



October  
2021

## From The Transitional Pastor

*Rev. Joel Giles*

### WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT OF A NEW PASTOR – AND VICE VERSA?

Every pastor is unique. Any new pastor will be different from every previous pastor. When differences arise, we are all inclined to think things like, “That’s not good!” or “That’s not the way Pastor So-and-So did it!” or “We’ve never done it that way before!” Once you have felt the initial shock of potential change, I encourage you to simply think: “That’s different.” Different is not bad; it’s just different. There’s often more than one way to skin an ecclesiastical cat. Don’t react too swiftly or too severely. Some of my favorite phrases are, “Help me to understand...” and “That may need to grow on me...” and “Let’s give it a try!” and “Let’s see how it goes.” If you don’t get some new ideas from a new pastor, you got short-changed! As long as new ideas don’t affect basic beliefs or mission or values or identity, it will be good to give it some time, try new ways, and see how it goes. Remember: that new idea or approach or strategy may not be good or bad – just different!

### WHEN JESUS COMES TO CHURCH

What should we do when Jesus comes to church? That’s what happened during the days of the Apostle John. 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 provide an opportunity for assessment on the part of every church everywhere ever since. We began that series on September 26 with a look at Revelation chapter 1 – the glorified Christ who will visit every church. Then, we will look at the main lesson from each of the 7 churches. Please join us – on site or online – at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning.

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### UPDATE FROM THE PNC

The PNC continues to work together to do God’s will and bring our new pastor home. We are excited and encouraged by some top candidates that have come our way. We are engaging with them and finding matches with the responses indicated in our survey. It is refreshing to see God’s hand in these people’s hearts and their commitment and faithfulness to His word. We are confident that God, in His time, will place the right person in His church in Mandarin. Your prayers are much appreciated as we and the applicants discern God’s will for next steps.

**FALLFEST ON THE RIVER** - MPC will be celebrating fall with a festival on the St. Johns River! Come join the fun from 4:00-7:00pm on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at our beautiful River House Property (behind BOB on the Mandarin Road Campus). Live music with the Paul Lundgren Band, delicious BBQ from Twisted Okie, yummy desserts, games and fun for ALL ages! **This is a free event!** Come tour the River House Property while you’re here and take part in all the activities! We look forward to seeing you! Food will be provided by Twisted Okie BBQ and will consist of a barbeque plate with sides or a Vegetarian Taco. Kid’s meals will consist of a chicken finger basket with fries. Since this event will be located on the MPC River House property, we ask that everyone please park at our Mandarin Road Campus parking lots and follow the directional signs to walk to the event. Golf cart rides will be available for those who are unable to walk. **Please RSVP at [mandarinpres.com/fallfest](http://mandarinpres.com/fallfest) so we can have an accurate count for our BBQ food truck.**



## A NOTE FROM THE SESSION

Hello! As a session, we will be trying to put some notes here going forward on what we're doing, what's under discussion, and anything else that needs conveying.

New plans were discussed for how we can continue to serve God faithfully in our community. We discussed the exciting plans for youth ministry, small groups, and reports on the search for our new Senior Pastor from the PNC. We made plans for the upcoming fall events, and you have been wonderful in reaching out with your questions and concerns in this season of transition (keep them coming!).

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## NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREAT BANQUET...STILL WAITING!

"They that wait upon the Lord, will renew their strength." At least that's what the Bible says (Is. 40:31)! That being the case, those involved with and anticipating the Great Banquet getting back on track are feeling mighty strong at this point! Whole lotta waiting been going on. After postponing the spring and fall Great Banquet weekends in 2020, and the spring weekends in 2021, plans for Women and Men's weekends this fall were put in place mid-summer. About the time the Delta strain of the COVID kicked into high gear in Florida, Jacksonville in particular! Which resulted in the necessity to postpone them once again. So wait we will. But not like holding one's breath waiting. Rather, like sitting quietly and expectantly on a bench for a bus waiting. Which involves trusting both that it's arrival is completely out of our hands, and that it'll get here when it gets here. Hence, while we anticipate future Great Banquets, it'll be profitable for our souls to wait. Come join us! We'll make room for ya on the bench.

**'GUYS & GRITS' - MEN'S BREAKFAST** - Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 – 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall – sign in starts at 7:45. For all men, all generations, including young men 13 and older. Featuring MPC Men Guest Speakers sharing: “How best we can build the next great generation of men together”. Come join brothers of ALL ages living out Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength. Gray hair the splendor of the old. MPC Men will lead a forum discussion on "How best we can build the next great generation of men together". Register on the front page of our website at [mandarinpres.com](http://mandarinpres.com).

**J.O.Y (Just Older Youth)** - Leaf your troubles behind and join us for our JOY Fall Festival on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am in Fellowship Hall. 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 by October 12<sup>th</sup> by calling 680-9944.

**NOTE OF THANKS** – Dear MUGS, Carol and I thank you for your help during our medical crisis in August and September. It certainly was a relief from the stress of Carol's stay in the hospital. Carol is home but will be continuing to recover for a period of time. God bless all of you for your help and prayers. - *Gary Lentz*

**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](mailto:vmeyercomm@gmail.com).

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT** – MPC has various medical equipment like wheelchairs, walkers, shower seats, etc. that we lend out. Check with the office for availability if you are in need.

**UPCOMING DISCOVERY CLASS** – Our Discovery Class is for those interested in learning more about our mission and becoming members at MPC. Plan to join us for our next set of classes on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Get details on our website: [mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass](http://mandarinpres.com/discoveryclass).

**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](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com).

**MILITARY PRAYER LIST** - We are currently updating our Military Prayer List. Please email [apetrone@mandarinpres.com](mailto:apetrone@mandarinpres.com) to add a name to this list.

# STUDENT MINISTRY

**STUDENT MINISTRY** - Middle School and High School small groups are leading booths at our Fall Fest on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. Families are also invited to attend.

**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 6-8pm 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.

**H10 AFTER DARK** is Saturday, October 9 from 7pm-midnight. Invite friends for this great night hanging out with your small group! Laser Tag, Broomball & More! Cost is \$35 and includes activities, transportation and a late night pizza snack. Register and pay online at [mandarinpres.com/msevents](http://mandarinpres.com/msevents). Deadline to register is Wednesday, October 6.

**HIGH SCHOOL 9:08** is on Sundays from 9-10:15am 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 6:30-8:30 pm at the Mandarin Road Campus. Bring your friends for games, food, worship and small group time.

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## PRELIMINARY AUGUST FINANCIAL UPDATE:

	<u>September</u>	<u>Calendar YTD</u>
Contributions	\$163,772	\$1,441,029
Expenses	\$167,258	\$1,541,035
Net Income/ <b>(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$3,486)</b>	<b>(\$100,006)</b>

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

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## MPC ONLINE MEDIA TOOLS

**RIGHTNOW MEDIA** - RightNow Media is like the Netflix of Christian Bible Studies. Through MPC, you can sign up to have access to thousands of Bible study videos and movies for all ages. Email Carla in the church office, [cmayo@mandarinpres.com](mailto:cmayo@mandarinpres.com). She will provide your email to RightNow Media and you will be sent an invitation to sign up. There is no cost for this service.

Follow MPC on our social media channels:



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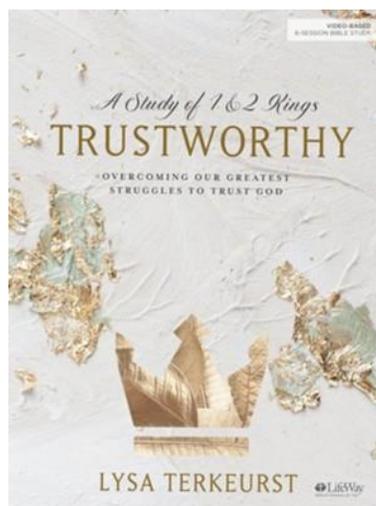
@mandarinpresjax

**MEALS ON WHEELS (MOW)** - Hello Church! It's been a while since our last Meals on Wheels update so it's about time to share a 'what's up' with your MOW ministry. Earlier this year, a few and dedicated cadre of volunteers served 17 clients each day with a midday meal Monday through Friday, including holidays. In the Spring we put out an 'all call' for more volunteers and y'all responded resoundingly! We have a pretty full cadre at this time and each team generally delivers just once each month, spending about two hours to do so. Currently we serve 12 clients in the 32223 and 32257 zip codes. The majority of our clients receive meals at no cost to them. We are able to provide them due to the generosity of MPC members just like you. Our supplier recently increased the cost of meals 14.5 percent so when you are thinking about giving opportunities, please consider Meals on Wheels. Just make your check payable to MPC and write Meals on Wheels or "MOW" in the remarks. Thanks again for investing your time and treasure in this ministry. If you know of someone who may need our services, are interested in serving or have any questions about MOW, give Earl Bittner a call at 904-868-6067 or email at [rebitne@bellsouth.net](mailto:rebitne@bellsouth.net); or Van Hogan at 904-631-8309 or [vhogan@bellsouth.net](mailto:vhogan@bellsouth.net).

**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)

**WOMEN'S STUDY** - Trustworthy: Overcoming Our Greatest Struggles to Trust God



When hard times come and it seems God is deviating from the plan we assume our life should follow, we're more likely to want to tame God, not trust Him. It's then that we begin to press into our ways and our own timing. No human can carry the weight of being their own god, but so many of us try. In this 6-session study of 1 & 2 Kings, join Lysa TerKeurst in Israel as she honestly reveals the places of distrust in her own heart while exploring the deeply applicable Scriptures that will teach us how to truly trust God.

**New Class Starting:** Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for moms of seniors/college students/young adult children.  
To sign up, contact the church office, 680-9944.