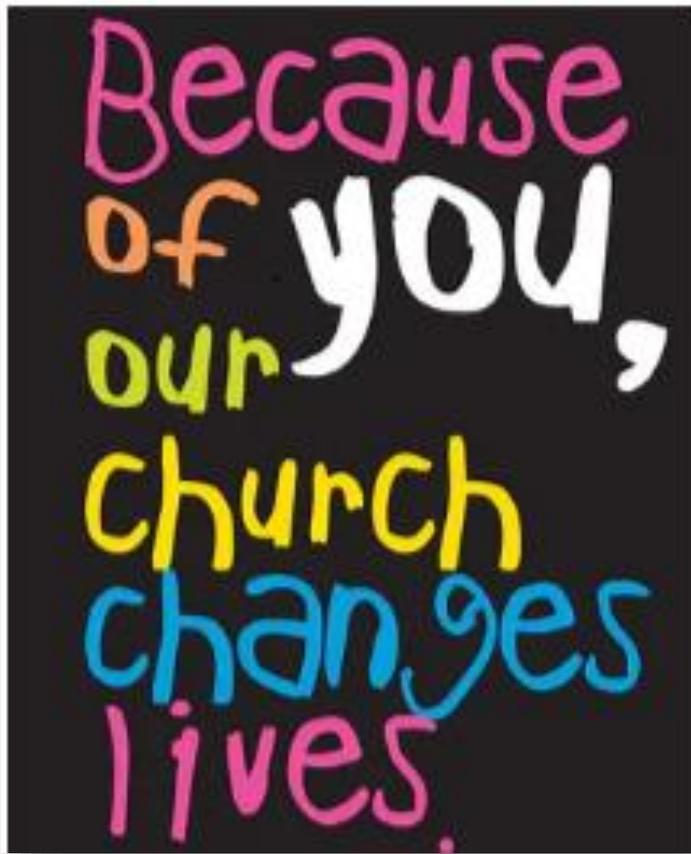


# ***MIPC PRESS***

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church  
November 2025**



Because  
of you,  
our  
church  
changes  
lives.

# Pastor Christina's Corner

This November, as we approach Thanksgiving, our thoughts naturally turn to gratitude. It is a time for counting our blessings—the warmth of family, the comfort of home, and the richness of our shared life and community at Merritt Island Presbyterian Church. But this year, let us consider what it means to be grateful not just for what we have, but for the very abundance of God that makes all our blessings possible. Let us also be mindful of those who truly live in scarcity and how we can continue to look for ways to bless those around us through the mission and ministry of MIPC as we continue to make a difference.

The world around us often operates from a place of scarcity. We are told there is never enough—never enough time, never enough money, never enough resources to meet every need. This mindset can creep into our spiritual lives, tempting us to see our giving as a burdensome obligation rather than a joyous privilege.

Yet, our faith tells a different story. It tells us that our God is a God of wild, shocking, and unfailing generosity. God's grace is free and unmerited and that our call is to respond with gratitude that overflows with generosity. This is the central truth of stewardship: not that we are giving from a place of lack, but that we are giving back from God's own overflowing gift.

In the book of Exodus, we see God's generosity on full display, providing manna for the Israelites in the desert. There was always enough for that day, and the people learned to trust in God's daily provision. Jesus echoes this theme, inviting us to move from a narrow focus on self-interest and fear into the spaciousness of gratitude and community. When we shift our perspective, we begin to see that everything is God's—our time, our talents, and our treasures. We are not the owners, but the faithful stewards of what has been entrusted to our care.

When you make a pledge of your time, talent, and treasure to Merritt Island Presbyterian Church, you are not just helping us "make the budget." You are participating in God's ongoing work of love and reconciliation in our community and beyond – it is through YOU that MIPC makes a difference! Your giving is a foundational rock that supports every aspect of our shared ministry. Each person has a part to play in carrying out Christ's mission through MIPC.

# Pastor Christina's Corner

Your financial commitment keeps our doors open, our programs running, and our staff supported. It allows us to continue our outreach missions and plan for our shared future with confidence. Your financial commitments help to share the good news of Christ's love beyond the walls of the sanctuary as we step out in faith to serve and love our community.

Your time and talents are equally vital. Whether you are teaching Faith Enrichment Classes, a Bible Study, serving on a committee, serving as a deacon, making prayer shawls, collecting food, helping give aid to our community, teaching at the preschool, or visiting a homebound member, you are using the gifts God has given you to build up Christ's body – you are making a difference.

If you are looking for a way to get involved or you have a talent you can share let us know!

Your testimony—your personal story of how God is at work in your life and in our church—builds up our community and inspires others to join in. We invite you to share stories of how you have seen MIPC make a difference with friends, family, on social media, in our MIPC newsletter (you can send newsletter contributions to Leslie Mitchell at [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:mipresbyterian@gmail.com) by the 15th of each month).

This month, as we celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 16, we invite you to prayerfully consider your annual pledge. This pledge is a covenant—a promise not just to the church, but to God—to continue living a life of faithful generosity.

As a reminder, generosity is a learned practice. The more we give, the more we learn the joy of cheerful giving, and the more we grow into the likeness of Christ.

Thank you for your generous spirit, for your unwavering faith, and for being an essential part of our beloved church family.

*Love,*

*Pastor Christina*

# Preschool



October started out very sad for our Preschool. We lost one of our little 2 year olds. Boone lost his life in a tragic accident. We would like continued prayers for his family as they are still mourning - and we appreciate all the prayers for his family, friends, classmates and teachers.

Fall is upon us and the cooler weather has been very refreshing. I hope we keep it for a while.

Our Trunk or Treat was enjoyed by many even though there was a bit of wet weather. Everything was great, we didn't run out of chili or hot dogs this year, we had a lot of decorated cars and folks handing out candy— the children got plenty, which made for big smiles.

We will be assembling holiday food baskets for Preschool staff and families. The list of needs is on the following page. We greatly appreciate any and all contributions!

It's hard to believe we are almost through the year of 2025. In less than 3 months we will be cheering on 2026.

May God continue to bless the church and Preschool always. Thank you all for your continued support and Prayers.

Blessings to all,

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

## **HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES**

We will be assembling our annual holiday baskets for preschool staff and families. If you can help, choose some items from the list below and bring to the preschool or church office by November 17. Thank you!

**GIFT CARDS TO WALMART AND/OR PUBLIX**

**FRUIT CUPS**

**STUFFING MIX**

**KID FRIENDLY CEREAL**

**GRAVY**

**FLAVORED INSTANT OATMEAL**

**INSTANT MASHED POTATOES**

**MAC-N-CHEESE**

**PIE FILLING AND CRUST**

**CORN**

**SWEET POTATOES/YAMS**

**CLEANING PRODUCTS**

**PAPER TOWELS**

**TOILET PAPER**

**LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

**DISH SOAP**



# Worship

As we've firmly settled into fall, our worship services have continued to remind us of God's love and grace. Each week, we've been invited to grow in faith, inspired by some different voices from the pulpit.

Here's a look back at recent worship highlights:

- September 28 – Pastor Christina's message "Wake Up", cautioned us about the ramifications of "hitting the snooze button" when God sounds an alarm in our lives.
- October 5 – World Communion Sunday – We celebrated the gift of unity in Christ, reflected on the mustard seed of faith, and introduced pet prayer cards in the narthex for subdued celebration of Blessing of the Animals. Pastor Christina's message, "Acting in Faith > Growing More Faith," encouraged us to trust God's work in our lives, no matter how small our faith at any particular moment may be.
- October 12 – Guest preacher Joel Kelly shared "That's Gratitude for You," reminding us that faith isn't about how much we have, but who we place it in—and that thanking God in all things can transform our hearts.
- October 19 – While many attended the Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Georgia, Milt returned to the pulpit with his message, "What Are You So Happy About?", and even brought cheery yellow balloons to symbolize joy (and to fill in missing faces!).
- October 26 – Pastor Christina returned to the pulpit with the message "With What Shall I Come Before the Lord?" based on Micah 6:1-8.

Coming up:

- November 2 – All Saints Remembrance / Communion Sunday
- November 9 – Pastor Joel Kelly preaching, while Pastor Christina is at a Mid-Council event hosted by the Office of General Assembly in Louisville
- November 16 – Commitment Sunday; Pastor Oliver Wells leading worship (as Pastor Christina returns from Louisville late in the week), followed by our annual Thanksgiving Feast in Hobbs Hall
- November 23 – Hanging of the Greens after worship as we prepare our hearts and space for Advent

Each week, worship is made possible through the dedication of so many—our preachers, liturgists, musicians, AV team, and coordinators. I'm deeply grateful for every person who helps create a space where all are welcome to encounter the presence of God.

In closing, with a nod to the end of Clergy/Pastor Appreciation Month (October), I want to share some words from a recent post by the Synod of South Atlantic:

“Remember that your pastoral staff is called to lead. They are not called to be soothing chaplains or false prophets in order to make everyone ‘happy’. Your staff is called to be deeply faithful in ways which may conflict with societal values of ‘success’. Such a leading can be tremendously uncomfortable and challenging. Be generous with your encouragement and careful with critiques. Remember to speak directly to – and with – your pastoral staff (not other people in the community or congregation) when you are concerned about a particular issue. Think long and hard, discern and pray, before offering a concern to your staff to be sure that it is a viable concern vs. a personal preference.”



With gratitude,

*Gayle Allenback*

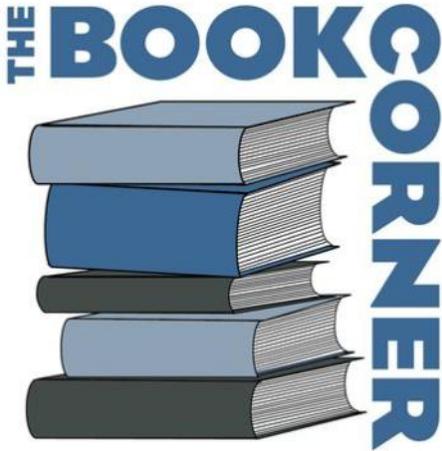
*Worship Elder*

# Memorial Garden Workday

A team of 11 workers met in September to weed and clean up our Memorial Garden. We accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. Pam served a delicious lunch afterward. Thank, volunteers!



# Book Corner / Thank You



One of our newer “regulars,” Barbara Giel, gave the church a copy of a book she enjoyed. It is available in the church office on the receptionist’s desk for anyone to take—no need to formally check it out.

Our church library, with over 500 items, ran out of space to permanently add books but you might come into the church office and see the other great books we have covering the entire south wall of the church office!

Barbara’s gift to us is WHY I BELIEVE by D. James Kennedy.

*Questions? Ask Cheryl Mahan, 321-431-9623*

+++++



Merritt Island Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for supporting Church World Service’s Blankets & Tools programs! We are grateful to have you as a partner in mission and ministry. Your \$345 in gifts this year will provide warm blankets and the tools needed for a brighter tomorrow. Thank you,

Rev. Tiffany DeTienne  
Development Operations Coordinator  
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

# Synod of South Atlantic



Did you know that MIPC is a member church in the Synod of South Atlantic (SoSA)? This Synod includes PC(USA) churches in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina.

In this month's SoSA newsletter, there are TWO featured articles from MIPC staff. Pastor Christina authored the article entitled "Because of YOU, SoSA changes lives!" This is an expansion of MIPC's stewardship theme for 2025, "Because of YOU, this church changes lives!"

The other article comes from our Preschool Co-Director Robyn Mills. Her article ran in our newsletter in August 2025 and the Synod found it worthy to repeat in their own newsletter. It was about her receiving training in "Trauma-Informed Care" which was made possible by grants from the Synod and Central Florida Presbytery.

You can learn more about our Synod, and read the full articles, at their website

<https://www.synodofsouthatlantic.org/>

## Family Promise Wrap-up for September/October Hosting

The two families we hosted from Sept. 28-Oct. 5 were sent on to the next hosting church, Suntree Methodist.

We showed them just how much we care about their success as they search for affordable housing. FP asks us to keep track of about how many hours our volunteers put into the program—the meals, the overnights, set-up and tear down, planning, shopping, and communicating (I hope 6 emails wasn't excessive!).

So here are the numbers for the week: **23 MIPC folks put in 383 hours!**

We hope you feel, as Frances and I do, that it was worth it. We are very proud of our generous congregation!

Many of our folks were out of town for this hosting and we hope they will return for our **January 18-25, 2026 hosting.**

And, please, if you have suggestions for us, we would appreciate them!

In the meantime, please accept Frances' and my sincere thanks. Together we did an excellent job!

*Cheryl Mahan and Frances Fernald*



*Cheryl & Gayle enjoying Family Promise leftover goodies*

P.S. By the time you read this we will have started sheltering families, when there are no signed-up hosting churches, in a "static site" close to Jefferson Middle School. This will save FP resources which are depleted quickly if hotels are the only option.

# Finance

	YTD as of 9/30/25
<b>General Fund Revenue:</b>	163,819
<b>General Fund Expenses:</b>	158,993
<b>General Fund Net Revenue:</b>	<b>4,826</b>
<b>Preschool Revenue:</b>	459,867
<b>Preschool Expenses:</b>	495,680
<b>Preschool Net Revenue:</b>	<b>(35,813)</b>

We are actively working on the budget for 2026 for both Church and Preschool. As we enter this Stewardship season, we ask for prayers for our Church and Preschool and our many missions.

Our stewardship theme, *Because of YOU, Our Church Changes Lives*, brings to mind the many ways in which MIPC impacts lives not only in our congregation and school, but in the community and the world. When you receive the church's communications about next year's commitment, we invite you to reflect on how our discipleship relates to our resources. We hope you will join us in making your commitment for 2026.

Commitment cards will be mailed, and also available at the church, but you can also quickly and easily make your 2026 pledge by visiting this [link](https://forms.gle/DQ8hmqjJU4rXVSdD6).  
(<https://forms.gle/DQ8hmqjJU4rXVSdD6>)

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

*Mike Smith*  
*Finance Chair*

# Deacons/Stephen Ministry

Our next Deacon meeting will be on November 10, 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



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## WHAT ARE STEPHEN MINISTERS



Stephen Ministers are laypeople trained in the congregation by their Stephen Leaders to provide one-on-one Christ centered care to hurting people. These are people with a compassionate heart who have been equipped with the skills to listen, encourage, and offer support when someone is in need. Those needs may include experiencing grief, divorce, cancer, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disabilities, loneliness, or other life struggles. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week.

MIPC has a strong Stephen Minister group working in partnership with Grace Methodist church. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact either Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (321-223-4841). All conversations are held in strictest confidence.

# Faith Formation Ministries



## One Purpose Productions

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

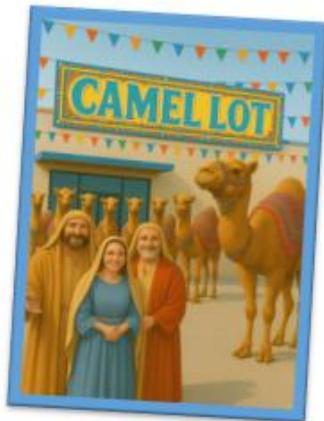
Their Christmas show is:

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

Save the Dates!

**Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:gplaza104@gmail.com) or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext.1003, [mipcffm@gmail.com](mailto:mipcffm@gmail.com).



Like us on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/MIPPCPerformingArts](http://www.facebook.com/MIPPCPerformingArts)



# Faith Formation Ministries



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

**Join us for a new study with Milt Seapker & 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-6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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*

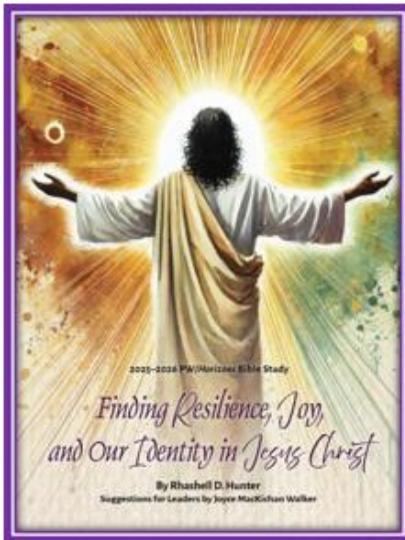
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

**Fabulous Fridays!**

November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 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 contact Julie Hill for more information and questions.  
[cjzhill@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.**

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

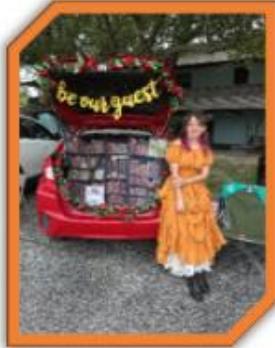
**Come join us for a time of Bible study and fun activities!**

**Meeting dates are November 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please contact Milt at 910-580-9344 or [milton.s43@aol.com](mailto:milton.s43@aol.com) if you are interested in attending.**

# Faith Formation Ministries

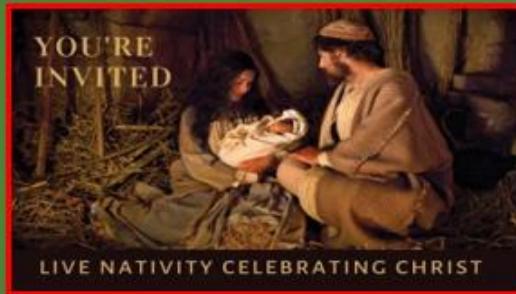
Our Fall Festival was fantastic! Here are some pictures to enjoy!



# Faith Formation Ministries



# Faith Formation Ministries



## **Merritt Island Presbyterian Church**

### **Live Nativity & Preschool Christmas Pageant**

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30 p.m.**

**600 S. Tropical Trail-Sanctuary & Memorial Garden**

**Come and join us as our Preschool children present the  
Christmas story.**

[www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)

**Like us on Facebook!**

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

# Faith Formation Ministries

## **Plans for FFM Activities:**

1. Our committee met on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 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 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 date is November 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 November 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Live Nativity & Preschool Christmas Pageant: Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m.
  - f. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00 p.m.

**Happy Thanksgiving & Blessings to all!**

**Pamela Poland**

**Faith Formation Ministries Associate**

**Patricia Smith & Milt Seapker**

**Faith Formation Ministries Elders**



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

- 5 Oscar Toledo
- 6 Phil Thress
- 8 Joseph Neihouse
- 9 Janet Post
- 13 Jones Hand
- 13 Oscar Toledo Jr.
- 14 Jo Shill
- 14 Mike Ramos
- 21 Crystal McPhail
- 22 Tammy Lewis
- 24 John Shuford
- 26 Marcia Wilcox
- 28 Kenneth McPhail



## BUDGET UPDATE

### YTD As of 9/30/25

Actual Revenue:	\$ 163,819
Budgeted:	\$ 159,993
Actual Expenses:	\$ 158,993
Budgeted:	\$ 171,162

**please note**

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

- 5 John & Betsy Heenan
- 19 Chuck & June Downen

**The deadline for input in the  
December newsletter is Nov. 19**



*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 November tip:**



*To have a sustainable Thanksgiving, reduce food waste by planning portions and repurposing leftovers, shop locally and in bulk to minimize packaging, and use reusable or compostable dishware and decorations. You can also lower energy consumption by cooking dishes together.*

*Do you have a tip to share? Contact [mipresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mipresbyterian@gmail.com)**

**Preschool email: [MIPCPreschool@gmail.com](mailto:MIPCPreschool@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.merrittislandpc.org](http://www.merrittislandpc.org)**

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