

MIPC PRESS

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
February 2026



Pastor Christina's Corner



As we move into February, **Merritt Island Presbyterian Church (MIPC)** remains dedicated to bringing the Gospel "past the sanctuary doors" and into our daily lives. This month, we express our love for God and our neighbors through service, leadership, and the start of our Lenten journey. I continue to have the theme of "love in action" for chapel time with our Preschool Children. Our theme verse John 15:12 reads, *My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

Serving Our Community and Growing Our Family

Our commitment to "Love in Action" begins with honoring the service of our youth.

February 8 – Scout Sunday & New Member Welcome: We celebrate local scouts during our morning service. Afterward, those interested in joining MIPC as we live our mission to be a witness of the love of Christ can attend a New Member Class; after worship stay for a time of Fellowship Tea in the Activities Room—a perfect time to practice the radical hospitality that defines our church family.

Leadership and Discernment

Loving a community also means caring for its future and its governance.

Pastor Christina's Corner

February 15 – Called Congregational Meeting: Join us immediately following worship to elect new Elders and a Nominating Committee. This is a vital moment to support those who will guide our ministry and outreach efforts in the coming year.

The Lenten Journey: Reflection and Repentance

Ash Wednesday marks a transition toward deep reflection and spiritual discipline.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Services:

10:00 AM: Family Chapel (welcoming our youngest disciples)

4:00 PM: Contemplative Prayer Service

5:00 PM: Community Soup Dinner (Hobbs Hall)

7:00 PM: Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship with the imposition of ashes

A Season of Transition

February 22 – Special Gathering & Farewell to Jeana Lutz: We are honored to host Special Gathering during our worship on February 22. This will also be a bittersweet day as we celebrate Jeana's last Sunday as our vocalist at MIPC. We encourage everyone to attend and show Jenna "love in action" by offering blessings and gratitude for her dedicated ministry among us.

Pastor Christina's Corner

Ways to Get Involved This Month

Black History Month begins Feb. 1. Black Presbyterians have been an integral part of the flourishing of what it means to be Presbyterian and how this denomination has developed despite racism, segregation, and discrimination. Resources are available at pcusa.org/black-history-month.

Heavenly Handmade: Join our crafters every other Wednesday to create prayer shawls, lap blankets, and other necessities for local hospitals and the unsheltered.

Ash Wednesday Soup Dinner: Stop by Feb. 18 between 5:15pm and 6:30pm and enjoy a time of fellowship in the Activities room. If you would like to bring a dessert or accompaniment to soup to share feel free, or just come as you are. Lorrie Peek is making her famous Loaded Potato Soup and Pastor Christina is bringing soup as well.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Blue T-Shirt Sunday: The first Sunday of Lent (Feb. 22) is designated "Wear Your Blue T-shirt to Church" Sunday as a testament to one of the ways One Great Hour Of Sharing makes a difference.

Support & Prayer: If you are hurting, our Stephen Ministry offers one-to-one, Christ-centered care. Reach out to your Deacons to share if you have prayer needs. Visit a church member for Valentine's Day to spread of love of Christ in relationship.

As we move from the season of Epiphany and the joy of Christmas into the reflective season of Lent, it is meaningful to pause and reflect on the worship we have shared together—and to look ahead to what is still to come.

Highlights from Recent Worship

- January 4 – Epiphany Sunday: We celebrated Epiphany with communion, the choir’s anthem “Wise Men Still Seek Him,” and the men’s chorus portraying the Three Kings as they brought their gifts, accompanied by Joyce on the piano/organ. Pastor Christina concluded our Advent and Christmas sermon series with “What Do You Fear? Fear Doesn’t Stop Us!”
- January 11: Pastor Christina preached “The Waters of Identity and the Call to Justice,” accompanied by a tangible and moving illustration of washing off written words of sin from cards as a symbol of God’s cleansing grace. We also introduced our star word for 2026—JOY—and extend thanks to all who helped “de-green” the sanctuary following worship.
- January 18: In her message, “The Joy of the Call and the Weight of the Cross,” Pastor Christina reminded us that sacrifice must be revisited in the face of today’s challenges, trusting that God will sustain us. The visual of fractals coming together into a stunning kaleidoscope image beautifully reinforced this theme.
- January 25: Worship was enriched by the addition of drums to our music, along with Jeana’s heartfelt singing of The Lord’s Prayer. Pastor Christina preached “The Great Light in Our Midst,” and our Annual Congregational Meeting followed the service.

Worship

Looking Ahead:

- February 1: Communion
- February 8: Scout Sunday, New Members Class following worship, and High Tea in the Activities Room after the service.
- February 15: Joyce will be substituting for Jennavon as organist/pianist, and the Men's Choir will be singing. We will welcome New Members, and have a Congregational Meeting to elect new Elders and a Nominating Committee.
- February 18: Ash Wednesday, with a soup supper between the afternoon (4 PM) and evening (7 PM) services. Both services will include the imposition of ashes.
- February 22: Jeana's final Sunday as our vocalist. (Thank you, Jeana, for the many years of sharing your vocal glories!) Choral group Special Gathering will sing our special music as Jeana leads hymns for us one last time.

Finally, this is my last worship article, as I conclude my time serving as Worship Committee Chair/Worship Elder. I have truly enjoyed this year of learning more about all of the deliberate and thoughtful planning that goes into our worship services (there's a LOT, and by a multitude of individuals, not the least of which is our pastor!), and I hope you have benefited—and will continue to benefit—from the improvements we were able to facilitate.



*With love and gratitude,
Gayle Allenback
Your “outgoing” Worship Elder*

Our 3 Kings on Epiphany: Mike Ramos, John Shuford & Fred Mahan



Happy February!



January was a quiet month for the Preschool as we all adjusting to the changes in our leadership. We had our first staff meeting of the year to discuss ways that we can continue to grow and improve ourselves and our classrooms. These conversations allow us to better support our students and families while maintaining a positive and nurturing learning environment.

As we move into February, we are excited to welcome a month filled with warmth, learning, and special moments. We are now looking forward to our Valentine's Day class parties and all the fun activities that come with them! These celebrations provide meaningful opportunities for children to practice kindness, friendship, and social skills in a joyful and supportive setting.

Sand for Smiles: Your Small Gift, Their Big Smiles!

Our sandbox is in need of some sand! Each gift of \$6 helps to fill the preschool sandbox with 50 pounds of sand. If you are able to donate, please mark your check or envelope "Sand for Smiles."

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a wonderful month ahead!

Robyn Mills, Preschool Director

Synod of South Atlantic



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for a churchwide film study on "Evicting the American Dream"

MONDAYS IN FEBRUARY
7:30-8:45 PM (EST)

*REGISTRATION OPENS IN JANUARY

PREBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

Join with PC(USA) friends for a churchwide film study on *Evicting the American Dream*, produced by Counter Stories Productions. This documentary explores homelessness, the U.S. housing crisis, and its impact on children. The online gatherings will take place once a week on Mondays throughout February. Participants will hear from featured speakers and engage in conversations about redlining, housing commodification, eviction, the effects of housing insecurity on children, and practical ways our churches and communities can respond.

Advance registration is required to receive the meeting links and instructions for viewing each week's film segment. More information is available at: [Evicting the American Dream | Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) Interpretation to Spanish will be available.

Churchwide film study: "Evicting the American Dream"
Mondays 7:30-8:45pm EST: February 2, 9, 16, 23

To register click [here](#) or visit synodofsouthatlantic.org.



CWS Kits and Blankets

Look What You Made Possible Last Year

Dear Friend,

As partners in the ministry of CWS Kits and CWS Blankets, you and your congregation helped share hope in so many meaningful ways last year.

During difficult days, families felt comforted, cared for and supported because of you. Your choice to give, to organize, to assemble and to show up with compassion made all the difference.

Each hygiene kit, kids kit, period pack, cleanup bucket and blanket represents someone who experienced dignity and encouragement because of your generosity.

Thank you for being part of a community that continues to extend love to neighbors here at home and around the world.

Mission/Outreach



Valentine's Day Fundraiser for Madagascar

February has traditionally been the month when MIPC and other Presbyterian churches in Brevard have worked to support mission activities in other parts of the world. This year we are hoping to make our mission outreach to Madagascar become an annual event as we focus on a scholarship to one student every year. The FJKM (The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar—*Fiangonana'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasicara*) makes education a huge part of their holistic substantial activities. FJKM pays for 800 schools throughout the country, supporting 400,000 students, taught by 5,000 teachers. They need more teachers!

We would like to raise \$1500. This would pay for one student pursuing a teaching degree for one year's expenses.

If you would like to have a special Valentine card (including a lovingly embroidered bookmark) sent to someone in honor of or in memory of someone showing your support of this education mission, please contribute to this effort. The cards will be sent out as fast as possible!

Please make checks out to MIPC and note that it is for the Madagascar Scholarship.

For more information ask Cheryl (321-431-9623) who went to Madagascar last fall. She is hoping to do an hour session on her experiences there soon.

Mission/Outreach



2024 Graduates of FJKM Teacher Training College

Average Cost for 1 Student during 3 Year at Program at FJKM Teacher Training College (IFRP)		
01	Book allowance and School materials	\$ 300
02	Food expenses	\$ 2,800
03	Travel expenses for internships during 2 nd year	\$ 250
04	Expenses while carrying out the research work (includes computer) and graduation expenses	\$ 600
05	Travel to and from home outside capital (3x)	\$ 400
06	Administration for program	\$ 150
TOTAL FOR 3 YEAR PROGRAM		\$ 4,500

Mission/Outreach



Heavenly Handmade ladies assembling gift packets for our homebound friends



Each gift basket had a deck of cards, a pen with a pull-out scripture page, a homemade ornament, Kleenex, cookies, nuts, candy, and notecards.

Family Promise Thanks, Statistics, and Next Hosting

To the 23 MIPC folks who took an active part in the January 18-25th hosting just past: THANK YOU SO MUCH!

As requested by the Family Promise organization we collected ballpark statistics that tell us we at MIPC gave at least 400 hours to this successful effort for the two families we hosted. We continue to learn about how to host even more efficiently and lovingly. And we need to plan on future hosting which may involve more families.

We have taken to heart *Semper Gumby*—always flexible.

One of the two families we sheltered is now in a house of their own while the other family of 7 continues to be housed in participating FP churches for the near future. Good news: Both of the moms have recently found employment.

Our next hosting will be September 20-27, 2026 and we look forward to your continued help and enthusiasm!

Frances Fernald and Cheryl Mahan, co-coordinators



Finance

	YTD as of 12/31/25
General Fund Revenue:	203,883
General Fund Expenses:	215,918
General Fund Net Revenue:	-12,035
Preschool Revenue:	585,026
Preschool Expenses:	622,330
Preschool Net Revenue:	-37,304

The year -end figures show a church loss of \$12,035, which is about 28% less of a deficit than we budgeted. We are grateful for our donors! Whether you tithe regularly or just give what you can, when you can, it all contributes to the church's operations and missions.

While the Preschool loss of \$37,304 is not optimal, it is actually a big improvement over 2024. As the preschool adjusts to new levels of income, both from enrollment and from state funding, their 2026 budget reflects a projected further improvement in finances.

Finance Committee

Deacons/Stephen Ministry

Our next Deacon meeting will be on February 9, 2026 at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



"We can't fix things, but we can walk along with people who are hurting."
Bob Beers, Stephen Minister

"Each time we met, I could feel the burden lighten."
Stephen Minister care receiver



"My Stephen Minister is more than a trusted friend. In her presence I experience God's grace. I feel cared for, strengthened, and supported. She is truly a gift."
Stephen Minister care receiver

The above are actual quotes from Stephen Ministers and their care receivers, confirming the value of a Stephen Minister relationship. Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training to include listening skills, specific ministry situations, Christian caregiving, and more. Much of what a Stephen Minister does is listening without judgement. Confidentiality is key to Stephen Ministry. All conversations and identities of care receivers are strictly confidential.

MIPC, in partnership with Grace Methodist church, has a strong Stephen Minister program. If you, or anyone you know, believes that you have a need for a Stephen Minister, or if you would like to learn more, please contact either our Pastor or Craig Smoot (321-223-4841).

High Tea

High Tea

Join us for an elegant affair filled with delightful conversations, exquisite teas, and a delectable assortment of sweet and savory treats.

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026

11:00 AM (after worship)

MIPC Activities Room

Hosted by Anne Cole and Grace Klutschkowski



Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions



We're three weeks into our Spring semester and we have 16 fabulous youth joining us! We are excited to announce that we will be performing an all original stage play written by our wonderful and talented Performing Arts Director, Gabriella Plaza-Jeffery!

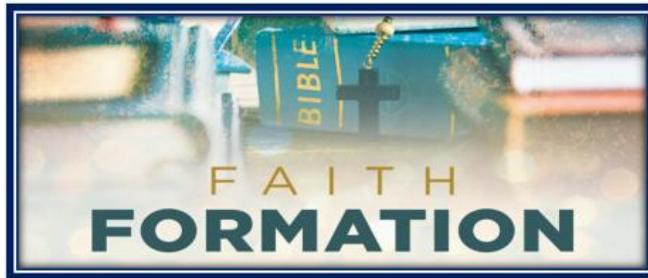


If you know anyone who might be interested in joining this amazing ministry for our Fall semester please contact our Director, Gabriella Plaza-Jeffery @ 321-747-5881, gplaza104@gmail.com or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224, 321-452-5689 ext.1003, mipcffm@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook!

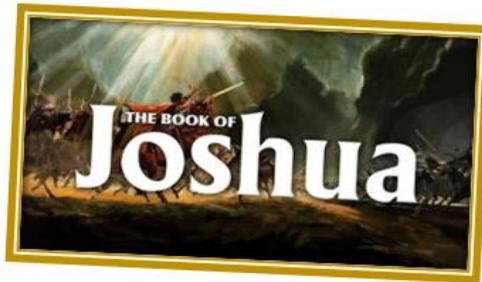
www.facebook.com/MIPCPerformingArts

Faith Formation Ministries



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

**Join us for a study on the Books of Joshua & Judges with
Milt Seapker & Dave Hertzler!**



The Book of Joshua details the Israelites' entry into Canaan, the conquest of the land and its division among the twelve tribes, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham. The Book of Judges chronicles Israel's turbulent history after Joshua's death, covering a 300-year period of cyclical disobedience, foreign oppression, and divine deliverance.



Join us for a special study starting on February 22nd.

**Come join us in person or on Zoom!
The link to join will be sent out with your weekly bulletin.**

Faith Formation Ministries

Women's Ministry

*Renewing minds,
Transforming lives*

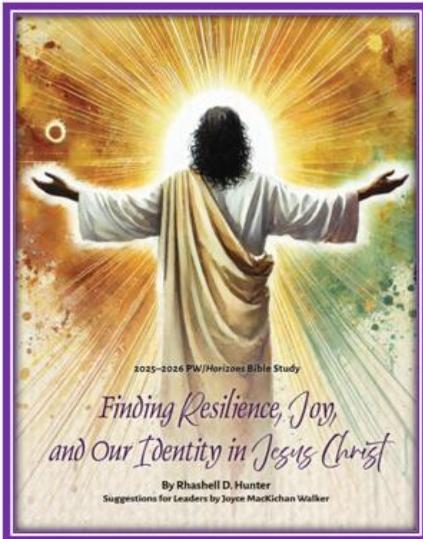
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

February 6th & 20th @ 2:00 p.m.



Our 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 or 321-431-5333*



Faith Formation Ministries

Presbyterian Women of Central Florida Annual Gathering



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Building Resilience: Time to Reflect, Reframe, and Reach out

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
1655 Peel Avenue
Orlando, Florida

8:45 – 9:15 Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30 – 10:45 Worship
11:15 -12:00
12:15- 1:00 Lunch / shop mission craft tables
1:15 – 2:00 Workshop

Please bring money for the offering at the morning service. The offering will be used for a Mission organization.

You will have an opportunity to shop at lunch from the craft tables provided by the Cuba and Peru Mission groups.

We are also asking you bring something off this list for our PW sisters in Cuba. It will be taken this month with the Cuba Mission trip: Lipstick, Mascara, Hand cream, Eyeshadow, Eyeliner, Blush, Powder, Nail polish, Lip gloss. They cannot get this in Cuba.

Registration forms are available in the Narthex. Contact Julie Hill for additional information. julie2025pw@gmail.com

Faith Formation Ministries



Men's Bible Study Group

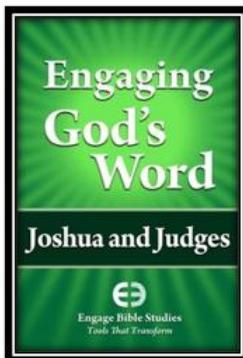
with Milt Seapker

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!

February 4th & 18th



The books of Joshua and Judges take you on a journey of contrasts - great courage and knee-shaking cowardice, enduring love and heartless infidelity, God's faithfulness and Israel's unfaithfulness. This in-depth study will give you hope as you watch God accomplish His work through the lives of mighty warriors and deeply flawed people.

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

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee met on Monday, January 12th @ 1:00 p.m. in the Session room and on Zoom.
2. These are the current and upcoming activities for 2026.
 - a. Adult Faith Enrichment Class with Milt Seapker & Dave Hertzler-Sunday mornings @ 9:00 a.m. in the Session Room and on Zoom. Join us for our study on the **"Books of Joshua & Judges"** and a Lenten study starting on February 22nd.
 - b. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Meeting dates are February 6th & 20th. Our study is *"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"* led by Julie Hill.
 - c. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group: Twice a month on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m. Our study is **"Engaging God's Word-Joshua & Judges"**. Meeting dates are February 4th & 18th.
 - d. Special Event Dates:
 1. Egg Stuffing Party: Tuesday, March 24th @ 11:00 a.m.
 2. Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, March 28th @ 10:00 a.m.
 3. Fall Festival: Saturday, October 24th @ 4:00 p.m.
 4. Live Nativity & Preschool Pageant: Friday, December 11th @ 4:30 p.m.
 - e. Our next committee meeting will be on Monday, February 9th @ 2:00 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elder



Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- 10 Alecia Dutter
- 10 Olivia Carden
- 11 Paul Fernald
- 11 Christina Greenawalt
- 12 Shirley Bottomley
- 19 Marilyn Smoot
- 25 Lorrie Peek
- 28 Tom Boekhout



BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 12/31/25

Actual Revenue:	\$ 203,883
Budgeted:	\$ 213,500
Actual Expenses:	\$ 215,918
Budgeted:	\$ 230,191

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 14 Craig & Julie Hill
- 22 Lorrie & Larry Peek



please note

The deadline for input in the
March newsletter is **Feb. 20**



*The MIPC Press is printed by the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church,
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Rev. Christina Greenawalt
Pam Poland
Leslie Mitchell
Robyn Mills
Jennavon Brown
Jeana Lutz
Gabriella Plaza
Giovanna Curry

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
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 January tip:



We’re having some chilly weather lately! Prepare for Florida cold snaps sustainably by covering tender plants with breathable fabric to trap ground heat, watering them in the morning before the freeze, and insulating pipes. Save energy by lowering your thermostat by 1-2 degrees, sealing leaks, running ceiling fans clockwise, and utilizing space heaters only for localized warmth.

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

Please contact the church office if you have questions, if you would like to speak to the pastor, or 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: Robyn Mills

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