

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
July 2023**



Faith Through The Eyes of a Child

Pastor Christina's Corner

When I was a little girl, one of my favorite children's stories was Paddington the Bear. I loved the stories and I had a really neat book about science and Paddington Bear. In general, if it has a dragon, a bear, or a princess I was all for it. This may still remain true today.

For many of you who attended Faye's Celebration of Life, I talked about her Comfort Bears. Today, June 23, Kathy came into my office and had a bag in her hands – I later came to find out she is secretly Mary Poppins; the bag held many treasures. Including one Comfort Bear. Kathy said to me that every once in a while, Faye would make a bear that she had not yet named, and she would say, "God knows who this bear is for." Kathy said this bear was for me, but it didn't have a name yet. I know a name will be given to me in time, though currently I am thinking of calling him Elijah – I already have a Jeremiah and an Isaiah at home. But we shall see.

But, it got me thinking of Paddington the Bear, and as July brings our Summer Sermon Series, *The Faith of our Children* – looking at Gospel messages through the eyes of children and their stories, I thought I would share some wisdom from Mr. Paddington the Bear and introduce you to my Comfort Bear.

For those who may not remember, Paddington the Bear moved into the family home of the Browns, and he caused quite a bit of trouble because his paws were always getting sticky marmalade all over the place. He had many adventures, but the Browns loved Paddington and they were all very happy together. They were family.

Family are those we are born into, but also those we are adopted into by conscious and unconscious actions. My big brother is an amazing brother by blood, and my best friend Tracy is a wonderful sister by choice. I belong to a Family in Christ and more specifically here at MIPC. Dale and I have been so very grateful for the love and support during this time of health concerns for me, and now the loss of my dad. You are our family and we love you dearly and hold you firmly in our prayers.

Jesus told us that all believers are our family and we must remember that families have responsibilities. We are to be vigilant about the welfare, both practical and spiritual, of all the other members. We cannot sit back and leave caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ to everyone else. That duty and joy belongs to you. We

Pastor Christina's Corner

do this by being actively involved in one another's lives, checking in with one another, loving one another, praying for one another, talking and growing our relationships. There are many ways that we care for the welfare of our family. Sometimes, it means broadening the circle of our family. When we welcome a new baby in our family, our love for one another does not diminish. Sure, sometimes routines change, and we readjust to the change in our family, but the love is there.

The story of Paddington Bear meeting the Browns reminds me that Jesus said very firm things about caring for strangers. Mr. & Mrs. Brown might have been a bit nervous about welcoming a stranger from Darkest Peru into their home, but they did it. Jesus told a story about a man who met a stranger on a road. He was not only a foreigner, he was from a nation which was at war with his own country, and there were years of suspicion and hatred between the two of countries. But when the Good Samaritan saw the man had been mugged and abandoned, he didn't care that he was a stranger. He saw the need and stepped in to help. He didn't think about his own financial cost, he didn't think about the time he was losing, he didn't even think about the dangers of getting involved with a stranger. These are the three things—money, time, and fear—that usually prevent us from helping a stranger.

Jesus invites us to make strangers our friends, to welcome in the newcomer, to take the risk of moving towards an unknown man or woman.

How can we extend a hand of welcome to everyone we encounter in life?

Friends, may we never lose sight of the joy of childhood, may we delight in the stories from our youth, may our hearts be open to the messages in between the lines that we may have missed, and may we find ourselves renewing in our faith as we dig deeper in the faith of our children.

Thank you for welcoming Dale and me into the family of MIPC!

Love,

Pastor Christina, Elsa, and my sweet Comfort Bear



Session Highlights

Your Session met June 22, 2023 with the following highlights:

- Approved Scouts' request to sell tickets in church portico after worship on Sundays in June and July for the spaghetti dinner approved for July 22 (5pm).
- Approved Preschool Committee request to add a weekly flat fee of \$5.00 to those parents who pay weekly tuition using credit cards. This will not affect those using automatic debit card and automatic credit card payments or those paying by check.
- Approved Preschool Committee request for a 90 day waiting period for signing bonus for newly hired preschool teachers.
- Approved Finance Committee request to increase Preschool Co-Director Robyn Mills' salary to match that of Co-Director Tammy Lewis, retroactive to the date of promotion to Co-Director (session meeting of February 16, 2023).
- Approved Finance Committee request for withdrawal of \$100,000 from the Anderson fund for the cost of the roof replacement. Initially funds will go to the church's operating fund but Finance will research the possibility of placing it into a high yield money market or 90 day CD fund, in order to earn interest until the anticipated date of use.

Our next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2023.

*Clerk of Session,
Karri Fjeldheim*

Looking Back:

On the first Sunday in June, we celebrated the sacrament of communion and Trinity Sunday. On Wednesday, June 14, MIPC family and friends celebrated the life of Irene Williams, and we continue to pray for peace for the Fjeldheim and Thomas families. We honored fathers on June 18 with a focus on Blanket and Tools Sunday.

Looking Forward:

We look forward to a summer worship series that focuses on children's stories. Pastor Rick Oppelt will lead us in worship and the sacrament of communion on July 2 while Pastor Christina is on vacation. Then VBS during the week of July 10-14 reminds us that there are many creative forms of worship. Summer often brings more casual dress and attitudes, changes in schedules and routines, travel, etc. We continue to worship wherever we are / wherever you are. If you are away or unable to come to our MIPC sanctuary, please join us through livestream online; if you are in town, come join us and stay for fellowship time afterward. Worship comes in many forms!

Leslie Neihouse (leslien@1570films.com)

Karri Fjeldheim (karriwf@gmail.com)

Worship Co-Chairs

Fellowship



Café

Join us for Fellowship time after worship every Sunday! The church provides coffee and drinks. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to provide snacks for your family and friends.



June has been a busy month. Our summer has started!

We celebrated our dads this month with Donuts for Dads and we had a car wash for them.

We have had weekly field trips—the kids have enjoyed so far Chuck E Cheese, Crayola Experience, Sea Life Aquarium, and Jungle Village.

The kids are also enjoying weekly water play outside on these hot days.

The preschool has received more grant money from the Early Learning Coalition, in the amount of \$77,000. We are grateful to be able to invest in the preschool, improving the property for our children and investing into the lives of our children, families and our teachers.

God is so good all the time. We continue to be thankful for our church and all of you.



*Tammy Lewis & Robyn Mills,
Preschool Co-Directors
Pat Smith, Preschool Elder*

Preschool



	YTD as of 5/31/2023
General Fund Revenue:	\$ 85,601
General Fund Expenses:	\$ 79,873
General Fund Net Revenue:	\$ 5,728
Preschool Revenue:	\$ 369,762
Preschool Expenses:	\$ 286,152
Preschool Net Revenue:	\$ 73,610

The church continues to show a positive result overall; while income falls short of expectations, expenses are being kept low. After June's results are compiled, a more detailed budget analysis will be made available at the half-year point.

The Preschool continues to perform well above budget, and was recently awarded another ELC grant in the amount of \$77,000. We are grateful to co-directors Tammy Lewis and Robyn Mills for their outstanding leadership of MIPC Preschool, which is gaining an extremely positive reputation in our community.

Mike Smith
Finance Chair

News

We're happy to report that our wonderful vocalist Jeana Lutz has been cast in the Henegar Center's upcoming production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!* Show dates are August 11 through September 3, and tickets are available at HenegarCenter.org or by calling 321-723-8698.

In other news, the Mutual Aid Brevard Facebook group, now under sponsorship of MIPC, was nominated for a Hero Award by the Melbourne Regional Chamber. On June 23, 4 of the group administrators were honored with a breakfast at the Melbourne Fire Station, and presented with a certificate recognizing their contributions to the community. The extraordinary community that makes up Mutual Aid Brevard is what made this possible. Thank you to MIPC for your support!

HERO SPOTLIGHT

NONPROFIT HERO



Since Covid, this team of moderators has launched, **developed** and **empowered** more than 10,000 community members into sharing aid amongst each other. Everything from helping people pay their bills, getting kids out of homelessness, furnishing homes, finding jobs and providing basic necessities like groceries. These people are functioning on a daily basis completely as volunteers and have **impacted tens of thousands of lives** in Melbourne and throughout Brevard County. ”



MUTUAL AID BREVARD

FACILITATORS



SPACE COAST
CREDIT UNION

Member Since 1988

GOD IS THE CUREGIVER:

"Cast your cares upon the Lord and He will sustain you." Psalm 55: 2

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

THE STEPHEN MINISTER IS THE CAREGIVER:

A Stephen Minister will walk with you and Jesus through a crisis. He/she cannot cure you of your ills...that job belongs to God. A Stephen Minister can, however, give you strong Christian love, compassion, and understanding as they really listen to you as a friend throughout your crisis.

If you, a friend, or family member would like the support of a Stephen Minister, please contact Craig Smoot 321-223-4841 or Pastor Christina. MIPC has a strong Stephen Minister team along with Grace United Methodist church to serve you.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Thanks

Dear Church Family ,



There is no way I can express my appreciation for everything you have done for Faye and me. She loved each of you and loved being part of this church family.

You have all meant so much to me the past few weeks and I thank you so much for your love and support as I try to put my life back together.

All my love,
Kathy Porche

+++++

Dear MIPC Family,

Thank you for the cards and calls to my mother, Irene Williams, when she was ill and to our family after she passed away in June. Your many messages and prayers meant so much to her and to us. Thank you to Pastor Christina, Leslie M., Dale, James, Maryrose, and Jeana for your support for the service, to Cheryl and Fred Mahan for ushering, to Linda Whitten and the deacons for the lovely reception, to everyone who brought food and who attended the reception. Our family was moved by the many words of love about our mother/grandmother. Thank you for helping us to celebrate her life.

Love,
Karri, Richard, Caroline, Jacob, Kristin and Brittney Fjeldheim



On May 22, as MIPC's Family Promise congregation coordinator, I attended a gathering of other churches' designated coordinators. It was good to see a number of people I already knew like those from Grace Methodist and Riverside Presbyterian—the two congregations we assist when they are housing homeless families.

But the most important thing for you to know is that **we are organizing a tour for MIPC folks to actually see the renovation to the new Family Promise facility** (located right under the Cocoa Water Tower!). It is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 17th at 4PM. To make the tour even more enticing we are going to go out to an early dinner afterwards somewhere nearby. Suggestions welcomed. Tara Pagliarini, the head of Family Promise of Brevard, is looking forward to being our guide. She will give you an opportunity to ask all your questions.

Here is a little background to whet your interest. The area that Family Promise is chiefly aiming at is zip code 32922, which has the lowest high school graduation rate and overall worst economic indicators in the state. The goal is to help lift these people out of the dead end jobs as well as the homelessness that is prevalent. To do that, in addition to housing homeless families in participating churches (which you already know about and some of you are helping with now), they have various offices housed in the newly renovated firehouse—professionals to help students go further with their education, to help with health issues, financial issues—in short, to change their lives for the better.

Please join us—it will be time well spent. Contact me, Cheryl Mahan, or Frances Fernald to reserve a spot. Of course carpooling is always possible.



The Sharing Center's homeless clients experience many hardships as they deal with the elements throughout hurricane season. One way you can help is through donations of items like pop up tents, bug spray bottles, water resistant tarp, waterproof backpacks, flashlight with batteries, manual can openers, and waterproof sleeping bags. Any of these items can

be brought to MIPC and left in or near the white Sharing Center box in the Narthex.

Mission

Sunday, July 2 is the first Sunday of the month, and we will be collecting canned goods and hygiene items to be shared between our Preschool Food Pantry and the Central Brevard Sharing Center. (See the previous page for additional Sharing Center suggestions specific to hurricane season.)



And as always, our Second Sunday (July 9) will be our 5 Cents Per Meal offering, which helps those suffering from hunger issues locally and internationally. Thank you for your donations!

Cindy Bottomley
Mission Chair



Mutual Aid Brevard: Mutual Aid Brevard is planning its third Community Partners luncheon, in late August. Stay tuned for more details!

A brief rundown of May activity in the Mutual Aid Brevard Facebook group:

Amount collected: \$4925 Amount spent: \$5583

Spending:

Housing (hotel rooms/rent assistance):	\$ 3620	65%
Transportation (gas cards/auto repair/bus passes):	\$ 1004	18%
Utilities:	\$ 494	9%
Groceries/Food:	\$ 325	6%
Other (Fees, clothing, documents):	\$ 140	2%

Leslie Mitchell, Admin
Mutual Aid Brevard

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mutualaidbrevard>

Faith Formation Ministries



Kids Klub is on summer hiatus and will return for our Fall semester on

August 15th. In honor of our **40th Anniversary** the kids will perform

"ANGELS AWARE!" which is a very memorable and special production to our program. We would love to welcome some new kids in August so please spread the word! If you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry please contact our Performing Arts Director, Mary Lou Tipton at 321-544-7234 or iccone1@yahoo.com, or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext. 1003 or mipcffm@gmail.com.



Faith Formation Ministries

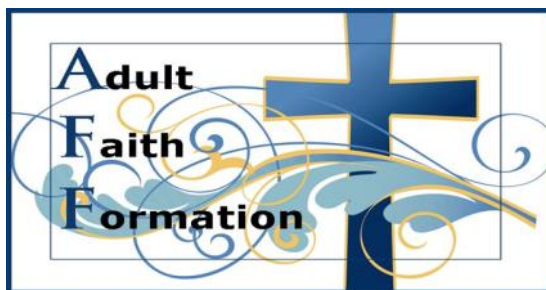


One Purpose Productions is on summer hiatus and will return for our Fall semester on August 16th. Their production will be **"An Unexpected Christmas"**.

We would love to welcome some new youth in August so please spread the word! If you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry please contact our Performing Arts Director, Mary Lou Tipton at 321-544-7234 or iccone1@yahoo.com, or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext.1003 or mipccffm@gmail.com.



Faith Formation Ministries

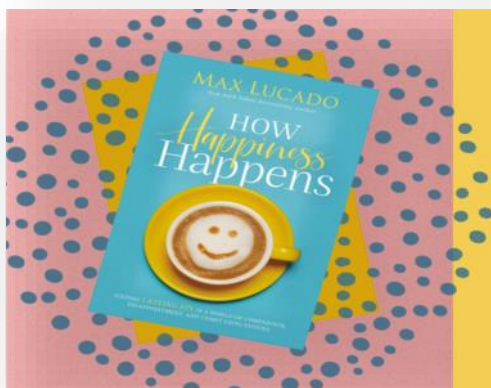


Adult Class:

Sunday Mornings, 9:00 a.m.

Session Room and Zoom

With Craig Smoot & Julie Hill



In this study, Max Lucado shares the unexpected path to a lasting happiness, and how practical acts of generosity can produce a life of satisfaction and moments of true joy amidst any life circumstance in a world searching for happiness. Based on the teachings of Jesus and backed by modern research, this study presents a surprising but practical way of living that will change you from the inside out.

Join us in person or on Zoom! The link is emailed out weekly.

Faith Formation Ministries



Activities Room—Sundays at 10:00 AM

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church offers Children's Church for Preschool—6th grade. Class starts after the Children's Message in our 10 AM Worship service. Come join us for Bible stories, Crafts and Games! If you are interested, know someone who might be, or would like more information please contact Pam Poland at 321-452-5689 ext. 104 or mipcffm@gmail.com.

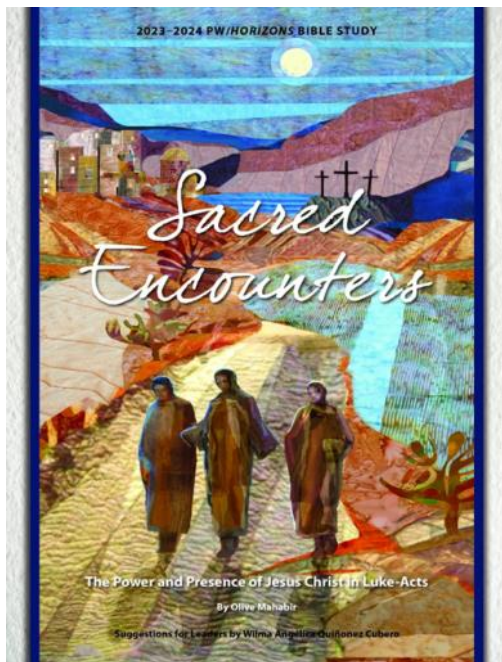


Please note we will be on summer hiatus until August 20th.

A Heart To Give



Faith Formation Ministries



PW Horizons 2023-2024 Bible Study *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*—By Olive Mahabir

Presbyterian Women of Central Florida Presbytery

Annual Bible Study Event

Saturday, August 12, 2023

**First Presbyterian Church of
Vero Beach**

520 Royal Palm Blvd. ~ Vero Beach, FL

**Facilitated by the
*Reverend Christina Greenawalt***

Saturday, August 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Light Breakfast

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.: Intro & Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: Bible Study Presentation

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Deeper Reflection



Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.

Cost is \$20.00 (covers light breakfast and lunch)

Register by Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Registration cost after July 26th is \$25.00

For more information contact Julie Hill at julie2025pw@gmail.com

Faith Formation Ministries

Registration Form ~ PW Bible Study Event ~ August 12, 2023

Name	Phone Number
Address	
Email Address	
Home Church	
Dietary Restrictions	
Name Tag	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I would like a nametag.	
<input type="checkbox"/> No. I will be using my own home church nametag that I will bring with me and wear.	

Make checks out to: *Presbyterian Women of Central Florida Presbytery*

Send this form and the check for \$20.00 to: *Julie Hill, 3972 Scotland Street, Cocoa, FL 32927*

*Registration Deadline is July 26th * The Registration Cost after July 26 is \$25.00**

~ Or ~

Register Online at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7yht6y>

Pay Online at https://account.venmo.com/u/CFL_PresbyterianWomen

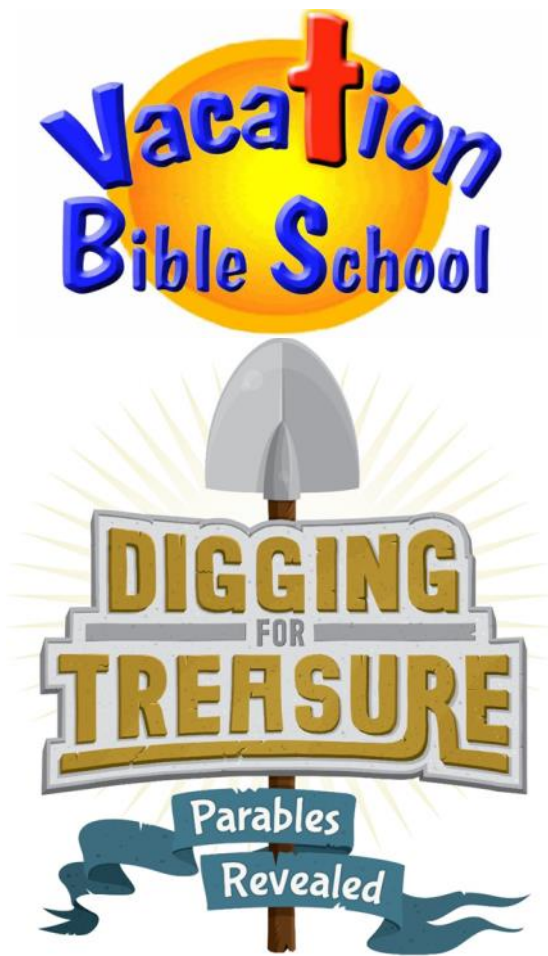


QR Code for Online Registration



QR Code for Online Payment

Faith Formation Ministries



Faith Formation Ministries

&

MIPC Preschool

July 10th-14th

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee had a combined meeting with the Preschool committee on Tuesday, June 13th at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom. These are the current and upcoming activities for 2023.
 - a. Children's Church-Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Activities Room. We are currently on summer hiatus until August 20th.
 - b. Adult Faith Enrichment Class-Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Our current study is "How Happiness Happens" by Max Lucado led by Craig Smoot and Julie Hill.
 - c. Presbyterian Women Bible Study-The new study for 2023-2024 is "Sacred Encounters" and will begin in August or September led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Women's Ministry: We will be starting a new women's bible study group at MIPC in the Fall led by Julie Hill. More details coming soon.
 - e. Vacation Bible School: Week of July 10th-14th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - f. Performing Arts-Painting the Fellowship Hall stage: Tuesday, July 18th @ 10:00 a.m.
 - g. Preschool/FFM Open House: Friday, August 11th @ 5:00 p.m.
 - h. Women's Ministry-Presbyterian Women Annual Bible Study Event: Saturday, August 12th 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Vero Beach
 - i. Kids Klub Fall semester: Tuesday, August 15th @ 3:00 p.m.
 - j. One Purpose Fall semester: Wednesday, August 16th @ 3:30 p.m.
 - k. Women's Retreat: Sunday, August 27th @ 11:30 a.m.
 - l. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 21st 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
 - m. Kids Klub Show: Saturday, December 2nd @ 4:00 p.m.
 - n. Kids Klub Show & 40th Anniversary Party: Sunday, Dec. 3rd @ 4:00 p.m.
 - o. One Purpose Productions Shows: Friday, December 8th @ 7:00 p.m. & Saturday, December 9th @ 4:00 p.m.
2. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, July 17th @ 1:00 p.m.

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Dave Hertzler

Faith Formation Ministries Elder

Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAYS:



- 3 Norm White
- 5 Dot Corbett
- 7 Tina Kicklighter
- 10 Jill Franklin
- 11 Elliott Kicklighter
- 11 Michael Kicklighter
- 13 Judy Osikowicz
- 14 Sterling Smith
- 14 Debra Smoot
- 16 Cindy Bottomley
- 17 Silas Smoot
- 18 Francis Shill
- 19 Joshua Kraver
- 22 Jill Moore
- 23 Donna Hayes
- 24 Rachel Gould
- 24 Randy Eastep (Jr.)
- 25 Linda Whitten
- 25 Holly Ficker
- 29 June Hutchinson
- 30 Fred Mahan

BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 5/31/23

Actual Revenue:	\$85,601
Budgeted:	\$101,665
Actual Expenses:	\$79,873
Budgeted:	\$88,993

please note

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:



- 3 Joyce & David Walker
- 6 Andy & Kim Scroggs
- 7 Chuck & Donna Hayes
- 11 Pat & Sterling Smith
- 12 Betty & Ron Pothoff
- 16 Sonny & Linda Whitten
- 20 Sue & Gregory Sakala
- 21 Frances & Paul Fernald

The deadline for input in the
August newsletter is

July 17



*The MIPC Press is printed by the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church,
600 S. Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, Florida 32952.*

Rev. Christina Greenawalt
Pam Poland
Leslie Mitchell
Maryrose Beerman
Tammy Lewis
Robyn Mills
MaryLou Tipton

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Acting Music Director
Preschool Director
Preschool Director
Performing Arts Director

Each month, we feature an “Eco-Friendly Tip!” It’s our way of helping conserve resources and preserve our beautiful Brevard beaches and waterways. This month’s tip:



Planning a party for the 4th of July? Try these sustainable tips to make your party environmentally friendly! 1. Use real cutlery and plates instead of disposable plastic. 2. Cover food with aluminum foil instead of plastic wrap. 3. Avoid Styrofoam coolers. 4. Buy drinks that are in glass, aluminum or cardboard containers—not plastic! 5. Visit a local fireworks display instead of shooting off your own—your neighbors, pets, and ears will thank you 😊

Do you have a tip to share? Contact mipresbyterian@gmail.com.

Please contact the church office if we can assist you in any way.



Office phone number: 321-452-5689

Preschool phone number: 321-453-1640

Office extensions (NEW):

1001: Reception

1002: Leslie Mitchell

1003: Pam Poland

1004: Rev. Greenawalt

Email: mipresbyterian@gmail.com

Preschool email: MIPCPreschool@gmail.com

Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

Facebook: [Facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church](https://www.facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church)

Twitter: [@MIPresby](https://twitter.com/MIPresby)