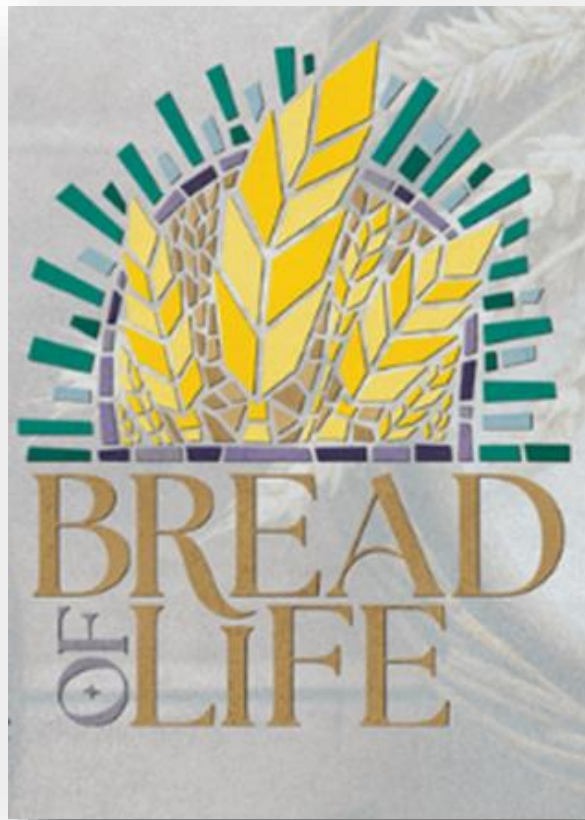


MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
March 2025**



Pastor Christina's Corner



As we lean into the Lenten season, we ready ourselves to celebrate redemption. Though our bodies are destined for dust, in Christ our souls are bound for glory!

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection and renewal in the Christian calendar. This year we will use bread as a way to focus our time together as we Journey towards the cross. Our Lenten theme is *Bread of Life*.

Why bread? Christians have always enjoyed sharing a meal. Meals are rich with biblical symbolism, because they are tangible expressions of service, love, and unity; and because of the opportunity it offers for true fellowship and genuine community. Practically, sharing a meal nourishes our need to know and be known because it facilitates face-to-face conversation.

From God's provision of manna in the wilderness to Jesus' miraculous multiplication of loaves, bread functions throughout Scripture as a sign of God's presence and provision.

Bread of Life: Gather. Savor. Share.

Bread nourishes our body and the Bread of Life nourishes our souls. We need both to feel satiated and we need a reminder of God's goodness, mercy and provision. When the world feels heavy, divided and uncertain. When our hearts ache, minds seek peace, and souls hunger for hope. In these moments, while many search for a way forward, the Bread of Life reminds us of abundance, grace, provision and care. There is enough love, grace, and hope for all.

Pastor Christina's Corner

The Lenten Theme *Bread of Life* highlights how Jesus fed people—not just their bodies, but their souls—with good news, redemption, and stories of God's kin(g)dom. From wedding feasts to eating with tax collectors to feeding thousands, people left Jesus' presence with full hearts and bellies.

As we journey through Lent, from the wilderness to the shorelines of Galilee, we will find the sacred in the ordinary—like bread, simple yet essential. This Lent, gather together to break bread around the table, savor in the divine generosity of God, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the Bread of Life.

Remembering the table has long been a symbol of shared meals and a hallmark of community. Sharing meals around the table builds trust, fosters belonging, and addresses our very real need for food and community. From potlucks, picnics, dinner groups, and receptions, to Friday Lenten fish frys, fellowship meals have given people a place to gather and belong.

We have different ways we can break bread together, to journey together and to experience God's grace and provision. We begin on Ash Wednesday with a Souper Supper in the Activities room at 5pm. At our Friday Fellowship, starting at 5pm on Fridays, we break bread together around tables, spending time as God's community and sharing a short time of worship to help center our weekend and to renew our souls after a trying week. On Sundays, after worship we sit together and share together over snacks in the Narthex.

I encourage you to extend an invitation today and begin to develop the kind of rich relationships we were designed to enjoy at our tables. Want to come over and Break Bread?

Love in Christ,

Pastor Christina

Preschool



Unfortunately we have had a lot of flu going around—thank goodness we are seeing it slowly leaving us!

We have enjoyed some beautiful weather this February. The kids have enjoyed being outside and playing.

On Feb. 14, the children celebrated Valentine's Day. They love giving their friends a valentine card. It's so cute and sweet.

It's hard to believe that we are getting really close to the end of the school year. This year has gone by so fast.

We are looking forward to our Spring Festival on April 12. This is always a lot of fun for the children, their families, and our staff.

We thank you for your support and prayers.

God bless,

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



This is my first official Worship article, as the freshly-installed Worship elder, and I want to thank the MIPC congregation for bestowing this honor upon me.

I was “brought up” in the Presbyterian churches of wherever we happened to be living at the particular time and was around the age of five or six (which would have meant the church was Beckley Presbyterian Church in West Virginia) when I first heard a familiar Bible verse at church service one Sunday that apparently really resonated with me.

Later that evening, I was at home with my parents, being a playful and boisterous child, and my mother, who probably had a headache and just wanted to relax, lamented, “Gayle, why do you have to be so LOUD?”

My response: “I’m not being loud, Mother; I’m making a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!”

Well, who can argue with that?

Not being able to quickly think of a non-sacrilegious comeback to this comment, my mother gave up and retired to the bedroom for the remainder of the evening, while I continued in my revelry.

From then on, even into adulthood, whenever it was suggested that I might be teetering on the edge of cacophony, I would bring out the old “I’m just making a Joyful Noise” proclamation.

What Joyful Noises did we at MIPC experience during worship this month and what Joyful Noises are to come?

- We were visited by Troop 343 for Scout Sunday, as they presented the colors and served as our ushers and liturgists.
- Guest preacher Milt Seapker employed several congregants to represent a plethora of characters whom he would allow to sit next to him in church.
- Our Friday Fellowship service is now well over a month strong in bringing the Word to our preschool children and community families via a contemporary worship format.

Worship

- By the time you read this, we will have had several more joyful Sunday and Friday services, as well as a quarterly meeting of the Worship Committee to discuss worship plans for the upcoming Lenten season.

And, speaking of Lent, please note that Ash Wednesday is on March 5th, and there are numerous activities planned for this day:

- Preschool children's chapel at 10am
- Prayer service at 4pm
- Soup-er Supper at 5pm
- Traditional Ash Wednesday service at 7pm

I am grateful for our preachers, liturgists, musicians, audio-visual technicians and coordinators, who allow us to experience and share all of the Joyful Noises being made unto the Lord!

To join the Worship Committee or to provide feedback, ideas, or talent for worship, please feel free to reach out to me at epigayle@gmail.com.

Blessings,

*Gayle Allenback, Chair
MIPC Worship Committee*

Mission/Outreach

Message from Hein Vingerling Matthew 28 Orphanage, Bohoc, Haiti

We received this year-end message from Hein:

May this letter reach you in good health and may the New Year 2025 be a year of blessings and contentment for you and all your loved ones.

Thank you very much for the support that you gave to our work in 2024. We have been able to do some wonderful things thanks to your generosity!

We supplied a meal to 1650 children every weekday. We have been able to give some food assistance to some 1500 families who have a child in our feeding center. We pray this will be able to continue for as long as they have no food in their gardens.

You enabled us to educate more than 160 children in our school, which reached its completion this school year, with grades preschool 1 through elementary 6.

You have made it possible that our staff of 23 people in total were able to provide for their families.

You have supported our community activities such as the annual soccer championship which not only gives the community 3 solid weeks of excitement but gives a total of 66 scholarships for the players to help with their school expenses.

YOU HAVE BEEN AWESOME!

Let me not forget the prayers you lifted for our work and the people of Haiti. This has made it possible that our work still continues at a time that many organizations have pulled out.

My dear friends, thank you for all you did and may the Lord pour out His blessings on your life.

In Christ,
Hein Vingerling, Matthew 28

Mission/Outreach

Tour de Dump

Several years ago a group of us arranged a tour of our Brevard County Disposal Facility (aka, the Garbage Dump) in West Cocoa. It was fascinating and fun! We could do it again if there is enough interest. Contact Cheryl Mahan if you are interested (321-431-9623). We would meet at the church and go from there.



PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers

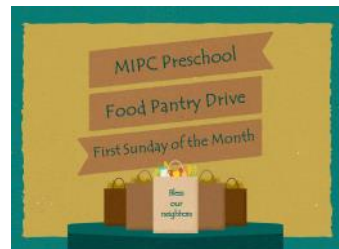
A major restructuring of PC(USA)'s overseas mission presence is under way. We will try to keep you apprised of happenings. For starters, two of our long-term mission co-workers, Dan & Elizabeth Turk in Madagascar, have not had their contracts renewed.

Stay tuned.



First Sunday of the Month

REMINDER: on the first Sunday of every month, we collect donations for the Sharing Center and Preschool food pantry. Non-perishable food, hygiene items, and children's supplies are always welcome. Thank you!



	YTD as of 1/31/25
General Fund Revenue:	23,242
General Fund Expenses:	20,632
General Fund Net Revenue:	2,610
Preschool Revenue:	50,534
Preschool Expenses:	75,975
Preschool Net Revenue:	-25,441

2025 started off with a three pay-period month, so January saw a loss in the Preschool account. The church account would have also had a loss but for a generous gift of \$10,000. We will get a better idea in February to see if we are on track with our 2025 budget.

Our pledges were down this year. If you did not get your pledge in, you can still do so. It helps us so much with our forecasting and budgeting! Check with Leslie Mitchell in the church office for more information.

2024 giving statements are available in the Narthex. If you would like yours emailed, or if you have any questions about your statement or MIPC finances in general, please contact Leslie (mipresbyterian@gmail.com)

Mike Smith
Finance Chair

Mutual Aid Brevard



2024 has ended and 2025 is in full swing! In December and January, and even into February, we had some cold nights. When the temperature drops below 45°, people experiencing homelessness are very vulnerable, so we are grateful there are cold night shelters available.

There are 3 main cold night shelters in our very long county: LifePoint Ministries in Titusville, the Central Brevard Sharing Center in Cocoa, and in Melbourne the city uses a couple of different facilities, depending on availability. Matthew's Hope in Cocoa will also open up when the temperature drops to a certain point, which is good because the Sharing Center's capacity is not very large. We are grateful to these entities for caring for our unhoused population at these times.

Mutual Aid will turn FIVE years old this March. We were created during the pandemic, and since then we have helped thousands of Brevard residents with needs both big and small (from a \$20 phone bill to a \$2500 rent payment) thanks to the generosity of our donors. If you have not visited the page lately, stop by and read the stories of people offering help, requesting help, meeting needs, sharing information, sharing resources, sharing the love.

Our admins work hard to screen all posts to be sure they comply with our rules and stated mission. We keep an eye on posts to make sure the responses don't get out of hand, and repeat offenders get removed from the group. It's important to keep the group a safe space for people to ask for help.

You can view all this at www.facebook.com/groups/mutualaidbrevard. We are so grateful for the sponsorship of MIPC which allows us to have our own bank account, make tax-exempt purchases, and qualifies us to apply for government grants. Thank you!

*Leslie Mitchell, Administrator
Mutual Aid Brevard*

Stephen Ministry



MIPC has a strong Stephen Ministry program in partnership with Grace United Methodist Church. A Stephen Minister is a lay caregiver providing one-on-one confidential Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, divorced, unemployed, relocated, empty nester, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. All Stephen Ministers and care receivers are paired by gender... women with women and men with men.

Stephen Ministers are a vessel for Christ, to be a listening ear and to walk with people during difficult times. It should be stressed that this ministry is God centered. The Stephen Minister provides the care....God provides the healing.

MIPC Stephen Ministers can be identified by their blue name tags which show their names along with "Stephen Minister" on Sunday mornings and any of these Stephen Ministers will gladly answer any questions you may have about the program. If you know of anyone or if you yourself believe you could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (Stephen Minister liaison with Grace Methodist church) at 321-223-4841.

Recycling



Don't forget about our paper recycling bin at the southeast corner of the parking lot. 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!

Faith Formation Ministries

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk
in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor;
blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Psalm 128:1-2

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



Kids Klub will perform **"The S.A.L.T. Company"** for their Spring semester. **Save the date!** Performances are Saturday, May 3rd & Sunday, May 4th @ 4:00 p.m. Registration is closed for this semester, but if you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry for the Fall semester 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.

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MIPCPerformingArts



Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions will perform "A View From the Pew" for their Spring semester. **Save the date!**

Performances are Saturday, April 26th & Sunday, April 27th @ 4:00 p.m. We are very excited to be working with our new Music Director, Christi Griffith, and can't wait to further develop the kids' gifts and talents! Registration is closed for this semester, but if you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry for the Fall semester 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.

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MIPCPerformingArts



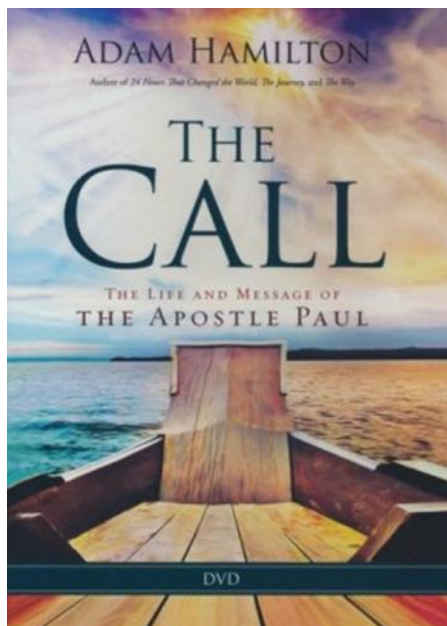
Faith Formation Ministries



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

“The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul”

*with Milt Seapker & Dave
Hertzler*



The apostle Paul and his fellow missionaries turned the ancient world upside down by preaching a gospel of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Now journey with Adam Hamilton to the ancient sites themselves in Greece and Turkey and hear penetrating insights that have profoundly shaped every branch of Christianity.

Come join us in person or on Zoom!

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

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 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.

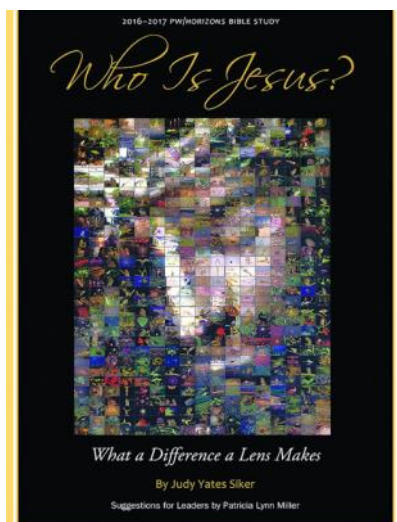


When we have infants or toddlers that need care during our worship service, Faith Formation Ministries can help. We have a rotation schedule set up for a wonderful group of volunteers. Our Ushers have a copy of the schedule, and can direct our guests to someone. For those who may not know, our new Nursery room location is in the church office next to Faith Formation Ministries.

Faith Formation Ministries



Faith Formation Ministries Bible Study Group
Fabulous Fridays!!
March 7th & 21st @ 2:00 p.m.



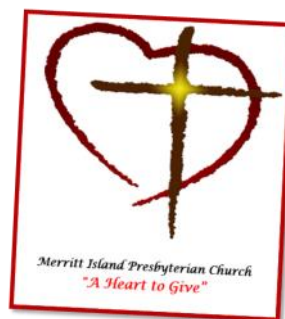
Our study is led by Julie Hill and is titled "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"

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

Please contact Julie Hill for more information and questions.
cjzhill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333



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



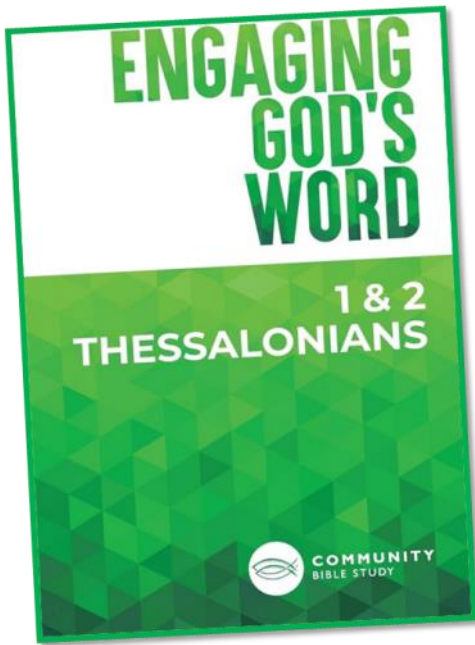
Faith Formation Ministries



**Men's Bible Study Group
with Milt Seapker**

Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m. beginning Jan. 15

Location: 200 South Banana River Dr., E11, Merritt Isl. 32952



What will happen when Jesus comes again? What happens when people die? Are these the “end times?” The apostle Paul wrote two letters to the Thessalonians to settle their hearts and minds, and to guide them in confusing times. In this six-lesson study you will learn how to walk in a manner worthy of Christ that will give you confidence when He returns. Connect with the enduring truth of God’s Word. Come out of the clutter and clanging of our culture and discover the peace of meeting the God of the Bible in the pages of His Word. You will find simple tools that cultivate your understanding and engage your heart. Tools for transformation. You also will learn how to apply God’s Word in your everyday life. You are beginning an incredible journey!

Pease contact Milt at 910-580-9344 or milton.s43@aol.com if you are interested in attending.

Faith Formation Ministries

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church

Presents

Friday Fellowship!

Every Friday @ 5:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

135 Cone Road, Merritt Island 32952

merrittislandpc.org

www.facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church

**Bring your whole family and come join us for
Dinner, Music & Worship! Interactive and family friendly
for all ages!**



A Heart To Give



Faith Formation Ministries

COMING SOON

Please come and join us!

Easter Egg Stuffing Party



Tuesday, April 8th
@ 11:00 a.m.
Activities Room
Lunch Provided



We would appreciate any individually wrapped small candy or small toy donations to stuff the eggs with. (No chocolate please)
Please R.S.V.P. Pam Poland at mipcffm@gmail.com or 321-452-5689 ext. 1003 so we know how much food to prepare.
There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex.

Faith Formation Ministries

COMING SOON

Faith Formation Ministries & MIPC Preschool

Saturday, April 12th @ 10:00 a.m.



Stay tuned for more details...

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee met on Monday, February 10th @ 1:00 p.m. in the Session room and on Zoom.
2. These are the current and upcoming activities for 2025.
 - a. Children's Church is in Session for Spring classes.
 - b. Adult Faith Enrichment Class-Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Our current study is **"The Call, The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul"** by Adam Hamilton and led by Milt Seapker and Dave Hertzler.
 - c. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: March meeting dates are the 7th & 21st @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Our study is **"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"** led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Men's Ministry: Bible Study every Wednesday @ 2:00 p.m.: The current study is Engaging God's Word, Thessalonians 1 & 2 led by Milt Seapker.
 - e. Friday Fellowship Contemporary Worship Service: Friday evenings @ 5:00 p.m.
 - f. Easter Egg Stuffing Party: Tuesday, April 8th @ 11:00 a.m.
 - g. Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 12th @ 10:00 a.m.
 - h. One Purpose Productions Spring performances: Saturday, April 26th & Sunday, April 27th @ 4:00 p.m.
 - i. Kids Klub Spring performances: Saturday, May 3rd & Sunday, May 4th @ 4:00 p.m.
 - j. Vacation Bible School: July 14th-18th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - k. 15th Annual Women's Retreat: Saturday, September 13th
 - l. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 11th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - m. 3rd Annual Preschool Christmas Pageant & Live Nativity: Monday, December 8th @ 4:00 p.m.
 - n. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, March 10th @ 1:00 p.m.

Happy St. Patrick's Day & Blessings to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Patricia Smith & Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elders

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:



- 2 Chuck Downen
- 3 Julia "Sis" Beckman
- 4 T.J. Mitchell
- 4 Maryrose Beerman
- 5 Kristin Fjeldheim
- 5 Stephanie Serfozo
- 17 Sandy Hill
- 17 Betsy Heenan
- 19 Richard Ficker
- 19 Carl Crockett, Jr.
- 22 Karlene Mohan
- 23 Jim McConnaha
- 27 Milt Seapker

BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 1/31/25

Actual Revenue: \$23,242

Budgeted: \$18,220

Actual Expenses: \$20,632

Budgeted: \$17,073

please note



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:

- 1 John & Nancy Shuford
- 12 David & Stacy Boote
- 18 Janet & Robert Post
- 24 Tina & Gregg Kraver

**The deadline for input in the
April newsletter is March 21**



*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
Jennavon Brown
Jeana Lutz
Tammy Lewis
Robyn Mills
MaryLou Tipton
Christi Griffith

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Substitute Organist/Pianist
Church Vocalist
Preschool Director
Preschool Director
Performing Arts Director
Performing Arts Musical 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. Here’s your February tip:**



*Your car can be made more environmentally friendly—and save you money on gas—
just by following these tips: keep your tires correctly inflated, use the manufacturer’s
recommended grade of motor oil (choose one showing “Energy Conserving” on the
label), check your air filter, and get regular tune-ups. A tune-up can improve your
vehicle’s gas mileage by about 4 percent!*

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:

1001: Reception
1002: Leslie Mitchell
1003: Pam Poland
1004: Rev. Greenawalt
1005: Tammy Lewis
1006: Robyn Mills

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Preschool email: MIPCPreschool@gmail.com
Website: www.merrittislandpc.org
Facebook: [Facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church](https://www.facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church)