MIPC PRESS

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church June 2025



Pastor Christina's Corner

Have you heard?

I am going on vacation (heh)! I might be a tad bit excited. I have been planning and waiting for this trip since June of 2020, when we were unable to do anything for our 20th wedding anniversary and I asked if we could go to Europe for our 25th.

Summer is a time when many of us take trips, go on vacations, or return up north to escape the hotter weather. It is a time many of us slow down to rest and take time to relax. For others, summer is a time to get things done, to see as many people, places, and things as possible.

Many churches take the summer off from Sunday School Class, Session Meetings, etc. since so many people travel. Often it is during the summer that our attendance dips and those who stay behind get discouraged.

No matter if you are a "rest and relaxation" or a "rush and explore" kind of person, this summer it is important to stay close to God. Don't pack God up in the suitcase and leave God there! Make sure to unpack God wherever you go, even if you just stay home. Let's try and commit to draw closer to God this summer.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." - James 4:8

Here are a few simple ways we can draw closer to God:

- · Listen to Christian music or make a Christian music playlist to go with us. I love listening to music as I do chores around the house, while I commute or just as I relax.
- · Listen to Christian Podcasts to learn and grow no matter where you are

Pastor Christina's Corner

- · While away, try to attend MIPC live on Facebook or watch on our YouTube channel. Do you know our Sunday Faith Enrichment class has people who attend from New Jersey, Canada and California? The link is sent out each Friday with the church bulletin.
- · Take time each day to reflect on the day in the morning take time to be with God, ask God to order your day, read your Bible. Connecting first thing in the day allows God to be the first thing on our minds as we face the day's challenges. Before bed, reflect and look for ways you were able to see God at work in your day. Start and close each day with prayer for yourself, the church, others, and our community. It will help to strengthen those bonds.
- · Volunteer Vacation Bible Study is coming up in July. How can you help to make a difference in the life of one of the kids in our community? Can't be here physically? What supplies might VBS or the Preschool need? (Hint: See a few pages ahead.) Prayer we can all pray! Prayer is powerful! Talk with Pam and see in what ways you might be able to help out, here or at home as we prepare for VBS. If kids are not your thing perhaps contact Leslie in the church office to see about being an office angel this summer.

These are just a few ways to draw closer to God this summer. But also, as you travel, maybe send a note, picture or a postcard to the church, encouraging those of us who are unable to travel. Maybe we can start a MIPC Press section: "Where in the World is MIPC this month?"

No matter what, this summer know that you are loved and you are a very important part of MIPC! See you soon!

With Love, Pastor Christina

P.S.: In next month's newsletter I reveal our Summer Sermon Series, which will begin in July!

Preschool



We had a good and busy start to May. We enjoyed Muffins for Moms, our annual Mother's Day celebration, and the children had fun making all kinds of crafts for their moms to enjoy.

Our VPK class graduated on May 23. Some of the children will stay through the summer and some will move on. It's always a bittersweet time watching them grow through the years here and then move on to another school. We do get some back for our summer school age program, but some we don't see anymore, and we wish them great success in their school careers!

We are getting ready for our summer here which started May 27th. We have a very large group of school age kids coming for our summer program. On the next page, you will see a "wish list" of supplies our teachers have requested for their fun summer activities in the classrooms. If you can help at all it would be greatly appreciated!



God Bless,

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

Preschool graduation

Preschool

Preschool Summer Supplies Wish List

FOOD ITEMS

White icing

Goldfish snacks

Chocolate pudding

Oreo cookies

Mini marshmallows

Animal crackers

Baking soda, corn starch

Vinegar

Fruit loops cereal

Sugar

Ice cream sprinkles

Teddy Grahams (not chocolate)

Graham crackers

NON-FOOD ITEMS

Toothpicks

White glue bottles

Ice cube tray

Pony beads (blue, white, orange, yellow)

Pipe cleaners (blue, white, orange, yellow)

Water pitcher

Large mixing bowl

Gallon size freezer zip loc bags

Quart size zip loc bags

Mason jars

Watercolor paints

Pool noodles

Funnels

Spray bottles

Hose

Small plastic dinosaurs

Scotch Guard (or other water repellant fabric protector)

NOTE: Financial gifts designated "preschool supplies" are also greatly appreciated

Preschool



Worship

As we move through this season of Easter into late spring, our worship together has been a rich tapestry of experiences, reflections, and blessings. Each Sunday has offered us a unique opportunity to draw closer to God and one another.

On April 27, we leaned into the story of Doubting Thomas. Through the simple live demonstration of paper clips floating on water ("props" for the props, Pastor Christina!), we were reminded that sometimes we need to see—or hear testimony or bear witness—to truly believe. It is a joy to celebrate our faith together, strengthened by the witness of others!

On May 4, we shared communion with unleavened bread, lovingly prepared by Pastor Christina, as we reflected on "The Call." This time of sacred remembrance invited us to consider how we are called by name and nourished at the table—equipped to serve in love.

Mother's Day, May 11, was a special moment of recognition for all who mother—not just children, but also flora and fauna, friends, and communities. The Deacons offered a thoughtful gift bag, including lip balm and a vial containing a mustard seed—a beautiful symbol of faith growing quietly and powerfully.

On May 18, we took a bold symbolic step across the "invisible barrier"—the middle aisle between the pews—reminding us that love asks us to cross boundaries to reach others. The message called us to embody the expansive, connecting love of Christ.

Then, on May 25, we reflected on the difference between a formal living room and a cozy family room. We were reminded that God's invitation is not to keep guests at arm's length, but to welcome them into our hearts and homes, where real relationship and spiritual warmth thrive.

Worship

Looking ahead, we have several special Sundays to anticipate:

- June 1: Communion Sunday, as well as a reception to say "thank you" and bid a fond farewell to the Fjeldheim family
- June 8: Pentecost Sunday and a reception for our Performing Arts Director, Mary Lou Tipton, in honor of her retirement
- June 15: Father's Day, a time to honor all those who nurture and guide (with more gifts from the deacons!)
- June 22 & 29: Pastor Christina will be away celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary, and we look forward to welcoming some "mystery guest" preachers to the pulpit!

We are so grateful for the many individuals who make our worship services possible each week—our preachers, liturgists, musicians, AV team, and coordinators. Your dedication and creativity help create a space where all are welcome to encounter God's presence.

If you feel called to be part of the Worship Committee, or if you have ideas, talents, or feedback to share, I'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to reach out at epigayle@gmail.com.

With gratitude and joy,

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Gayle Allenback Worship Elder

FAMILY PROMISE

At the recent Family Promise of Brevard Quarterly Meeting Cheryl Mahan learned so much. The group continues to improve and refine how they care for not just our homeless families in Brevard, but also for our struggling low-income families in the county.

Two once-a-month innovations that just started:

- ◆ Art in Bloom (1-2PM) gatherings at the Firehouse (aka Family Promise headquarters in Cocoa) which will typically include the currently housed families and families in Cocoa who might be interested. Each session features a different creative medium and local artist.
- ◆ Family Friday (4-6PM) is a monthly event at the Firehouse that is designed to connect families with essential resources, community support, and each other! Each month features a) a free essential item for families (last month it was diapers!), b) a partner agency to connect families with valuable services and c) a fun kids' craft station.

(There is a possibility that churches will be asked to supply these essential items occasionally if FP has not gotten them through corporate donors)

The Hindman Wall Golf Scramble will be at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) and is usually FP's biggest fundraiser, with corporate sponsors last year raising \$90K of the \$115K that was raised. Perhaps we have some golfers here at MIPC?

The hotel which FP will use for the weeks that no church is able to host (unfortunately there are a lot!) will be the Woodsprings Suites in Rockledge. Though MIPC can only host two weeks of the year we do have the ability to help more by feeding families when they are housed in the hotel.

There was some discussion about two churches (who are not currently hosting) being able to host for several weeks at a time but we will see. Fingers crossed.

MIPC will shortly be replacing the flooring in the Activities Room so we are ready for hosting in late September.

Thanks again to all of you who helped in January. Your help is so appreciated by Frances and me and especially by the families!

Questions? Call Cheryl 321-431-9623.

Exciting news! Family Promise of Brevard was recognized at the 20th Annual Sapphire Awards, presented by the Florida Blue Foundation! Out of more than 300 nominations across Florida, they were honored as one of nine nonprofits making measurable, lasting change in our communities—and at the Awards Presentation, were announced as the 1st place organization and awarded \$100,000 to support their innovative and collaborative work!

This recognition celebrates the impact we've built together over the years—and affirms the importance of investing in the systems that help families thrive. With this generous support, we'll be able to strengthen our foundation and continue walking alongside families as they move toward stability.



Sharing Center of Central Brevard

Last month, we shared the news about cuts to the emergency food program that affected the Sharing Center greatly. The community has responded in a big way, but the need will remain ongoing.

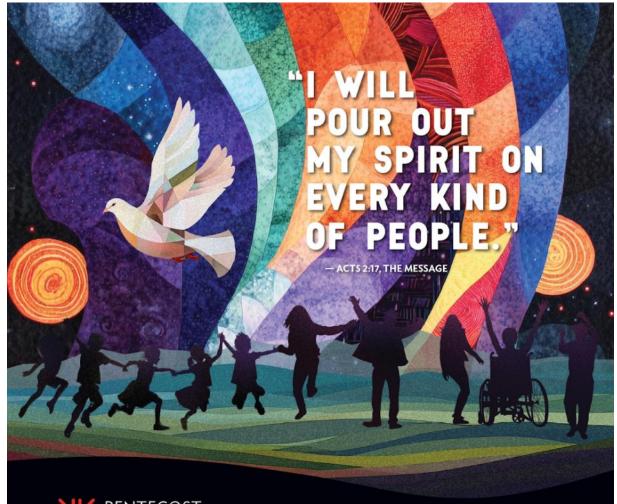
In addition to that challenge, the homeless service center in Downtown Melbourne, Daily Bread, closed its doors in May and transitioned to a mobile outreach, while awaiting the completion of Providence Place, a multi-family apartment community with on-site resident services and amenities, serving individuals and families facing homelessness in Melbourne. This project will be completed by the end of 2027.

The homeless outreach Matthew's Hope in Cocoa has also lost a major donor and is considering cutting back on services until new funding can be located.

Finally, the closing of Rockledge Regional Hospital creates a gap in health services for the Cocoa/Rockledge area, which is especially disadvantageous to the unsheltered and low income communities.

The Sharing Center is motivated to step up to help fill these gaps. They are working with Brevard Health Alliance to bring mobile medical outreach to the community. They are encouraging their faith partners to organize food drives, volunteer, or donate.

MIPC has been a proud supporter of the Sharing Center for over 20 years. You can learn more about what they do at their website, www.sharingcenter.org.





APRIL 21-JUNE 8, 2025

Uniting Presbyterians in support of young people sharing their faith, ideas and gifts with the Church and the world.



Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come. Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension — when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

Congregations keep 40% of receipts to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised nearly \$18 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

You will see flyers will additional information about this offering; there are specially marked envelopes available should you wish to contribute.

Stephen Ministry



"So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own selves..." 1 Thessalonians 2: 8a

There is someone who cares about you and for you as you face a crisis time in your life. A Stephen Minister can help by listening and sharing Christ's love with you. If you or someone you know needs the caring, Christian presence of a Stephen Minister, contact Craig Smoot (Stephen Minister coordinator) at 321-223-4841, or Pastor Christina.

	YTD as of 4/30/25
General Fund Revenue:	74,472
General Fund Expenses:	73,439
General Fund Net Revenue:	1,033
Preschool Revenue:	207,895
Preschool Expenses:	230,620
Preschool Net Revenue:	-22,725

The church had a few additional expenses this month, including AC repairs and new fire extinguishers, that resulted in a negative result for the month, though our year-to-date is still in the positive by a little over \$1,000.

The preschool added a small amount to their yearly deficit this month.

There was a remainder of over \$60,000 in the "holding account" that had been transferred from the Anderson endowment fund for use in the Fellowship Hall/Preschool renovations. This amount is no longer needed because of the generosity of our congregation. Over the past few years, ever since the need became clear for major building renovations, donations from our members that were designated to that purpose have covered that balance, so most of the remainder has been transferred back to the Anderson fund.

Mike Smith
Finance Chair

Legacy Giving

Leave gifts to benefit Presbyterian congregations, ministries and causes.

Wills and other forms of legacy giving are essential components of estate planning – the process of managing your accumulated assets and determining what legacy you will leave through them, including your legacy of faith. The Foundation offers planning tools to help donors compose their legacy giving plans and to help churches support these efforts.

Did You Know?

- Wills and other estate planning documents provide an ideal opportunity to make a statement of faith and to give resources that will support your church or favorite mission for years to come.
- Suggested language is available that can help you add a bequest to your will easily (but you should consult your attorney before altering your will).
- Programs for pastors and congregations are available that will help you discuss estate planning in meaningful ways.

If you're ready to create your will as part of your estate plan, the Presbyterian Foundation has sample language and other information that you may find helpful. (These documents are designed to help you get started, but they don't replace a consultation with an experienced attorney.)

Once you've designated a ministry or congregation as a beneficiary in your will, you should notify your church or the other organization that they will be receiving a gift from you after your death. You may wish to give specific instructions on how you'd like to see the funds used. You should also share this news with your family so that they are aware of your wishes.

The booklets are available in the Narthex.

Happy June

God will never leave you empty, He will replace everything you have lost. And give you peace of mind. May God open the heavens to shower you lots of love and happiness to make this month a meaningful one. Wishing you a blessed and fulfilled Month.



Our Performing Arts Ministry for ages K-6th grade will begin their Fall semester on Tuesday, August 19th @ 3:00 p.m.

If you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry please contact Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext.1003 or mipcffm@gmail.com. Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MIPCPerformingArts







One Purpose Productions

Our Performing Arts Ministry for ages 7th grade & up will begin their Fall semester on Wednesday, August 20th @ 3:30 p.m.

If you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry please contact Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext.1003 or mipcffm@gmail.com.

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







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



With Milt Seapker & Dave Hertzler

Jesus used parables, short stories with spiritual meanings, to teach and convey complex ideas in an accessible way to his audience. These stories, often drawn from everyday life, provided illustrations of kingdom principles and moral lessons.

Come join us in person or on Zoom!

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



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.

*Please note that we are on higtus for the summer.





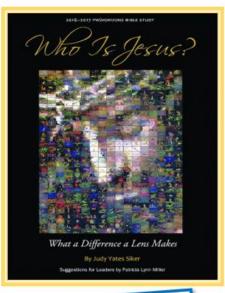
When we have infants or toddlers who need care during our worship service, Faith Formation Ministries can help. We have a rotation schedule set up for a wonderful group of volunteers. Our Ushers have a copy of the schedule, and can direct our guests to someone. For those who may not know, our new Nursery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



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

*Please note that we are on hiatus for the month of June.



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

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. cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333





Men's Bible Study Group

with Milt Seapker

Twice a month on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.

Meeting dates: June 11th & 25th

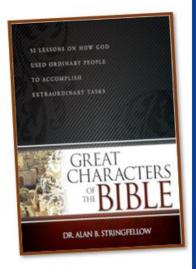
Location: 200 South Banana River Drive E11
Merritt Island 32952

Come join us for a time of Bible study and fun activities!

God chose to teach His spiritual principles through the successes and failures of His people.

Great Characters of the Bible is a 52-lesson study of 61 Bible characters who were not all that different from us. They experienced struggles, heartaches, successes, and failures. They battled fear, doubt, and worry. But they also give testimony to God's mighty hand moving through the ages, establishing His will through the lives of people like you and me.

Standing beside these men and women of the Bible will help you walk closer with God, who included their stories in His Word especially to teach you, to inspire you, and to guide and instruct you. As you share in their victories and defeats, you'll discover how each person was selected by God to fulfill a purpose. By studying them, you will see how the Holy Spirit equips and empowers you for greater service.



Please contact Milt at 910-580-9344 or <u>milton.s43@aol.com</u> if you are interested in attending.

Synod of South Atlantic ~ and ~ Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering



October 17th -19th, 2025 Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7

Worship Leader
Rev. CeCe Armstrong
Co-Moderator, 226th General Assembly
Associate Pastor, St. James Presbyterian
James Island, Charleston, S.C.

Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter Author, 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"

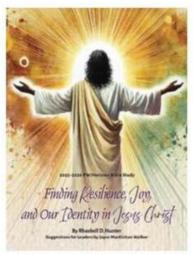
You are invited to attend an exciting Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering October 17-19, 2025 at Epworth by the Sea Conference Center.

Our PW Synod Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for women to nurture faith, exchange ideas, discover mission opportunities, strengthen relationships, and relax. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship, music, Bible study, and more.



More information and registration forms are available in the Narthex.

Contact Julie Hill: julie2025pw@gmail.com



PW Horizons 2025-2026 Bible Study Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

By Rhashell D. Hunter

Presbyterian Women of Central Florida Presbytery

Annual Bible Study Event Saturday, August 2nd

Oakland Presbyterian Church 218 E Oakland Ave. Oakland, Florida 34760

Facilitated by:

Janira Colon M.Div

Currently a candidate for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament in Central Florida Presbytery and the Hispanic at-large Representative for Presbyterian Corporation.

Saturday, August 2nd

9:00 – 9:40 Registration and Light Breakfast 9:45 – 10:15 Introductions and Business Meeting 10:15 – 11:30 Bible Study Presentation 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 Bible Study Presentation

Registration - \$20.00 includes light breakfast and lunch Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 16th.

Registration fee after July 16th is \$25.00.

For more information contact Sharon Hudson Williams

shwms008@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School





Looking for fun volunteer activities this summer? Come and join Faith Formation Ministries for the week of July 14th-18th as we share the love, joy, and faith of God with our Preschool children!

If you are interested in helping, please call Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext. 1003 or email mipcffm@gmail.com

A sign-up sheet is also available in the Narthex.

Plans for FFM Activities:

- Our committee met on Monday, May 12th @ 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 on hiatus for the summer.
 - b. Adult Faith Enrichment Class-Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Our study is on The Parables of Jesus led by Milt Seapker and Dave Hertzler.
 - c. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Note: We are on hiatus for the month of June. We will resume on July 11th. "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group: June meeting dates are the 11th & 25th
 @ 2:00 p.m. led by Milt Seapker.
 - e. Vacation Bible School: July 14th-18th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - f. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 11th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - g. 3rd Annual Preschool Christmas Pageant & Live Nativity: Monday, December 8th @ 4:00 p.m.
 - h. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, June 9th @ 1:00 p.m.

Many Blessings to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Patricia Smith & Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUNE BIRTHDAYS: 🚜

- **2** Carolyn Crockett
- 4 Caroline Fjeldheim
- 5 Jacob Fjeldheim
- 7 Larry Peek
- 9 Carol Illinik
- 10 Nicholas Erb
- 11 Stephen Downen
- 13 Lance Caron
- 15 Larry Hand
- 15 Trudy Adams
- 17 Jason Poirier
- 20 Chuck Hayes
- 21 Megan Smoot
- 21 Anne Cole

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JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Chris & Megan Smoot
- 12 Ralph and Jill Franklin
- 14 Leslie & James Neihouse
- 24 Jo & Francis Shill
- 24 Dale & Christina Greenawalt

BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 4/30/25

Actual Revenue: \$74,472

Budgeted: \$72,660

Actual Expenses: \$73,439

Budgeted: \$ 76,354



The deadline for input in the July newsletter is June 23



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 Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Substitute Organist/Pianist
Church Vocalist
Preschool Director
Preschool 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 June tip:



During the month of June, the combination of hot weather and increased pest activity can pose a threat to your plants. Take regular walks throughout your garden to monitor and remove any pests before they have a chance to multiply and always focus on improving soil quality by adding mulch, amendments and organic matter to your garden beds. Take some time to pull some weeds, check your irrigation and prune back dead and damaged plants to help your garden thrive throughout the summer season and set you up for success this fall.

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. Greenawalt1005: Tammy Lewis1006: Robyn Mills

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Preschool email: MIPCPreschool@gmail.com

Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

Facebook: Facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church