

# ***MIPC PRESS***

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church  
February 2024**



# Pastor Christina's Corner

Dear Friends,

As we approach February and the beginning of Lent we reflect on where we have been and where we are going. For me, I celebrate a birthday in February; we all celebrate Ash Wednesday (which falls on Valentine's Day this year) and the beginning of Lent. These can be reminders that we are on a journey with many starts and stops. Sometimes we wander, sometimes we take the most efficient routes, sometimes we have many waypoints along the way, sometimes we break down, and sometimes we gain new friends along the way.

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples, Peter. Rev. Sarah Speed said this about studying Peter and I think it is so true:

"If you picked up a novel and read the chapters out of order, most would shriek in shock and confusion! However, that is exactly how I was taught the story of Peter over the years: scattered like sprinkles on a cake. I learned Peter's stories out of order and over time, Peter became nothing more than a background character in a Vacation Bible School skit. Last year, however, something about Peter's story began to tug on me. I began studying this hopeful human in earnest; for the first time, I found myself deeply connected to this complicated and eager disciple of Christ. In Peter's passion, I saw my own conviction. In Peter's walking, sinking, and question-asking, I saw my own learning. And in Peter's wandering, I saw my own growing pains in faith. So, this Lent, I am thrilled to slip into Peter's shoes and walk the road that he walked. This story was never meant to be sprinkles on top of the cake. This story is our story. Come wander, come learn, come discover with us."

— Rev. Sarah Speed, Founding Creative Partner for Sanctified Art

# Pastor Christina's Corner

In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

I invite you to journey with us at Merritt Island Presbyterian Church this Lent as we focus on the theme: *Wandering Heart: Figuring out Faith with Peter*. Join us online or in person at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Pick up the Lenten Devotional. Follow us on Facebook for daily posts. Grow in one of our Faith Formation way points – such as Sunday morning Faith Enrichment at 9 a.m. or Fabulous Fridays Women's Bible Study.

Start your Lenten journey with us on Wednesday, February 14th for Ash Wednesday. Join us for a soup and salad dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Activities Room (if you would like to bring something please contact the church office).

We will have the following opportunities to receive the imposition of ashes. Everyone is welcome at any or all of these:

- 10:00 a.m. – Preschool Family Chapel in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. – Prayer Service in the Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. – Traditional Ash Wednesday Service with Communion

This Lent, let us look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story and reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys. Let us remember who and what has shaped us along the way and how we might shape others in their faith journey. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Christina*

# Session Highlights

On January 21, 2024, during worship service, we thanked elders who are completing their terms: Cindy Bottomley, Dave Hertzler, Leslie Neihouse, and Brian Poland. We sincerely appreciate their dedicated service to MIPC. We installed new elders: Libbi Moore, Milt Seapker, and Nancy Shuford. Following the service, our new session went right to work and met for the January Session Meeting and officers' training. Here are highlights from the meeting:

- Elected 2024 Nominating Committee: Leslie Mitchell, Libbi Moore, Craig Smoot, Marilyn Smoot, and Leslie Neihouse.
- Approved moving the February Stated Session meeting from February 15 to February 22.
- Approved request for Scouts (Pack 343) to use Fellowship Hall and hold "yard" sale March 2 with set up March 1.
- Approved request from a preschool teacher to rent the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, June 29 from 2-5 pm for a birthday party.
- Approved request for Fellowship Committee to organize church office kitchen and cabinets in narthex.
- Approved request for the 25% of Peace and Global Witness Offering, which amounts to \$51, and is to be retained locally, be donated to Mutual Aid Brevard.
- Approved type and color for roof shingles and trim: Landmark Pro weathered wood with musket brown trim.

If you have questions about any of the Session actions, committees, etc., please let me know. Talk to me at church, or email me ([karriwf@gmail.com](mailto:karriwf@gmail.com)).

Our next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024.

*Clerk of Session  
Karri Fjeldheim*

## ***Looking Back:***

January worship very fittingly started our new church year with the celebration of communion on the first Sunday of the new year; then later in the month we welcomed our new deacons and elders and held our yearly congregational meeting. We welcomed guest minister Monia Yust and enjoyed her storytelling from the perspective of Zebedee. We continued to enjoy special music from Jeana Lutz, Maryrose Beerman, and Joyce Walker.

## ***Looking Ahead:***

We look forward to the celebration of communion on the first Sunday in February. This will also be Scout Sunday; we recognize our longstanding relationship with Troop 343, whose scouts will serve as ushers and liturgists.

Then we will have special Ash Wednesday services on February 14 as we begin the Lenten season. Our Lenten theme this year will be “Wandering Heart” as we explore Peter’s story and journey. Services will be: 10 AM for our Preschool families; a 4 PM Prayer Service, and a traditional 7 PM service with Communion. All will have Imposition of Ashes available.

Thank you to all who participate in worship services - in person or from a distance. As always, we appreciate those who work to create meaningful worship services: Pastor Christina, music team, tech team, those who usher, those who serve communion, and those who prepare and clean the sanctuary.



*Welcoming new elders on Jan. 21*

If you are interested/willing to serve on the Worship Committee, please contact Nancy Shuford ([Nancy.Shuford@outlook.com](mailto:Nancy.Shuford@outlook.com)).

*Nancy Shuford*  
*Worship Committee Chair*

# Preschool



Welcome to the year 2024. Can you believe we are here already? It seems that we just started a new school year and now we are into another calendar year. We have had some exciting adventures this school year. We have celebrated birthdays, new babies, fun field trips and learning, learning, and more learning. Can you believe we only have four more months of school??

We hope all our Church families had a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

We are blessed with all of you and look forward to continuing to share and teach all our children. God is always good.

Each year the Space Trackers Dance Club (square dancers) graciously donate items such as paper towels, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, etc. to the Preschool. Pat Smith picked up their generous donations on Dec. 14. After sending a thank you note, Pat received the following e-mail:

"Patricia, we are blessed to have a lovely place to dance and Christian people to work with. It was our pleasure to show our appreciation. Have a blessed Christmas." Linda Reid, Space Trackers Square Dance Club.



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

# Mission/Outreach

**Food Pantry and Sharing Center** - On February 4, the first Sunday of the month, we shall be collecting donations of nonperishable food items, paper products, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning supplies to be shared with the MIPC Preschool Food Pantry and the Sharing Center.

**Heavenly Handmade** - This informal group of ladies meets every other Wednesday, which will be February 14th and 28th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Activities Room. They will be working on different projects including items for the homeless population in Brevard and shut-ins. All are welcome to join us for these projects and fellowship—no skills required.

**Matthew 28 Orphanage, School and Feeding Centers in Bohoc, Haiti** - The children at the orphanage and school enjoyed a Christmas celebration--a moment of peace for children growing up in a violent country where finding food gets harder by the day. Thank you for helping make this possible. Please pray for peace for them, who are enduring so much suffering.

Our monthly **Five Cents Per Meal** will be received on February 11. A portion of this offering comes back to us from the Presbytery for us to continue our Preschool Food Pantry efforts.

**Family Promise:** We need help providing meals to families staying at Grace Methodist Church in Merritt Island in late February. Could you provide a meal on Feb. 27, 28 or 29? If so contact Cheryl Mahan, 321-431-9623.

*Frances Fernald*  
*Mission Committee Chair*

# Mutual Aid Brevard



## Mutual Aid Brevard:

In January we again supported the cold night shelter in Melbourne, which opened up as temperatures dropped below 45 on January 19/20. Several of our team also participated in the Point In Time count, which conducts interviews of the unsheltered population on a given date, in order to get an accurate idea of the number of

people in our community who are experiencing homelessness. This information goes to HUD and can help Brevard County receive more funding for services for these folks.

Here's a summary of December financial activity in the Mutual Aid Facebook group:

**Amount donated to Mutual Aid: \$3,290    Amount spent: \$3,127**

### Spending:

Housing (hotel rooms/rent/other assistance):	\$ 929	29.7%
Utilities (electric, water, phone):	\$ 1,452	46.4%
Transportation (gas, insurance):	\$ 644	20.6%
Food	\$ 102	3.3%

Note: This doesn't count the many times that Mutual Aid group members step in and help others directly. This is the heart and soul of the Mutual Aid group:

*Give what you can, ask for what you need; we're all in this together!*

*Leslie Mitchell, Admin, Mutual Aid Brevard*

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



# Stephen Ministry



*When things seemed like too much to handle, my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there.*

*James*

*When I was with my Stephen Minister, I felt Jesus was with me. I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through.*

*Ashley*

*My Stephen Minister listens...really listens. He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do, but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.*

*Brian*

*My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and gives me a safe, confidential relationship where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.*

*Celeste*

Those are some comments from people who have experienced the care of a Stephen Minister. If you know of anyone in crisis who might benefit from a listening, caring person, please call either Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (MIPC Stephen Minister referral coordinator) at 223-4841.

# Finance

	2023 TOTALS
<b>General Fund Revenue:</b>	\$ 213,297
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	\$ 206,180
<b>General Fund Net Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 7,117</b>
<b>Preschool Revenue:</b>	\$ 829,118
<b>Preschool Expenses:</b>	\$ 795,377
<b>Preschool Net Revenue:</b>	<b>\$ 33,741</b>

Most of you should have gotten a copy of the 2023 Annual Report by now. We were fortunate to have ended the year with a positive result for both church and preschool.

As we prepared our budget for 2024, we took a realistic approach to projected income, based on pledges received and estimated revenue from other sources. To continue our church operations as we would like, even with some cutbacks we are projecting roughly a \$15,000 deficit for the year.

One way to overcome this is to increase our membership and participation in programs offered by MIPC. Let's start 2024 with a renewed effort to find ways of reaching out to our community, increasing our online presence, planning events, and continuing to be the Heart of Merritt Island in so many ways.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Mike Smith*

*Finance Committee Chair*

# Paper Recycling



Our paper recycling bin at the southeast corner of the parking lot was recently replaced, due to a fire that damaged the previous bin. Remember to bring your newspapers, magazines, junk mail, scrap paper, and paper bags to the bin regularly. When market prices allow, the recycle company shares some of their profit with us—but either way, your efforts are helping keep paper waste out of the landfill!

Please—these items are **not allowed in the bin**:

- ◆ Plastic Bags
- ◆ Cardboard of any kind
- ◆ Any type of food waste
- ◆ Glass or metal

*Thank you for your participation in this program!*

# Fellowship



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helps set up coffee and snacks each Sunday in the Narthex! There is a sign up sheet if you would like to bring some snacks on a Sunday. Homemade or store bought, either is fine!

On **ASH WEDNESDAY**, February 14, we will be serving a Soup & Salad meal in the Activities Room at 5 PM (between our 4 PM Prayer Service and 7 PM Communion Service). The soup and salad will be provided; we invite folks to bring a dessert or any side dish you would like. Contact Kathy Porche or Libbi Moore for more information.



We're always looking for ideas on Fellowship Activities to plan, so please contact us with your thoughts. All are welcome to join our committee!

*Kathy Porche (islanddawgs@yahoo.com)*

*Libbi Moore (moorehawgheaven@reagan.com)*

*Fellowship Co-Chairs*

# Faith Formation Ministries

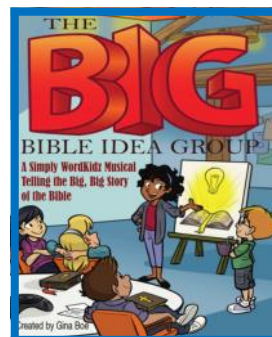


**Kids Klub** Spring semester is off to a great start with 15 wonderful children joining us! Their show is **“The BIG Bible Idea Group.”**

**Sneak Peak:** Pastor Stan needs help...he wants to do a sermon on “The Bible,” but he needs to cover the entire Bible in 25 minutes! As impossible as it may sound, Pastor Stan knows just who to turn to. He’ll hire the world’s most famous kid-operated advertising agency—B.I.G.! With the help of creative team B.I.G, Pastor Stan knows he’ll get exactly what he needs!

**Performance dates are Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 p.m.**

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](mailto:iccone1@yahoo.com), or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext. 1003 or [mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com).



# Faith Formation Ministries



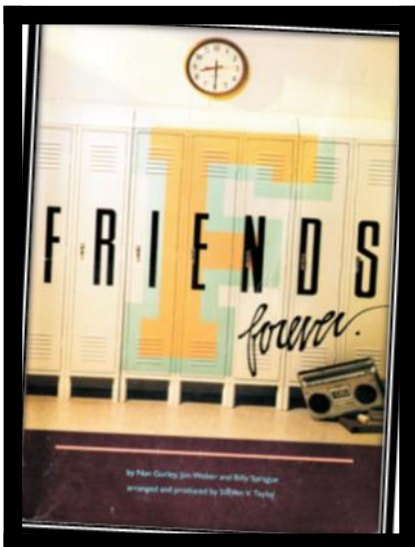
**One Purpose Productions** Spring semester is off to a great start with 15 awesome youth joining us! Their show is "Friends Forever."

**Sneak Peek:** A Jr./Sr. High school teacher decides to give an assignment and asks the class to define the question, "What Is A Friend?" The students discuss the issue, some frustrated and even ask, "Who doesn't know what a friend is?" As the students ponder over the subject, many real-life situations are brought up and the bond of friendship becomes closer among them. Finally, one of the students who is a Christian declares that Jesus is His best friend. No one would ever die for someone by being a friend, but Jesus did. 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](mailto:iccone1@yahoo.com), or Pam Poland, Faith Formation

Ministries Associate at 321-452-5689 ext.1003 or

[mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com).

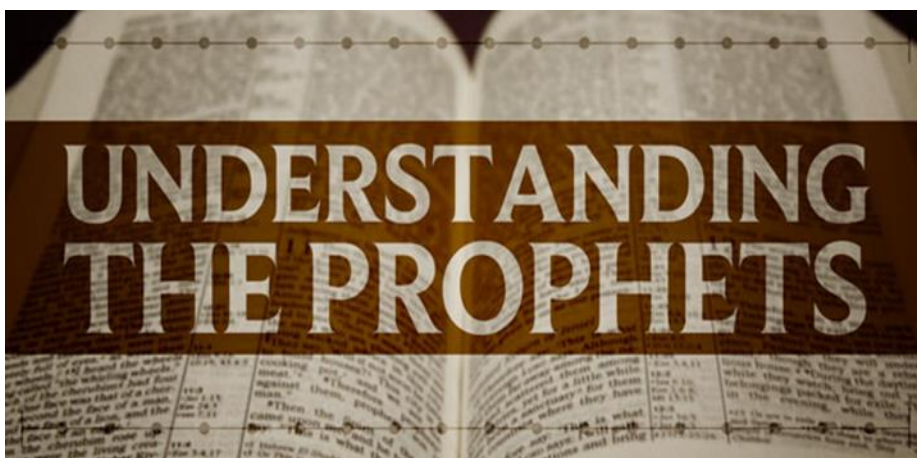




# Faith Formation Ministries



Faith Enrichment Class:    Sunday Mornings, 9:00 a.m.    Session Room & Zoom



*With Milt Seapker*

*Come join us for a study about the Prophets.  
Prophets that we don't know too well and are not as  
familiar to us, like Hosea and Micah, what they did,  
and why.*

*Join us in person or on Zoom!*

**The link to join will be sent out with your weekly bulletin.**

*Stay tuned for bulletin announcements regarding information on a Lenten study.*

# Faith Formation Ministries



**Activities Room—Sundays at 10:00 AM**

*Merritt Island Presbyterian Church offers Children's Church for Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Class starts after the Children's Message in our Worship service beginning at 10:00 a.m. 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. 1003 or [mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com).*



*A Heart To Give*



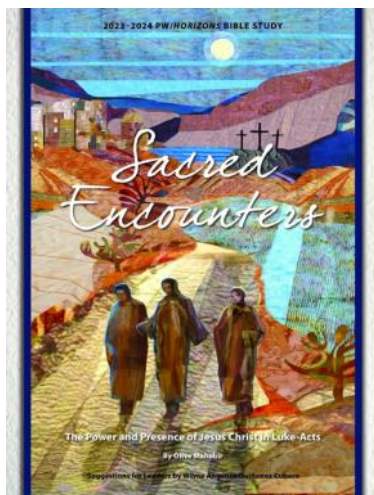


# Faith Formation Ministries



*Faith Formation Ministries Bible Study Group*  
*Fabulous Fridays!!*  
*January 12 & 26 @ 2:00 p.m.*

*Our study is led by Julie Hill and is titled "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts"*



*Come join us for a time of Faith & Fellowship in the Activities Room every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m.*

*Books are available for purchase-\$10.00 ea.  
Please contact Julie Hill for more information and questions.  
[cj2hill@bellsouth.net](mailto:cj2hill@bellsouth.net) or 321-431-5333*



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



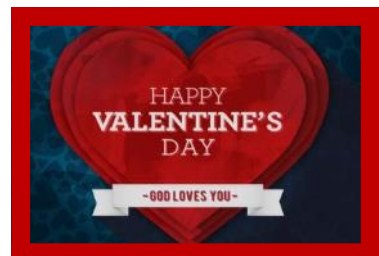
Merritt Island Presbyterian Church  
"A Heart to Give"

# Faith Formation Ministries

## Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our Performing Arts committee met on Tuesday, January 9th @ 1:00 p.m. in the Session room and on Zoom to discuss planning for the Spring semester.
2. These are the current and upcoming activities for 2024.
  - a. Children's Church-Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Activities Room.
  - b. Adult Faith Enrichment Class-Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Our study led by Milt Seapker is "Understanding the Prophets."
  - c. Kids Klub Spring semester performance dates are Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, April 28th @ 4:00 p.m.
  - d. One Purpose Productions Spring semester performance dates are Friday, May 3rd @ 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 5th @ 4:00 p.m.
  - e. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Our study is "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" led by Julie Hill. The February meeting dates are the 9th & 23rd.
  - f. Easter Egg stuffing party: Tuesday, March 19th, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
  - g. Spring/Easter Festival: Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
  - h. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 19th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
  - i. Preschool/FFM Christmas Pageant: Monday, December 9th @ 4:00 p.m.
  - j. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, February 5th @ 1:00 p.m.

*Pamela Poland*  
*Faith Formation Ministries Associate*  
*Karri Fjeldheim*  
*Faith Formation Ministries Elder*



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:



- 9 Randy Eastep
- 10 Alecia Dutter
- 10 Olivia Carden
- 11 Paul Fernald
- 11 Christina Greenawalt
- 12 Shirley Bottomley
- 18 Ted Beerman
- 19 Elaine Kicklighter
- 19 Marilyn Smoot
- 21 Al Sams
- 22 Betty Pothoff
- 24 Ronny Gould
- 25 Lorrie Peek
- 28 Tom Boekhout



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 7 Ted & Maryrose Beerman
- 14 Craig & Julie Hill
- 22 Lorrie & Larry Peek

## BUDGET UPDATE

### YTD As of 12/31/23

Actual Revenue: \$ 213,297

Budgeted: \$ 215,684

Actual Expenses: \$ 206,180

Budgeted: \$ 215,684

**please note**

**The deadline for input in the  
March newsletter is  
February 22**

*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**  
**Jeana Lutz**  
**Tammy Lewis**  
**Robyn Mills**  
**MaryLou Tipton**

**Pastor**  
Faith Formation Ministries Associate  
Financial Secretary  
Acting Music Director  
Church Vocalist  
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:**



*Recycle Brevard is a local treasure! Their office and “re-craft bazaar” are now located in Cocoa Village and open on Saturdays. But their collection bins are open 24/7 and accept all kinds of hard-to-recycle items, like batteries, electronics, Christmas lights, and certain product packaging. Bins are located at Mrs. Mangos on US1 in Rockledge, and Salty Bean on N. Courtenay—with more to come. For a detailed list of accepted items, follow them on Facebook or visit their website, [www.recyclebrevard.org](http://www.recyclebrevard.org)*

*Do you have a tip to share? Contact [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

**1001: Reception**  
**1002: Leslie Mitchell**  
**1003: Pam Poland**  
**1004: Rev. Greenawalt**

**Email: [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:mipresbyterian@gmail.com)**

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