

MARCH & APRIL 2026



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE LIGHT

EASTER 2026



PALM SUNDAY *PARADE*

Wave Palms and Make a Joyful
Noise to Welcome the Lord!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

Starts promptly at 10:45am
Meet outside MSPC Library



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**OPEN TO ALL
CHILDREN**

Parade will march around the church campus and
right into the 11am worship service!



Pastor's Page with Rev. Dr. Valdir Franca

From Golgotha to Glory: The Journey Through Lent into Resurrection Life

As the Lenten journey draws to its solemn close, we find ourselves standing at the foot of Golgotha—the place of the skull, the hill of sacrifice, the crossroads of sorrow and salvation. For forty days, we have walked a path marked by reflection, repentance, and renewal. We have confronted our fragility, our sin, and our longing for grace. And now, at the edge of Holy Week, we behold the fullness of love poured out in Christ's Passion.



Golgotha is not merely a place in history; it is a spiritual reality we each must face. It is where human brokenness meets divine mercy. There, Christ enters fully into suffering not to glorify pain, but to redeem it. The cross reveals both the depth of our need and the greater depth of God's love. It is here that Lent reaches its climax: in surrender, in sacrifice, in a love that holds nothing back.

Yet Golgotha is not the end of the story.

Even as shadows gather on that hill, the light of Resurrection is already breaking through. The silence of the tomb is not defeat, but divine anticipation. What appears to be loss becomes the seed of new life. The cross, once a symbol of death, is transformed into the doorway of eternal hope.

As we move from Lent into Easter, we do not simply commemorate an event; we enter into a reality. The Resurrection of Christ is not only something that happened; it is something that continues to happen within us. We are invited into resurrected life: a life renewed, restored, and reoriented toward God.

This hope is not abstract. It is deeply personal and profoundly transformative. The same power that raised Christ from the dead now works within us, calling us out of our tombs, our fears, our regrets, our spiritual complacency—into a life of freedom and purpose. Resurrection means that nothing is beyond redemption. It means that grace has the final word.

And as the Church transitions into Ordinary Time, we are reminded that this new life is meant to be lived daily, not just celebrated seasonally. Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary—it is the sacred space where resurrection becomes routine, where faith is practiced in the rhythms of everyday life. It is where the extraordinary grace of Easter takes root in ordinary moments: in acts of kindness, in quiet prayer, in faithful perseverance.

The journey from Golgotha to Resurrection is not a one-time passage, but a pattern for Christian living. We are continually invited to die to ourselves so that we may rise with Christ. Lent has prepared us; Easter sends us forth.

So, we stand now at the threshold—not only looking back at the cross, but forward to the empty tomb. With hearts renewed and hope rekindled, we embrace the promise of resurrected life. And as we step into Ordinary Time, may we carry the light of Easter into every corner of our lives, bearing witness to the truth that love has conquered death, and life has the final word.

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

Rev. Dr. Valdir Franca



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COMMUNION &

**GOOD
FRIDAY**

TENEBRAE SERVICE

APRIL

03

2026

McArthur Memorial Chapel

7:00 PM

601 NE 96th St,
Miami Shores, FL 33138



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2026
10:30 AM

LOCATED IN THE VARIOUS MSPC COURTYARDS

All are Welcome to Stay for Easter Worship
Service starting at 11 AM!



MIAMI SHORES
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter **SUNDAY**

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH, 2026

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

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

602 NE 96TH ST, MIAMI SHORES, FL 33138
WWW.MSPC.NET

Mission Corner

by Leslie Wallace



HOUSE OF HOPE

Sunday, March 15th, saw a luncheon celebration with a special guest, Jenny Reitz, Director of the House of Hope (HOH) Orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. She is a missionary there and, through Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, has had a decades-long relationship with the House of Hope. Jenny has been a frequent visitor to MSPC and, in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, shared how the children and staff are doing at HOH.

We learned that there are about 90 resident children. They love dressing up for Easter and finding their Easter baskets, which the older children hide. The students create the church service each year, and all the children sing the hymns. Jenny spoke, showed a video, and thanked us. She exudes such love and devotion for all the children and her co-director, Linda Felix, at the HOH.



We enjoyed a wonderfully delicious meal of authentic Haitian food donated by the Georges family and prepared by Elder Princess Mompremier and her mother, Mrs. Georges. A donation for the meal was collected, and all proceeds will go to the House of Hope. The church budget, supported by pledges, also provides yearly donations. Conditions in Haiti are currently very difficult, so financial support is especially helpful.

Thank you to all who attended the luncheon and to those who financially and prayerfully support the House of Hope.

For more information: houseofhopehaiti1-lapointe.org

SAFE SPACE

Safe Space is a Domestic Violence shelter for women and children in Miami. Miami Shores Presbyterian Church is one of their supporters for the good work they do. The clients usually stay for about 6 weeks and then move to other independent housing.

Items that are needed:

- Kitchen items, house décor, linens, and miscellaneous items to set up an apartment.
- Toiletries, women's and children's new underwear, sports bras.
- Gently used women's and children's clothes, shoes, and pocketbooks.

Please bring contributions to the First Sunday Donations (next is Easter Sunday, April 5th) table in the Breezeway and mark it as "Safe Space".

Contact Toni Porro at 305-336-0692 with any questions.

Thank you for supporting Safe Space.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH DONATIONS

- Pass It On: Canned goods, bags of rice and beans, peanut butter, and jelly.
- Safespace: Toiletries, gently used children's clothing.
- Chapman Partnership: New underwear and socks for all ages. Gently used clothing and shoes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!



MSPCS NEWS

Dear MSPC Church Community

February was a meaningful and productive month at our school, filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and celebration.

We began the month with a busy but exciting first week that included our Science and Valentine's Book Fair, where students explored new books while engaging with themes of curiosity and creativity. Our first session of the Spelling Bee allowed students to demonstrate preparation, confidence, and strong language skills. That same week, students extended their learning beyond the classroom during our field trip to the Miami Zoo, connecting science concepts to real-world experiences.

The following week continued with enriching activities. Our 3rd grade students participated in a field trip to SeaWorld, where they deepened their understanding of marine life and conservation. Meanwhile, our Kindergarten and Preschool students enjoyed their Valentine's Dance, building friendships and creating lasting memories in a joyful and supportive environment.

We also recognized academic achievement during our Quarter 2 Awards Ceremony, celebrating students for their hard work and progress. We recognized the student's performance in Music, Art, Physical Education, and music, as well as morning activities, Perfect Attendance, Citizenship, Honor Roll, Head of School Honor Roll, and more. The Head of School Breakfast provided a special opportunity to honor recipients of the Head of School Honor Roll alongside their families, highlighting dedication and excellence. A HUGE WAVES THANK YOU to Church Elder Barbara Biggart for leading our opening prayer prior to our Awards Ceremony. The month concluded with our Spelling Bee semifinals, where students continued to demonstrate perseverance and academic commitment.

Overall, February reflected our school's dedication to balancing strong academics with meaningful experiences that support the growth of the whole child.

Sincerely,

Satrina Chargualaf



Today's SOURCE: My Reflection

by Sharon Wallen

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..." Genesis 1:1

Source is the origin of something, the supplier of means, the starting point of flow. God is limitless, abundant in mercy and Grace, and He meets all physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

"...supplies my needs according to His riches in glory." Philippians 4:19

"I will look to the hills from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the LORD who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121: 1-2

Thanks for Today

Thank you God for SOURCE.

Thanks for life.

Thanks for breath.

Thanks for today.

Thank you God for community.

Thanks for hearts, hands, and presence.

Thanks for service.

Thanks for servant-leaders.

Thanks for my mind.

Thanks for my heart.

Thanks for guidance.

Thanks for HELP.

Thanks for care.

Thanks for healing.

You are SOURCE.

You are Alpha and Omega; our beginning and our end!

You are All-in-All for your people.

We need you.

We thank you.

AMEN.

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

Saturdays: 9:00 AM Anti-Racism Book Club

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM Soft Dolls - Room 135

Thursdays: MSPC Children's Choir (Contact us for times)

**Sunday, March 29th: 10:45 AM PALM SUNDAY -
PALM PARADE**

Friday, April 3rd: 7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY

Communion & Tenebrae Service in The Chapel

SUNDAY, APRIL 5th: EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 AM SUNRISE SERVICE ON THE FRONT LAWN

10:30 AM EASTER EGG HUNT ON MSPC COURTYARDS

11:00 AM SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Share Your Light!

*Have a story, reflection, or
idea you'd love to share?
Interested in being featured
in The Light?*

We'd love to hear from you!

*Send your questions or
article submissions to
mrodriguez@mspc.net for a
chance to be published in an
upcoming edition.*

Let your voice shine!

The Light Staff -Easter 2026

Maria A Rodriguez, Editor
Rev. Dr. Valdir França, Contributor
Marta Lavandier, Photographer
Leslie Wallace, Contributor
Sharon Wallen, Contributor
Satrina Chargualaf, Contributor
Carol Wilde, Contributor

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church
602 NE 96th Street, Miami Shores, FL 33318
305-754-9541 | www.mspc.net

