stay until 3:00)
- 4 year olds: **VPK program (Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, paid for by the state)**
 - **M-F** (hours= 8:45 – 12:00 w/ option to stay until 3:00)
 - **M/W/F** (hours = **M/W** 8:45 – 3:00, **F** 8:45 – 12:00- p.m.)
 - **T/W/TH** (hours = **T/TH** 8:45 – 3:00, **W** 12:15 – 3:00 p.m.)

Spots fill quickly. For further information, contact Mellanie Henderson @ 680-6406 or mhenderson@mandarinpres.com.

GREAT BANQUET - Ever hear this one - "**Down, but not out!**"? Suggests a boxer taking one to the chin; or a toddler resisting a nap; or a feather stubbornly clinging to the back of a goose (okay, that one was a stretch!). It also works the other way - "Out, but not down". At least for the Great Banquet. You know, the Great Banquet. That wonderfully glorious 72 hour weekend get away to explore Jesus while simultaneously being bathed in His incredible love and grace. Having had to postpone the past 2 years worth of Great Banquet weekends due to COVID is making many of the 2000 who comprise the Great Banquet Community itchy. Not talking a rash here! Rather, we are eager to include and involve 2000 more folks in what we have experienced as a life changing time. Stay tuned; we'll let you know when we are back on track (hopefully Spring 2022). In the meantime, while we're OUT, we're certainly not DOWN (with this.....get it - "down with this"?! *Sigh*. Me fears I'm trying to hard...).

MPC DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY - A Blooming Good Idea...the Bloomin' 4 Good Program is a program from Winn-Dixie that work to fight hunger across the communities it serves. This program provides a way for shoppers to give back with every floral bouquet sold. Every time a shopper purchases one of the \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquets with the red circle sticker, the Winn Dixie at 1170 San Jose Blvd will donate \$1 to our Daily Bread Food Pantry. We are the selected food organization through the end of November.

MPC COVID-19 UPDATE (SEPTEMBER 2021) – In an effort to maximize protection from the COVID-19 Delta Variant and prevent possible transmission to others, we encourage mask wearing while indoors in MPC's campuses, regardless of age or vaccination status. We additionally encourage online worship if you are high-risk, symptomatic, or not yet comfortable worshipping in-person. To accommodate those who prefer greater social distancing, we'll continue to tape off a few alternate rows in the back portion of the sanctuary. Masks will still be required for all bus transportation provided by MPC. Session continues to assess and discuss the ever-changing dynamics of this pandemic. Personal decisions regarding mask and vaccines are often influenced by medical and individual factors we can't see. We've done our best to follow expert guidance to care for all people. No set of protocols is going to appeal to everyone. As the passage from Philippians cited below suggests, let's stay humble and show all the value for others we can.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:1-4)

STEWARDSHIP 2022 – As we enter this season of discussing Stewardship at MPC once more, we ask you to prayerfully hold up your questions, your fears, your concerns to the light of the truth, Jesus Christ, and come together as a community to prepare us for the year ahead. Prepare us to plan and budget appropriately for the excitement of our new lead Pastor, who has yet to be discovered by us, even as he has been chosen for us by God to lead this amazing group of pastors, staff, volunteers, and covenant partners in the years ahead. You can complete your 2022 pledge on line this year at mandarinpres.com/pledge or watch for a pledge card to be mailed in the coming weeks.

LOSS OF SPOUSE – Widowed? Help is here and hope is possible. Do you dread the lonely days and nights? Wonder what to do with your spouse's belongings? Feel like your brain is in a fog? Unsure of how you'll go on? 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. After the video, you'll have the opportunity to discuss what you learned with other participants. You'll discover that you're not alone in your grief and what you are going through is normal. Join us on November 13th from 10:00am – noon in the Chapel on the Mandarin Road Campus as facilitators Vic Halbach and Carol Yelinek lead us. To learn more or to register for Loss of a Spouse, visit <https://www.griefshare.org/loss/events/4253>.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE GIFT BAG - Great gift idea for family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Labels can be customized with your name, family name, or name of business. Each bag contains 10 ounces of whole bean Brazilian coffee beans and your order will be delivered to your door here locally.

Quantities 12- 48 Price / bag: \$9.25

Quantities > 48 Price / bag: \$8.75

All proceeds go to J1:9 Ministries for local Church plants and for the extreme impoverished in Central America. For questions or to place an order for coffee, call Mike Whyard, 904-710-1834.