

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
July 2025**



Pastor Christina's Corner

Many of our friends are up north for the summer and other friends are traveling to see friends and family. Maybe some of you are taking road trips this summer, or vacations. We'd love for you to send pictures to the church office for us to share on our Facebook or maybe in worship.

Speaking of road trips, have you heard the theme of our VBS this month? The kids will be taking a *Road Trip: On the Go with God*. It's a great reminder that no matter where we go, God is with us – never far!

Far or near, MIPC has ways for us to connect to each other and God. Each Sunday I like to remind us of that, so that we do not get discouraged that attendance seems light. At the same time, it is such a treat when you “tune-in” while away to our Facebook Live stream. Please do leave a comment or like the post so that we will know you were with us.

If you don't have Facebook, no problem. We also upload the service later on Sundays on our YouTube Channel. (Click [here](#) or go to Youtube and search for MerrittIslandPC130.) We also have our interactive Adult Faith Enrichment Class each Sunday on Zoom—the link is mailed out each week.

As you read this, I am flying home from my vacation and I am sure I long to be back together with you. Have you wondered what our Summer Sermon Series will be? Do you get as excited about these as I do? This year we will use Lego as a way to be connected to stories in the Bible. Each week we will have a devotion that we can use and that our preschool kids and families can do, to connect us all as a Worshiping Community.

Pastor Christina's Corner

What do Legos and human beings have in common? Both are designed to connect. A Lego by itself does not have a whole lot of purpose, except maybe to hurt us when we step on it in the middle of the night.

A Lego is designed to be part of a greater purpose. It is designed to be a part of a greater whole. A Lego by itself is not a whole lot, but the bottom line is that a Lego is designed to connect. This is the same with us as humans, we are designed to connect and together we are stronger through our connections.

Americans tend to be some of the loneliest people. We lead busy lives, have over-committed schedules, live in places where we drive everywhere isolated in our cars, we rarely visit with our neighbors. It isn't an issue of having access to people; we can go to a church much larger than MIPC and still feel lonely.

This summer our sermon series will use Lego building blocks to remind us that we are connected to one another and to God. How do our stories connect?

Make sure you pick up some Lego and get ready to build some connections and re-connect with scriptures – old and new. If you participate in the weekly devotions, make sure you send pictures to the Church office as a way to show off your building skills.



*In Christ,
Pastor Christina*

Preschool



Summer is here and that means, field trips, water play, Kona Ice, movie days, and playing with friends.

We had our Donuts for Dads on June 13 in honor of Father's Day, and our Dads enjoyed a little performance from their children. The donuts were

donated by one of our single Moms. Everyone had a good time.

The preschool is looking forward to our summer with all our returning children that come specifically for our summer camps.

We thank our church family for all your support and prayers.

Have a very blessed July.



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



Preschool



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

*NOTE: Financial gifts
designated “preschool
supplies” are also
greatly appreciated*

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)

A Season of Gratitude and Growth

As we move through June and into July, our worship life at MIPC has been rich with gratitude, celebration, and joyful fellowship. It's a gift to share in these meaningful moments as a community of faith. Here's a look back—and a look ahead—at what we've experienced together and what's to come.

Recent Highlights:

- June 1 – Communion & Farewell Reception

We gathered at the Lord's Table and then celebrated long-time members Karri and Richard Fjeldheim with a heartfelt farewell and thank-you reception. We're so grateful for their years of service and friendship, and we send them off to Mississippi with our love and blessings!

- June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

The sanctuary was filled with red as we marked the arrival of the Holy Spirit. Following worship, we honored Mary Lou Tipton with a retirement reception, celebrating her faithful and generous service to our production ministry. Thank you, Mary Lou!

- June 15 – Trinity Sunday

We reflected on the mystery and unity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. After the service, the Worship Committee gathered for a brief meeting, and we celebrated the father figures in our midst with thoughtful gifts: carabiner keychains from the Heavenly Handmaidens and pen-and-paper sets from the Deacons. Many thanks to both groups for their creativity and care!

Worship

- June 22 – We welcomed Rev. Joel Kelly as our guest preacher. We appreciated his message and the fresh perspective he brings.
- June 29 – Milt Seapker returned to lead us in worship. It's always a joy to listen to his thought-provoking messages.

Coming Up in Worship:

- July 6 – Pastor Christina returns from her anniversary trip and will lead us in communion. She'll also begin her summer sermon series (hint: we're "building" some excitement around it)!
- July 13 – A baptism will be part of our worship—always a joyous occasion as we welcome new life into our faith family. Please join us in celebrating with the family.

As always, we give thanks for the many hands and hearts that make worship possible each week—our preachers, liturgists, musicians, AV team, and coordinators. Your time, talent, and dedication 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,

Gayle Allenback

Worship Elder



Madagascar, Here We Come!

Perhaps 25 years ago, a youngish couple, Dan and Elizabeth Turk, came to MIPC with Elizabeth's folks Nancy and Bill Warlick (PCUSA missionaries to Southern Africa).

I believe at the time they told us about the many needs in Madagascar, especially the need for clean water. I think MIPC funded the digging of a well.

Since then, MIPC has maintained a relationship with the Turks and helped with their support in the big island nation on the east side of the African continent... and I have longed to go there. My work on the board of the Madagascar Mission Network for the last 4 years strengthened that resolve.

I had to convince Fred to go too and a few years ago he said yes. And now it is going to happen!

We are asking for your prayers for a safe and useful journey which we will take with (mostly) members of First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa—perhaps 8 of us—in late August and early September. I should have some great stories to tell!

Cheryl Mahan

P.S. Nancy Warlick wrote a wonderful short book entitled *Adventures in Faith: A Reflection on My Life in Africa* in 2021 and I would be willing to lend it to you!

Finance

	YTD as of 5/31/25
General Fund Revenue:	92,180
General Fund Expenses:	-90,301
General Fund Net Revenue:	1,879
Preschool Revenue:	261,176
Preschool Expenses:	-279,816
Preschool Net Revenue:	-18,640

In May, both Preschool and Church showed a positive result. *The church is very close to being on track with its budget.* The Preschool, while revenue is less than projected, is keeping expenses under budget so that is helping reduce their deficit.

Due to member contributions to the building fund, we were able to transfer \$50,000 from the “holding” account back into the Anderson fund, while still reserving an additional \$17,000 for the possible upcoming door/window replacement project.

Soon, materials will be ordered for the new flooring in the Activities Room. We have several contributions to this effort, and Session has authorized the use of the Horne-Clark endowment fund to make up any difference.

We are excited about our dedication/naming celebration on August 10 right after worship. We will be dedicating the Preschool classroom building to T.C. & Mary Helen Anderson, and the Fellowship Hall to Gary & Pat Hobbs. We will also be celebrating the Preschool’s 60th anniversary and the completion of the Food Pantry. A church family cookout and other events will also be featured — stay tuned!

Mike Smith
Finance Chair

Please Note:

Our Deacon meeting for July is cancelled because of Vacation Bible School. Our next Deacon meeting will be on August 11, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



From The Fjeldheim Family:

Dear MIPC Family,

Thank you for the many kind words, hugs, lovely cards, gifts, and food as we began the move from Merritt Island to Mississippi. How emotional to leave our church where we were married, where our children were baptized, and where we (including my mother) found much joy in a variety of activities.

MIPC will always have a special place in our hearts. We hope to see you when we return for visits. If you travel westward, stop in Natchez and visit us! Natchez is on the Mississippi River at the intersection of Highways 61 and 84. Please send emails and text messages to keep us updated on everyone at MIPC.

Love,

Karri and Richard Fjeldheim

Stephen Ministry/Events



*"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.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On August 10, we will have a gathering after worship to celebrate the completion of our renovations to the Fellowship Hall and Preschool buildings. The event will feature a church family meal, the "naming" of the buildings (in honor of Pat & Gary Hobbs and T.C. & Mary Helen Anderson), the "opening" of our Food Pantry, and a celebration of the 60th anniversary of our Preschool. If you'd like to help in the planning, please contact Leslie Mitchell at mipresbyterian@gmail.com. (We welcome donations towards the cost of the plaques for the buildings.)



Faith Formation Ministries



Kids Klub

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



Faith Formation Ministries



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

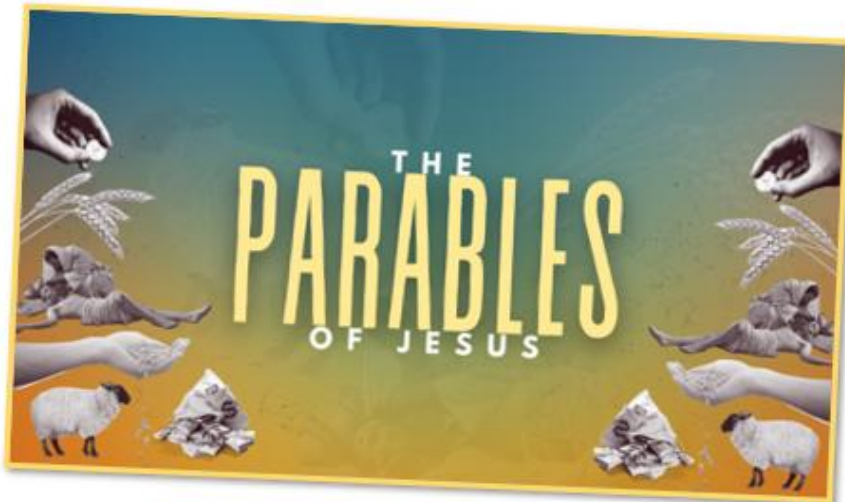


Faith Formation Ministries



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

***Please note that we are on hiatus for the month of July.
Classes will resume in August.**



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.

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.

***Please note that we are on hiatus 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.

Faith Formation Ministries

Women's Ministry

*Renewing minds,
Transforming lives*

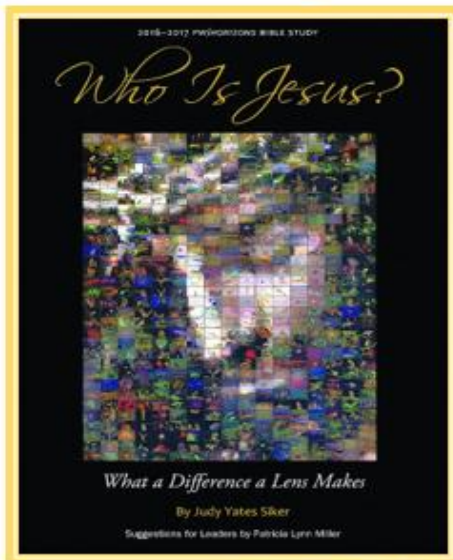
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

July 11th & 25th @ 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*



Faith Formation Ministries



Men's Bible Study Group

with Milt Seapker

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

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

The study will resume in August.

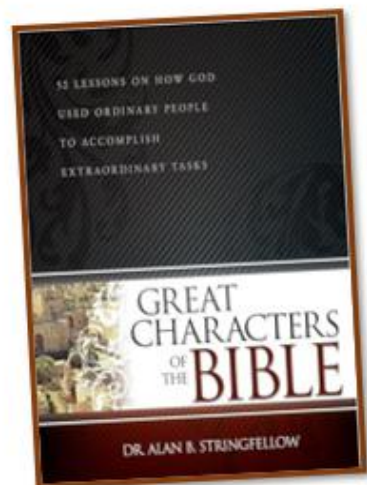
**Location: 200 South Banana River Drive E11
Merritt Island 32952**

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 milton.s43@aol.com if you are interested in attending.

Faith Formation Ministries

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.*

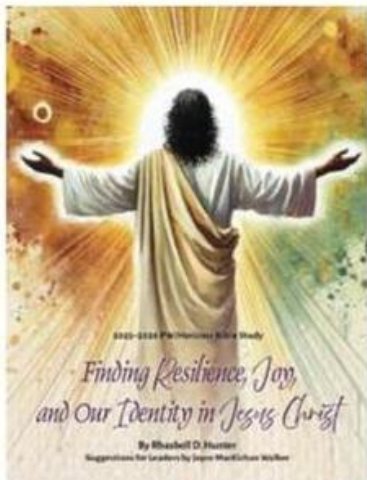
Our PW Synod Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for women to nurture faith, exchange ideas, discover mission opportunities, strengthen relationships, and relax. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship, music, Bible study, and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



More information and registration forms are available in the Narthex.

Contact Julie Hill: julie2025pw@gmail.com

Faith Formation Ministries



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

Faith Formation Ministries

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.

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee met on Monday, June 9th @ 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. ***We are on hiatus for the month of July. Classes will resume in August.**
 - c. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Meeting dates are July 11th & July 25th. Our study is *"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"* led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group: ***We are on hiatus for the month of July. The study will resume in August.**
 - e. Vacation Bible School: July 14th-18th, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - f. Preschool 60th Anniversary Celebration, Food Pantry Grand Opening & Building Dedications: Sunday, August 10th @ 11:30 a.m.
 - g. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 11th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - h. 3rd Annual Preschool Christmas Pageant & Live Nativity: Monday, December 8th @ 4:00 p.m.
 - i. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, July 21st @ 1:00 p.m.

Blessings to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Patricia Smith & Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAYS:



- 5 Dot Corbett
- 10 Jill Franklin
- 13 Judy Osikowicz
- 14 Sterling Smith
- 14 Debra Smoot
- 16 Cindy Bottomley
- 17 Silas Smoot
- 18 Francis Shill
- 19 Joshua Kraver
- 22 Jill Moore
- 25 Linda Whitten
- 25 Holly Ficker
- 29 June Hutchinson
- 30 Fred Mahan

BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 5/31/25

Actual Revenue: \$ 92,180

Budgeted: \$ 89,980

Actual Expenses: \$ 90,301

Budgeted: \$ 94,382



JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3 Joyce & David Walker
- 11 Pat & Sterling Smith
- 16 Sonny & Linda Whitten
- 20 Sue & Gregory Sakala
- 21 Frances & Paul Fernald

The deadline for input in the
August newsletter is **July 24**



*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 July tip:**



The Florida summer is upon us! Take care to keep cool when outside this season. Battery-operated handheld fans, wearable neck fans, or cooling towels are affordable and effective options. Towels infused with water-activated cooling properties are particularly useful for prolonged walks or sports. Consider investing in insulated reusable bottles to keep water cold for hours. Hydration and cooling devices work best when paired with breathable accessories, helping to combat Florida’s humid climate efficiently.

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

Email: mipresbyterian@gmail.com

Preschool email: MIPCPreschool@gmail.com

Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

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