



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LIGHT



***"I PRAISE YOU, FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE".***

(PSALM 139:14)

Pastor's Page

MSPC will begin a new book with our Mindfulness and Contemplation Book Series. The book is Practices for Embodied Living: Experiencing the Wisdom of Your Body by Hilary McBride, PhD.

You may be asking, "What is embodiment?" I'd say it's a curious, non-judgmental way of being present with, and curious about, your body. The definition AI told me is this: "the idea that our bodies shape how we think, feel, and act."

In her book, Dr. McBride tells us: "Embodiment Invites Us to See That:

- Our bodies are more than our appearances.
- Our bodies shape our thinking.
- Our selves exist in our feet and femurs and forearms, not just in our frontal lobes.
- Our bodies connect us to our ancestors, our pasts, and all other living beings.
- Our bodies are where life happens; being in our bodies brings us into life."

If this brings you some curiosity, join me and others as we learning how to practice embodied living.

We will start this group and book on Sunday, February 2 nd . We will meet in the Sanctuary (or Library), after Sunday worship and fellowship.

May we all remember these words from Psalm 139: 13-15

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works;
 that I know very well.
 My frame was not hidden from you,
 when I was being made in secret,
 intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Peace and Blessings in 2025,
Pastor Rev. Kim Robles



Transitional Ministry Column

As MSPC continues in this time of transition, in the middle of a pandemic, it would be helpful for the wider church to understand the tasks (or the job description) 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: Rebuilding Infrastructures**

In the fall of the 2024, the Nominating Committee encouraged the Session to reduce the number of Ruling Elders on the Session, and Deacons, for the 2025 Nominating Committee. So, the Session did the work of discernment and prayer to determine the number of leaders to be nominated and to serve each year. We realized that the MSPC Bylaws needed to be updated – the numbers needed to be changed for the Session and for the Board of Deacons. And, in that process of looking at the bylaws, the Session noticed that some other updates needed to occur. Thank you to the Session for the hard work of updating the bylaws, and presenting them so well to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting on Sun., Jan. 26th. If you see a Ruling Elder that sits on the Session, make sure to thank them for their hard work.



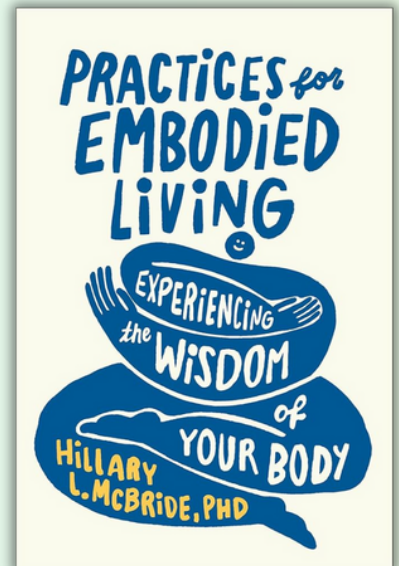
MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINDFULNESS AND CONTEMPLATION

BOOK SERIES

LEAD BY PASTOR KIM

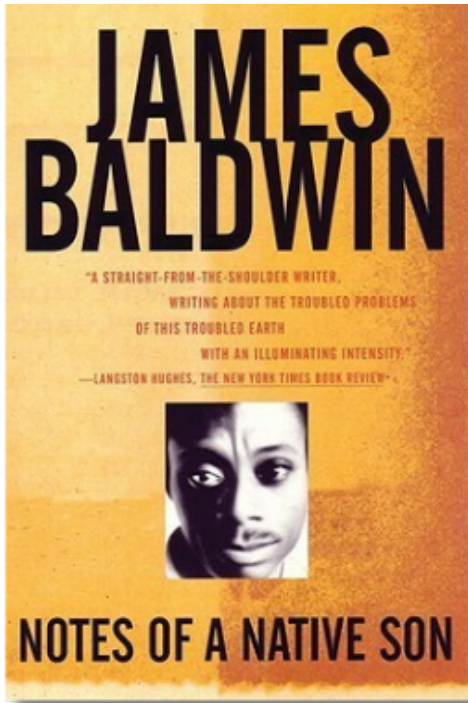
SUNDAYS | 12:15 PM - Starting February 2nd, 2025 in
the Sanctuary



ANTIRACISM BOOK CLUB

By Christopher Bellows

Join the MSPC Anti-Racist Book Group!



We're diving into "Notes of a Native Son" by James Baldwin, a powerful collection of essays exploring identity, race, and society. Whether you can join us every week or just occasionally, we'd love to have you as part of this meaningful discussion!

 **Schedule: Start Date: January 18**

Meeting Time: Saturdays, 9:00–10:00 AM

Location: Zoom (link and reminders sent weekly)

"Notes of a Native Son" is available on Kindle, Amazon, Alibris, and Barnes & Noble in various formats. Suggested Pre-Reading: Introduction, Acknowledgements, Preface, and Autobiographical Notes.

Contact Chris (christopher.bellows@hkllaw.com) to join or for more details.



Mission Corner

By Marta Lavandier & Leslie Wallace



The Missions team lead by Mari Mejia and Toni Porro hosted a Christmas Day luncheon. Over 30 people enjoyed a delicious meal. It was great to see new faces this year!

Please remember to bring your donated items of 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 Ministries: Canned goods, bagged rice and beans, peanut butter and jelly, breakfast cereal and canned/boxed milk.

Soft Animal/Doll Workshop

By Diane Butler

The Doll Workshop (now called Soft Animal/Doll Workshop) has been active at MSPC for many years, as one of our Missions! Meeting every Wednesday in Room 135, behind the Library, from 9 AM to 12 PM.



People are welcome to drop in for any portion of that time frame.

Help is welcome and needed to stuff these animals and do the finishing touches by hand, including adding eyes and closing the small opening. No machine work is needed. Donations of cotton fabric are also appreciated.

Over the years, dolls have been donated to the Miami Rescue Mission, the Shelter for Battered Women and Children, Pass It On Ministry, the Fire Rescue Department, Toys for Tots, and more. Our bags of 100 at a time are always received with wide eyes and happy smiles! This Mission needs you!



ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

ASHES AND PRAYERS

Ashes and Prayers will be shared with all on Ash Wednesday, March 5th from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Pastor Kim and church members will lead this event, across the street from the church on NE 96th Street. Stay in your car or join them under the tent.

FIRST TAIZE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 5th
7:00 pm in the Chapel



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter **SUNDAY**

APRIL 20TH, 2025

**6:30 AM Sunrise Service
on the Front Lawn**

**11:00 AM Worship Service
in the Sanctuary**

WWW.MSPC.NET



LENT TAIZE SERVICES

On Wednesday evenings during Lenten Worship, MSPC will mirror the community of Taizé, coming together in love, and sharing the journey as one community.

Join us every Wednesday during LENT, in the Chapel.

**March 5th to April 16th
7:00 pm in the Chapel**



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMMUNION AND GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

**Friday, April 18th
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**



Easter Egg Hunt

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH - 10:30 AM ON THE FRONT LAWN

Everyone is Welcome! - Bring Your Own Basket



LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

WHAT IT IS:

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, this weekly devotional follows the scriptures of the Everything In Between series through Easter Sunday. Each week offers: commentary, poetry, visual art, written reflections, hymns, and reflection prompts.

211: A TRUSTWORTHY RESOURCE FOR MANY NEEDS

By Barbara Biggart

On Sunday, January 12, 2025, the Pastoral Care Ministry Team welcomed Richard Shutes for a presentation about the national 211 Helpline program.



Richard has managed the 211 Miami program in Miami-Dade County for many years and is the current co-chair of the National 211 Steering Committee.

Here are a few key facts we learned about 211:

- 211 is a national program with call centers throughout the United States.
- The 211 call line, available 24/7 365, is answered by a trained specialist ,who helps identify the root causes of your problem, and connects you to local resources
- 211 Miami has a tri-lingual Help Line (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole) and contains a database of 4,000 providers across the designated categories of Basic Human Needs and Resources, Physical and Mental health, Work Support, Access to Services in Non-English Languages, Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities, Children, Youth and Family support.
- 211 works together with the 988 Suicide Prevention Helpline.

Pastoral Care Prayer Partners are honored to pray together with others. Yet, for those times when one may not know where to turn, when we might feel overwhelmed, or even feel paralyzed in an abyss of hopelessness. It is reassuring to know that 211 offers us access to resources to meet life's challenges and unexpected crises. We are very grateful to Richard Shutes for his wonderful presentation in Fellowship Hall and the private one-on-one conversations he graciously made possible.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up just as you are now doing"
Thessalonians 5:11

MSPCS NEWS



Dear MSPC Community:

We are One.

We're off to an exciting start in 2025, and we have a lot to look forward to this month. From important assessments to fun-filled celebrations, January is shaping up to be a busy and memorable time for our students. Here's what's coming up:

Our students will be taking the MAP Assessments. These assessments—designed to measure Measuring Academic Progress—are personalized to each student's learning level. Students in grades K-5 will complete assessments in Reading, Language Usage, Math, and additionally students in grades 3-5 will take Science. MAP is an online, adaptive test, which means it adjusts the difficulty of questions as students answer, giving a more accurate reflection of their academic growth.

We are looking forward to our 100th Day of School on Tuesday, January 28th! This special day is a celebration of all that our students have learned since the beginning of the school year in August. From Nursery to 5th grade, we'll be marking this milestone together with fun activities and projects.

Some examples of activities are:

- Bring in 100 items (something small like coins, buttons, or stickers)
- Dress as if you're 100 years old (fun costumes are welcome!)
- Create something that represents the number 100 (such as a craft or artwork)

Mark your calendars and come out to support our Fourth Grade Class at their Car Wash Fundraiser on Sunday, January 26th and again on Sunday, February 2nd. It will be held at the McArthur Chapel parking. The funds raised will go toward their class field trip and activities for our fourth graders. Don't miss this chance to help out and get your car sparkling clean! Lastly, we will end our month of January with our Town Hall on Friday, January 31st.



If you are interested in scheduling a tour for either the Elementary School (K-5th grade) or Preschool (6 weeks – PreK), please call 305-759-2548 or email schools@mspcs.net.

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: After Fellowship "Estudio Biblico"

Sundays: 12:15 PM Mindfulness and Contemplation

Book Series: "Practices for Embodied Living"

Saturdays: 9 AM (Via Zoom) Anti-Racism Book Club

Monday, February 17th: President's Day
(Church Office Closed)

Wednesday, March 5th: ASH WEDNESDAY



2024-2025 Children's Choirs

Every Thursday until June 1st

- K-3th 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.

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

The Light Staff - February 2025

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