

Dear Students and Parents:

Our goal at MPC is to graduate students who have an *Enduring Faith that is Known and Fully Alive!* We want them to have a faith that will last past high school, a faith that has both heart and head knowledge, and a faith that influences all parts of their decisions and lives.

We want to invite your student to take a deeper step in their faith journey this year! Student Discovery (confirmation) is an experience for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders that takes a deep dive into faith, the church, and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. For students who consider MPC their home church, this is part of the process for those wanting to become members of the church. For those who have a home church elsewhere, we believe Student Discovery will also come alongside their journey and open the doors for significant conversations and growth.

This year Student Discovery will take place on Sundays on the Mandarin Road Campus. Through the theme, *Know Your Story*, our group time will focus on hearing stories of faith, learning about God's story, and engaging in conversations that allow us to apply that truth to our lives.

In order to be a follower of Jesus, we need to know who Jesus is. We will have students reading the gospel of Mark through the year and encourage questions that we will address in our group time.

As we seek to partner with parents and create spaces for meaningful conversation, students and at least one parent (or other significant adult) will choose 3 conversation topics to discuss at home. We will provide a video resource and guide for this.

As we seek to connect students to the larger church, we will be matching them with sponsors who are adult members of the church living out their faith. Sponsors will meet with students about once a month during our scheduled group time. In addition, students will be expected to attend MPC worship (or their own home church) at least 8 times through the year – in person.

As we seek to encourage students to live out their faith by serving, we will participate in an MPC community serve day this spring. Any student unable to attend will be able to complete an alternative project with their family.

In April, students who have completed all requirements are invited to participate in our Statement of Faith night. This is space created where they can speak and own their own faith – family and friends are invited. This is also the night that students may choose to join MPC.

For MPC membership: Students may choose to become members of MPC by profession of faith and confirmation of their baptism (or if they have not been baptized they will do this the following Sunday). Participation in the class does not mean that a student is obligated to join the church at the end. The decision to become a member is a serious one, and needs to be made by each student themselves.

We will start this year with an informational meeting for students AND parents on Sunday, November 5 from 5 – 6pm. At this time, we will hand out binders, share our schedule in detail, and talk about how

families will participate in this process. Attached are the class dates and times, as well as the other information you will need.

**\*TO REGISTER GO TO THE MS OR HS PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.MANDARINPRES.COM](http://WWW.MANDARINPRES.COM)**

I can't wait for the adventure before us!

Rev. Jenn Arnold  
Pastor for Next Generation Ministries  
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## **Important Dates:**

\*Up to 4 group days may be missed

\*MRC = Mandarin Road Campus; LRC = Loretto Road Campus

- **Nov. 5 – Parent/Student meeting – (5 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**

### **Group Meeting Times:**

- **Nov. 12 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: God's Story
- **Nov. 19 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: Israelite Story
- (Nov. 26 – No Group – Thanksgiving)
- **SATURDAY Dec. 2 (10-11:30am in Sanctuary – LRC)**  
Theme: Advent w/Sponsors
- **Dec. 10 (3:30 – 5pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: Jesus' Story #1
- **Jan. 21 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: Jesus' Story #2
- **Jan. 28 – (4:30 – 6pm in Sanctuary – LRC)**  
Theme: The Lord's Prayer (Prayer Stations) w/Sponsors
- **Feb. 4 (4:30 – 6pm in Kids Space – LRC)**  
Theme: Early Church Story
- **Feb. 11 (12 – 1:30pm in Woodys - MRC) pizza will be provided**  
Theme: LENT (Prayer Stations) w/Sponsors
- (Feb. 18 – President's Day Weekend – No Group)
- **Feb. 25 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: Presbyterian/Denominational Story
- **Mar. 3 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: My Story: Sacraments/Growing in Faith
- (Mar. 10 – St. Johns Spring Break – No Group)
- Mar. 15-18 – MS Mission Trip – Details to Come
- Mar. 16 – MPC SERVE Day
- (Mar. 17 – No Group)
- (Mar. 24 – Eggstravaganza – No Group)
- (Mar. 31 – Easter – No Group)
- (April 7 – No Group)
- **April 14 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: My Story: Stewardship w/Sponsors
- **April 21 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: My Story: Statements of Faith
- **April 28 (4:30 – 6pm in Woodys – MRC)**  
Theme: Final Week
- **Monday, April 29– Statement of Faith Night at 6:30pm Fellowship Hall – MRC**
- **Sunday, May 5 – 10:30am Worship Service in Sanctuary – LRC**  
\*Students who have joined the church are recognized in worship.