

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2026



All Church Retreat
Fun-Connection-Spiritual Growth
September 5-7th | St. Simons Island

Featured Speaker:
“The Chalkguy” Ben Glenn

Award Winning Artist, Speaker & Author



Spend Labor Day weekend at the stunning Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island — hotel-style accommodations, beautiful coastal surroundings, and a weekend built for faith and fellowship.

What's Included:

- Gatherings for worship
- Guest Speaker, “The Chalkguy” Ben Glenn
- Kids and Student Ministry programming
- Plenty of afternoon activities (beach, pool, putt-putt golf, crafting, and more)
- All meals provided by Epworth
- Evening fun for the whole family - bingo, glow in the dark games, campfire, trivia, and game show night!

Reserve your spot today at mandarinpres.com/retreat.

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Daily Bread Food Pantry



Tuesday evening guest visits to the Daily Bread Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are ahead of last year's pace. Now four months into 2026, our volunteers continue to joyfully send each guest household home with three grocery bags — packed with non-perishable staples alongside fresh breads, pastries, vegetables, fruits, dairy, and meat or poultry when available.

These numbers reflect a substantial impact on our local community, demonstrating the ongoing need from the Pantry and Clothes Closet. Each guest represents a story and a family household touched by the generosity and dedication of our volunteers, donors, and partners. We anticipate continued demand and remain committed to serving with compassion and care.

Generous support from MPC members, youth groups, schools, and local businesses — through donations and food drives — has carried the pantry strong into 2026. Most recently, the Rotary Club of Mandarin hosted its annual "Run for the Hungry" on April 25th utilizing our Church Campus for its Start/Finish.

Below is a list of standard food / common items provided each week to the Guest households supported by the Daily Bread Food Pantry.

DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY STANDARD ITEMS PROVIDED WEEKLY		
THESE (4)---EACH GUEST HOUSEHOLD EVERY WEEK		
PASTA SAUCE	+	MAC 'n CHEESE
FRUITS, canned	+	VEGGIES: canned
PLUS (ONE or the OTHER) of these (7) EACH HOUSEHOLD EVERY WEEK		
TUNA, canned	+ or	CHICKEN, canned
CHILI / BEEF STEW / BEEF RAVIOLI, Etc (canned)	+ or	SOUP, LARGER (family sizes), cans (>14.5oz)
INSTANT OATMEAL: Multi-Pac (10-12), box	+ or	CEREALS: any brand, box
PEANUT BUTTER: any style, plastic container	+ or	JELLY: any style, plastic container
SIDE DISHES: all styles, box / bag	+ or	RICE or SOUP BEANS plain or flavored, bags ((16oz))
PASTA: Elbow Mac, BowTies, Rotini, etc, ((16oz))	+ or	PASTA: Spaghetti, Angel Hair, Linguini, etc. ((16oz))
COOKIES	+ or	"BREAKFAST BARS": Fruit&Grain, Granola Bars, PopTarts, etc
Also Included: Fresh Vegetables, Fruits, Breads & Pastries and other pantry/food items as provisioned by our Agency Partners: Feeding Northeast Florida - and - Waste Not-Want Not !!!		

We appreciate and are grateful for your prayers for this ministry and our guests.

Thanks for your continued support,
Daily Bread Food Ministry
(Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Volunteers)

Staff Announcement



We are excited to announce that Caleb Wolfram is joining the MPC staff team as our new Lead Facilities Manager!

Caleb will be stepping into this role following a transition period with Mark Brown, who is heading into a well-deserved retirement. Mark and his wife, Jean, have some exciting travels ahead of them, and we couldn't be more grateful for the years of hard work and dedication he has poured into MPC. Thank you, Mark — you will be greatly missed!

As for Caleb, MPC is truly in his blood. Born and raised right here in Mandarin, he has been part of this community his entire life — attending events, growing in faith, and even working alongside Mark in facilities before. MPC played a significant role in shaping who he is, and he is passionate about giving back in this new capacity.



Today, Caleb is very involved in MPC's Young Adult Ministry and co-leads a group of 8th grade guys. Since his teen years, he's loved all things old and classic. In his free time, he enjoys working on classic cars, racing his '86 Monte Carlo and restoring antiques. There's only one sport he watches, and that is NASCAR! But most of all, he is excited to be a part of what God is doing at MPC!

Please join us in giving Caleb a warm welcome to the team!

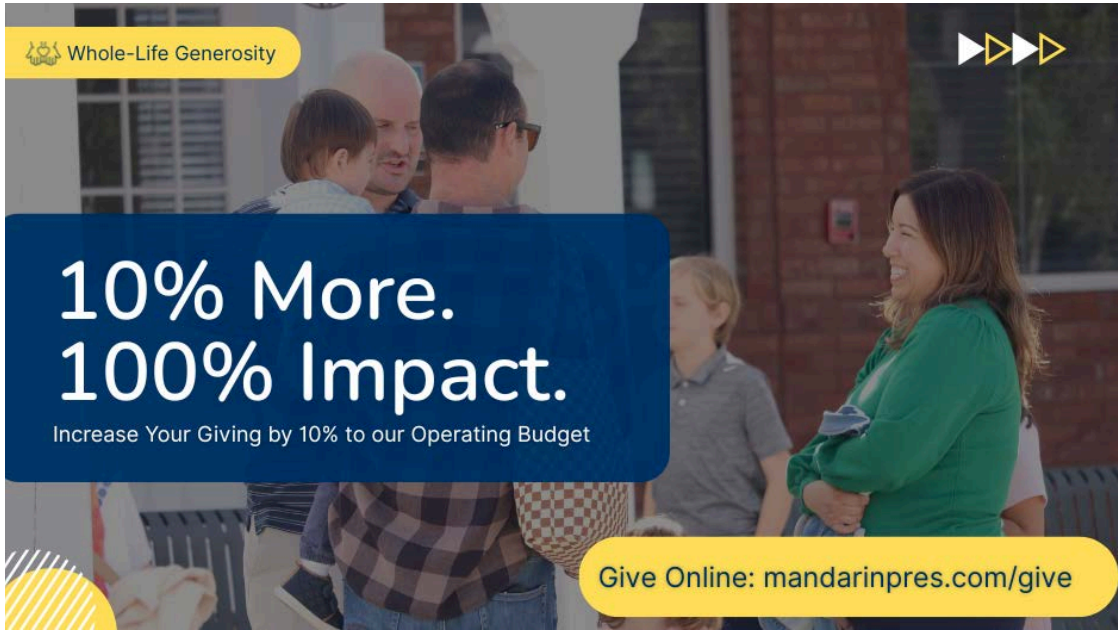
Just Older Youth

May J.O.Y. Luncheon



Taco 'bout a good time....we're taking J.O.Y. on the road! Join us at Don Juan's Mexican restaurant on Thursday, May 14th at 11:30am for good food, fun conversations and amazing fellowship! Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 13th at 904-680-9944. Brenda will bring dessert!

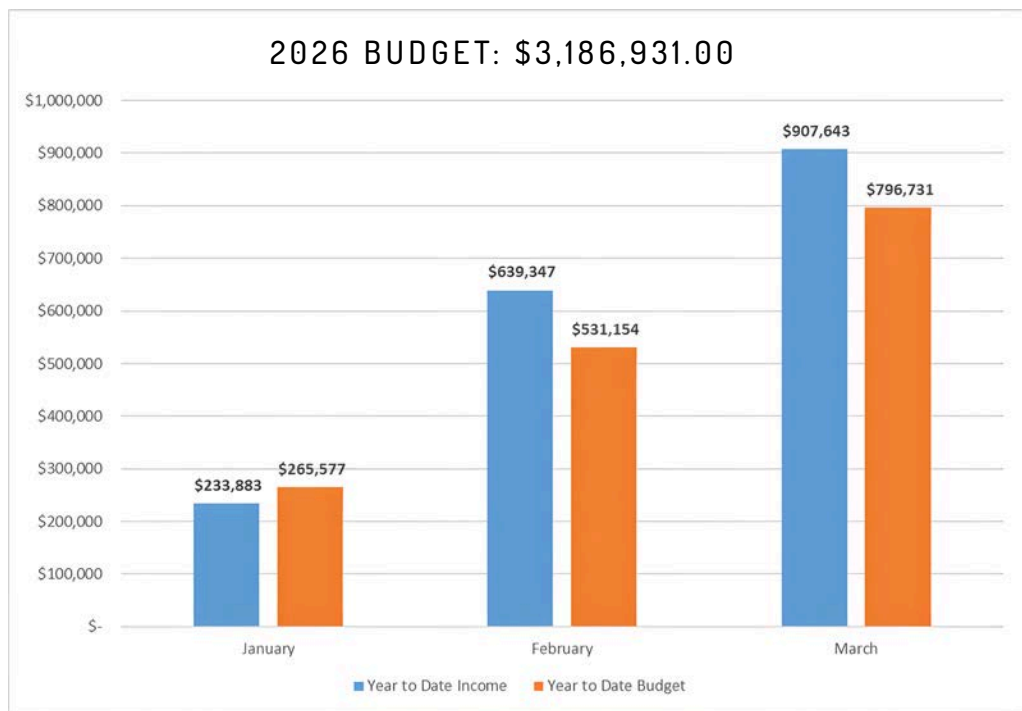
Operational Budget



Congrats - We are Already Making a Impact!

The call went out, and you responded with generosity and faith. Because of your commitment to give 10% more, our first quarter giving has surpassed last year by 10% — a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together. This growth allows us to sustain the work He has placed before us and transform more lives. Don't stop now. As we press toward summer, your continued giving funds all that we do for His vision. We are deeply grateful.

2026 1ST QUARTER - YTD INCOME VS BUDGETED INCOME



A graphic for a Momentum Construction Update. It features a yellow hard hat icon above a stylized white 'M' logo. The word 'MOMENTUM' is written in a white, cursive font, and 'CONSTRUCTION UPDATE' is in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The background is a dark blue image of a building under construction. A yellow ribbon graphic is on the right side.

MOMENTUM CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Momentum Construction is set to begin soon, and we can't wait to make room for more people to move toward Jesus!

Here are some exciting updates and things to keep in mind:

- Keep praying for permitting, as not all permits have been released yet.
- Watch for General Contractor mobilization — construction fencing, trailers, landscaping adjustments, and more.
- Continue to pray for the construction crew, our leadership, and our congregation throughout this season.
- Visit mandarinpres.com/momentum for the latest construction updates.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility during our construction phase!

Have questions?

Building: Brian Paul | bpaul@mandarinpres.com | (904) 680-9944

Giving: Anne Petrone | apetrone@mandarinpres.com | (904) 680-9944



On Sunday, March 29th, we gathered for Palm Sunday and to celebrate our Momentum Groundbreaking — and seeing so many of you there made it extra special. Thank you, MPC family! This is God's story, and we are grateful to be part of it together.

MPP



MPP is wrapping up another amazing school year. The next few weeks will be jam-packed with:

- The final preschool chapel lessons
- A VPK Field trip to the Magic Wardrobe Theater
- Mother's Day Tea Parties
- Staff Appreciation Week
- Spring Sing Programs
- VPK Graduations

Things are always busy at MPP! We still have a few spots in our VPK and Three-Year-Old classes for next school year and we have some room in our preschool summer camp as well. Contact Lee at the preschool office if you are interested!

Call 904-680-6406 or email:
Lsamuels@mandarinpres.com.

MPC Men's Fellowship Luncheon

The MPC Men's Fellowship Luncheon is held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from noon until 1:15pm. We strive to have a guest speaker at one of the monthly meetings and have a discussion based on the previous Sunday's sermon at alternate meetings.

We have a lunch of sub sandwiches with the fixings on the side, along with potato salad, chips, drinks and dessert. The cost of lunch is \$8.00.

All men of our church and guests are invited to join us. Please consider joining us for fellowship, prayer, interesting guest speakers and discussion.

Please contact Randy Hester at 904-859-4996 or hesterrandy632@gmail.com or Wayne Gaff at 904-318-0002 or w.gaff@comcast.net with any questions.



When I was young, "May Day" meant exchanging candy baskets with neighborhood kids. It wasn't as big as Halloween, but it was a sweet tradition for us. Do you know anyone who still celebrates May Day? At some point, it quietly faded away—much like Sunday and Wednesday night church services.

Life keeps getting busier, which can push Jesus to the edges of our lives. Is there something in your spiritual life at risk of becoming your own "May Day"—something quietly fading? Jesus calls us to ABIDE with Him, to be present, which takes intentional effort. Here's an idea: try the Great Banquet—72 hours immersed in God's grace, deeply loved, and drawing close to Jesus. Learn more at nefgb.com.

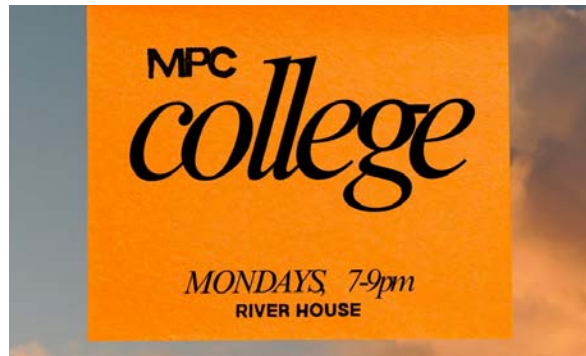
Mark Your Calendar!



K-Kamp still has openings! Register today at mandarinpres.com/kkamp. K-Kamp is a week focused on relationships – growing kids’ relationships with Christ and their fellow campers and leaders. Activities include worship, Bible study, swimming, tubing, arts and crafts, archery, hiking, and all camp recreation.



MPC MomCo is a vibrant fellowship where moms support each other through motherhood and grow together in faith — all over hot coffee, breakfast, and provided childcare! For more details, visit mandarinpres.com/momco. Registration for 2026–2027 opens Friday, **May 1st!**



MPC College is back this summer! Join us for community and fellowship every Monday from 7–9pm at the River House. All college-aged individuals (18–22) are welcome, so bring your friends and spread the word! Our kickoff is Monday, **May 18th!** Visit mandarinpres.com/college for more info.



Registration is open for the upcoming Women’s Ministry Chick & Eggs breakfast. Ladies, please join us for delicious food, fellowship and fun on Saturday, **May 30th!** For more details and to save your spot: mandarinpres.com/womensministry.

Event Recap: April

NEXT Discipleship Weekend



Earlier in April, MPC hosted a NEXT Discipleship weekend, tailored for our 7th & 8th grade Next Gen students, focusing on worship, prayer, and study. From the ropes course and glow-in-the-dark kickball to Ultimate Frisbee and fellowship, our students also worked on their Statements of Faith. We can't wait to see how God works in their lives.

Micah Project Guests



On April 12th, we got to hear an inspiring message from Micah Project founder Michael Miller and how God is moving in Honduras. Micah Project graduate Eddy shared his testimony, graciously translated by his new bride Tricia. If you missed it, catch the replay at mandarinpres.com/sermons.

Volunteer Appreciation



What a joy to host an appreciation brunch to show gratitude for all of our office volunteers - thanks for all you do!

J1:9 Ministries Annual Shrimp Boil



On April 11th, an incredible \$26,000 was raised at the J1:9 Ministries Annual Shrimp Boil to purchase Bibles and support Bible translators in Guatemala, making God's Word accessible in multiple Mayan dialects - amazing!

SESSION UPDATE

Session Members:

Matt Balanky, Danielle Caplin, Chris Davis, Christina Elmore, Curt Etheridge, Bob Gillander, Kim Harris, Rosa Heard, Penny Kievet, Brandon Perkins, Frank Talbot, Carol Yelinek including pastors Andrew Stepp, Jenn Arnold, Jeff Arnold, Wendy Greer and Devyn Nelson.



If you would like to reach out to our Session members, please email session@mandarinpres.com.

Even though the Session did not meet in April, we continued to pray for those whose paths we cross.

We have a few Momentum construction phase Sundays under our belt as we welcome those arriving to worship. Perhaps you've caught a ride on a golf cart from your car to the entry door. You may be entering by a different door now. Your babies and toddlers are going to a different location, but a location that is just as warm, welcoming, and secure as our previous infant/toddler space. If you decided to give it a few weeks to let the dust settle and have been watching the service from home, now would be a perfect time to return to in-person service. We miss you and look forward to welcoming you back!

Want to get more involved this summer? Volunteer registration is now open for both SCAMP and WinShape! SCAMP has volunteer opportunities for adults, students in 8th grade and older, and a brand-new opportunity for 6th- and 7th-graders through the SCAMP Work Crew.

Preschoolers, ages 3-5, will have their own summer camp hosted by Mandarin Presbyterian Preschool (MPP). Information for all kids summer camps, including links to register a camper or volunteer, may be found at mandarinpres.com/kidsevents.

Save the date for our next All Church Retreat on September 5-7 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, GA. If you missed our last retreat, be sure not to miss this year's. Even if you are a family of one, come and connect with other MPC families.

Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and Momentum. Pray for protection of all who are involved in the planning process, pray for those who will be on-site executing the plans, pray for an easy adjustment for our MPC families as they come to worship during this Momentum season.

Our Vision and Core Values remain the foundation of all we do: Jesus First · Every Generation · Deep-Spirited Community · Courageous Faith · Whole-Life Generosity. Please join the Session as we pray for MPC and the vision that God has put before us.

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17)

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