

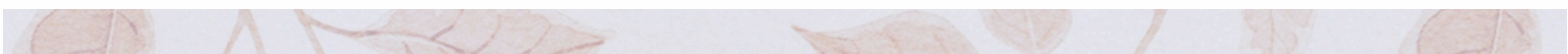


THE LIGHT



"THEN, OPENING THEIR TREASURE CHESTS, THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH. AND HAVING BEEN WARNED IN A DREAM NOT TO RETURN TO HEROD, THEY LEFT FOR THEIR OWN COUNTRY BY ANOTHER ROAD."

MATTHEW 2: 11-12



Pastor's Page with Pastor Kim

Have you already made your new year's resolutions?
Are they almost the same ones you make every year?
Mine were.
May we listen deeper to what that Spirit is telling us ... maybe
there is another path to be taken?



And, maybe, just maybe, as we choose our star word, maybe it will be the whisper that the Spirit needs you to hear today ...

The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now.

The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written on paper stars.

These paper stars are then arranged, most commonly face down to be chosen.

On Epiphany Sunday, you will be invited to draw a word from the Table, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year.

You are encouraged to trust the word you have drawn, and not to replace the word.

And I invite you to place your star word somewhere where you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

And, if you can't make it to worship on Sunday, January 5th, you can find the star words in a special spot in the entryway (the Narthex) of the Sanctuary.

Peace and Blessings in 2025,
Pastor Rev. Kim Robles



THANK YOU!!

Gratitude to each soul who graced our Christmas Eve Candlelight service with their presence, illuminating our sacred gathering with the divine light of togetherness and spiritual connection! HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025!!



Transitional Ministry Column

As MSPC continues in this time of transition, 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: *Managing Shifts of Leadership***

At this time every year, Miami Shores Presbyterian Church ordains and installs a new set of spiritual leaders for the church. After the Nominating Committee does its work of discernment, the congregation votes for its new officers at the Congregational Meeting, and the Session examines them, these leaders are then ordained and installed to their positions as Ruling Elders and Deacons. That also means that the Class of the year before steps down. As this shift happens, I want to take a second to thank those Elders and Deacons that have finished their time in their call as Elder or Deacon. Thank you, Tabitha Charles (Deacon), Bekky Leonard (Deacon), Charles McNear (Elder), Terry Rodriguez (Elder), and Leslie Wallace (Elder). Thank you for your service to MSPC! And, I want to welcome incoming Ruling Elders and Deacons. Please make sure to thank, welcome, and pray for our outgoing and incoming officers.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*The purpose of the meeting is to vote on
the new MSPC Bylaws!*

01

MONTH

26

DAY

2025

YEAR

**THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2025,
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP AT NOON IN THE MSPC SANCTUARY.**

Mission Corner

By Marta Lavandier & Leslie Wallace



The Missions team collected 35 gift cards from the congregation, and distributed them to families at our three local elementary schools—a new Thanksgiving record! THANK YOU!

In accordance with Jim Davis' gift, we continue to support the Lomagundi Clinic in Zimbabwe. Elders Grace Moore and Leslie Wallace, along with Deacon Yvonne Moyer, participated in a Zoom conference with our partners at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Colorado to learn more about the clinic's current needs. A \$5,000 donation was sent to help purchase critical medical equipment for the maternity hospital.

Chapman Partnership received an additional donation to purchase food and gift cards for the kitchen staff.

SafeSpace received a donation to purchase much-needed towels and bed sheets for their residential units.

A committee member purchased a large quantity of canned food, rice and beans, eggs, boxed food, milk, cheese, pasta, and breakfast cereal for **Pass It On Ministries**.

The committee sent \$1,000 to **PCUSA** (FLA) to assist in recovering from Hurricane Helene and Milton. We also sent additional funds to our partners, **Frontera de Cristo** in Arizona and **House of Hope** in Haiti.



Pass It On Ministires



SafeSpace

***Thank you for supporting our church and missions!
Consider serving with us in 2025!***

MEET OUR ELDERS



CLASS OF 2025



Chris Bellows



Donna
Lenaghan



Melissa
Gracey



Laura Reich



Dolores Alonso-
Hernandez

CLASS OF 2026



Luis Carranza



Princess
Mompremier



Scott
MacDonald



David
Peterson



Bill Tenney

CLASS OF 2027



Barbara
Biggart



Marcia
Cannata



Grace Moore



Dan Thorogood

MEET OUR DEACONS



CLASS OF 2025



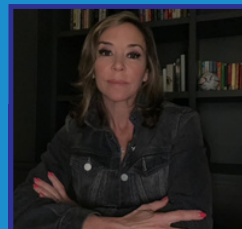
Thomas Hessel



Mari Mejia



Yvonne Moyer



Luly Rivero



Mark Vinton

CLASS OF 2026



Bob Bourne



Elizabeth
Burkins



Debbie
Carreiro



Jay Weaver

CLASS OF 2027



Jodi Grace



Mirja Nissen



Sharon
Wallen



Emily Reich



Isabella
Alderman

New Year in the Spirit of G.A.

By Thomas Hessel

A reflection of how the 226th General Assembly's vision can inspire our congregation in 2025

The year has turned; welcome to 2025. The festivities have faded, making way for a new, though always apprehensive, beginning.

Our congregation has grown stronger in spirit, and we will continue to grow in 2025. This year is pivotal for the church: the Pastor Nominating Committee's ongoing work, installation of new Elders and Deacons, and fresh ideas from members will shape our path. After adapting through challenges, 2024 marked our most impactful year since the pandemic began. We have rediscovered what it means to be a faith community, and 2025 promises even more.

Last year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hosted its 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City, where congregations deliberated on faith, justice, and mission. Representing Miami Shores Presbyterian Church (MSPC), I joined members of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, including Pastor Danny Morales and Ruling Elder Deborah Sadriwalla. Witnessing the Spirit at work affirmed that our church is alive.

Living Into Hope

The theme of the 226th General Assembly, "Live Into Hope," was both a challenge and an affirmation that resonates deeply with the life of MSPC in 2025. Last year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hosted its 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City, where congregations from across the nation deliberated on topics of faith, justice, and mission. I had the humbling privilege of representing MSPC as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate, alongside members of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida. Witnessing the Spirit at work affirmed that our church is alive.

Why do I mention these decisions?

These two actions reflect core values of our congregation: **unity and inclusion**. They align with MSPC's mission of "Worshipping God. Welcoming All. Building Community." The Olympia Overture calls us to love boldly and protect gender identity and sexual orientation, urging us to embrace Christ's love through welcoming strangers and supporting the marginalized. The Condemnation of Christian Zionism reminds us that justice requires honesty, education, and listening to silenced voices. Justice is lived through daily choices, and these decisions are seeds requiring constant care.

As a congregation, what will we make of them in 2025?

In order to "Live into Hope," we must act. Progress is not made out of idle optimism. It must come as a result of a restless, resilient faith that calls us to heal, grow, and build. May we then fulfill the mission our Lord has given us: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Together, let this be our sole purpose.

Thomas Hessel

MSPCS NEWS



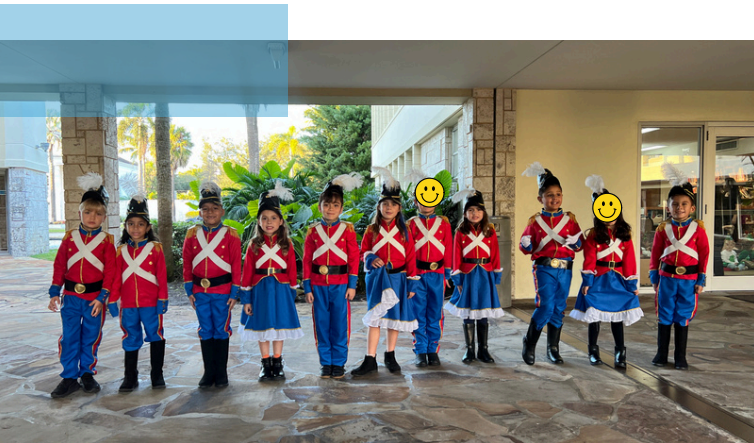
MSPCS WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**Dear MSPC Community:
We are One.**

Our Christmas Evening Performance, featuring students from Nursery to 5th grade, was an absolute highlight of the season! The theme, "Unaccompanied Minor," brought out the best in our students, who performed and sang beautifully for their families. Their outfits were spectacular, adding a special touch to an already unforgettable night.

A HUGE WAVES THANK YOU to Mr. Holmes, our Music Teacher and Children's Church Choirs Director for spearheading this performance, Mrs. Edouard, our Art Teacher, for painting our backdrop, Mr. Ingram, our Academic Coach/PE Teacher and Chaplain Bonds for controlling the microphones and audio/media, and our dedicated staff for their hard work in preparing and rehearsing with the students. We had an incredible turnout from our families, making it a night to remember. A HUGE WAVES THANK YOU to our Parent Association, who hosted a delightful Cookies and Cocoa night after the performance – it was the perfect way to cap off such a wonderful evening.

Our school is ranked among the top 20% of private schools in Florida! Thanks to our small class sizes, our students receive personalized attention, and they benefit greatly from the dedication and support of our amazing staff.



This month, we celebrated our first Head of School Honor Roll Awards Ceremony and Breakfast for students who earned all A's in the first quarter. We also recognized students with A's and B's on the Honor Roll, as well as those who demonstrated excellent behavior with the Citizenship Award. A special congratulations to those who earned the Perfect Attendance Award for their dedication to coming to school every day!

We would like to extend a HUGE WAVES THANK YOU to all our families and friends who supported us in the GIVE MIAMI Fundraiser. Your generosity helped us reach our goals, and we are excited to announce that the following classes have earned a Pizza Party for achieving their \$1300 class goal: Kindergarten-Ms. Silva, 3rd Grade-Ms.

Brisso, 4th Grade-Ms. Anthony, 5th Grade-Ms. Weddle. All funds raised will go towards enhancing our school's playground. Thank you for your continued support!

Congratulations to all the winners of our first-ever MSPCS K-5 Championship Spelling Bee! A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to Sebastian, our MSPCS Spelling Bee Champion, James, our first place winner and Luca, our 2nd place winner! We are so proud of all of our students who participated and showcased their incredible spelling skills.

Lastly, our Kindergarten through Fifth grade students had a wonderful time at Zoo Miami during their recent field trip. The weather was perfect, and everyone had a blast exploring the zoo and learning about the amazing animals. It was a day to remember!

We look forward to more exciting moments in the New Year 2025. Thank you again for your continued support and for being part of our school community!

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.

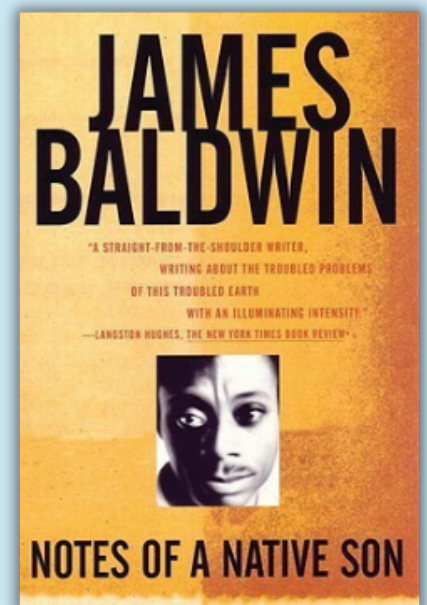
.....

ANTI-RACISM BOOK CLUB

SATURDAYS 9-10 AM via ZOOM

The Anti-racism Book Club to start a new book in January 2025: **"Notes of a Native Son"** by James Baldwin.

The book club will meet on Saturdays, 9-10 am, via ZOOM, and will start on Jan. 18 th , 2025. This group will be led by Chris Bellows. To contact Chris, call: (305) 778-5135 or email him: christopher.bellows@hklaw.com.



ESTUDIO BIBLIOLÓGICO

MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS,
AFTER WORSHIP

IN THE GARDEN
Led by Luis Carranza
& Sara Salavarría

¡Todos son bienvenidos!



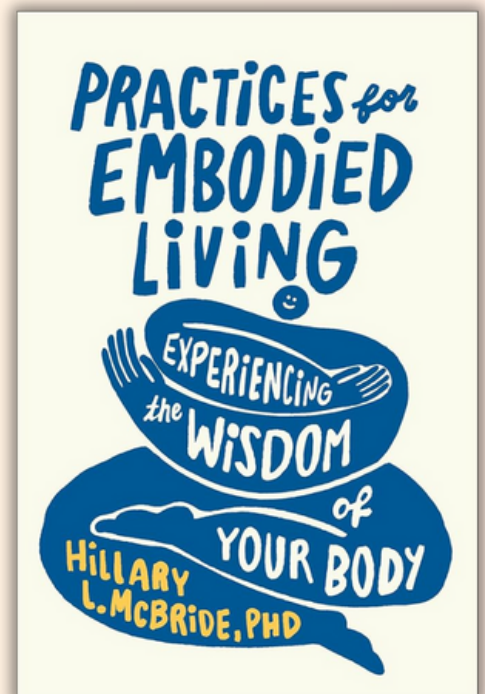
MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MINDFULNESS AND CONTEMPLATION

BOOK SERIES

LEAD BY PASTOR KIM

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



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: 12:15PM *Mindfulness and Contemplation*

Book Series: "BREATHING UNDER THE WATER"

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

Sunday, January 5th and 12th: *New Officer*

Ordinations/Installations Service

Sunday, January 12th: 1 PM - 211 Helpline with

Richard Shutes in the Fellowship Hall.

Monday, January 20th: *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Observance Day - (Church Office Closed)

Sunday, January 26: 12:00 PM *Congregational*

Meeting in the Sanctuary



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 (Christmas and Easter).

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

The Light Staff - January 2025

Maria A Rodriguez, Editor

Rev. Kim Robles, Contributor

Marta Lavandier,

Contributor/Photographer

Leslie Wallace, Contributor

Thomas Hessel, 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 Street

Miami Shores, FL 33318

305-754-9541

www.mspsc.net



Follow Us @ [MiamiShoresPresbyterianChurch](https://www.instagram.com/MiamiShoresPresbyterianChurch)