

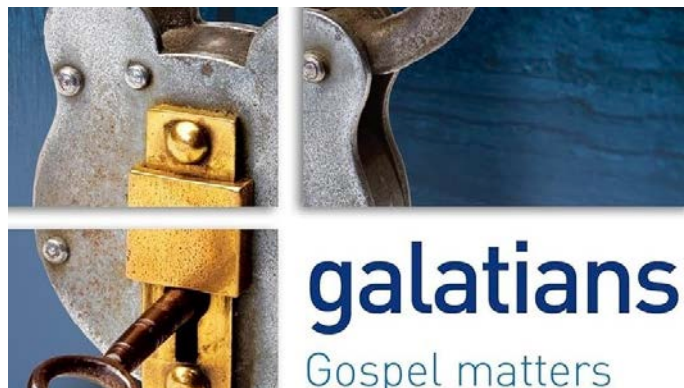
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2024



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Upcoming Events
 - Financial Update
 - Mission Spotlight
 - August Events Recap
-



Upcoming Bible Study

Why study Paul's letter to the Galatians? The church in Galatia was torn between the view that their efforts saved them, and the Gospel, which told them that it was Christ's work, not theirs, that mattered. The choice still confronts us today making this a hugely relevant and exciting book to study. Join us this September & October as we use Tim Keller's *Galatians: Gospel Matters* to guide us through our study on Galatians. The study starts on September 17th/18th. For more details and to register, visit mandarinpres.com/galatians.



We will have one worship service on Sunday, September 1st. We'll return to two worship services on Sunday September 8th.

Upcoming Event Highlights

- September 8th - Pop-Up Sunday, Crave and Hang 10 fall programs begin and we kick-off our new sermon series, Fruit of the Spirit.
- September 10th - Overcome support group begins an 8-week series.
- September 17th/18th - Galatians Bible study begins.
- September 22nd - A Night with Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli.
- September 27th - Parents' Night Out!
- September 28th - Women's Ministry Burgers & Bunco.

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

High School Mission Trip: Uganda



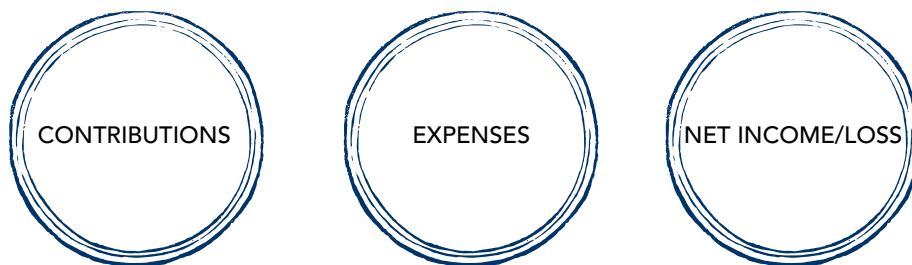
Our team of 14 students, 7 adults and 3 trip leaders partnered with Africa Renewal Ministries in Bethany Village, where they engaged in various activities such as distributing school supplies and clothing and spending time with infants and children. If you are interested in Uganda child sponsorships, go to africarenewal.org.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Praise God for All of Our Blessings

2024 Financial Update



| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| July 2024 | \$175,975 | \$220,276 | \$(44,301) |
| Year-to-Date | \$1,567,104 | \$1,523,517 | \$43,587 |

Thank you for your faithful giving to MPC!

Welcome
DEVYN
NELSON

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Let's welcome our new MPC Pastoral Intern joining us this September!

Hello MPC! I began working in ministry six years ago and have followed God's call on my life to serve as an ordained pastor. In the next season of this call, my wife, Katlyn and our son, Franklyn, will be leaving Iowa and joining you at MPC. I am currently a seminarian at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, where I have enjoyed preaching, teaching, and leading worship. I am also in ECO's ordination process to be ordained as a pastor wherever the Lord calls me. I enjoy spending time outdoors – from fishing to golfing – and especially anything that has to do with water! Even more so I really love all things Jesus. I love diving into the Bible and seeking to follow Jesus as he has invited us to do. I am thankful for the opportunity to join MPC in Christ's mission and ministry. It is a blessing beyond measure to join you and to be welcomed by you – so thank you, and thanks be to God!

Daily Bread Food Pantry Update



Through the first eight months of 2024, our **Daily Bread Food Pantry** and **Clothes Closet** have seen consistently high guest visitation rates. July set new records, with over 310 guest households served by the food pantry and 96 utilizing the Clothes Closet. 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.

So far this year, our weekly distribution averages have been impressive, serving over 58 households and impacting more than 160 individuals. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to support those in our community who need assistance with food and clothing. Thanks for all of prayers and support!

Total 2024 Distributions to Guests

| Food | Clothing |
|---|---|
| 1958 | 561 |
|  |  |

*Praises to all with blessings & gratitude,
Daily Bread Food Ministry
(Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteers)*

Upcoming Support Group



Overcome is an 8-week series designed for anyone experiencing mental or emotional health challenges or supporting a loved one with these challenges. For more information, go to mandarinpres.com/overcome.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)



Fall Kick-Off

J.O.Y. September Luncheon
Thursday, September 12th
11:30am
Fellowship Hall

Join us for the September J.O.Y. luncheon to kick-off fall! Wear your favorite college/pro Football gear!

Cost is \$7.00 per person
Please RSVP by September 9th
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/hesterrandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002/w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.

Great Banquet



If, as you read this, you are sensing something missing or that life lacks a certain substance, then consider the Great Banquet. 72 hours bathing in God's Grace, experiencing Jesus turning your lesser moments into indispensable ones like He did water to wine, being cared for and 'loved on' like never before. Do your soul a favor. Consider the Great Banquet. The Women's Great Banquet weekend is October 24th-27th and the Men's Great Banquet weekend is November 14th-17th. Visit NEFGB.com for more information.

Mission Spotlight: YoungLives Jacksonville

*MPC supports various missions around the world and here at home.
This month's Mission Spotlight is Young Life's YoungLives mission.*

The mission of Young Life is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. YoungLives is a dedicated ministry focused on helping pregnant and parenting teens grow in faith, life, and leadership. YoungLivesJacksonville began ministry in 2008 and has supported hundreds of young women and their children over the past 16 years. Today, our staff team consists of Chelsea Weise (Director), Chrissy Webb (Mission Staff), and Brittany Parks (Administrator). Both Chelsea and Chrissy were teen mothers, and Chrissy is also an alumna. Supported by the board, volunteer leaders, and with supervision from Jordan Whitmarsh (Metro Director and former YoungLives Director), over 65 teen mothers throughout Duval County know they are not alone.

We accomplish our mission by praying for pregnant and parenting teens, going where they are – to schools, group homes, PACE Centers, and more – building personal relationships with them and earning the right to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. YoungLives provides fun, adventurous, life-changing, and skill-building experiences and works in the community alongside like-minded adults. We invite kids to personally respond to the Good News and walk in friendship with them regardless of response.

Teen parents participate in a twice-monthly Club, a large group gathering that begins with dinner for participants and their children. Childcare is provided following dinner, allowing teens to play games, sing songs, and act like teenagers in a fun, family-like atmosphere before hearing a clear and compelling presentation of the Gospel by leaders who have invested in their lives. Mentors welcome teen moms with open arms and walk alongside them, literally "doing life together." As a result, teen moms – and their kids – experience fun, freedom, and life to the fullest.

This summer, five girls and their babies experienced a week filled with fun and visible reminders of God's unending love for them at Carolina Point, a Young Life Camp located outside of Brevard, North Carolina. This would not have been possible without the support of the Mandarin Presbyterian Church, and we are so grateful! In addition to financial support, YoungLives is always looking for volunteers to help provide dinner or childcare for Club twice a month and mentors to meet with teen moms to pour into them consistently. If you would like to learn more, please contact younglivesjax@gmail.com.



Next Gen Ministry



This fall, we are starting our very own MomCo ministry for moms. Formerly known as MOPS, this group will provide connection and friendships that will last a lifetime. This group will meet every other Tuesday from 9:45-11:45am. Childcare will be provided! Limited spots are available, please visit mandarinpres.com/momco to register.



Parents' Night Out is a great event! Not only will you get a night out (or in, if you prefer), your kiddos will love it! The evening includes Bible time, songs, games, crafts, snacks, activities inside and outside and a movie. Babies-5th grade are welcome. The event takes place on our Loretto Road Campus. For more details and to register, go to mandarinpres.com/kidsevents.

Gathering Updates

Middle School Students (6th-8th Grades)

- Sundays: 9-10am in the Quads at the Loretto Road Campus for breakfast and a deeper dive into the Bible, known as "Dive-In." Starts on September 8th.
- Wednesdays: 6-8pm at the Mandarin Road Campus for "Hang 10" to learn about Jesus, have fun and connect. Weekly dinner for \$5 and events throughout the year. Starts on September 11th.

High School Students (9th-12th Grades)

- Sundays: 6:30-8:30pm "Crave" gathering at the Mandarin Road Campus for food, games, worship and small group time. Starts on September 8th.
- Wednesdays: 7:30-8:45pm Bible study in the Quads on the Loretto Road Campus. Starts on September 18th.

College Ministry (Ages 19+)

- Contact Jenn Arnold at jennarnold@mandarinpres.com for events and details.

Young Adults (Ages 20-30: work force, grad school, professionals)

- Tuesdays: 7-9pm in the "couch room" on the Mandarin Road Campus. For questions and to connect, email: youngadultministry@mandarinpres.com.

Pop-Up Sunday



Join us for an exciting day on September 8th at our Loretto Road Campus as we launch our Fall programs!

Highlights:

- Frozen 'pop' treats and fellowship in the courtyard between services
- Kids and students 'pop up' to their new classes
- Learn about all our Fall offerings and ways to connect and serve
- Kick-off for our new sermon series, Fruit of the Spirit
- Extended time between services for extra time for connection! Our 9am service will end 10-15 minutes early and our 10:30am service will begin 15 minutes later.

This is the perfect opportunity to connect, celebrate and discover what's in store at MPC this season. Bring your friends, coworkers and neighbors! We can't wait to see you there!

New Sermon Series



We're all producing something with our lives, but are we bearing good fruit or letting things rot? When we're connected to God's Spirit, we grow the kind of fruit that makes life sweet. But when our pride takes over, things can get messy fast. Join us this fall as we explore how to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives—a harvest our divided world desperately needs. The series starts on September 8th.

Mark Your Calendars



Come hear about the amazing things God is doing around the world, especially in Iran and the Persian diaspora, with our special guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli. Join us on September 22nd at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for kindergarten and younger. Visit the Church Center App for more details.



Come join the Women's Ministry Burgers & Bunco event for a fantastic afternoon of food, fun and fellowship from 11am-2pm at the Mandarin Road Campus on September 28th. For more details and to register, go to mandarinpres.com/womensministry.



Join our MPC Fall Celebration on October 13th from 4-7pm 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.



Looking for a fun and easy way to meet new people at MPC? Consider joining Table for 8, a dinner group where you share fellowship and meals once a month and take turns hosting. Visit mandarinpres.com/tablefor8 for more details and to sign up!



The Women's Ministry Team needs your creative skills to make our Jingle & Mingle silent auction a success! We need unique, high-quality items that showcase your talent. If you are interested in crafting, creating and donating, please contact Anne Petrone at apetrone@mandarinpres.com.

August Events Recap



The Men's Ministry Burger Bash on August 24th was a hit with food, fun and games! Lots of fun for all ages!



Thanks to all who joined for a special night of worship on August 11th to pray for our nation, city, church, schools and students.

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

Even though summer is over, we continue to spread the love of Christ within our church, community, and the world.

We welcomed 19 new Covenant Partners into the MPC family in August. As you see new faces, please be sure to offer a warm hello and a smile.

Did you know that during the summer, our Next Gen Ministry served 718 different children and students through our 4 summer camps and 3 high school mission trips? Just imagine the impact on these children and their families along with the impact the high school students made as they served others outside of our community. God is doing great things at MPC!

During the Fall season, you can expect that momentum to grow.

We will hold a 7-week, church-wide Bible study on the book of Galatians. Registration is open now. Pop-up Sunday is on September 8th. Not only will the children and students be 'popping up' to their next class, but you will have a chance, between the services, to learn how you can connect and serve. You will find your place at MPC!

Our next Sermon Series, beginning September 8th, will be Fruit of the Spirit, where we will discover how to live a Holy Spirit-empowered life and bear fruit that lasts. On the evening of September 22nd, we will host Rev. Dr. Sasan Tavassoli, a missionary to the Persian-speaking world. These are just a few highlights of what is in store for MPC. You can find other events and activities on the MPC website or subscribe to the weekly MPC e-newsletter at mandarinpres.com/enews.

We want to hear from you! At any time when you may have a question or just want to say hello, you can reach out to us individually or you can email the Session at elders@mandarinpres.com.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."
Galatians 5:22-25

Please join the Session as we continue to pray for our church, our community, our world.

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