

October 2026

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JOIN MPC'S FALL FEST ON THE RIVER ON OCTOBER 25TH!

MPC will be celebrating Fall with a festival on the St. Johns River! Come join the fun from 3:30-6pm on Sunday, October 25th at our beautiful River House Property on Mandarin Road. Come enjoy live music, delicious BBQ, yummy desserts, games and fun for ALL ages! Admission is one non-perishable food item for our Daily Bread Food Pantry or a monetary donation for our Daily Bread Food Pantry. This is an All Church event so be sure to register at mandarinpres.com/fallfest or on the Church Center App!

IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events • Operating Budget Update
Momentum Construction Status • Note from Session

Operational Budget



As we look back on our third quarter, we are amazed to see God at work in so many ways. A highlight was our All Church Retreat on St. Simons Island, along with other joyous gatherings: our One Nation Under God event; Creative Grace and Burgers & Bunco with our Women's Ministry; the Burger Bash and fellowship luncheons with our Men's Ministry; J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) luncheons; youth camps; and mission trips. Our Fall Kick-Off with Pop-Up Sunday, 5Up, Hang 10, and Crave welcomed so many kids through our doors, and interest in our "Seven" sermon-based small groups has been so strong that we've added more groups to make room for everyone. In addition, our Momentum construction is making great progress, and it's exciting to see God's vision for MPC take shape.

None of this happens by accident. Our values of Jesus First, Every Generation, Deep-Spirited Community, Courageous Faith, and Whole-Life Generosity are at the heart of MPC. Each moment is about taking the next step closer to Jesus, and we're grateful for everyone who makes that possible.

In that same spirit of generosity, we want to be transparent: our giving is currently behind projections. We're confident the months ahead are a great opportunity for our church family to catch up. As we prepare for construction completion and higher operating expenses, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider giving 10% more to our Operating Budget. Every gift moves us forward. Let's finish the year strong, together!

OPERATING BUDGET — THROUGH AUGUST 2026

We are 59.1% to our Operating Budget Goal!

Your faithfulness is making it happen — thank you!





Momentum is taking shape! Catch up on our latest construction progress:

- We've officially gone vertical! Block walls are going up, and work on the new lobby slab and block will begin in the next few weeks.
- The sanctuary refresh is well underway. Colors and materials have been selected, and we anticipate starting construction shortly after the holiday season.
- Our Office/Preschool Campus is getting some long-overdue upgrades. We've submitted permits for plumbing improvements and engaged an architect to begin remodel plans, which is a 5–6 month process. We're also reviewing proposals for a new roof and plumbing system.
- Thank you for your faithful giving. Everyone is working hard to fulfill their Momentum Pledges, and God's blessings are evident. We're so grateful for your generosity.
- Please keep praying for our construction crew, our leadership, and our congregation throughout this season.

Have questions?

Building: Brian Paul | bpaul@mandarinpres.com | (904) 680-9944

Giving: Anne Petrone | apetrone@mandarinpres.com | (904) 680-9944



Daily Bread Food Pantry



2026 to Date thru:	TOTAL	2026 - TO DATE	Weekly Average GUESTS SERVED
Sept 22nd	GUESTS		
	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED		
	2098		
	GUESTS VISITING CLOTHES CLOSET		
	719	Weekly Avg	55.2
			21.8

After a long, hot summer, Tuesday evening visits to the Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet have picked up again. Now, nine months into 2026, volunteers continue to cheerfully distribute three grocery bags per guest household each week, filled with non-perishable foods, breads, pastries, produce, dairy, and meats or poultry. These numbers show the Pantry and Clothes Closet's significant impact and ongoing importance to our guests. Each guest represents a household touched by the generosity of our volunteers, donors, and partners. As we approach 2027, we expect continued demand and remain committed to serving with compassion.

As mentioned on the first page, MPC will be celebrating Fall with our festival on the St. Johns River! Come join the fun on Sunday, October 25th at our beautiful River House Property!

Admission is one non-perishable food item or a monetary donation for the Daily Bread Food Pantry. Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry and our guests as we continue to serve our neighbors in need. God's light shines on this work. The ongoing support from our congregation and partners has allowed us to remain a steady source of positivity and service. We welcome donations of non-perishable food items and ensure they are used effectively.

Support from MPC members, youth groups, clubs, local schools, neighbors, and businesses—through monetary gifts and food—has propelled the Pantry into 2026. Every contribution directly benefits the guest households we serve.

Blessings and gratitude,

Daily Bread Food Ministry
(Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Volunteers)

Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool



We are having a wonderful time celebrating fall in our preschool!

Our classrooms are filled with joyful laughter, friendship formations, and lots of learning. What a blessing to see our students learning and thriving each day!

We still have a few openings in our three-year-old and VPK programs, so please spread the word with friends or family who may be looking for a loving, Christ-centered preschool experience.

For any questions, contact Lee Samuels at Lsamuels@mandarinpres.com or call 904-680-6406.

MPC Men's Fellowship 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/hesterrandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002/w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

Great Banquet



Truth be told, most of us prefer to do life on our own terms, especially in a culture that promotes the individual. We often approach faith the same way—just me and Jesus. But Scripture suggests the journey with Jesus is a WE thing, not a ME thing: "Where two or more are gathered" (Mt. 18:20), "Love one another" (John 13:34-35), and "We are one Body in Christ, individually members of one another" (Romans 12:4-5). A central feature of the Great Banquet is exploring God's grace together—in community. This is the Communion of Saints. The Great Banquet is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith the way Jesus intended: together with others. For more information and to register, visit nefgb.com.

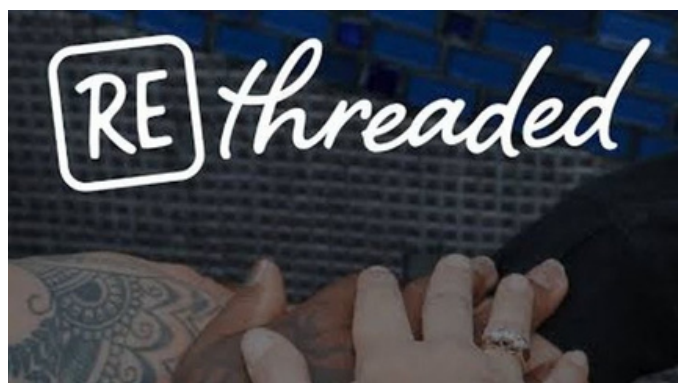
Mark Your Calendar!



Calling all young adults! Come along for a fun day trip to Orlando — we'll wander Disney Springs, ride go-karts, and check out a museum together. For more details and the fall calendar, visit mandarinpres.com/youngadults.



Ready to step away and go deeper in your faith? The Great Banquet is a 72-hour retreat where guests eat, laugh, sing, pray, and grow together in the care of a loving Christian community. This fall's weekends are Women's: October 15th-18th and Men's: November 5th-8th. Learn more at mandarinpres.com/greatbanquet.



Save the Date for December 5th for the Women's Ministry REthreaded visit to learn more about their program, socialize and shop for Christmas gifts at their unique store. More details soon!



Mark your calendars for the Women's Ministry Jingle and Mingle on December 12th! We need your creative gifts to make our annual silent auction shine. Consider donating a unique, high-quality item that showcases your talent. To contribute, please contact Cissy Graumann at graubunch@gmail.com.

September Events

All Church Retreat



Pop-Ups Sunday



Hang 10



Crave

SESSION UPDATE

Left to Right:

Front Row: Kim Harris, Danielle Caplin, Rev. Jenn Arnold, Rev. Jeff Arnold, Christina Elmore

Middle Row: Carol Yelinek, Penny Kievet, Rosa Heard, Rev. Dr. Andrew Stepp, Chris Davis, Brandon Perkins

Back Row: Bob Gillander, Curt Etheridge, Matt Balanky, Craig Henderson, Rev. Devyn Nelson



If you would like to reach out to our Session members, please email session@mandarinpres.com.

In September, six children from our Kids Ministry were baptized—a testament to how God is moving at MPC.

Our new sermon-based small groups launched on September 27th and will continue through November 15th. This series will explore the letters to the seven churches in Revelation. There's still time to join—use the Church Center app to find a group.

The Pumpkin Spice Girls return October 25th for our annual Fall Fest—a highlight of the year! Don't miss out on the fun, festivities, and great food. Volunteer opportunities, more details and registration are available at mandarinpres.com/fallfest.

Mark your calendars for two key November events: On November 8th, between services, we'll hold a congregational meeting to vote on nominees for Deacon, Trustee, and Elder. On November 15th, at the conclusion of each service, we will join for a Momentum Prayer Walk, where we will walk as a church among the new building, giving thanks for what God is doing at MPC.

In early December, we'll celebrate Bill Vasko—our friend and longtime Director of Music and Worship—as he prepares for retirement. Who can remember when Bill first came to MPC? What are your favorite

memories of Bill and/or our Music Ministry?

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 and
- Whole-Life Generosity.

Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and the vision that God has put before us. *"When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.'" (Revelation 1:17-18)*

OCTOBER J.O.Y. LUNCHEON

JOIN OUR JUST OLDER YOUTH LUNCHEON
As we celebrate the taste, the fun, and colors of fall!

Thursday, October 8th at 11:30am
in the Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$7.00 per person
RSVP by Tuesday, October 6th
Email or call the Church Office

Office Campus
11844 Mandarin Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-680-9944
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