

MIPC PRESS

**Merritt Island Presbyterian Church
August 2026**

A vertical rectangular image featuring a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of soft orange and pale yellow, with a few wispy clouds. In the foreground, the dark blue water of the ocean is visible with gentle ripples. The text 'Be still and know that I am God' is centered over the image. 'Be still' and 'and know that' are in a dark, serif font, while 'I am God' is in a larger, bold, red serif font. The background image is framed by a thin white border and a soft grey drop shadow.

Be still
and know that
I am God

Psalm 46:10

Pastor Christina's Corner

"Be Still, and Know That I Am God" — Psalm 46:10

As we turn the calendar to August, many of us find ourselves in a season of transition. Students prepare to return to school, teachers ready their classrooms, families adjust routines, and we begin looking ahead to the opportunities and challenges of a new season. In the midst of these changing schedules and busy days, God's Word offers us a simple yet powerful invitation: "Be still, and know that I am God."

August often arrives with a sense of anticipation. Summer's slower pace begins to give way to fuller calendars and renewed commitments. Yet before we rush ahead, we are called to pause and remember who sustains us. God remains faithful through every season of life. His presence does not depend on our circumstances, our accomplishments, or our plans. He walks beside us through times of celebration, uncertainty, growth, and change.

As a church family, we have much for which to be grateful. We give thanks for the worship, fellowship, and ministry we have shared throughout the summer months. We celebrate the relationships that continue to grow within our congregation and the many acts of kindness that reflect Christ's love in our community.

This month also provides an opportunity to renew our commitment to serving God and one another. Whether through worship, Bible study, mission outreach, music, prayer, or simply offering encouragement to a neighbor, each of us has a unique role in the life of Christ's church. The Apostle Paul reminds us that we are one body with many members, all working together for God's glory and the building up of His kingdom.

As students, educators, and families prepare for a new school year, let us keep them in our prayers. May God grant wisdom, protection, patience, and joy to all who are beginning new chapters. Let us also remember those facing health challenges, grief, loneliness, or uncertainty, asking God's comfort and peace to surround them.

Pastor Christina's Corner

In the weeks ahead, may we embrace every opportunity to gather in worship, deepen our faith, and strengthen our connections with one another. The mission of the church is not merely what happens on Sunday mornings; it is the daily work of sharing Christ's love wherever God has placed us. Each conversation, each act of service, each prayer becomes a witness to the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

As August unfolds, may we enter this new season with hearts full of gratitude, faith, and expectancy. Let us trust in God's guidance, lean upon His strength, and rejoice in His abundant blessings.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you throughout this month and beyond.

Blessings,

Pastor Christina

"Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love, Serving Our Community"

Worship

July brought many special worship opportunities.

We welcomed Rev. David Keck to the pulpit while Pastor Christina was at General Assembly.

We held a New Member class on July 19 and will welcome new member Joe Schneider during worship on August 2.

We were happy to have Dan & Elizabeth Turk join in leading Adult Sunday School and Worship on July 26, when they shared a fascinating update on their work in Madagascar.

We also welcomed special music from Shelly McLoney and Leslie Mitchell on the 26th while Jennavon took a well-deserved week off.

In August, we will celebrate the sacrament of Communion on August 2.

We are so grateful to our tech team, James Neihouse and Dale Greenawalt, with assistance from Leslie Neihouse and Brian Poland, who operate our sound, slides, and live stream . Be sure to thank them when you walk by the booth!

Blessings,

*John Shuford
Worship Chair*



The Preschool students are enjoying a fun summer, with field trips and especially Vacation Bible School providing an enriching time in July.

We want to give a huge thanks to those who contributed supplies to fill the backpacks for students in need. Your generosity is so very much appreciated.

The Preschool Task Force has been busy addressing the financial needs of the preschool. By implementing a modest tuition increase, reducing staff, and encouraging new enrollment, we are close to equalizing our expenses/income in the coming months.

However, we are also examining other steps that may be needed, such as further staffing reductions and potential adjustments to classrooms and programming in order to further strengthen the Preschool's financial outlook.

As always, your support and encouragement are so valued and appreciated.

Respectfully,

Robyn Mills, Preschool Director

Julie Hill, Preschool Elder

Mission/Outreach

Madagascar Mission Co-Workers at Merritt Island Presbyterian

On Sunday, July 26th, we were happy to have Elizabeth and Dan Turk at our Sunday School class, then in our pulpit, and finally in our Activities Room for a delicious lunch. We learned so much about Madagascar and its political challenges. We also learned about the challenges PC(USA) faces since World Mission was disbanded. Although the Turks still receive one quarter of the 5 Cents Per Meal offering, they are mostly now supported by The Antioch Partners (www.theantiochpartners.org), another “sending agency.”

We will try to keep you informed about happenings and if you are interested in contributing to the Turks’ efforts please talk to Cheryl Mahan (321-431-9623)

Hosting the Turks or any mission folk is a wonderful rare occasion and we were very pleased we were able to take advantage of their time stateside. They return to Madagascar later in the fall.

Thanks to all who made the day a rousing success—Leslie Mitchell, Pastor Christina and Dale, James Neihouse, Milt Seapker, Linda Whitten and the other deacons and folks who brought food for the luncheon.

Family Promise of Brevard is now Family Promise Space Coast!

Lots of excellent changes ahead for our Brevard County Family Promise but that will be covered in the next newsletter

But now we need to get ready for more time for the families in the Static Site (which is a house close to Jefferson Middle School) where families can be housed in between weeks when churches like us can house the families in our church buildings.

Mission/Outreach

Coming up in August for Family Promise:

- Week of 8/2-8/9: Static Site (during this week we still need folks to provide the evening meals. If you can help please contact Cheryl at 321-431-9623.)
- Week of 8/9-8/16: Static Site (Rockledge Presbyterian is again providing all the evening meals)
- Week of 8/16-8/23: Static Site (Ascension Church is again providing all the evening meals)
- Week of 8/23-8/30: Faith Lutheran will be hosting in their church and of course be providing meals

And don't forget that MIPC's hosting week in our church is 9/20-9/27! Soon we'll be asking folks to sign up for hosting and meal duties.

Many thanks to those who brought meals to the Static Site when they were needed--the Hertzlers, Frances Fernald, and Crystal McPhail!



Mission/Outreach

NOW: EVERY WEEK!

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 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: EVERY THURSDAY



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.

	June	YTD	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
TOTAL Operating Revenue	41,714.02	291,695.08	331,783.00	665,566.00
TOTAL Expenses	54,816.63	346,478.69	360,515.37	730,774.77
TOTAL Net Operating Revenue	(13,102.61)	(54,783.61)	(28,732.37)	(65,208.77)
MIPC Operating Revenue	9,911.20	72,896.10	91,000.00	184,000.00
MIPC Expenses	16,070.13	99,752.64	110,831.89	231,243.77
MIPC Net Operating Revenue	(6,158.93)	(26,856.54)	(19,831.89)	(47,243.77)
Preschool Revenue	31,802.82	218,798.98	240,783.00	481,566.00
Preschool Expenses	38,746.50	246,726.05	249,683.48	499,531.00
Preschool Net Revenue	(6,943.68)	(27,927.07)	(8,900.48)	(17,965.00)

Our June financial report reflects a loss of **\$6,100** for the church and **\$6,900** for the preschool for June. Combined, the church and preschool have a year-to-date deficit of **\$54,783**, which represents **84% of our budgeted annual deficit of \$65,208**, even though we are only halfway through the year.

Earlier this month, we held our Project Regeneration kickoff meeting with Rev. Dana Waters. His outside perspective provided valuable insight into our financial situation and the challenges we face. One of the key goals identified was ensuring that the preschool operates on a financially sustainable basis without incurring an ongoing monthly deficit. We were also challenged to identify opportunities to reduce church expenses by approximately 25%.

The Preschool Task Force and Preschool Committee have developed a plan for the fall semester, which they will share in their newsletter article.

On the church side, the Finance Committee has identified and Session has approved approximately **\$25,000 in budget reductions** as an initial step toward decreasing our monthly operating deficit. These reductions will be outlined in a letter to the congregation. As Rev. Waters observed during our Project Regeneration meeting, many of the smaller expenses have already been reduced over the past several years. As a result, the remaining decisions involved ministries and programs

Finance / Stephen Ministry

that are meaningful and valued by our church family, making these choices especially difficult.

While these initial budget reductions are an important step, they may not fully resolve our financial challenges. Additional adjustments may be necessary in the future. At the same time, as we approach our stewardship season, growing our financial support through faithful giving will be essential. Increased generosity will help strengthen the church's financial foundation and, over time, enable us to restore ministries that have been reduced and invest in new opportunities for ministry as we prepare the 2027 budget.

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity, prayers, and faithful support of the ministries of Merritt Island Presbyterian Church. Together, we trust God's guidance as we seek to faithfully steward the resources He has entrusted to us and discern His direction for our future.

Gayle Allenback
Finance Elder

*"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." — **Philippians 4:19***

During difficult times, people often feel very alone. They may have no one to talk to who will really listen. Stephen Ministers give them a listening ear...someone they can talk to about things they wouldn't discuss with anyone else (all conversations are confidential)... someone who will be there for them week after week walking with them and Jesus through any crisis.

stephen
MINISTRY.

MIPC has a strong Stephen Minister program in partnership with Grace Methodist church, so if you think you or a friend might be in need of a Stephen Minister, please contact either Craig Smoot 321-223-4841 or Pastor Christina.

Faith Formation Ministries



One Purpose Productions



Our first Summer Camp was amazing and awesome! The Director did a fabulous job and the kids had a blast!



mipconepurpose@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

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.

**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*

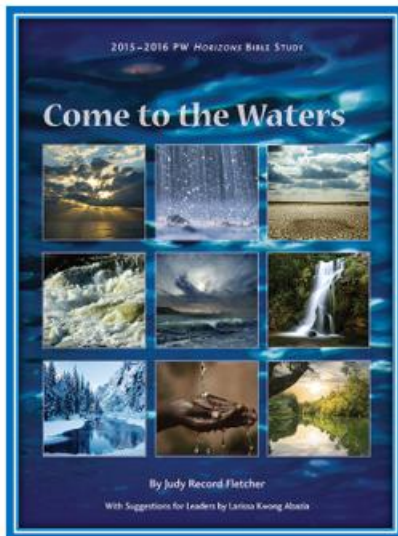
ROMANS 12:2



Women's Bible Study Group

Fabulous Fridays!

August 7th & 21st @ 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.
cj2hill@bellsouth.net or 321-431-5333*



Faith Formation Ministries



Men's Bible Study Group

with Milt Seapker

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

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

***This group is on summer hiatus and will resume in September.**

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

Wishing everyone a beautiful and blessed month!

Pamela Poland

Faith Formation Ministries Associate

Milt Seapker

Faith Formation Ministries Elder

Birthdays & Anniversaries



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

25 Richard Fjeldheim
26 William Erb
26 Lloyd Lewis
26 Heather McPhail
26 Gayle Allenback
28 Kendall Koodie
28 Scott Osikowicz
30 Erik Smoot

BUDGET UPDATE

YTD As of 6/30/26

Actual Revenue:	\$ 72,896
Budgeted:	\$ 91,000
Actual Expenses:	\$ 99,753
Budgeted:	\$ 110,832

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:



19 Karri & Richard Fjeldheim
19 Shirley & Bill Kidd

please note

The deadline for input in the
September newsletter is **August 21**

*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
Gabby Plaza

Pastor
Faith Formation Ministries Associate
Financial Secretary
Preschool Director
Substitute Organist/Pianist
Director of Performing Arts

Each month, we feature an “Eco-Friendly Tip!” It’s our way of helping conserve resources and preserve our beautiful Brevard beaches and waterways.



These are tips for tourists coming to Florida in the summer—but they’re good for anyone who’s going to be outside in this hot weather! 1) Hydrate often—even if you’re not thirsty 2) Watch for signs of heat exhaustion: dizziness, headaches, or nausea 3) Beware of storms: Follow the 30-30 Rule: Seek shelter if thunder follows lightning within 30 seconds. 4) Don’t forget rule 1: Stay Hydrated!

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.



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Preschool phone number: 321-453-1640

Office extensions:

1001: Reception

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1004: Rev. Greenawalt

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