



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LIGHT



*"The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus."
(Luke 1:30-31).*

Pastor's Page



Advent is here! We begin our time of preparation for Christmas.

This Advent Season, our sermon series is called: "Words for the Beginning." In the life of the church, the church calendar starts again, with its first Sunday being December 1st, the first Sunday of Advent.

We will be invited to reflect on this new beginning. A new beginning in a new church year! A new beginning for our community. A new beginning in how we think about what it means to be church, and what the Christ's child's birth means to us today in 2024.

We will do so with Scripture, with words that encourage us. And, we will ground ourselves with words from Scripture that point to a future that promises hope, peace, love, and joy.

Every Sunday of Advent, you will hear this Benediction at the end of worship:

As you leave this place,
 may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
 May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
 the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
 and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
 For in a world full of dead ends,
 Advent invites us to begin again.
 So start here.
 Start now.
 Start with love and begin again.
 In the name of Christ,
 our new beginning,
 go in peace.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Peace and blessings,

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: Coming to Terms with History**

The Session continues to come to terms with its history. We have been looking at who the church was in what we might call our "heyday," and where we are now. While our own lives, and church membership, look different than they did in 1970, we find ourselves struggling in this desire to continue many of these activities from the past.

Session continues to discern what still provides spiritual nourishment to the church community, and what must be let go in 2024. As we think about new beginnings this Advent, may we look forward to the future promises from God.



ESTUDIO BÍBLICO

MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS,
AFTER WORSHIP
DECEMBER 8, 15 & 22.

IN THE GARDEN
Led by Luis Carranza
& Sara Salavarria

¡Todos son bienvenidos!



CHRISTMAS EVE ACOLYTES

**Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 2024 (after Worship)
& Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 2024 - 5:00 PM**

In this season of preparation, we are organizing MSPC's Christmas Eve Candle-Lighters. Older children and youth are invited to participate.

Contact **Ms. Bonds** at: rbonds@mspcs.net



YOU ARE INVITED

Christmas MEAL

**Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 25th from 12 PM to 3 PM
in the Fellowship Hall - don't miss it!**

Poinsettias

We are thrilled to once again be selling Poinsettias to decorate our church for the Holidays. Purchase one or more of our lovely Poinsettias and dedicate it in honor, or in memory of someone, a family, or a group.

The cost will be \$15.00

A Worship Committee member will sell them on Sundays, December 8th, 15th and 22nd. Or you can order by calling the church office at 305-754-9541 - (there are many ways to pay) You may take them home after the Christmas Eve Services.

Please contact us at with questions. Thank you.



YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS



HOLIDAY FUN NIGHT

DEC.
13TH

Join us for an exciting evening of Christmas movies, hot chocolate, and cookie decorating! Dinner will be provided - don't miss it!

06:30
PM



MSPC *Advent Choir*

DEC

22

2024

RYAN ELLIS, MSPC MUSIC DIRECTOR, INVITES YOU TO JOIN THE MSPC ADVENT CHOIR FOR REHEARSALS IN THE CHOIR ROOM, FROM 12-12:30 PM, ON SUNDAYS, DEC. 1, 8, AND 15. THE CHOIR WILL SING ON SUN. DEC. 22 ND DURING THE 11 AM WORSHIP SERVICE.



**2024 CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
7 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**

**"LOVE KNOWS YOUR
NAME" - LUKE 2:1-20**

ADVENT WORSHIP

1st Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1st:
"You are a blessing" - Luke 1:26-38

2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8th:
"We can't go alone" - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 15th:
"Do the good that is yours to do" - Luke 3:7-16

4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22nd:
"Hope is worth the risk" - Luke 1:46-55



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TAIZE ADVENT WORSHIP

WEDNESDAYS
AT 7 PM
IN THE CHAPEL

*DECEMBER 4TH
DECEMBER 11TH
DECEMBER 18TH*

601 NE 96th St, Miami Shores, FL 33138

G.I.F.t.S.– Growing In Faith through Stewardship

By Tabitha Charles

As we head into this glorious holiday season, we ask you to take a moment to reflect on the blessings that surround you. We are blessed as a congregation that we have wonderful church leadership, a vibrant mission and vision, and incredible church members who support MSPC.

We want to thank all of you for your ongoing dedication to Miami Shores Presbyterian Church. We especially want to thank those of you who stepped up and sent in your pledge for 2025. For those of you who have not yet filled out your pledge for 2025, there is still time! Just contact the church office and Carol would be thrilled to help you!

As a reminder for 2024, we are asking our church members to fulfill your remaining pledge balance by December 31 st , 2024. To continue paying your pledge, you may send in a check to our Church, or you may use the banking app Zelle to send in your pledge payment. Our goal is to have all pledges paid in full by December 31 st , 2024.

Thank you again for your commitment to Miami Shores Presbyterian Church and for supporting and promoting God's work.

In Faith, Love, and Stewardship,

The MSPC Deacons

Tabitha Charles, Moderator and Stewardship Chair - Bekky Leonard - Mirja Nissen

Sharon Wallen - Thomas Hessel - Mari Mejia - Yvonne Moyer - Luly Rivero

Mark Vinton - Bob Bourne - Elizabeth Burkins - Debbie Carreiro - Jay Weaver

Emily Reich - Isabella Alderman

FAITH & FINANCES

By Terry Rodriguez

Hello MSPC Community!

Your Budget & Finance Committee have been hard at work with Pastor Kim, Finance and Operations Departments creating the 2025 Budget. A good amount of time and consideration goes into creating a new budget - reviewing past expenses, are there areas where we can cut back, anticipating what the facility needs may be moving into the next year and what is important to the church congregation, for example, the new and improved fellowship after service each Sunday.

To use the donations we receive in a more meaningful way we have decided to remove pre-printed donation envelopes from the 2025 Budget. We spend a decent amount of money on these and most of the envelopes do not get returned since many members pay online, mail a check to church, or use the envelopes in the pews.

Please reach out to the church office if you would like to receive envelopes and we will be happy to mail you generic MSPC envelopes, just let us know how many you need!

Session will be reviewing and approving the 2025 Budget in the next month and once approved the budget will be available to you in January.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or any Budget & Finance member with any questions.

Peace,

Terry Rodriguez



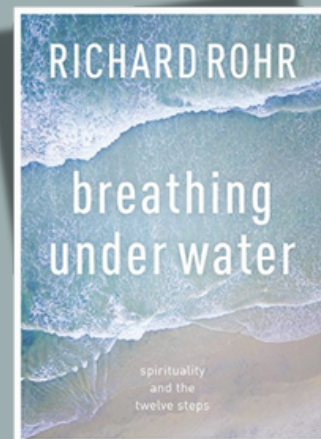
MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEAD BY PASTOR KIM

MINDFULNESS AND CONTEMPLATION

BOOK SERIES

SUNDAYS, 12:15 PM





Mission Corner

By Marta Lavandier & Leslie Wallace

Thank you to everyone who donated a supermarket gift card to benefit families at our three local elementary schools. We collected nearly 40 gift cards, surpassing our goal!

Thank you to everyone who donated to Miami Shores Presbyterian Church during the Give Miami Day fundraising campaign. We raised \$3,707, which was 62% of our goal during this special day of giving. Your gift will fund Vacation Bible School scholarships, including snacks and lunch. It will also help pay for special music performances that we all enjoy during worship. We will also be able to continue to beautify our church grounds so we can create a serene, welcoming environment for all who visit.

MSPC is hosting a **Christmas Day Luncheon** in Fellowship Hall from noon to 3 p.m. Come join us for fellowship and a delicious lunch.

Please remember to bring your donated items on the **First Sunday of the Month**.

- **Chapman Partnership:** New underwear and socks for men, women and children. Gently used clothes and shoes.
- **Safespace:** Full-size toiletries, gently used clothes and shoes for women and children.
- **Pass It On:** Canned goods, bags of rice and beans, peanut butter and jelly.

Thank you for your donations!

The next Missions meeting is on Sunday, Nov.15, at 12:15 in room 135. Please get in touch with *Marta Lavandier* (MLavandier2000@yahoo.com) or *Leslie Wallace* (lesliead.wallace@gmail.com) for more information.

Wishing you and your family a joyful Holiday Season!

MSPCS NEWS

By *Satrina Chargualaf*



Dear MSPC Community,
We are One.



In November, our school held elections for our first Student Council. On November 4th, we heard speeches from our student vice president and president candidates. On November 5th, our K-5 students voted for our Student Council, just like adults voted for the US Presidential Campaign. It was incredible to see our students participate and engage in the election process.

Ms. Anthony and our fourth grade class also had an exciting field trip to iFly, where they dressed in red jumpsuits with helmets and goggles and an instructor guided them to fly. They learned about gravity, air resistance, and STEM concepts like velocity and frontal surface area.

In another heartwarming event, our Preschool and Elementary families participated in Operation Samaritan's Purse International Relief with Operation Christmas Child, preparing shoe boxes with gifts for children in need.

On November 13th, Mr. Ingram, our Academic Coach & PE Teacher, led our Bike Safety Day. All students wore helmets and practiced hand signals like left turn, right turn, stop, and slow down. Parents joined us to cheer on the students in this important safety event.

We also held our Grade Level Spelling Bee, led by Chaplain Bonds and Kindergarten Teacher Mrs. Silva. Every student showed courage, and we are incredibly proud of all the participants.

THE GIVE MIAMI Fundraiser was last week and our MSPCS School Community helped us achieve our goal. We are blessed to have parents and families contribute generously to help our school add new playground equipment for our students. Lastly, MSPC Church Elder, Mr. Luis Carranza, was our featured guest speaker for our SAM's Series (Speeches About Motivation), sharing valuable lessons on growth, resilience, teamwork, discipline, and having fun along the way. It was an honor to have Mr. Carranza share his life experiences and lessons with our classes!

As Christmas approaches, on behalf of our MSPCS staff, I wish you all a blessed and joyful holiday season with your families.

Sincerely,

Satrina Chargualaf
Head of School

Upcoming Dates & Events

First Sunday of the Month: Pass It On Collection,

Chapman Partnership & Safespace Donation

Sundays: 10 AM Adult Bible Study - Library

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

Sundays: 11 AM Worship Service

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

Sundays: 12:15 PM Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall

Sundays: 12:15 Mindfulness and Contemplation

Book Series: "Breathing Under The Water"

Sundays: December 8, 15, 22: Estudio Biblico

Wednesdays: (Dec. 4, 11, 18) 7 PM TAIZE ADVENT SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL

TUESDAY, DEC. 24TH: 7 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Wednesday, Dec. 25th: 12 PM Christmas Meal



2024-2025 Children's Choirs

Every Thursday until June 1st

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

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

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

The Light Staff - December 2024

Maria A Rodriguez, Editor

Rev. Kim Robles, Contributor

Tabitha Charles, Contributor

Terry Rodriguez, Contributor

Marta Lavandier, Contributor

Satrina Chargualaf, Contributor

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Kim Robles, Transitional Pastor

Mrs. Satrina Chargualaf, Head of School

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

602 NE 96th St, Miami Shores, FL 33318

305-754-9541

www.MSPC.net



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