

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
September 2025**



Pastor Christina's Corner

At Merritt Island Presbyterian Church, our mission is not just about gathering together on Sunday mornings; it's about being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" in our community every day – as we work to be the Heart of Merritt Island.

Our Mission Statement: As an imperfect but loved and forgiven family of faith, our mission is to worship God sincerely as disciples of Christ, to connect people to God and each other, to grow in love through Spirit-guided teaching, and to share God's grace generously through mercy, hospitality, and service to others.

As we reflect on the past 61 years of mission and ministry in Merritt Island, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the countless ways we have seen God work through our hands and feet to make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors.

As we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Preschool and the rededication of Hobbs Hall and the T.C. and Mary Helen Anderson Educational Campus, it was a wonderful time to reflect on the work of the church and how thousands of people - children and adults - have been welcomed, nurtured, loved, helped, consoled. I wish I knew all of the stories or even a few of the lives transformed by the mission and ministry of Merritt Island Presbyterian Church. That's the thing: we often don't realize the impact we make.

None of this would be possible without the heart and dedication of our volunteers and staff. From the faithful hands to the encouraging spirits, your service is what truly brings our mission to life. Your willingness to answer the call is a powerful example of living out our faith in action.

As we move forward, we are excited to continue exploring new possibilities for service and outreach. Our goal is to continue strengthening our "we" faith, where no one feels isolated or forgotten. With your continued support, we can expand our impact and bring hope to even more people.

Do you have a story about how our church has made a difference in your life or in the community? We would love to hear from you! Please share your story by contacting the church office.

*Love in Christ,
Pastor Christina*



The Preschool has been open for 60 years! Our celebration along with the building dedications was so nice. I hope everyone was able to see our new food pantry and our improved classrooms. If you didn't get a chance and would like to, please ask Robyn or Tammy for a tour.

The pantry has had a lot of activity from some of our teachers and families. We appreciate everyone's assistance in getting the shelves stocked. This will be an ongoing effort so if you'd like to help us keep food on those shelves, check out the list of needs on the next page (there's also a copy in the Narthex.)

Our new school year has started and all the children have had a good first week. We are looking forward to a productive year of growing and learning with all our children.

Blessings to all,

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

PRESCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED



- **LAUNDRY DETERGENT**
- **CLEANING SUPPLIES**
- **DISINFECTING WIPES**
- **FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS**
- **TOOTHPASTE/TOOTHBRUSHES**
- **APPLE SAUCE (CUPS, POUCHES OR JARS)**
- **FLAVORED OATMEAL PACKS**
- **KID-FRIENDLY CEREAL**
- **GOLDFISH SNACKS**
- **RITZ CRACKERS**
- **CHEEZ -IT SNACKS**
- **MAC AND CHEESE**
- **RICE-A RONI MIXES**
- **PAST-A-RONI MIXES**
- **SPAGHETTI SAUCE**
- **PASTA**
- **CANNED RAVIOLI/SPAGHETTIOS**
- **FRUIT CUPS**
- **COOKIES (ANY TYPE)**
- **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED SNACKS/CHIPS**



August was a month filled with meaningful worship and joyful moments in the life of our church family.

On August 3, we gathered at the Lord's Table for Communion as Pastor Christina concluded the summer LEGO sermon series on connection. In a memorable illustration, she wore sandals, reminding us that discipleship means "stepping out" beyond the sanctuary to share Christ's love wherever God calls us.

On August 10, our congregation celebrated both the dedication of our newly named spaces—the Anderson Preschool Buildings and Hobbs (Fellowship) Hall—and the 60th anniversary of our preschool ministry. Each worshiper placed a LEGO brick into a community display, symbolizing how every act of faith and service builds up the body of Christ. We were blessed by reflections from Rev. Dr. Shepp Lawrence and Rev. Dr. Mike Andrews, honoring the Hobbs and Anderson families, and by greetings from Rev. Dr. Olivia Haney on behalf of the Central Florida Presbytery. Following worship, we shared in a joyful BBQ reception that brought together longtime members and new friends alike.

On August 17, worship took a playful turn as Pastor Christina connected *The Price is Right* game show with the cost of discipleship. Through both humor and reflection, we were invited to consider what it truly means to commit our lives to Christ. (Pastor Christina, I will give you extra kudos if you can figure out how to incorporate my favorite *The Price Is Right* game, Plinko, into worship service sometime!)

On August 24, we rejoiced as the long-awaited plaques for Hobbs Hall and the Anderson Preschool Buildings were unveiled. Pastor Christina's message encouraged us to journey in faith with open hearts—ready to be "untethered" and led wherever God may call.

Worship

Looking ahead, we transition into stewardship season with gratitude and anticipation. We will share Communion on September 7, and there will be a New Member Class right after worship for anyone wanting to learn more about becoming a member of MIPC.

On September 21, Milt Seapker will return to the pulpit with another rousing (and likely very visual!) message.

As fall approaches, we will have several opportunities for services to be further enriched by the joyful voices of the MIPC choir, beginning with World Communion Sunday on October 5 and continuing through the seasons of gratitude and Advent. Rehearsals will be held after Sunday worship in preparation for these celebrations. If you feel called to sing, please reach out to me— we would love to welcome you.

Let us continue to worship with joy, creativity, and faith as we journey together in Christ.

With blessings,

Gayle Allenback

Worship Elder



Mission/Outreach

The following article was written by the leader of the Madagascar mission trip that Cheryl and Fred Mahan are participating in now. MIPC has had a decades-long relationship with Dan and Elizabeth Turk.

Please pray for us and for the people of Madagascar. If you wish to learn more of our progress please go to First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa's [Facebook](#) page. Cheryl will also be sending updates via the prayer chain.

Cheryl and Fred Mahan

MADAGASCAR MISSION

A Gift of New Eyes

"Open my eyes, that I may see, glimpses of truth you have for me..."

This well-known hymn reflects not only the theme but has also become the theme song for the "Gift of New Eyes" mission team being commissioned on Sunday, August 24th for its two-week journey to visit our partner, the FJKM (Reformed Church of Jesus Christ) in Madagascar. Many thanks to the First Pres Sanctuary choir for making a recording of the hymn to accompany the team as it might sing in worship or when visiting ministry sites!

The purpose of the trip is to send a team of First Presbyterian Church members & partners from other Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations to walk alongside of our Madagascar partners. That means our team will observe FJKM ministry and mission, including the environmental education sites (ie. the Fruit and Vegetable center "Mango Palace"), health education sites (ie. Medical & HIV clinics in rural settings), theological and educational development, and the ministry to the marginalized (ie. prison ministry & human trafficking issues), as well as worship with our reformed partners, building relationships and closing our trip experiencing the rich biodiversity of the rainforest at the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park.

Mission/Outreach

The seven-member team includes four from First Presbyterian, Tuscaloosa (Kit Moss, Lois Palecek, Rev. Lou Ann Sellers, and Phillip Ward); two from Merritt Island Presbyterian Church, in Merritt Island, FL (Cheryl and Fred Mahan) and one from Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC (Mary Rogers). Each of these churches has a partnership with the FJKM.

The trip is supported by the careful coordination of Mission Co-workers Dan (aka “Dan the Mango Man”) and Elizabeth Turk, with whom this congregation has been supporting and partnering for over eighteen years! Also know that Lois Palecek and Phillip Ward – former and current co-convenors of the Madagascar Mission Network encompassing Presbyterian congregations from throughout the United States – will meet with FJKM church leadership while the team is there.

In addition to pre-trip preparation meetings, the team will continue reflection with our partners while in Madagascar to discern a post-trip project, in which the congregation may also be asked to participate. Thank you to all who have already donated ties and scarves for FJKM seminarians to dress more professionally on their first congregational placements.

Watch for FPC Facebook updates while we are on the trip. And most importantly, please keep the team and those with whom we meet and worship in your prayers!

Written by Rev. Lou Ann Sellers

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission

First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa

Mission/Outreach

Family Promise Quarterly Meeting, August 18th

As usual, it was an interesting meeting and one in which we received training in the use of an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) which will be on the FP trailer with the beds and the first aid kit that is always there.

We discussed the possibility of less expensive static housing (where families might stay instead of in a church or a hotel) in the building next to the Tapestry Church, which is on S. Courtenay right across from Jefferson Middle School. More on that soon.

Also discussed was their still unresolved staffing issue for Shelter Coordinator. Until that position is permanently filled the program will continue with just one family being housed at our churches (including MIPC). Of course there are many other things that FP is doing in their headquarters (the Firehouse) with great success.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular invitation with a dark blue border. At the top left, the text "You're invited!" is in a light blue script font, followed by "Volunteer Appreciation Event" in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. In the top right corner is a circular logo for "Family Promise of Brevard, Inc." with "FP" in large blue letters. Below the text is a yellow banner with the words "Welcome home" in a dark blue script font. Underneath the banner is a stylized illustration of a white house with a dark blue roof, a central door, and two windows with flower boxes. At the bottom left, the event details are listed in bold, dark blue sans-serif font: "THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18", "5:00 - 7:00 PM", "SUNTREE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH", and "7400 N. WICKHAM RD, MELBOURNE, FL". At the bottom right, the text "RSVP HERE:" is above a square QR code.

For more info please go to their website (www.familypromiseofbrevard.org) and explore a bit!

Also, folks who have been volunteering with FP are cordially invited to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Event on Thursday, September 18 from 5-7:00PM for a nice free supper at Suntree United Methodist Church. Please RSVP.

Cheryl Mahan

Deacons/Stephen Ministry

Our next Deacon meeting will be on September 8,
2025 at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



What is a Stephen Minister?

- A child of God who walks beside a hurting person.
- A caring Christian friend who really listens.
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in how to provide distinctively Christian care

A Stephen Minister is not...

- A counselor or therapist.
- A problem solver
- A casual visitor

MIPC, in partnership with Grace Methodist church, has a very strong Stephen Ministry ready to walk beside those in crisis; no matter how big or small. If you know of anyone who would like to know more about Stephen Ministry or may be in need of one, please contact Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot at 321-223-4841. All conversations are strictly confidential.

Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions

Our Performing Arts Ministry for ages 7th grade & up began their Fall semester on Wednesday, August 20th. We have an amazing group of performers!

Our Christmas show is:

CAMEL LOT

Save the Dates!

Friday, December 12th @ 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 14th @ 4:00 p.m.

If you know anyone who might be interested in this amazing ministry please contact our Director, Gabriella Plaza-Jeffery @ 321-747-5881, gplaza104@gmail.com or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext.1003, mipccfm@gmail.com.

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MIPCPerformingArts

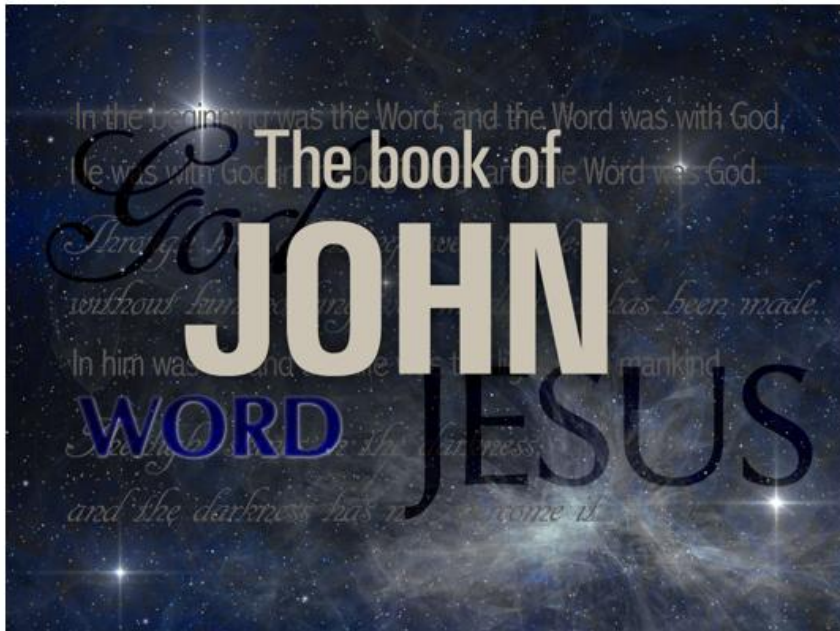


Faith Formation Ministries

Faith Formation

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

Join us for our study on the Book of John with Dave Hertzler!



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 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*

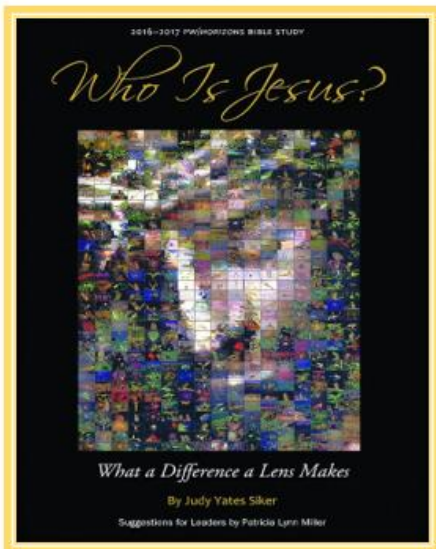
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

September 5th & 19th @ 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.
cj2hill@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.

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

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

Meeting dates are September 10th & 24th.

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

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church

Come join us!



Saturday, October 11th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat

Car Decorating Contest

Games & Prizes

Cookout

Just Cupcakin' Around Food Truck



Hobbs Hall

135 Cone Road, Merritt Island, FL. 32952

Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/Merritt.Island.Presbyterian.Church

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee met on Monday, August 11th @ 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: During worship on Sundays
 - b. Adult Faith Enrichment Class-Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Join us for our study on the Book of John led by Dave Hertzler.
 - c. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Meeting dates are September 5th & 19th. Our study is *"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"* led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group: Meeting dates are September 10th & 24th.
 - e. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 11th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - f. Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering: October 17th – 19th
 - g. 3rd Annual Preschool Christmas Pageant & Live Nativity: Monday, December 8th @ 4:30 p.m.
 - h. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, September 8th @ 1:00 p.m.

Blessings to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Patricia Smith & Milt Seapher

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

4 Craig Smoot
4 Bill Kidd
4 Rob Serfozo
8 Cathy Erb
8 Tina Kraver
9 Brian Poland
11 Chris Smoot
14 Robbie Page
14 Sonny Whitten
14 Jacob Neihouse
14 Sheldon Mitchell
17 Peg Boekhout
22 Jennifer Gardner
23 Leslie Mitchell
27 George Wilcox
27 Nancy Shuford
29 Lynn Pemberton



BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 7/31/25

Actual Revenue: \$ 133,875

Budgeted: \$ 123,920

Actual Expenses: \$ 122,959

Budgeted: \$ 130,720

please note

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

7 Marilyn & Craig Smoot
8 Laura & Richard Ficker
9 Pam & Brian Poland
12 JoJo & Bert Hentschel
22 Sharon & Dave Hertzler
26 Bryan & Crystal McPhail

**The deadline for input in the
October newsletter is Sept. 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
Tammy Lewis
Robyn Mills
Jennavon Brown
Jeana Lutz
Gabriella Plaza
Giovanna Curry

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Preschool Director
Preschool Director
Substitute Organist/Pianist
Church Vocalist
One Purpose Director
One Purpose Music 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 September tip:**



*As we get into the more active months of hurricane season, be sure to
have your hurricane plans in place: supplies of non-perishable food &
water for 3 days, flashlights, batteries and a NOAA weather radio. Keep
your phones & laptops charged so you can keep communications open
during a power outage. Check on friends & family who may need support.*

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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Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

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