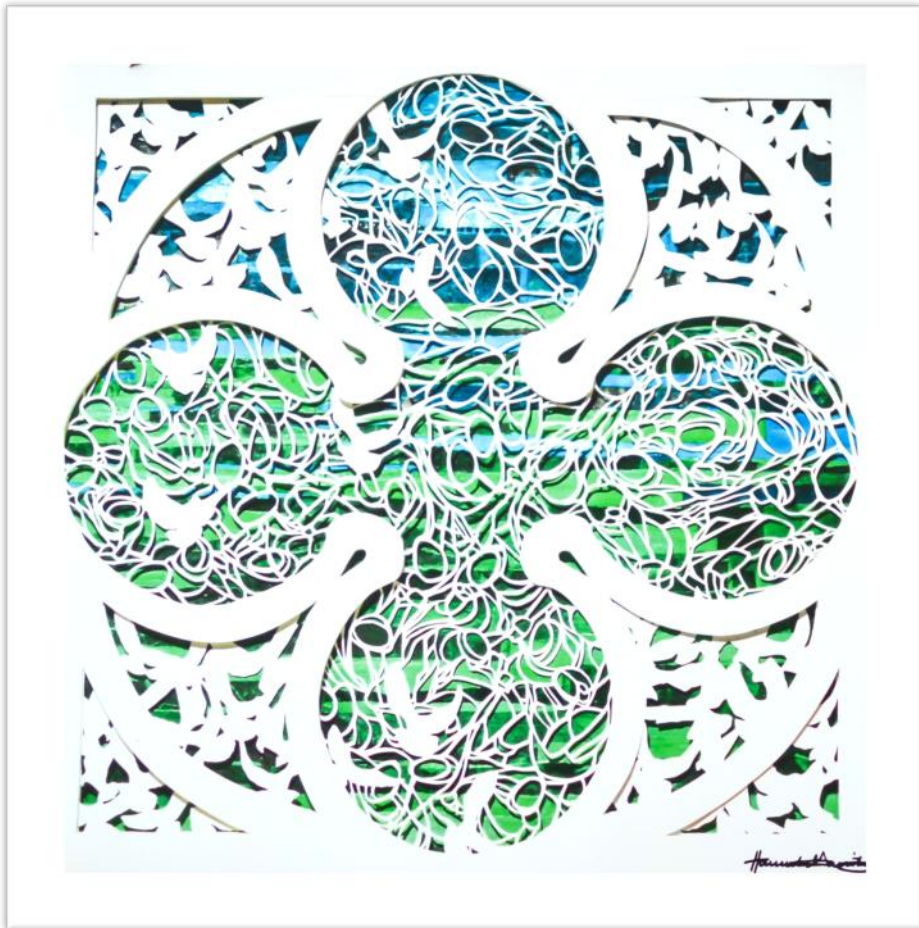


MIPC PRESS

Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
April 2026



Pastor Christina's Corner

Dear Church Family,

As the April showers begin to nourish the earth, we find ourselves walking the most sacred path of our faith journey. This month, we move from the somber shadows of the cross into the brilliant light of the empty tomb.

Holy Week & Easter

I invite you to join us for our Holy Week services to fully experience the drama, sacrifice, and joy of our faith. Please join us for our Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd at 7:00 PM, where we will remember Jesus' final supper with his disciples and the call to serve one another in love. On Good Friday we will have a quiet, contemplative prayer service at noon. Then, gather with us to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 5th, at 10:00 AM! Let us fill our sanctuary with joy and praise as we celebrate our risen Lord.

Celebrating Our Youth

The energy continues throughout the month as our One Purpose teens take a leadership role in our community. On Sunday, April 19, the teens will be helping to lead our worship service with a pancake breakfast in the Activities Room. It is always a blessing to see the gospel through their eyes and hear it through their voices. They will be performing on May 1 at 7pm and the 2nd at 2pm and 7pm.

We also have a special milestone to celebrate: Gia, our beloved One Purpose music director, will be graduating on April 29th from Florida International University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology with a minor in Social Media & E-Marketing Analytics. We are so proud of her hard work and can't wait to see where God leads her next.

Pastor Christina's Corner

Prayers for the Journey

Finally, we ask for your prayers for Adam Mills (Robyn's son). Adam is preparing for a major transition as his service with the Air Force takes him to Italy this June. We are grateful for his service and pray for his safety and strength as he prepares for this overseas assignment.

April is a month filled with reminders of God's faithfulness, new life, and purpose. May you feel the blessing of the resurrection season and may this season of renewal remind you that through Christ, all things are made new.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Christina



Worship

Holy Week

As we transition from March into April, the liturgical season of Lent culminates in a time we call Holy Week. The special observances of Holy Week include:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday** (March 29). Worship service at 10:00 a.m. We begin Holy Week by recalling the momentous entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. As Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, the gathered crowd lay cloaks and palm branches before him and sang "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mark 11:9). Our Sanctuary Singers, directed by Joyce Walker, and guest vocalist Sarah Lawrence will offer special music.
- **Maundy Thursday** (April 2). Worship service at 7:00 p.m. The traditional name of this observance recalls the "new commandment" Jesus gave his disciples; specifically, the command to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). Those words provide a powerful devotional focus for us as we share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
- **Good Friday** (April 3). Prayer service at Noon. In this Tenebrae service focusing on Jesus' final hours on the cross, candles will be extinguished to symbolize deepening darkness. On extinguishing the final candle, the Christ candle, we are led to experience the utter darkness which fell upon the world with Christ's crucifixion.
- **Easter Sunday** (April 5). Worship service at 10:00 a.m. On this day, we rejoice to celebrate our Lord's resurrection triumph over sin and death. Spring flowers and other symbols of our resurrection faith will awaken us to God's powerful presence, and special music including our Sanctuary Singers and gifted accompaniment by Jennavon Brown will give prayerful voice to the joy in our hearts: Jesus Christ is still risen – today! Alleluia!

The Season of Easter

Easter isn't just a single Sunday, it's a season in the liturgical calendar. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the greatest news ever — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks, spanning the fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection, which we celebrate on April 5, to Pentecost Sunday, which falls this year on May 24.

- On April 12, the second Sunday of Easter, we will be blessed again with special music by our Women's Choir under direction of Joyce Walker. This will be Joyce's last Sunday before she "migrates" back to be in her regular habitat up north for a few months. Thank you, Joyce, for offering your musical talents so generously in our worship.
- On April 19, we will be blessed again to have the youth from One Purpose Productions leading music and participating in our worship service.
- On April 26, we will again welcome guest vocalist Sarah Lawrence who, along with accompanist Jennavon Brown, will offer special music and lead our congregational singing.

Thank you to all who participate in our worship services – in person or from a distance. As always, we appreciate those who work to create meaningful worship services: Pastor Christina, music team, tech team, those who serve as liturgist, those who usher, those who serve communion, and those who prepare and clean the sanctuary. If you are interested in joining the Worship Committee, or have feedback, ideas, or talents to share, please contact John Shuford (john.m.shuford@gmail.com).

John Shuford

Worship Chair

A View from the Pews

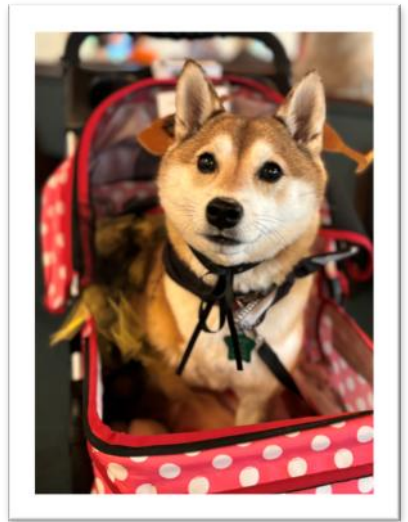
Greetings From Yoshi (our guest columnist this month)!

It's been 3 years since my accident and I praise the Heavens I'm still here. I don't know what I would have done without the love of my family (the McPhails), doctors, and church who got me through that most difficult time in my life.

I love to go on car rides with people and sit shotgun, and help Mom navigate the roads of Merritt Island. Sundays are the best days because I get to see all of my extended family (you guys), especially the ones who give me treats and snuggles. I love to greet you all and listen to you talk. I observe everyone closely and even have my own little fan club section (Mom says).

A few weeks ago we missed a couple weeks of church because mom was so sick, but I stayed by her side and cuddled her. I sure did miss Elsa though. Elsa and I have been talking every Sunday before worship about the goings on at church. I tell her who's been going to services and about being an usher and she tells me about the office workings and so forth.

I love listening to Pastor talk and everybody singing. I know that's why everyone is trying hard to fill Jeana's spot and I wanted to say you are doing a wonderful job! Just so you know, I come to church with my own treats. You can give a couple—Uncle Mike (Smith) says I only get fed at church on Sundays but I assure you this is not the case. That's the only time I get *treats*. And you don't have to ask— you can pet me anytime. I love the attention and well, I'm blessed to have it.



Love, Prayers, and Blessings
Yoshi



April is here!



Thank you for helping with our “Mulch Madness” campaign in March. We appreciate everyone who helped whether it was through sweat equity or financial contributions. The playgrounds look fresh and replenished and DCF was happy when they came out to re-inspect.

We are excited to have welcomed Ms. Domonique to our teaching staff in March. She has been a long-time parent and is now working toward her degree in early education. She is currently with our three-year-old class but will be following them to our VPK class as Ms. Tammy’s assistant in the fall.



This month, our VPK class will begin practicing for our Muffins for Moms celebration and their upcoming graduation ceremony! Ms. Pam will be visiting us each week to help with the preparations.

We are excited for all the fun activities we have coming up this month and look forward to sharing them in our next newsletter!

Respectfully,

Robyn Mills, Preschool Director

Some of the Mulch Crew


Mission/Outreach


Joyful Thursdays: Food, Fun & Games


A Weekday Lunch & Game Fellowship for All Ages


Come for the food. Stay for the fun. Leave with community.


Join us every other Thursday for a relaxed, joy-filled time of lunch, board games, card games, puzzles, and fellowship. Bring a friend, bring a dish if you'd like — or simply bring yourself. Everyone is welcome.


 When: April 2, 16, and 30

 Time: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

 Where: Activities Room

 Food: Potluck encouraged, but not required

 Activities: Board games, card games, puzzles, trivia, and more

 All Ages Welcome

Why Join Us?

- *Build friendships*
- *Enjoy intergenerational fun*
- *Relax and unwind midweek*
- *Invite neighbors and friends*
- *Strengthen our church community*

Come as you are. Stay as long as you like.

Let's grow in fellowship, joy, and connection.

Mission/Outreach

Our first Joyful Thursday was a big success and lots of fun! We had a really good turnout and hope you will all join us for our April dates: April 2, 16, & 30 at noon in the Activities Room.



Mission/Outreach

Family Promise

At the Quarterly Meeting for Family Promise on February 16th that Frances and Cheryl attended at Faith Lutheran (one of the newest hosting churches—they do FOUR times a year!) we learned a lot and gave feedback from our recent hosting. The folks at FP are always looking to improve and if there was feedback you didn't give us, it is never too late.

The current and future families will be counseled to please save their money and do not purchase meals at restaurants when there are delicious meals awaiting them. Also they will try to be a little more prompt or communicate with us if they will be late. I think all of us enjoyed hosting but there are always ways to make things better.

We will be a bit more mindful of the bed pillows the families have—they are given new ones when they enter the program and should move through the program with the same bed and pillow. Oops, we didn't know. The beds are numbered and color coded. Always more to learn.

Now, more volunteering opportunities—we need overnight hosts when other churches are housing our families. If you think that is something you can do, please let Cheryl or Frances know and we will plug you in. A number of us have been doing these overnights at other churches and made some wonderful friendships as a result. Cheryl overnights on a regular basis at Grace Methodist in the pastor's office. Great fun!

See the following page for another volunteer request.



*Frances Fernald and Cheryl Mahan
Co-coordinators for MIPC's Family Promise*

Mission/Outreach

Family Promise Help Needed Now!



As you probably know, MIPC has two weeks per year when we house and feed FP folks—it is a lot of work and you have all stepped up to the plate to help! But, if you are able and willing, there are more opportunities.

The families that Family Promise is housing currently (full house—14 people!) are at the static site on Merritt Island, across the street from Jefferson Middle School. They have been there since mid-March and will remain until April 26th because no churches in the program were able to house them at this time.

The first full week was covered by Rockledge Presbyterian. This involves set-up and tear-down, which is mostly moving the cots in and providing suppers and a stocked refrigerator for breakfast and packed lunches. But now other churches who participate in FP need to provide nightly meals. (There is no need for over-night chaperones fortunately)

Please let Cheryl or Frances know if you are able to help.

Help could be several possibilities:

- Provide the supper one or more nights for 14 people
- Help with set-up or tear-down on Sundays
- Purchase gift cards to purchase food

If you have the time or inclination to help it would be so appreciated!

Cheryl (321-431-9623) and Frances (321-427-4477)

Mission/Outreach

Madagascar Scholarship Fundraiser

For many years MIPC was part of a group humorously named BIRP (Brevard Indian River Presbyterians) which included 13 Presbyterian churches who chose to collectively focus on parts of the world and render special assistance. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti and Madagascar were among the targeted countries. Sadly several years ago the group dissolved but we know we still want to have a worldview beyond the U.S.A. and the excellent regular international offerings PC (USA) encourages. Which is the reason for MIPC's Valentine's Day fundraiser.

This special offering was to raise \$1500 to fund one year's teacher training for one student in Madagascar, especially in the impoverished south of the beautiful island nation.

I am happy to say that we did reach our goal! I would like to acknowledge all the MIPC folks who participated and let you know how much your gifts are appreciated. We hope to make this a regular February offering.



Thank you so much!!!!!!

Love,

Cheryl Mahan

Thanks

Dear MIPC:

I don't recall if I mailed a thank you card after Aunt Julia [Sis Beckman]'s service or not. It's been a year. Passed quickly. I would like to thank everyone at Merritt Island Presbyterian Church for their support and many kindnesses shown to Aunt Julia. She appreciated every moment she spent talking to y'all whether on the telephone or in person.



I would like to tell you how much my family and I appreciated every thing you did for Aunt Julia. It was unfortunate no family lived close to Aunt Julia. We miss her so much there are just no words.

Sincerely,

Lacy and Marlene Hayes

Tammy, Amber, Allison and Raelynn

Dear MIPC,

Thank you so much for the warm welcome [on February 22]. I truly felt the Spirit moving as the service was happening, and even after, during the refreshments. The music, Special Gathering and Jeana, was all beautiful. Blessings to you all as you continue to serve God in such a great place.

Peace,

Rev. Olivia Haney

Finance

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
TOTAL Operating Revenue	47,890.16	100,125.60	112,478.00	665,566.00
TOTAL Expenses	55,385.83	126,900.48	129,793.81	730,774.77
TOTAL Net Operating Revenue	(7,495.67)	(26,774.88)	(17,315.81)	(65,208.77)
MIPC Operating Revenue	12,305.67	23,417.39	30,500.00	184,000.00
MIPC Expenses	17,165.30	35,388.59	36,106.79	231,243.77
MIPC Net Operating Revenue	(4,859.63)	(11,971.20)	(5,606.79)	(47,243.77)
Preschool Revenue	35,584.49	76,708.21	81,978.00	481,566.00
Preschool Expenses	38,220.53	91,511.89	93,687.02	499,531.00
Preschool Net Revenue	(2,636.04)	(14,803.68)	(11,709.02)	(17,965.00)

Both the church and the preschool reported a net loss for the month of February. This was anticipated, as the approved 2026 budgets include planned annual deficits of roughly \$47,000 for the church and \$18,000 for the preschool. When spread across the year, this reflects expected monthly deficits of approximately \$3,916 for the church and \$1,500 for the preschool, even when operating within budget.

At this point in the year, both ministries are tracking somewhat above those projected levels. Year-to-date, the church is averaging a monthly deficit of approximately \$5,986 (YTD of \$11,972, divided by 2), while the preschool is averaging approximately \$7,400 (YTD of \$14,800, divided by 2). This is due in part to the higher-than-expected losses in January, a “three-paycheck” month, when expenses tend to exceed typical monthly levels.

As we review these numbers, we do so with both responsibility and faith—trusting that God continues to provide for the needs of our church and its ministries. The Finance Committee will meet in April, after the close of the first quarter, to prayerfully assess our financial progress and consider any

adjustments that may be needed. While early-year fluctuations are not uncommon, our shared goal is to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and to move toward a more balanced financial position over the course of the year.

In the coming weeks, committee chairs may be contacted if certain expenses appear outside of typical patterns. At the same time, we will be exploring opportunities to strengthen revenue and support the ongoing mission and ministry of both the church and the preschool.

We are grateful for the continued generosity, faithfulness, and prayers of this congregation. It is through your giving and commitment that the work of the church continues to grow and serve others.

It is a privilege to serve in this role. If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or would like to join the Finance Committee—which meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom—please feel free to reach out.

Gayle Allenback

Finance Elder

Deacons/Stephen Ministry

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



stephen
MINISTRY®

When things seemed like too much to handle, my Stephen Minister brought normalcy and calm. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there. ~ James

When I was with my Stephen Minister, I felt Jesus was with me. I saw the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through. ~ Ashley

My Stephen Minister listens...really listens. He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do, but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through. ~ Brian

My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and gives me a safe, confidential relationship where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on. ~ Celeste

Those are some comments from people who have experienced the care of a Stephen Minister. If you know of anyone in crisis who might benefit from a listening, caring person, please call either Pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (MIPC Stephen Minister referral coordinator) at 321-223-4841.

Central Florida Presbytery



Dear Rev. Christina Greenawalt,

We are writing to you to thank your Congregation for their financial support for the ministry and mission of Central Florida Presbytery. We are also asking that you share this letter with your Session and your congregation by reading it aloud on a Sunday morning or publishing it in your church newsletter. We want the members of your congregation to know that their mission contributions and their faith are cherished by the members of the Council and our Presbytery.

We know that this is not an easy time for many of our congregations and yet you and many others are stepping up and showing your trust in the goodness and provision of God and offering your financial gifts with glad and generous hearts. Every financial gift to Central Florida Presbytery is a testimony of faith that you believe that God has a good plan for us and you are willing to show your support for that plan. Now more than ever - every gift from every congregation that is part of the family of churches that make up Central Florida Presbytery is needed.

As we celebrate the joyful season of Easter we are grateful to God for your faith and your generous support of the ministry of Central Florida Presbytery. We wish your congregation God's blessing this Easter.

In Christ,

Reverend Paul Ogne

Moderator - Central Florida Presbytery

Nicole Gower

Chair of Council, Central Florida Presbytery

Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions

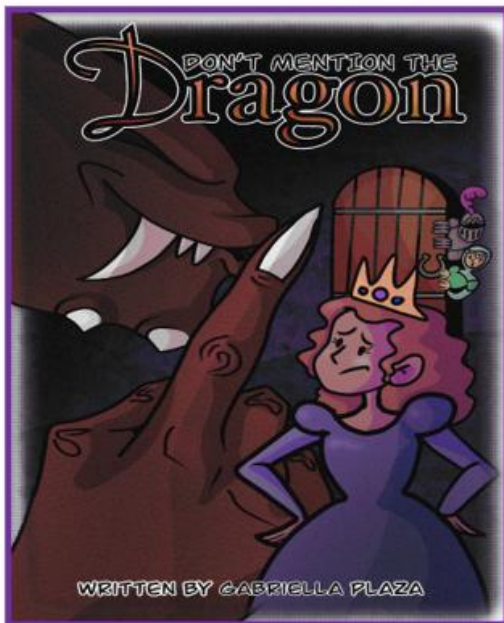


We are performing an all original stage play written by our very gifted and talented Performing Arts Director! This is a fabulous show so you don't want to miss it!

Save the Performance Dates:

Friday, May 1st @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 2nd @ 2:00 & 7:00 p.m.



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 or 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

The kids had their Spring Party and instead of a traditional Easter Egg Hunt we had a "He Is Risen" Hunt in celebration of Jesus Resurrection! They were so excited and had lots of fun!



Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions

Day of Worship & Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, April 19th @ 10:00 a.m.



Come and join us for Family Worship
filled with the music and beautiful
voices of our youth followed by a
Pancake Breakfast!
All are welcome!



Hosted by our Performing Arts Ministry Staff

Director: Gabriella Plaza-Jeffery

Faith Formation Ministries Associate: Pamela Poland

Assistant Director: Mike Smith

Music Director: Giovanna Curry

Technical Director: Brian Poland

mipconepurpose@gmail.com

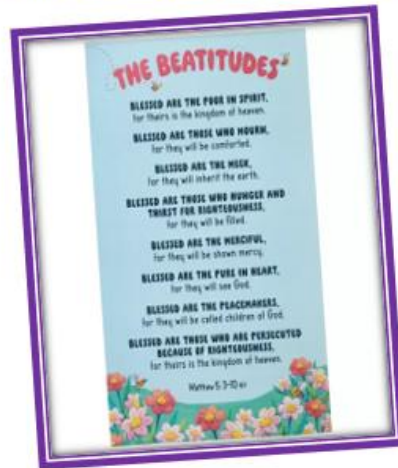
Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/MIPPerformingArts

Faith Formation Ministries

ADULT Faith FORMATION

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

Join us for a study on "The Beatitudes" with Milt Seapker & Dave Hertzler!



Join us and explore the eight blessings delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount from the Book of Matthew, outlining a lifestyle of virtue, humility, and justice.

COMING SOON



**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*

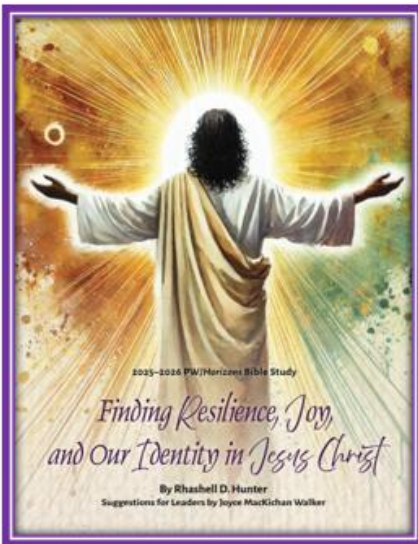
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

April 3rd & 17th @ 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.
cjphill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333



Faith Formation Ministries

**We had a wonderful time of fellowship at our Easter Egg Stuffing Party!
Thanks to all the volunteers that helped out!**



Faith Formation Ministries

Our Easter Egg Hunt was Egg-tastic!



Faith Formation Ministries



Men's Bible Study Group

with Milt Seapker

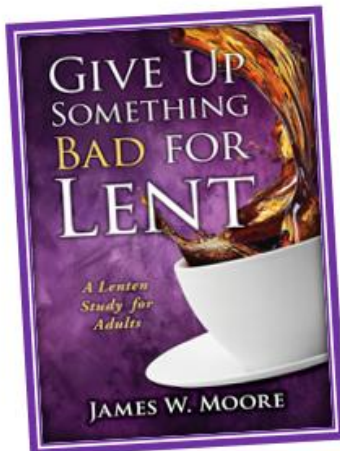
Twice a month on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m.

Location: 200 South Banana River Drive E11

Merritt Island 32952

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

April 1st & 15th



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, March 9th @ 2:00 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 Beatitudes"** from the Book of Matthew. Our next study will be **"We Make the Road by Walking"** by Brian D. McLaren.
 - b. Women's Ministry: Fabulous Fridays Bible Study group: Every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Room. Meeting dates are April 3rd & 17th. 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 current study is **"Give Up Something Bad for Lent"**. Meeting dates are April 1st & 15th.
 - d. Special Event Dates:
 1. Performing Arts Ministry-One Purpose Productions Day of Worship & Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, April 19th @ 10:00 a.m.
 2. Vacation Bible School: June 8th- June 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.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, April 13th @ 2:00 p.m.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Milt Seapker & Julie Hill

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

BUDGET UPDATE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 3 James Neihouse
- 7 Andre Koodie
- 10 Gloria Burk
- 11 Ashleigh Serfozo
- 12 Pat Smith
- 15 Bert Hentschel
- 16 Laura Ficker
- 17 Sara Hall
- 19 Kara Ficker Toledo
- 19 **MIPC**
- 24 Shaka Mohan
- 26 Alexander McPhail

YTD As of 2/28/26

Actual Revenue:	\$ 23,417
Budgeted:	\$ 30,500
Actual Expenses:	\$ 35,2389
Budgeted:	\$ 36,107

please note

The deadline for input in the
May newsletter is **April 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
Robyn Mills
Jennavon Brown
Gabriella Plaza
Giovanna Curry

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Preschool Director
Substitute Organist/Pianist
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.



April is Water Conservation Month in Brevard County, crucial during Florida's dry season. Key tips include fixing leaks, running full dishwasher/laundry loads, and limiting irrigation to twice weekly (early morning). Use mulch to retain moisture, and consider Florida Friendly Landscaping to conserve water.

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

Email: mipresbyterian@gmail.com

Preschool email: MIPCPreschool@gmail.com

Website: www.merrittislandpc.org

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