

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2026



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- Upcoming Events
 - Financial Update
 - Ways to Get Involved at MPC
 - August Session Update
-



Our annual Promotion Sunday is September 13th - 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!

Event Highlights

9/6: One Worship Service at 10:00am
9/10: Plan It Forward
9/12: Women's Ministry Burgers & Bunco
9/13: Pop-Up Sunday for kids and students
9/23: Overcome support group begins
9/27: New Sermon Series, "Seven" begins along with sermon-based small groups



Upcoming Church-Wide Bible Study

Join us for a new sermon series for a simple, honest look at Jesus' messages to seven early churches with real people trying to follow Him in the middle of pressure, distraction, and everyday life.

In these messages, we hear His call to wake up, stand firm, repent quickly, and return to the first love that once set our hearts on fire. Each one reveals what Jesus celebrates, confronts, and promises—inviting us to rekindle devotion, recover courage, and follow Him with renewed passion.

Join us starting September 27th, and go deeper through our sermon-based small groups launching the same week. This is where the message moves from Sunday morning into real life and real community. Sign-up details coming your way soon!

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

Get Support & Get Involved!



In a world of arm's-length relationships, it's easy to feel excluded and overwhelmed, as if things are coming apart. Overcome is an eight-week journey toward hope. Two trained facilitators will guide you and a small group through proven approaches to ease the load. We're not talking at you; we're walking with you. The group meets Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, September 23rd through December 2nd. For details and registration, visit mandarinpres.com/overcome.



Table for 8 is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people at MPC. Each month, groups of eight gather around the table to share a meal and get to know one another (hosting duties rotate). It's a delightful way to make new connections and feel more at home in our community! If you have any questions, please contact Iris Cruice at viriswood@bellsouth.net. Sign up at mandarinpres.com/tablefor8 by September 20th!



The Daily Bread Food Pantry is seeking volunteers for Tuesday opportunities. Morning Drivers & Ride-Along Helpers are needed 1–2 times per month, 9:30am–12:00pm, to help pick up and deliver donated food. Clothes Closet Helpers are needed 2 times per month, 4:20–5:30pm, to assist guests during distribution. For more information, contact Mark Tanzler at marktanzler@gmail.com.

Just Older Youth



September J.O.Y. Luncheon It's time for "Team Joy"

Suit up in your favorite team colors and report to the Fellowship Hall for our fall kick-off luncheon. Join us on **September 10th** at 11:30am.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 8th at 904-680-9944.

Operational Budget

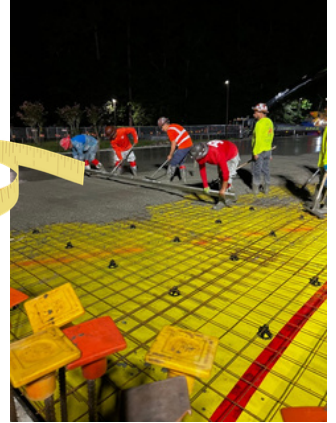


What a summer it has been! From kids camps and mission trips to our August Serve Day with Three Grains of Rice and our Women's and Men's Ministry events and more — this congregation has been busy living out our faith. We are grateful for each and every one of you!

As we settle into fall, we want to be transparent — summer brought a dip in giving, and through July we are slightly behind on our Net Operating Result. Now is the time to come together — and what better time than fall!

The season ahead is full of opportunity. Pop-Up Sunday, our new sermon series "Seven" with sermon-based small groups, and so many ways to connect and grow are just ahead. As our church family settles into fall rhythms, we believe our giving will follow. If you have not yet committed to giving 10% more toward our Operating Budget, now is the perfect time. Every gift moves us forward. Let's enter this season strong — together!





Momentum Construction is making great strides! Here are the latest updates:

- Exciting news - the concrete slab was poured early on September 3rd!
- Behind the scenes, our team is hard at work preparing for major sanctuary upgrades - carpet, pews, painting, and more.
- Momentum construction tours continue on September 6th and 13th after each service. Come see the progress!
- Please continue to pray for the safety of all our workers.
- And thank you to all who have pulled your Momentum Pledge forward - it's making a real impact.

Thank you for your generosity and continued commitment to our mission of **making space for more people to move toward Jesus!**

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
AUGUST	GUESTS		
	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED ↓		
	1873		
	GUESTS VISITING CLOTHES CLOSET		
	648		55.1
			22.3

Tuesday evening guest visits to the Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continue at a brisk pace. Eight months into 2026, our volunteers joyfully provide each guest household with three grocery bags of non-perishable staples, along with fresh breads, pastries, produce, dairy, and meat or poultry when available.

These numbers reflect a substantial impact on our community and the ongoing need for the Pantry and Clothes Closet. Each guest represents a household touched by the generosity of our volunteers, donors, and partners. As we look toward 2027, we anticipate continued demand and remain committed to serving with compassion and care.

We are grateful for your prayers for this ministry and our guests as we continue marching toward Jesus in service to our neighbors in need. God has truly shone His light on this work, and the steady support of our congregation since day one has kept it a steady source of positivity and service in our community.

Support from MPC members, youth groups, clubs, local schools, neighbors, and area businesses—both monetary gifts and food donations—directly benefits the guest households we serve. We graciously welcome donations of non-perishable food items and will make sure they are used effectively.

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in our efforts - please see page 2 for more details.

Praises to all with blessings and gratitude,

Daily Bread Food Ministry

Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool



We are off to a wonderful start to the new school year!

Our classrooms are filled with joyful laughter, friendship formations, and lots of learning. What a blessing to see our students settling in and growing more comfortable 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



Grace. A woman's name. Something said before eating. The way one carries themselves. Unconditional, undeserved, unmerited favor. The latter results from God's love. Which is also unconditional, undeserved, unmeritable. We participate in God's free gift of grace only by receiving it. We can't generate it, can't solicit it by trying harder, can't buy it on Amazon. We can only receive it. And then experience it. There is a wonderful opportunity to both receive and experience God's grace that is coming up this fall. The Great Banquet is a 72-hour, three-day, bathing in God's love and grace. The women's weekend is **October 15th-18th** and the men's weekend is **November 5th-8th**. Visit NEFGB.com for further details and to register.

Mark Your Calendar!



Join us for a special combined service this Labor Day weekend! We'll gather for worship on Sunday, **September 6th**, at 10am. We look forward to seeing you there!



Plan it Forward is a unique event aimed at helping you invest in your future and leave a meaningful legacy. You are invited to join us for an evening of sharing best practices on various financial and future planning topics on Thursday, **September 10th**. More details and registration are available at mandarinpres.com/planitforward.



MPC Ladies—it's BACK! Please join us on September 12th for Burgers & Bunco (with Chicks on the Side)! The cost is only \$10 and childcare will be provided with advance registration. Register at mandarinpres.com/womensministry! We look forward to seeing you on **September 12th** for food, fun and fellowship!



Save the date for our Fall Fest on the River on **October 25th**. This is our church-wide fall celebration with live music, delicious BBQ, yummy desserts and games and fun for all! More details and registration will be available soon!

Your Next Step at MPC



Join us for worship on Sunday, September 13th and Sunday, September 20th for two special Sundays dedicated to worship, connection, and serving. We'll walk you through how to take your next step toward Jesus and find your place in community at MPC—all through our Church Center app.

Explore:

- Sermon-based small groups
- Fellowship groups
- Volunteer opportunities
- Local missions
- Support groups

Whether you're brand new or have been here for years, we want to make your next step simple. We recommend downloading the Church Center App before September 13th. These are also great Sundays to invite friends, family, and neighbors!

DOWNLOAD ↓

**CONNECT
NOW!**



Download and use our Church Center app for small groups, 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. August Lunch



Men's Ministry Burger Bash

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.

God continues to move at MPC as we welcomed nine new covenant partners in early August!

Remember, September 6th is a single 10am service with Rev. Hawley Smith speaking, as many attend the All Church Retreat at St. Simons Island.

Nominations for Deacons, Trustees, and Elders are open from September 13th - September 27th. Please prayerfully consider nominating those you believe are ready for this next step. Voting will take place on November 8th between services.

The Pumpkin Spice Girls return on October 25th for Fall Fest—one of the year's highlights, filled with fun, food, and festivities! Watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities and more information soon.

Please keep ongoing construction and those planning the next phase in your prayers.

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.

"So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:5-8)

It's Nomination Time!

The Nominating Committee needs your nominations for Elders, Deacons, and Board of Trustees by **September 27th**. Scan the code below to submit your suggestions online.



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