

MIPC PRESS

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
October 2025



Pastor Christina's Corner

Because of YOU, MIPC changes lives!

What does it take to change a life? Is it a single event, a powerful sermon, or a charismatic leader? The truth is, it's something far more profound: it's the collective, faithful actions of people like you. When we say our church changes lives, it's not because of a grand master plan—it's because of YOU.

Every week, a new chapter is written in our church's story, and every member of our congregation is an author. For some, it's the chapter of a new beginning, a welcoming handshake that eases a newcomer's anxiety. For others, it's the story of quiet, faithful service—a volunteer stocking the food pantry, a teacher mentoring and teaching preschool and school aged children in our weekday programs, spending time with a family who calls MIPC home for a week, or a prayer warrior lifting a weary heart to God. None of these stories would be possible without your investment of: time, talents and treasures.

More Than a Place, It's a People

A church is not a building. It is a people. And because of you, our people are making a tangible difference in our community and the world.

- ◆ Because of your generosity, our food pantry isn't just a place to get groceries; it's a place of hope and dignity for families facing hardship.
- ◆ Because of your time, our faith formation events provide vibrant and safe spaces where the next generation learns about God's love. Your hours of preparation and service in Sunday's Faith Enrichments Classes, women's and men's Bible Study, Performing Arts, and VBS are planting and nurturing seeds that will grow for a lifetime.
- ◆ Because of your compassion, those in the hospital or grieving a loss receive a pastoral visit, a handmade blanket, or a card that reminds them they are not forgotten.
- ◆ Because of your prayer, countless unseen battles are fought and won. You are the faithful intercessors who undergird every ministry and outreach effort.
- ◆ Because of your cheerful spirit, visitors feel welcomed and accepted, not just like a guest but like family.

Pastor Christina's Corner

The Power of Small Acts

It's easy to think that your contribution is too small to matter. But the life-changing power of our church is not found in one heroic act; it's found in the accumulation of countless small, faithful ones. The few extra dollars in the offering basket, the quiet word of encouragement, the consistent presence—these are the powerful ingredients that add up to something transformative.

Just as a single thread is weak on its own but creates a strong fabric when woven together with others, your individual gifts, when brought together with those of your church family, create a powerful force for good.

Thank You for Making a Difference

The impact we see—the changed lives, the hopeful faces, the strengthened community—is a direct result of your dedication. You are the hands and feet of Christ, and your commitment is making a difference not just for our church, but for our wider community and for God's kingdom.

So, the next time you walk through our doors, remember this: the light you see, the fellowship you feel, and the lives you help change are all because of you. Thank you for your faithful service. Thank you for your unwavering commitment. Thank you for being the church.

*In love and gratitude,
Pastor Christina*

Preschool



September brought some cooler weather and we have enjoyed it.

Our new school year has started. This year we said good-bye to a lot of our old students that have been with us for many years, but hopefully we will see most of them back on holidays and spring break. We are starting out our new year with 87 children but we will continue to enroll through the year. Our VPK class is smaller, but sometimes starting with a small class and growing it makes it easier for the teacher. We also have a much smaller staff this year as well.

Our food pantry is completed and is really nice. Our teachers are using it and it really helps out many. We also let some of our parents know that if they need the extra help, it is available to them as well. Thank you to our church family who always gives and keeps our pantry stocked. We really appreciate you.

Blessings to all,

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

As we step into the beauty of fall, our worship services have been a wonderful reminder of God's love and grace. Each week, we've been challenged to grow in faith and encouraged by the strength of our community.

August 31 – Humility and Hospitality

We explored how being vulnerable and being welcoming go hand in hand. Sometimes we need to let others care for us, and other times we're called to care for others—living as true servant-leaders.

September 7 – Loving Hands and Heart (Communion Sunday)

Using the image of a potter, we reflected on both the blessings and the challenges of discipleship. God is always shaping and molding us—like soft clay—even when, or especially when, we're feeling broken or uncertain.

September 14 – On the Way to Being Found

We joyfully welcomed new member Mike Ramos! Through the simple example of Play-Doh, we were reminded that staying safe in our “container” might feel comfortable, but it keeps us from becoming what God intends. Letting God mold and transform us can be uncomfortable, but it's how new life begins.

September 21 – You're Too Young to Be Old

Guest preacher Elder Milt Seapker offered an inspiring message: no matter our age or physical abilities, if we're still here, God has a plan and a purpose for us.

Worship

Looking Ahead:

- Continuing our Stewardship Season with Moments for Mission
- Worship Committee meeting to plan the rest of the year's services
- October 5 – World Communion Sunday
- Recognition of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi - Blessing of the Animals

Every week, worship is made possible by so many dedicated people—preachers, liturgists, musicians, the AV team, and coordinators. I'm deeply grateful for all the hands and hearts that help create a space where everyone feels welcome to experience the presence of God.

If you've ever felt called to join the Worship Committee—or if you have ideas, talents, or feedback to share—I'd love to hear from you. You can reach me at epigayle@gmail.com.



With gratitude,

Gayle Allenback

Worship Elder

Shine Your Light

Blessed to be able to help others....

Lending a hand to help others was instilled in me at a very young age, starting with my “MeeMaw,” Catherine Sellers. MeeMaw raised three children here on Merritt Island, and all three of them have the same giving nature and have passed this trait on within our family.

My Aunt (Shirley Kidd) and I were talking, and she mentioned Mike Ramos’ mission to help other folks who were in a homeless situation. Mike’s devotion and passion inspired me to help him help others. The next few weeks, anytime someone would call and ask how or what I was doing, I would tell them that I was shining my light for all to see, explain about my project, and ask if they would like to help. Sometimes, they would bring me a few things or just send me a few dollars for my Super Shopping and Couponing adventures. Some of the vendors that I deal with just started making donations; others helped me organize the donations into little gift bags.

I live a little over two hours away, so my mom (Jerry Ann Sellers Rountree) and I planned the delivery trip (Mom insisted on paying for the gas to help out). My Uncle Mike and Aunt Pat took us to lunch before we took off for Merritt Island, making it a true family affair.

I have not always been as blessed as I am now. I have needed help, prayed for it, and gotten the help that I needed. I just want to pay that forward. I definitely think differently when I look at my toothbrush, soap, and toilet paper, and think of how most people take those things for granted every day—and how much those same items mean to someone less fortunate than we are.

So please—if you are out and about, “Shine your light for all to see” and pick up a few things to donate for Mike’s mission or the Preschool Food Pantry.

Love,

Tracey DuPont

Shine Your Light

The P.S. to Tracey's story is that she delivered 94 bags of items to Mike Ramos to distribute to the homeless community. Any stray items left over after assembly were donated to the Preschool Food Pantry.



Top left: Mike Ramos & Tracey DuPont

Above: Jerry Ann, Shirley, & Tracey



Bottom left: One of the goody bags Tracey made up

Mission/Outreach

Madagascar Mission Trip of the Mahans August 26-September 10

First, we want to thank you all for the prayers that got Fred and I and our five new mission friends (from Alabama and South Carolina) safely to and from our amazing mission trip to Madagascar. We will never forget this trip. Now what lies ahead is trying to convey to all of you, my excellent congregation, how we can learn from the joyful people of Madagascar and support them in their struggles to do God's work.

Stories to come including an update on the major changes of PC(USA) in regards to all their former mission co-workers.

Cheryl and Fred Mahan



Mission/Outreach

Brevard Sharing Center—Numbers and Possibilities

The Sharing Center sent out an interesting full-of-numbers brochure recently. Cheryl will get you a copy if you would like one. In the brochure: "During the past year, the Sharing Center has provided food assistance to 14,486 individuals, with an eye-opening 23% seeking our help for the first time. This sharp increase in new clients underscores the growing reach of food insecurity in our community, affecting individuals and families who may never have needed support before. Through it all we have remained true to our mission: to be the provider of life's basic needs for those facing crisis in Central Brevard County."

Everyone knows about our domestic government cuts to programs we used to take for granted. I work Mondays at the Sharing Center and can attest to the fact that there is not as much food as there used to be.

One of the ways you can help is to donate canned food (add to the box in the Narthex) or funds to the Sharing Center. Several of us give money annually to the Sharing Center and use the In Lieu of Flowers cans arrangement to let folks know about it. By the way, showers were never reinstated at the Sharing Center though we have a potential volunteer coming in to the area in January who may slip into that unpaid position. Stay tuned...

And, the Sharing Center can always use more volunteers!

Questions: Ask Cheryl Mahan, 321-431-9623

Mission/Outreach

Family Promise Is Here!

As you read this, MIPC will be in the midst of our second hosting—September 28 until October 5th. We are expecting 2 small families—a grandfather and grandson, and a single father with his daughter and son. Thank you so very much to all of you who are helping, especially this hosting time when so many folks are out of town. Please keep track of the number of hours you put into the effort as we report those to the Firehouse.

Family Promise Volunteer Appreciation Supper September 18th.

Only a few of us (June Hutchinson, Frances Fernald and the Mahans) were able to attend the bodacious appreciation supper this month at Suntree United Methodist but it was so much fun to catch up on how Family Promise is growing in their activities and ways of reaching out to help our community, especially the Cocoa community. Not only are they focused on housing homeless families with children, they also are working hard on mentoring programs for Cocoa High, and helping folks understand the health and job opportunities. And they had a bunch of FP bling to share!

Perhaps the most exciting (and nearby) news is that FP will be updating and using a 4 bedroom home beside Tapestry Church (north of and across Courtenay Pkwy from Jefferson Middle School) as a “static” site. As you know, much of the time FP is housing at hotels which drains funds quickly. A static site will allow families to stay for several weeks at a time when we do not have churches available to house them. But before the site is usable it will need landscaping, painting, etc. So look for me to be asking for volunteers to help.

Stay tuned.

Love,

Cheryl Mahan & Frances Fernald

Finance

	YTD as of 8/31/25
General Fund Revenue:	153,922
General Fund Expenses:	142,618
General Fund Net Revenue:	11,304
Preschool Revenue:	416,271
Preschool Expenses:	449,581
Preschool Net Revenue:	(33,310)

The church is ahead of the budgeted income for the year, and under budget for expenses, which leaves us roughly \$11,304 net income to date.

As August was a “3-paycheck” month, Preschool added to their deficit during this month. We look to the start of the new school year to re-adjust and take stock.

Our budget process for 2026 has begun, as has our Stewardship campaign, *Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives*. Look for speakers in worship to attest to the changes MIPC is making in the lives of our congregation and community. This is the time to begin prayerfully considering your 2026 pledge.

Mike Smith
Finance Chair

Mutual Aid Brevard



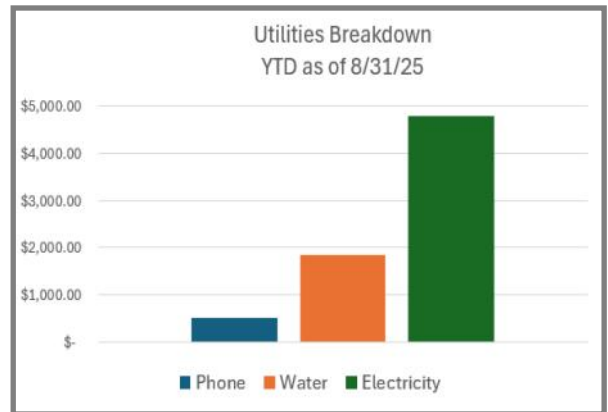
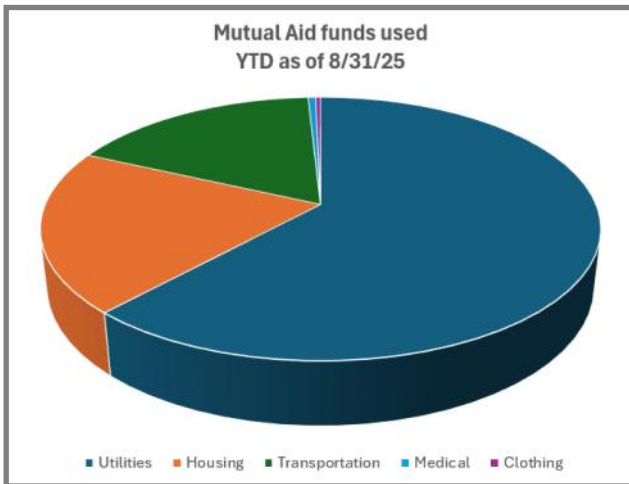
Here are a couple of charts indicating the activity of the Mutual Aid Brevard group this year to date. As you can see, the vast majority of group expense was utility assistance. And the vast majority of utility assistance requests are for electric bills. The amounts of these bills

have averaged much higher in 2025 due to rate increases and a very warm summer.

Our group continues to be a welcome reminder that residents of Brevard are here for each other. So many requests for groceries, gas, mechanical help, home repairs, and advice on local resources are granted right from the group, members helping other members as they are able.

We are grateful to MIPC for their sponsorship which allows us to keep a bank account under the MIPC name (operated completely independently from church funds), and access to the Florida State tax exemption.

You can see more by viewing the public group Mutual Aid Brevard at www.facebook.com/groups/mutualaidbrevard.



Deacons/Stephen Ministry

Our next Deacon meeting will be on October 13, 2025
at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



"Love one another as I have loved you." John 13:34

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."
Romans 12:15*

A Stephen Minister is a Christian lay person who walks side by side with Jesus and with one in crisis, showing love and encouragement through the crisis. A crisis may be someone grieving the loss of a loved one, or someone terminally ill, or a victim of a disaster, or many other situations of stress and loneliness. Stephen Ministers have 50 hours of training to minister to the needs of those in crisis. Although Stephen Ministers are not problem solvers (that is God's part), we are available to offer support as a concerned brother or sister in Christ. All conversations with a Stephen Minister are held in strictest confidence, so no one needs to know except for those people you want to know.

If you or someone you know may desire the support of a Stephen Minister, please contact either Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (321-223-4841). MIPC has a strong Stephen Minister program in partnership with Grace Methodist church.

Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions

We have an amazing group of performers for our Fall semester!

Their Christmas show is:

**CAMEL LOT,
DON'T MISS THE MANGER**

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, mipcffm@gmail.com.

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MIPCPPerformingArts

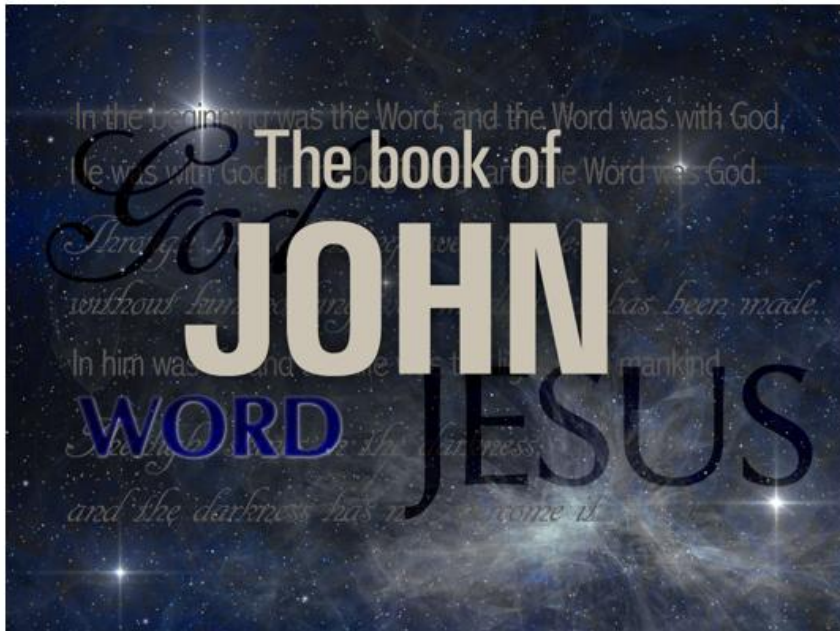


Faith Formation Ministries

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*

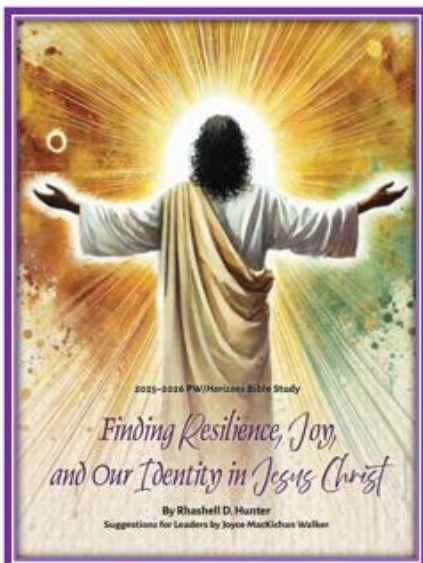
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

October 3rd & 31st @ 2:00 p.m.



Our new study is led by Julie Hill and is titled "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"

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

Please note that on October 3rd we will meet in Hobbs Hall due to our Family Promise guests.

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 October 8th & 22nd.

**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.



**Decorate a Trunk, Share a Smile,
Spread God's Love!**

Car Decorating Contest

Games & Prizes

Cookout

Food Tickets \$2.00 Each



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, September 8th @ 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 Milt Seapker & 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 October 3rd & 24th. Our new study is *"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"* led by Julie Hill.
 - d. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group: Meeting dates are October 8th & 22nd.
 - 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, October 6th @ 1:00 p.m.

Happy Halloween & Blessings to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Patricia Smith & Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 Rita Rhinehart
- 6 Will Buchanan
- 6 JoJo Hentschel
- 6 Annika Russo
- 9 Mary Lou Tipton
- 9 Shirley Kidd
- 14 Carolyn Shuford
- 15 June Downen
- 20 Laurie King
- 22 Dustin Gardner
- 23 Ed Carden
- 24 Sharon Hertzler
- 26 Bryan McPhail
- 27 Brittney Fjeldheim
- 28 Mary Hoffman
- 28 Bob Willett
- 29 Dave Hertzler
- 29 Kathy Porche



BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 8/31/25

Actual Revenue: \$ 153,922

Budgeted: \$ 142,140

Actual Expenses: \$ 142,618

Budgeted: \$ 152,718

please note

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 13 Heidi & Keith Dutter
- 16 Tammy & Lloyd Lewis
- 19 Peg & Tom Boekhout

**The deadline for input in the
November newsletter is Oct. 24**



*The MIPC Press is printed by the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church,
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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 October tip:**



*Halloween approaches! You can be mindful of the environment when
planning your Halloween handouts: * Buy candy wrapped in recyclable
materials like aluminum foil (Hershey Kisses) or cardboard boxes (Junior
Mints). *Use reusable bags: Instead of a plastic bucket, give trick-or-
treaters a reusable tote bag, pillowcase, or basket to collect their candy.
*Consider non-candy alternatives: Give out reusable or low-waste treats
like stickers, crayons, pencils, or small Halloween-themed rubber stamps. .*

Do you have a tip to share? Contact mipresbyterian@gmail.com.

Please contact the church office if we can assist you in any way.



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Preschool phone number: 321-453-1640

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

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