



THE LIGHT



MISSION

Worshipping God.
Welcoming All.
Building Community.

VISION

God's Love Unites Us All



✦
**"FROM HIM THE WHOLE BODY, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER BY EVERY SUPPORTING LIGAMENT, GROWS AND BUILDS ITSELF UP IN LOVE, AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK."
EPHESIANS 4:16**

Pastor's Page

The month of September promises to be a month of grounding in contemplative work and peace-making.

On Sunday, September 8th, I will be leading the church in a new sermon series, called "A Season of Peace: The Things That Make for Peace." This series will touch on the themes of:

- Recognizing the things that make for peace
- Finding peace
- Practicing peace
- Extending peace
- Living peace

The first Sunday of the series (September 8th) will also be our "Back to Church Sunday" celebration. We will be welcoming new members into the church. And, we will be launching our new Adult Education Classes. This fall, there will be:

- a Bible Study taught in Spanish by Luis Carranza and Sara Salavarría,
- a Bible Study taught in Portuguese by Thomas Hessel and the Rev. Valdir França, and
- a Mindfulness and Contemplation Book Study Series.

Keep your eyes out for more details on the first two classes. We will, of course, also continue our Sunday Morning Bible Study that happens at 10 am in the Library. All adults are welcome.

I will be teaching the Mindfulness and Contemplation Book Study Series. This study will happen on Sundays, from 12:15-1:15 pm, in the Sanctuary. Our first book is Richard Rohr's "Breathing Under Water." I have found this book to be incredibly insightful for spiritual wellness, and hope that you find it to be so too! We will use both the book and the companion journal.

Wishing you a mindful and peaceful September!

Pastor Kim



Transitional Ministry Column

As MSPC continues in this time of transition, it would be helpful for the wider church to understand the tasks that was given to me, and the Session, by the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, when I said "yes" to the call as Transitional Pastor of MSPC in July 2020. Each month, I will focus on a different task.

- **Task for Transitional Pastor:** Reducing the level of anxiety

I am thrilled to begin a new book study series on mindfulness and contemplation. I find that when I ground myself in contemplation, my anxiety levels go down. My prayer is that in this time of study and practice, we could find more peace and contentment, reduce the anxiety and stress, of the church both individually and collectively. I hope you consider being a part of the book study.



BLESSING of the ANIMALS

Service Prayer

FEAST DAY OF SAINT FRANCIS

Friday, October 4th

7:00 PM

in the Chapel Parking Lot

MSPC Chapel 601 NE 96th St, Miami Shores, FL 33138



WELCOME OUR NEW

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS DIRECTOR



MR. HOLMES

Mr. Jacob Randall Holmes is a multifaceted media composer, and music director, earning his Bachelor of Music in Composition from Baldwin Wallace University and a Master of Music in Composition from Carnegie Mellon University. Jacob brings a wealth of musical expertise to MSPC Children's Choirs. He also recently earned his terminal degree in Media Scoring and Production for the Frost School of Music. His career in professional musical theater includes roles as Assistant Music Director for Brandon Bush (of Train) and performances at prestigious venues like the Adrienne Arsht Center. He also joined MSPCS as the Music Teacher and is an active content creator on multiple platforms in his free time. We are excited to see the musical magic he will bring to MSPC!! Welcome, Jacob!

2024-2025 MSPC Children's Choirs

Thursdays, September 5th to June 1st

- K-2nd Grade, 3:15-3:50 PM
- 3rd - 5th Grade, 4:15 - 5:00.



They would take place in the Church Choir Room with the Children's Choir Director.



Choir will only be meeting during the scheduled school days. There would be no choir during MSPCS school breaks/MSPCS school holidays and on the Thursdays of the school shows (Christmas and Easter).

Church singing: First (mostly) Sunday of every month (Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1).

For Registration or More Information, Contact Jacob Holmes at jacob@mspcs.net



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP



**SATURDAY
SEPT. 21ST**

START FROM: 9:00 TO 10:30 AM

**LOCATED: 609 Brickell Avenue,
Miami, FL**

Join First Miami Presbyterian Church and Miami Shores Presbyterian Church in the International Coastal Cleanup 2024 (ICC2024). We will gather under the tent in the parking lot which is right on the shore of Biscayne Bay. Bring your sunscreen and water.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

By Renae Bonds



I greet you with love and joy,

(Fall- Fellowship, Allowing, Light and Love)

Once again we are blessed to see summer transitioning into Fall. Schools are back in session and we are adjusting our lives to days of more structured routines and schedules. The demands on our time can create hurried, overloaded, and difficult to manage days and nights for our families.

Fall is a time of reflection for me. In Virginia, it was my favorite season for what I called "life Walks"- A time of quietly praising and talking with God as I walked in my neighborhood and observed God's natural artistry in the fall trees, amazed and inspired by the varying shades of yellow, green, orange, red, and purple. The last four years I have had to make some adjustments as my "Life Walks" now occur at the beach, which requires some planning as the beach is not as accessible as my tree lined street. Yet, the experience is just as valuable and needed.

As we transition into Fall, The Children's ministry will focus on Back to Church. Just as with my "Life Walks", my prayer is that this will be a time of the children settling back into and growing in their routine of Church life. Learning, worshiping and growing together in Christ is so important at their stage of development. The Church being a wonderful, safe refuge from the go-go-go of every day. A beautiful restoring and resetting experience to build them up to face the week ahead with light and love. So parents, we invite you to come as well. We can't do this without you.

Peace and Blessings,

Chaplin Bonds

YOUTH GROUP

By Iya Overstreet



During the summer, youth assisted Chaplain Bonds with VBS. Most participated as full-time youth counselors, and others as counselors in training. Youth showed up daily, worked as a team and showed extreme leadership while assisting the younger children.

After completing VBS, 15 youth were rewarded with a summer fun trip to Xtreme Action Park in Fort Lauderdale Florida. Youth traveled by van to Xtreme Action Park where they were given a unique opportunity to bond and rediscover each other through a fulfilling evening!

The mission trip to Chapman was amazing! This day of service provided community service hour opportunities but most of all it gave our youth the chance to serve others and feel fulfilled by service! 4 youth & 3 adult volunteers hosted a group of 25 youth at Chapman Partnership creating keepsake items, playing fun games & gifting each child with a bag of snacks prepared by our youth ministry!

On Sunday August 18th the youth ministry hosted a Pool Party to kick off the new school year! Youth were able to connect with old friends, welcome new friends & enjoy an afternoon of food & fun! 24 youth attended alongside their parents and a few younger siblings! Youth were able to engage in group discussions with topics such as upcoming activities, youth mission trips & our 2024-25 Youth Ministry schedule which includes Bible study! The Youth at MSPC are working collectively to ensure that our youth ministry is a welcoming environment for all youth!

Iya Overstreet

Youth Ministry Director

For more information and details about Youth Group please contact Iya - iya@mspc.net
**Next Meetings: Fri. Sept. 6th | Wed. Sept. 11th | Fri. Sept. 20th, Wed. Sept. 25th
(Bible Study) | Fri. Sept. 27th | 6:30 PM in the Youth Room**



Mission Corner

By Marta Lavandier & Leslie Wallace

SCHOOL SUPPLY AND BACKPACK LUNCHEON 131 BACKPACKS FILLED!

Thank you all for helping local students get ready for school. Through your donations of supplies, money, and participation in the August 11th backpack-filling event, we were able to fill 131 backpacks. Special thanks to the Missions Committee and Deacons for organizing a beautiful luncheon. These backpacks will benefit children at Phyllis Ruth Miller, Hubert O'Sibley, and Miami Shores Elementary, as well as SafeSpace, Pass It On Ministries, and Chapman Partnership. Your generosity is helping local kids succeed in school!



CARE PACKAGES

The Missions Committee is sending care packages to our members attending undergraduate or graduate programs, technical or vocational schools and military academies. The packages contain snacks, a gift card, a letter from Pastor Kim and a devotional. Please send Marta Lavandier your son or daughters name and address by October 1 at MLavandier2000@yahoo.com.

HOUSE OF HOPE

Jenny was happy to report that the long-awaited supply boat had safely arrived. The shipment included mattresses and Bibles, of their own, for the children. The children are studying the Bible and learning verses by heart. Jenny sends her thanks to all the people who helped this happen and for the prayers that were sent for the older students who are still hard at work with examinations over the summer.

IN THE BREEZEWAY- FIRST SUNDAY DONATIONS: collections of non-perishable food for Pass It On; clothes and new underwear and socks for Chapman Partnership; toiletries and flip flops for SafeSpace.

IN THE NATHEX - No longer needed prescription eyeglasses-no cases please.

The next scheduled Missions meeting is **September 11, 2024, 7 pm, in the Library.**

Please contact **Marta Lavandier** (MLavandier2000@yahoo.com) or **Leslie Wallace** (lesliead.wallace@gmail.com) for more information.

Pastor Nominating Committee

By Stephanie Daniel

The PNC has diligently met every two weeks this summer to draft the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP). The MDP highlights MSPC's many attributes and emphasizes the skills and talents our church is looking for in a permanent Senior Pastor.

We are glad to report the MDP is nearing completion. The PNC is preparing to advance to the next steps in the Pastor nominating process.

At the culmination of the search process, the PNC looks forward to our congregation calling and welcoming a permanent Senior Pastor who shares MSPC's vision and is ready to lead our church forward in its mission.

The PNC asks for your ongoing prayers for wisdom and discernment as we continue faithfully working through the process of finding our permanent Senior Pastor.

MSPCS NEWS

By *Satrina Chargualaf*



Dear MSPCS Community,



We are One. Our 2024-2025 school year is off to an incredible start!

Every morning, our school day begins with all of us gathering together as a safe and caring school community in the Fellowship Hall. Mr. Ingram (WIN/Academic Coach and PE Teacher) leads us in movement, mindfulness, and exercise to wake us up and help our blood flow to the brain. Some days, it's about centering ourselves by being calm and practicing control of our breathing.

Afterwards, Chaplain Renae Bonds leads us in a morning devotional that consists of a Bible verse and our school's core value of the month. This month we are focusing on "Dignity" and the Golden Rule, where we learn the importance of treating others as we would like to be treated. This leads us into announcements, a student-led Pledge of Allegiance, and a short prayer led by a staff member or myself. Last week Wednesday, we had the honor of having the Reverend Kim Robles (Pastor Kim) lead our students and staff in our morning prayer. Thank you, Pastor Kim!

During Chapel time, Chaplain Bonds incorporates the teaching of our school's core values, character development and Social Emotional Development. Thank you Chaplain Bonds! This is a time that helps our students and staff to get grounded and reset for our afternoon specials, which include Art, Bible, Library, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish. Chapel time helps us to set the foundation for our students and staff, for example, to have a school wide common understanding of how we treat each other with respect, why it is important to be kind to each other, and how to show others we care about them when we see that they aren't feeling well or when someone is feeling sad.

Here is the list of our core values for each month of our school year:

August: Dignity **September: Confidence** **October: Forgiveness**
November: Gratitude **December: Peace** **January: Fulfillment**
February: Love **March: Humility** **April: Persistence**
May: Transformations

As Chaplain Bonds prepares to teach our September core value of "Confidence", students will also be taking their MAP Assessments, engaging in our Town Hall and taking their school photos. It is these core values that help us in our daily lives to make better choices, to be more kind to one another, and to treat each other with respect and dignity.

Thank you all for your support and may we continue to keep God at the center of everything we do!

Sincerely,

Satrina Chargualaf

Head of School



Welcoming Our Newest Educators at MSPCS!

Before the students returned, we gathered for our "Commissioning Teachers Service" to celebrate and welcome our new and old teachers. Meet our newest team members: (Left to Right) Mrs. Weddle (5th Grade Teacher), Mrs. Yasmin Garcia (1st Grade Teacher), Ms. Eli (1st Grade Teacher Assistant), and Ms. Marvelys Larrazabal (Pre-K 2 Teacher Assistant). We're thrilled to have them on board!



Registration for the 2024-2025 STILL OPEN! If you or someone you know is looking for a high-quality education and nurturing community environment, then this is the place for you! Please email (schools@mspcs.net) or call the MSPCS office at 305-751-5417 (for Nursery through PK4) or 305-759-2548 (for Kindergarten through 5th Grade) to arrange a tour.

Upcoming Dates & Events

First Sunday of the Month: Pass It On Collection, Chapman Collection, Serve at Chapman Partnership, Safespace Donation

Sundays: 10 AM Adult Bible Study - Library

Sundays: 10:30 AM Nursery (Up to 4 Years)

Sundays: 11:15 AM Children's Church - Library

Sundays: 11 AM Worship Service

Sundays: 12:15 PM Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays: 9 AM Soft Dolls Workshop

Monday, September 2nd: LABOR DAY

Sunday, September 8th: 12:15 PM "MSPC Mindfulness and Contemplation Book Series: Breathing Under the Water" Introduction



*Children Choirs

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September 5th to June 1st**

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- 3rd - 5th Grade, 4:15 - 5:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!! Join First Miami Presbyterian Church and MSPC in the International Coastal Cleanup 2024 (ICC2024). We will meet behind First Miami Presbyterian Church at 609 Brickell Avenue, Miami. We will gather under the tent in the parking lot which is right on the shore of Biscayne Bay. Bring your sunscreen and water!

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