

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

October 2025



## MOMENTUM

This fall, it's all about Momentum—a discipleship journey designed to deepen our relationship with Jesus and move us to step boldly toward God's vision for MPC. Join us for a Vision Gathering on October 16, 19, or 21 to explore what God is building through us and discover your part in this exciting initiative. Sign up at [mandarinpres.com/momentum](https://mandarinpres.com/momentum). Registration isn't required, but it helps us plan for refreshments.

We'll also dive into a powerful seven-week Momentum sermon series starting October 12th, studying Nehemiah, exploring themes of rebuilding, community and God's faithfulness—then and now. We encourage you to join one of our fall small groups, where you'll connect with others, dig deeper into each Sunday's message, and discover how to apply God's Word in your daily life. Sign up today at [mandarinpres.com/fallsmallgroups](https://mandarinpres.com/fallsmallgroups).

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS



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In this newsletter you will find: upcoming events, a financial update, event photos & more. Keep reading!

# September at MPC

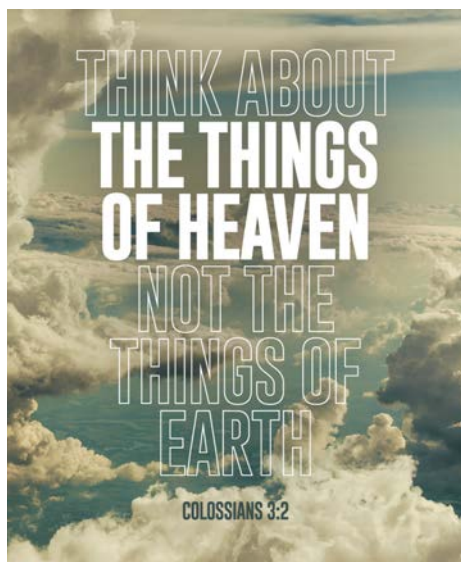
What a great start to MPC's fall season. We are so grateful for everyone at MPC and love seeing God's work among our ministries.

## September Highlights:

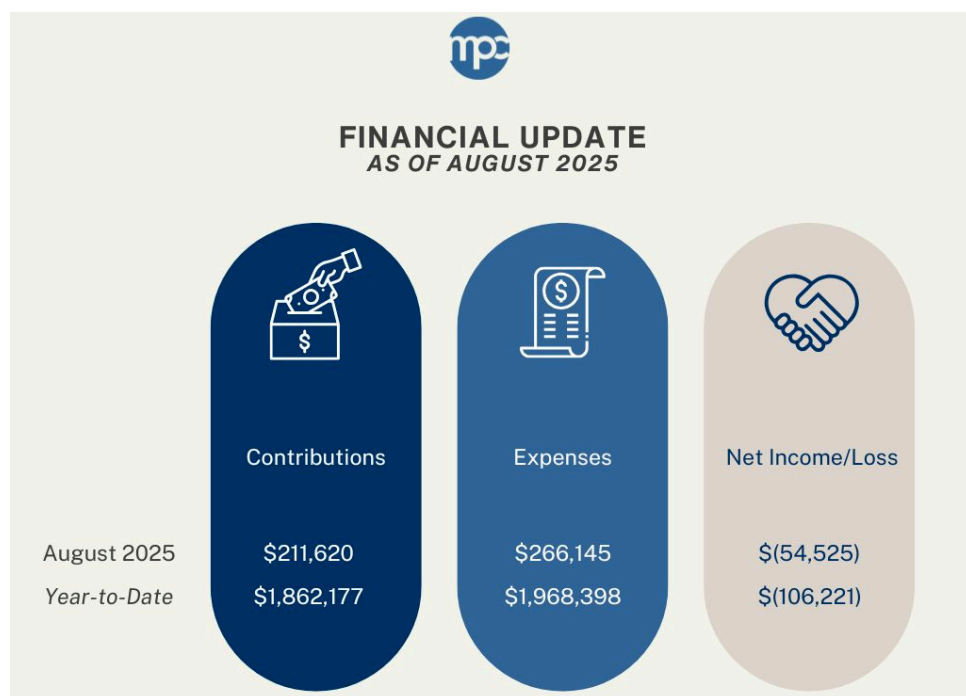
- Student Ministries - Our kick-off events were phenomenal! Crave drew 136 high school students while Hang 10 welcomed 84 middle schoolers, setting the stage for an exciting year of growth and connection with the theme of Discipleship this year.
- New Member Welcome – We joyously welcomed 27 new members through our September Discovery Class and celebratory new member lunch.
- Pop-Up Sunday Success – Kids and students had a blast transitioning to their new classes and groups, complete with festive games and activities in our courtyard.
- Connect Fest Ministry Fair – Amazing connections were made as our congregation took meaningful next steps, signing up for small groups and discovering new ways to serve through volunteer opportunities.
- Empowered Bible Study – We're amazed by the response to our Spiritual Gifts and Evangelism study, with 168 people registered and diving deeper into God's calling on their lives!

## Looking Ahead

Your participation, prayers and support make MPC a special place to worship, connect and serve together. As we enter our last quarter of 2025, we're excited about God's vision for MPC and the discipleship journey for all.



Give online: [mandarinpres.com/give](https://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



Guest visits to our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continue at a steady pace. Now nine months into 2025, our faithful volunteers continue supporting weekly distributions of three grocery bags filled with canned goods, packaged dry goods, breads, pastries, fresh produce, and dairy products - plus occasional meat, fish, and poultry items. We at MPC are truly blessed to be a blessing to those in our community who need food and clothing assistance.

**Total 2025 Guests Served  
through September 23rd**

Food	Clothing
2234	710
	

These numbers 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.



Kevin Carlton, President of the Mandarin Rotary Club  
with Mark Tanzler of the Daily Bread Food Pantry and  
Pastor Jeff Arnold

We're thankful for incredible community partnerships! The Rotary Club of Mandarin has made their annual donation, contributing \$15,000 this year, while 100 Women Who Care-Southern Duval Chapter provided additional financial support. These partnerships strengthen our ability to serve every guest and remind us that addressing food insecurity truly takes a village.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this vital ministry.

*Praises to all with blessings and gratitude,  
The Daily Bread Food Ministry -  
Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteers*

## J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



**J.O.Y. Harvest Festival**  
Thursday, October 9th  
11:30am  
The River House

### LUNCH ON THE RIVER

We will have food, fun, fellowship and festivities, so mark your calendar and bring a friend!

Cost is \$7.00 per person  
Please RSVP by October 7th  
Contact us 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/hesterandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002/w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

## Great Banquet



On one occasion, Jesus healed a man with leprosy in a most unusual and risky way. Rather than simply speaking healing into his life, Jesus chose to touch him—a bold move at the time. This act embodied grace.

The leper was cleansed, made whole and restored. While the leper became clean, Jesus became unclean as he touched a leper. Jesus exchanged places with the leper. Just as He ultimately did on a cross.

Want to experience God's grace yourself? The Great Banquet is a 72-hour immersion into and a tangible experience of God's amazing grace. You can learn more about it at [nefgb.com](http://nefgb.com). The Women's weekend is October 23–26 and the Men's is November 6–9.

## Ways to Get Involved!



We're thrilled to launch a new church-wide Small Group experience beginning October 12th! Join us as we study Nehemiah in connection with Sunday's message, exploring themes of rebuilding, community, and God's faithfulness—both in Nehemiah's time and in our lives today. Sign up at [mandarinpres.com/fallsmallgroups](http://mandarinpres.com/fallsmallgroups).



You're invited to the Great Banquet! It's a retreat like no other with the opportunity to focus on God's grace. For more details, scan the QR code, go to [nefgb.com](http://nefgb.com) or contact Jeff Arnold at [jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com](mailto:jeffarnold@mandarinpres.com).



Join our MPC Fall Celebration on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://mandarinpres.com/fallfest).



Save the date for the Women's Ministry Fall Mix & Mingle event on November 22nd! The Women's Ministry needs your creative skills to make our silent auction a success! We need high-quality items that showcase your talent. If you are interested in crafting, creating and donating, please contact Anne Petrone at [apetrone@mandarinpres.com](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com).

# Special Notices

## MPC Tech Team



### Join our Team!

Want to contribute to a growing ministry within the church? The MPC Tech Team is looking for help to take our media ministries to the next level. Please contact Josh Horton, our MPC Technical Director, at [jhorton@mandarinpres.com](mailto:jhorton@mandarinpres.com) for more details. No experience needed, training is provided.



Download and use our Church Center app for secure giving, prayer requests, our church directory, check-in & events. For church center instructions visit:

[mandarinpres.com/  
churchcenter](http://mandarinpres.com/churchcenter)

## MPP



### Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool Update

After an amazing start to the school year, MPP is rolling right in to fall! Chapel lessons have started up and music classes are in full-swing! We are planning preschool visits to the MPC Food Pantry to learn about serving others. Parents are starting to plan our annual Fall costume parade and Fellowship Hall trick-or-treating.

A few spots still remain in our threes and VPK programs. Remember that VPK is free through the state of Florida – so be sure to take advantage of this amazing program right at MPP!

Please contact Lee Samuels at 904-680-6406 or [lsamuels@mandarinpres.com](mailto:lsamuels@mandarinpres.com) for more information or to schedule a tour.

## September Event Photos



Pop-Up Sunday



Connect Fest



Crave Kick-Off



Women's Ministry  
Creative Grace



Hang 10 Kick-Off

What a joyous September with our Women's Ministry Creative Grace art workshop, Pop-up Sunday, Connect Fest, our student ministry fall kick-offs and much more. Follow us on Instagram [@mandarinpres](https://www.instagram.com/mandarinpres).

## 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

### September Update

Although the Session did not meet in September, we continue to pray for for MPC and for all who cross our path.

We welcomed 27 new Covenant Partners during the new member class on September 21st. It was a heartfelt time as they shared their faith stories. When you see new faces, please extend a warm smile and a welcome.

Mark your calendars to attend one of the Vision Gatherings, which will be held on October 16th, 19th, and 21st. This will be an opportunity to learn about the exciting vision for MPC's future and to ask any questions you may have. Each event will have the same content so you only need to attend one.

Do you discuss Sunday's message with your family and friends? Would you like to? Our Momentum sermon series in October will explore the book of Nehemiah. A new Small Group format will be introduced that aligns with Sunday's message, providing us with an opportunity for prayer and reflection. Be sure to sign up!

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

All details can be found on our website, [mandarinpres.com](http://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](http://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, our community, our country and this world that God created. "I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in His name, declares the LORD." (Zechariah 10:12)

Office Campus  
11844 Mandarin Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32223  
904-680-9944  
[info@mandarinpres.com](mailto:info@mandarinpres.com)

Church Campus  
2501 Loretto Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32223



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