

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
July 2026**



Pastor Christina's Corner

As we go to print, Pastor Christina is attending the 227th PC(USA) General Assembly in Milwaukee. In lieu of a message from her, here is a little bit about what the General Assembly is all about.

There are 3 main roles of the General Assembly:

Biennial Event

The General Assembly as an event occurs every two years. It includes the gathering of committees who recommend actions to plenary sessions, opportunities to break bread through shared meals, educational opportunities, moments of public witness, and more.

Council

As the highest council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly is made up of commissioners from presbyteries, with teaching elders and ruling elders represented in equal numbers. Young Adult Advisory Delegates, Theological Student Advisory Delegates, and Partner Advisory Delegates also constitute the assembly. These individuals gather for the business meetings of committees and plenary to discern the future of the church and make decisions that are implemented throughout the life of the PC(USA).

Worshiping Body

As a worshiping body, the General Assembly is a time when people from across the PC(USA) and beyond gather in their diversity as one. In worship, the General Assembly considers scripture, celebrates sacraments, and proclaims God's work in the world.

This year's theme is "Persevering Toward Wholeness." You can find out more about the events and actions of this year's gathering by visiting <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/church-structure/general-assembly/general-assembly-gathering> or following The 227th General Assembly of the PC (U.S.A.) on Facebook.

Rev. David Keck to preach on July 5

On July 5, we will be blessed and honored to have as our guest preacher Rev. David Keck, who serves as chaplain of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Rev. Keck.

We are thankful to Will Lawrence, who serves as Assistant Stated Clerk of the Central Florida Presbytery, for filling-in as supply preacher on June 28 when Pastor Christina was away at General Assembly. It was surely a blessing to share that time of worship with him.

We look forward to celebrating Pastor Christina's return to the pulpit on July 12!

Fellowship Following Worship

The MIPC Session encourages everyone to stay for a time of fellowship on Sunday mornings after the worship service. It's a great way for you to get to know other members of our congregation and to give them an opportunity to get to know you better! We are very grateful for those who volunteer to bring food or help with setup or cleanup. If you feel called to exercise your gifts of hospitality, please consider signing up to help.

*John Shuford
Worship Chair*

Preschool



Our summer fun is in full swing! The kids are enjoying visits from the Kona Ice truck, and our summer camp kids have been to the park, Chuck E Cheese and Candy Wonderland so far this summer! They are also looking forward to going to Chuck E Cheese again, the Titusville splash pad and Vacation Bible School this month.

I am also excited to share that we have enrolled 5 new children! Thank you to the Preschool committee and the Preschool task force for all of your help in brainstorming ways to get our name out to the public and for making our curbside appeal more pleasing. Our efforts are beginning to pay off already!

There is still time to help us fill the donated backpacks for our students in need. We need donations of the following kind:

- ◆ Crayola crayons
- ◆ Glue bottles and glue sticks
- ◆ Crayola colored pencils
- ◆ Crayola markers
- ◆ Child size scissors
- ◆ Wide ruled lined paper
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Cap erasers
- ◆ Expo dry erase markers
- ◆ Nutritious snacks (granola bars, goldfish, pretzels, muffins)

Respectfully,

Robyn Mills, Preschool Director

Mission/Outreach



Family Promise—Meals Help Needed Now!

This summer is going to be a bit more challenging to keep the Family Promise program running smoothly. The nine churches and one synagogue who actually host and feed the families are unable to host our two families during most of the summer. That means we will be making heavy use of the Static Site which is across the street from Jefferson Middle School on Courtenay Pkwy. Were it not for the Static Site (SS) we would be housing the families in hotels and *really* depleting finite FP funds. We are grateful for the SS! We are hoping all the congregations will help out. We also think we have worked out some of the problems the SS faced this last go around. We continue trying to improve. Following is a listing of when help is needed.

7/1 through 7/12: MEALS NEEDED

7/12 through 7/19: Meals covered by Rockledge Presbyterian (they are not a host church but will be taking care of all 7 days' meals!)

7/19 through 7/26: MEALS NEEDED

7/26 through 8/2: First United Methodist of Cocoa Beach is hosting and of course feeding

8/2 through 8/9: MEALS NEEDED

8/9 through 8/16: Meals again covered by Rockledge Presbyterian

8/16 through 8/23: Meals covered by Ascension Catholic

If you are able to prepare a meal for any of these days it would be great. One mom and dad have 4 children and the other mom and dad have 3 children. They say they are not picky and there are no noted allergies (whew!)

Please call Cheryl (321-431-9623) or Frances(321-427-4477) about this and we will give you all the help we can (meeting you at the Static Site, with suggestions on what to make, answering your questions, etc.)

Mission/Outreach

Possible Visit from Dan and Elizabeth Turk, Former Mission Co-workers in Madagascar

Just a quick note to say we are hoping to have the Dan and Elizabeth Turk in our church this July or August, with perhaps a light lunch afterwards in the Activities Room where they can tell us more about their work. They are back in the States until October for a number of reasons including the wedding of their daughter Frances. The happy event just happened June 20th in Orlando in Elizabeth's folks' (former missionaries Bill and Nancy Warlick) church in Orlando. Fingers crossed everything can be scheduled.

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PRESCHOOL/SHARING CENTER FOOD DRIVE

Remember, we keep a collection box (Sharing Center) and wagon (Preschool) in the Narthex for your non-perishable food donations. Personal hygiene items are also welcome! For a list of school supplies needed for the upcoming school year at the Preschool, please see their page. Thank you for always supporting these important efforts!

Fellowship

Joyfully together we celebrated Flag Day on June 14. It all began with Anne Cole's energy and inspiration. Anne first presented her ideas to the Deacons, to which she now belongs, and the Fellowship Committee was absolutely delighted to be able to help. The Heavenly Handmaidens crafted little beribboned cups and filled them with chocolate kisses. Anne wrote and conducted a Flag Trivia quiz and brought prizes for the winners. Tables were set in a glorious array of red, white and blue complete with flags to wave proudly and pom poms to cheer us on. The food was an excellent assortment of sandwiches, potato salad, noodle salad, fruit salad and a table overflowing with watermelon and the makings of strawberry shortcake with angel food cakes. Delicious! We at MIPC know how to prepare good food. In all it was a delightful gathering and an appropriate way to honor Lieutenant Colonel Anne Cole, who served our country long-term as a nurse. We proudly wave the flag for all of you who faithfully served our country. Thank you.



Peg Boekhout, Fellowship Chair

Finance

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS May 2026 - Summary

	May	YTD	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
TOTAL Operating Revenue	46,644.29	249,981.06	278,996.00	665,566.00
TOTAL Expenses	54,566.86	291,618.75	298,707.58	730,774.77
TOTAL Net Operating Revenue	(7,922.57)	(41,637.69)	(19,711.58)	(65,208.77)
MIPC Operating Revenue	10,822.81	62,984.90	76,050.00	184,000.00
MIPC Expenses	16,919.19	83,655.76	89,847.59	231,243.77
MIPC Net Operating Revenue	(6,096.38)	(20,670.86)	(13,797.59)	(47,243.77)
Preschool Revenue	35,821.48	186,996.16	202,946.00	481,566.00
Preschool Expenses	37,647.67	207,962.99	208,859.99	499,531.00
Preschool Net Revenue	(1,826.19)	(20,966.83)	(5,913.99)	(17,965.00)

The May financial report continues to reflect the financial challenges facing both the church and preschool ministries. The church reported a monthly operating deficit of approximately \$6,096, bringing the year-to-date deficit to \$20,670. The preschool reported a monthly deficit of approximately \$1,826 and a year-to-date deficit of \$20,966.

As noted in last month's article, because both the church and preschool are operating with deficit budgets, there will be times when funds must be transferred from savings or investment accounts to cover operating expenses. This occurred in May and is anticipated again in July, when an estimated transfer of approximately \$35,000 will be needed to cover payroll for both entities during the year's final three-pay-period month.

Fortunately, Session has approved participation in Project Regeneration with the Rev. Dana Waters of the Presbyterian Foundation. We look forward to the official onsite kickoff meeting in July. The program is designed to help congregations prayerfully discern ministry priorities, strengthen stewardship, evaluate financial sustainability, and explore opportunities for renewed vitality and growth in ministry. We appreciate your prayers as we enter this discernment process and develop effective course-corrections.

We are grateful for your continued generosity and faithful support of the ministries of Merritt Island Presbyterian Church as we seek God's guidance for the future.

Gayle Allenback
Finance Elder

Deacons/Stephen Ministry

Our next Deacon meeting will be on
July 20 at 3:30 PM in the Session Room.



Along the rural roads in India, shelves are built on top of posts at shoulder height. These are called “soma tonga”. People who walk the roads, carrying loads on their backs, can stop at a soma tonga, place their load on the shelf, and rest for a while before continuing the journey.

At some time, each of us needs help in dealing with a heavy load ...overwhelming grief or sadness, an unexpected crisis. A Stephen Minister can be a soma tonga for you. If you want to experience the caring, Christian presence of a Stephen Minister in your life, contact pastor Christina or Craig Smoot (321-223-4841). All information is handled in strict confidence.

Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions



Our performance of
"Don't Mention the Dragon"



If you know anyone who might be interested in joining this amazing ministry for our Fall semester starting on **Wednesday, August 12th** please contact our Director, Gabriella Plaza-Jeffery @ 321-747-5881 or gplaza104@gmail.com or Pam Poland, Faith Formation Ministries Associate @ 321-626-6224 or mipconepurpose@gmail.com.

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MIPPerformingArts

Faith Formation Ministries

ONE PURPOSE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Summer Camp Improv Intensive 2026

Ready to Improve your Improv?

Join us for a week-long intensive packed with show exercises, improv games, and an exciting end-of-week performance! In our faith-centered, confidence-building environment, this experience is perfect for students looking to build their creativity, teamwork, and stage presence!

July 27th - July 31st | 10:00am - 3:30pm | Ages 12 to 18

**Friday the 31st is 1:00pm - 7:00pm*

\$125.00 Per Student | Limited Spaces Available | Pack a Healthy Lunch!

"Finishing the Race"

This original themed improv summer show is sure to delight as our performers take classic racing situations and align them with the biblical truths of Hebrew 12:1-3. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll laugh some more as you learn what it takes to finish the race!

Register Today or Find Out More



(321) 626-6224 OR (321) 452-5689 ext 1003



mipconepurpose@gmail.com



Like us on Facebook!

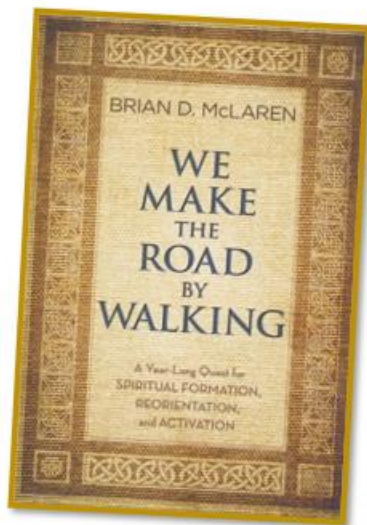
www.facebook.com/MIDCPerformingArts

Faith Formation Ministries



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

with Milt Seapker & Dave Hertzler



Join us for this devotional designed to reorient Christian faith around a “quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation”. It encourages walking a progressive path of faith through active, everyday spirituality and communal engagement, emphasizing a “road” created through action, love, and justice.

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*

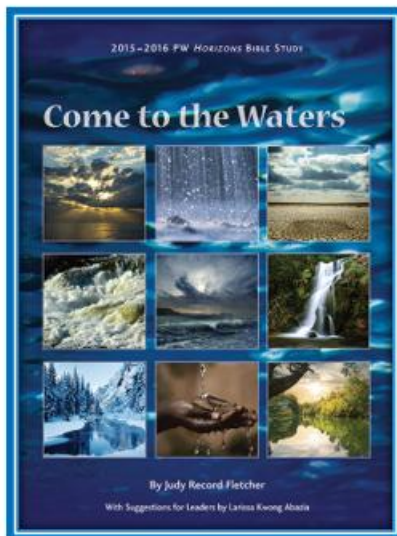
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

July 10th & 24th @ 2:00 p.m.



Our study is led by Julie Hill and is titled "Come to the Waters".

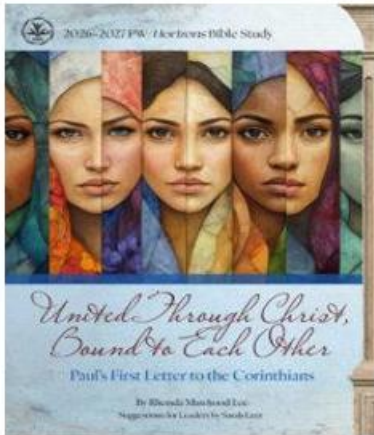
Come join us for a time of Faith & Fellowship in the Activities Room every other Friday @ 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Julie Hill for more information and questions.

cjhill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333



Faith Formation Ministries



Presbyterian Women of Central Florida

Annual Bible Study Event

**Saturday, August 8th
Pineda Presbyterian Church**

**5650 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne, FL.**

Facilitated by:

Rev. Emily Wasser Pastor of Pineda Presbyterian Church

Reverend Emily Wasser grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Religion with a concentration in Ministerial Studies from Montreat College in 2011 and her Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2014. In July 2025 Emily joined Pineda Presbyterian Church as Pastor prior to serving for 2 1/2 years as Interim Pastor at St.

Luke's Presbyterian Church and 7 years as Associate Pastor at Winter Park Presbyterian Church.

Emily currently lives in Orlando, Florida and when she's not busy at church, she's likely ringing bells with Magic of Bronze, an Orlando-based community handbell ensemble, or hanging out with her friends at Disney World acquiring more Beauty and the Beast merch (that she probably doesn't need), to decorate her office.

Saturday, August 8th

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Registration and Light Breakfast |
| 9:35 – 10:15 | Introductions and Business Meeting |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 - 11:45 | Bible Study Presentation |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 - 2:00 | Bible Study Presentation and questions |

Registration - \$20.00 includes light breakfast and lunch.

Contact for MIPC: Julie Hill julie2025pw@gmail.com

Registration forms are available in the Narthex

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

Meeting dates are July 1st, 15th & 29th



Come and join us as we study the Book of Judges and learn about the historical account in the Old Testament tracing Israel's moral decline between the death of Joshua and the rise of a monarchy.

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

Faith Formation Ministries

Preschool Chapel

Every Monday with Pastor Christina @ 9:30 a.m.

Their current study is "Fruits of the Spirit."



Preschool Music

Every Wednesday with Ms. Pam @ 10:30 a.m.

We are on summer break but will resume with our 3 yr. old & VPK classes in September for the new school year.



Faith Formation Ministries



A vibrant winter-themed poster for Vacation Bible School. The background is a snowy mountain landscape with evergreen trees, a ski lift, and colorful flags. A cartoon beaver character wearing a green beanie, an orange jacket, and a lanyard with a 'SMC' tag holds a microphone. The text 'VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!' is at the top in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, 'Cokesbury Kids' is written in a small white box. The main title 'SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE' is in large, bold, blue letters with a green outline. A small circular logo with the text 'FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD' is next to the title. At the bottom, the location 'MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' is written in bold, blue letters. Below the location, the dates 'JULY 13TH - 17TH' are shown next to a calendar icon. The times '9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.' are shown next to a clock icon. The contact information 'CONTACT PAM POLAND AT mipcfff@gmail.com' is shown next to an envelope icon. Snowflakes are scattered throughout the background.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Cokesbury Kids

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

MERRITT ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

 **JULY 13TH - 17TH**

 **9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

 **CONTACT PAM POLAND AT**
mipcfff@gmail.com

Faith Formation Ministries

Plans for FFM Activities:

1. Our committee met on Monday, June 8th @ 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 **"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 July 10th & 24th. Our study is **"Come to the Waters"** led by Julie Hill.
 - c. Men's Ministry: Bible Study Group with Milt Seapker: Twice a month on Wednesdays @ 2:00 p.m. Meeting dates are July 1st, 15th & 29th. Our current study is on the "Book of Judges."
 - d. Special Event Dates:
 1. Vacation Bible School: July 13th - July 17th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 2. One Purpose Productions Summer Camp: July 27th- 31st, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 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, July 6th @ 2:00 p.m.

Wishing everyone a wonderful 4th celebration!

Happy 250 America!!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Milt Seapker & Julie Hill

Faith Formation Ministries Elders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

JULY BIRTHDAYS:



- 10 Jill Franklin
- 13 Judy Osikowicz
- 14 Sterling Smith
- 14 Debra Smoot
- 16 Cindy Bottomley
- 17 Silas Smoot
- 18 Francis Shill
- 19 Joshua Kraver
- 22 Jill Moore
- 25 Linda Whitten
- 25 Holly Ficker
- 29 June Hutchinson
- 30 Fred Mahan

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 3 Joyce & David Walker
- 11 Pat & Sterling Smith
- 16 Sonny & Linda Whitten
- 20 Sue & Gregory Sakala
- 21 Frances & Paul Fernald



BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 5/31/26

Actual Revenue:	\$ 62,985
Budgeted:	\$ 76,050
Actual Expenses:	\$ 83,656
Budgeted:	\$ 89,848

please note

**The deadline for input in the
August newsletter is July 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

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



It’s HOT in Florida in July! To help with those electric bills, lower your thermostat to 82°F when you leave home and utilize ceiling fans (set to spin counterclockwise) to push a cooling breeze downward. This eco-friendly strategy reduces your A/C’s workload without sacrificing comfort, while saving significant energy and money.

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