

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2025



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Upcoming Events
 - Financial Update
 - Ways to Get Involved at MPC
 - August Session Update
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Our annual Promotion Sunday is September 7th - a special day when kids and students celebrate "popping up" to their new classes and age groups. We can't wait to cheer them on as they take this exciting next step in their faith journey!



Upcoming Church-Wide Bible Study

Discover your unique spiritual gifts and learn to share your faith with confidence! Join us Tuesday nights or Wednesday mornings starting September 9th as we explore how the Holy Spirit has empowered us for God's ministry and mission. Over five weeks, you'll discover how you're uniquely gifted to serve, practical ways to naturally share the Gospel and your role in God's greater mission. Kids Ministry program is available for birth-5th graders on Tuesday nights. For more details, visit mandarinpres.com/empowered.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6th - Women's Ministry Creative Grace art workshop
September 7th - Pop-Up Sunday and new sermon series starts
September 9th - Empowered church-wide Bible study begins
September 14th - Connect Fest - MPC's courtyard ministry fair
September 21st - Discovery Class for new members
September 26th - Parents' Night Out

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

High School Mission Trip: Jamaica



Our final high school mission trip of the summer was to the rural mountain community of Catadupa, Jamaica, from July 26th to August 2nd. The team worked hard, tackling everything from building fences to pouring concrete, while also sharing their love at VBS with wonderful kids. It was encouraging to see how much the students grew through serving together and connecting with the community. They embraced the experience fully, including participating in a Jamaican marathon (Jamaican marathon = 3.65 miles). The impact will last far beyond this week!



August at MPC

What a summer it's been! As we transition into fall, we're filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been moving at MPC.

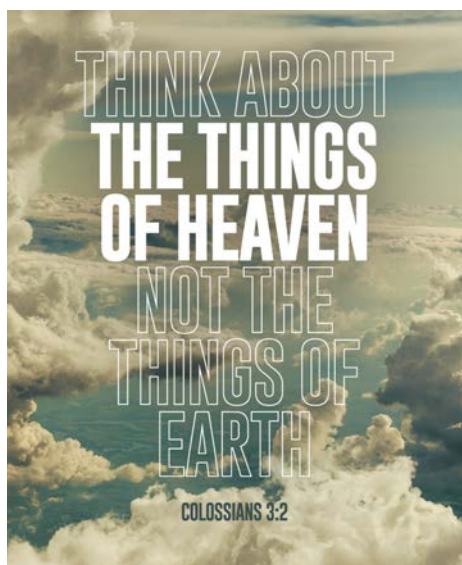
August Highlights:

- We joyfully welcomed back Pastors Jeff and Jenn Arnold from their 3-month sabbatical. We can't wait to see how God has renewed their hearts for the exciting things ahead at MPC!
- During our August Serve Day, a group of MPC ladies volunteered at Rethreaded, preparing leather materials that will be transformed into beautiful leather goods made by women escaping trafficking. A blessed day of connection and learning about Rethreaded's mission.
- Our J.O.Y. Group had a fantastic time celebrating National Banana Split Day with a retro diner theme, complete with vintage decorations, music, sunglasses, and diner hats.
- The Men's Ministry hosted their 5th Annual Burger Bash, featuring an epic waterslide, delicious food, games and prizes.

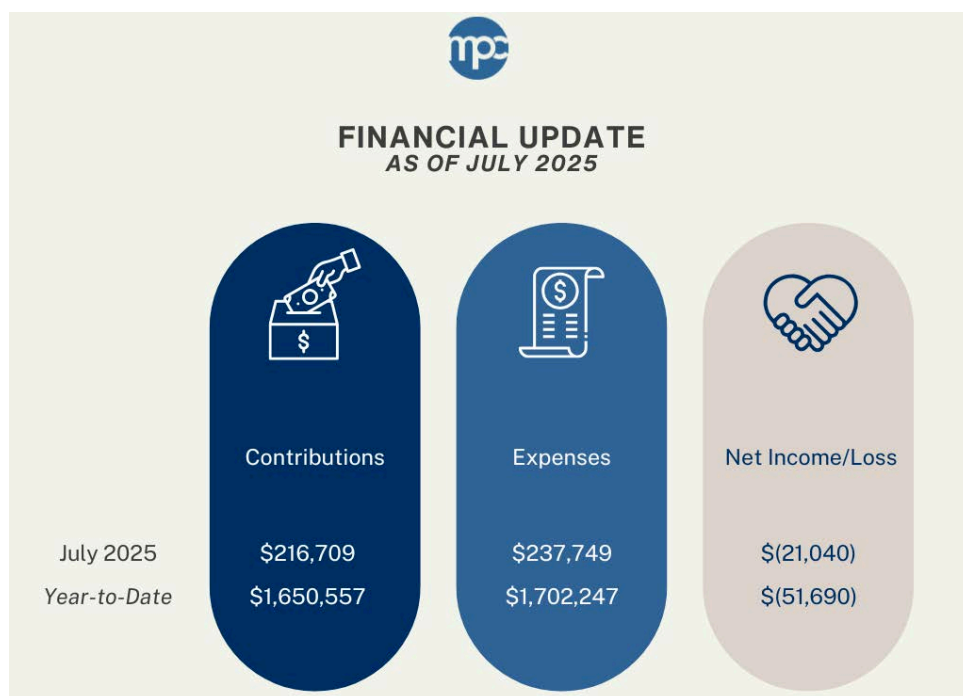
Looking Ahead:

Your participation, prayers and support make MPC a special place to worship, connect and serve together. As we enter the fall season, we're excited about the opportunities God has in store for us as a church family!

Looking to find your place at MPC? We're here to help. Join our Connect Fest on September 14th, stop by one of our welcome desks on Sunday mornings or email our Connections Coordinator, Renata at rkamp@mandarinpres.com.



Give online: 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!!

New Sermon Series





Life is multi-faceted and complex. We live in a world in which we are constantly being inundated with new information, new opportunities, and endless choices. It is easy to feel like our lives are fragmented and lost in all the busyness and intensity of the daily grind. When Jesus enters our lives He loves us so much that he cares about all the fragments and pieces of our lives, and He wants to breathe His abundant life into every part of us – our plans, our priorities, our possessions. There's no part of us that Jesus doesn't know and no part that he leaves untouched. Jesus changes everything! That is Good News! Join us as we begin our new sermon series on September 7th!

Daily Bread Food Pantry



Guest visits to our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continue at a steady pace. Now over eight 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 Guests through August 25, 2025

| Food | Clothing |
|---|---|
| 1945 | 710 |
|  |  |

We are grateful for your prayers and continued support of our Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet as we joyfully serve our neighbors in need. God has truly blessed this work and the love from our congregation has enabled us to be a consistent beacon in our community.

Prayers to all with blessing and gratitude,
Daily Bread Food Ministry (Pantry & Clothes Volunteers)

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

LUNCH AND LAUGHS WITH **FRIENDS**

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

Remember when sitcoms were funny?
Remember sitting around the TV
watching with your family, eating a
delicious TV dinner from an aluminum
tray, laughing till your sides hurt? Then
you need to join us!

Cost is \$7.00 per person
Please RSVP by September 9th
Contact us at 904-680-9944

Please bring a photo of yourself from
the 50's or 60's to share.

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



Volume is the amount on our plate. Pace is the speed at which we eat it. The higher the volume, the more we tend to ratchet up the pace. Yet the Lord calls out in Psalm 46:10 - "Be still, and know that I am God." What is your volume? What is your pace? Are they leading you toward or away from being still, from knowing the I am God? Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." The Great Banquet allows just that - 72 hours of being bathed in the presence and grace of Jesus. The women's weekend is October 23-26; the men's is November 6-9. Visit nefgb.com for more information.

Ways to Get Involved!

Hosted by Women's Ministry



**Saturday,
September 6th
9:00 am – Noon
Fellowship Hall**

Register for this art event from the
Women's Ministry page on the MPC Website or Church Center App

Reveal your inner artist as MPC member Susan Chapman instructs us on how to create a leather-like frame with scripture! This event is open to ladies and their daughters or granddaughters in 6th grade and up. Go to mandarinpres.com/womensministry for more details and registration. Save your spot by September 1st!



We are currently seeking adults (18 years and older) with experience to join our nursery team for weekly Tuesday programming and special events. You'll help create a safe, nurturing environment for children ages 0-2 through curriculum activities, parent communication and attentive care. Contact Wendy Greer for more info at wgreer@mandarinpres.com.



Ever catch yourself singing along during worship and wish you were a part of the music program? Here's your chance! We are looking for people who love to worship through song. No audition required. Weekly rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. For any questions and to sign up, contact Bill Vasko, bvasko@mandarinpres.com.



Take your next step with us through our Discovery Class and new member lunch on September 21st from 10:15am-1:30pm. Our Discovery Class is a welcoming space where you can explore what it means to be part of our MPC family and our mission of More People Moving Toward Jesus. Visit mandarinpress.com/discoveryclass.

Parents' Night Out



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 Church Campus. For more details, go to mandarinpres.com/kidsevents.

Middle School & High School Ministries

Middle School Students (6th-8th Grades)

- Sundays: 9-10am in the Quads at our Church Campus for breakfast and a deeper dive into the Bible, known as "Dive-In." Starts on September 7th.
- Wednesdays: 6-8pm at the Office Campus for "Hang 10" to learn about Jesus, have fun and connect. Weekly dinner for \$5 and events throughout the year. Starts on September 10th.

High School Students (9th-12th Grades)

- Sundays: 6:30-8:30pm "Crave" gathering at the Office Campus for food, games, worship and small group time. Starts on September 7th.
- Wednesdays: 7:45-8:45pm Bible study at the River House. Starts on September 17th.

Save
The
Date



Connect Fest



Ready to dive deeper into community at MPC? Connect Fest is your one-stop opportunity to discover all the amazing ways you can get more involved at MPC!

Join us in the courtyard between services to explore:

- Small Groups – Find your group and grow in faith together
- Volunteer Opportunities – Serve with your gifts right here at MPC
- Local Missions – Make a difference in our community
- Support Groups – Journey through life's challenges with others
- How to use our Church Center App

This is also a great Sunday to invite friends, family and neighbors! What better way to show them the heart of MPC than by letting them experience firsthand all the ways we come together to connect and grow in faith. There will be 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.

Whether you're new to MPC or have been here for years, Connect Fest is the perfect chance to take your next step. Discover ways to connect and find meaningful ways to serve God and others. We can't wait to see you there!

**CONNECT
NOW!**



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](https://mandarinpres.com/churchcenter)

August Events



August Serve Day



J.O.Y. Retro Diner Lunch



Men's Ministry Burger Bash

Just a note from the Session: August Session Update



(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

We're wrapping up our 10 Commandments series and can't wait to dive into our next sermon series, "Jesus Changes Everything," starting September 7th, bringing us inspirational stories from the Gospel. In October, we will explore the book of Nehemiah together, which will lead us right into the Advent season.

We hope to see you at one of the many upcoming events this fall, including our church-wide Bible Study, Pop-Up Sunday, Connect Fest, our Discovery Class and Fall Fest. More details can be found on our website, in our church center app, and in our e-newsletter, "News to Me."

Please mark your calendars for our Congregational Meeting, where we will hold officer elections on November 2nd, between services. Nomination forms are available in the Sunday bulletins, on our website, or you can simply scan the QR code. We encourage you to prayerfully consider who God might be calling to serve.

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.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." – Romans 12:9-12

It's Nomination Time!

The Nominating Committee needs your nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Board of Trustees by **September 14th**. Scan the code below to submit your suggestions online.

