



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 ✠ 10:30 AM

† *For those who are able, please stand.*

✠ GATHERING ✠

GATHERING MUSIC

"All Creatures Great and Small"

Donna Maini

Arr. Michelle Murray

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: When it comes time for kickoff...

ALL: **The people shout!**

ONE: Why do we shout?

ALL: **For it is the dawn of a new day!**

ONE: A day when we are inspired to reconnect to:

ALL: **The people.**

ONE: The ministry.

ALL: **And most importantly, to God.**

ONE: Let us be reminded today that God in Christ is the vine and we are his branches.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† MORNING SONG

"Gather Us In"

GATHER US IN

Here in this place new light is streaming Now is the darkness vanished away
See in this space our fears and our dreamings Brought here to you in the light of this day
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken Gather us in, the blind and the lame
Call to us now and we shall awaken We shall arise at the sound of our name

We are the young, our lives are a mystery We are the old who yearn for your face
We have been sung throughout all of history Called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty Gather us in, the proud and the strong
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly Give us the courage to enter the song

Here we will take the wine and the water Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters Call us anew to be salt for the earth
Give us to drink the wine of compassion Give us to eat the bread that is you
Nourish us well and teach us to fashion Lives that are holy and hearts that are true

A wonderful song to kick off our Fall worship and activities, this hymn welcomes the Christian community together. The writer, Marty Haugen, remarks that he wrote it in the second person so the people can sing "to God," rather than "about God."

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of new beginnings, at times like this we get excited for new opportunities and a renewal of hope. Yet as life happens and we miss one lesson, one service, or one chance to serve, we often think that there is not much reason to continue. Soon one service or lesson becomes two, which becomes five, which becomes life. Let us not be steered toward complacency. Let us be reminded this day that you are the vine and we are the branches, and because of that we are continually reliant on the nutrients and strength we receive from you. Because of this, give us the confidence to keep going, that if we miss one service or one lesson we are always invited back because you long for your people to gather together to glorify you. For each Sunday, each day, is a celebration of new beginnings... *(silent confession)* ...Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

“Gather Us In” (*v. 1 Refrain*)

GATHER US IN

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Keith & Diane Bumgarner

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)

✠ THE WORD ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-17

HOMILY

Little Branches

If you are interested in joining the church, please reach out to a pastor. Following worship on Oct. 9th, we will have an Inquirers Lunch for visitors and new members to learn more about the church.

✠ RESPONSE ✠

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967)

Shari Freeman

The institutions of the people of God change and vary as their mission requires in different times and places. The unity of the church is compatible with a wide variety of forms, but it is hidden and distorted when variant forms are allowed to harden into sectarian divisions, exclusive denominations, and rival factions.

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world.

The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time.

OFFERTORY

"This Is My Commandment"

James Whitbourn (b. 1963)

This is my commandment: that ye love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man that he laid down his life for his friends.

Today marks the beginning of our Choir's Fall Season. If you are interested in singing with them, please speak with the Director of Music, Matthias Young. Come and make a joyful noise!

† DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Angie Hawthorne

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Revs. Abernethy & Toney-Schmitt, Shari Freeman

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you. ✠ ✠ ✠ ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts. ✠ ✠ ✠ ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. ALL: It is right to give our thanks & praise.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL “They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain

And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand,
And together we’ll spread the news That God is in our land. (*to refrain*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God’s only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit Who makes us one: (*to refrain*)

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

Donna Maini



Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor
Matthias Young, Director of Worship
Donna Maini, Accompanist
Shari Freeman, Seminary Intern

*We thank you for worshipping with us today.
If you are so moved and would like to give a tithe or offering, there are collection plates as you exit.*

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor’s Table to pick up a visitor bag with a little gift and someone will be there to greet you.*

We are located at
471 Mount Vernon Hwy, NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328
mvpchurch.org



Our mailing address is
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

MVPC Announcements....

3 Ways to Watch!

mvpchurch.org/watch/

Facebook Page

YouTube Channel



WWW.MVPCHURCH.ORG

Hymn idea? Sermon idea?
Let us know what you want
to hear!

1. _____
2. _____

Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!

Visitors & Membership: Please go to our website: mvpchurch.org, contact our church office at **404.255.2211**, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. If you are interested in joining MVP Church, please stop at the **Welcome Table in the Narthex** and pick up a visitor bag where someone will be there to greet you.



Upcoming Services:



September 18

Romans 12:1-8, Shari Freeman, Outdoor Service, Theological Education Sunday

September 25

World Communion Sunday, Guest Preacher Gabriel Walder, Executive Director of Alliance For Children Everywhere

Called Congregational Meetings: Sunday, **September 25** after worship to elect new church officers. Sunday, **October 16**, we will discuss business matters concerning the new HVAC system in the Sanctuary.

Fall Small Groups: Sign up for a 6 week small group beginning Sept 25! Signup sheets and information about the curriculums are located in the Narthex for the next 2 weeks.

Presbyterian Women: We will be studying *Sabbath and Celebration*, in our study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath*. The Book Circle met on **September 9** and review *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. The Sunday Circle will meet on **September 11**, and The Day Circle will meet on **September 13**. Information for the Circle of Grace will come later.

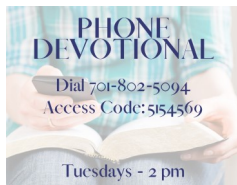


Fall Kick-Off! Plan on joining us **TODAY** after worship for our annual Fall Kick-off. Come learn how to get involved in the various ministries in the life of the church. We'll be serving BBQ Pork with all the fixing. We will have a corn hole tournament, please participate . We look forward to seeing you there!

Request for Water: Due to flooding in northwest Georgia, Cherokee Presbytery is requesting that churches support them in collecting gallon water jugs to send to communities in need. Please bring gallon jugs next **Sunday, September 18th**.

Conversation (Adult Sunday School): Discovery meets in the Chapel and are using the book "The Present Word". Crossroads will study "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.

September 11, 2022



Make sure to follow us
on social media to stay
up to date!

Giving



Ways to Connect: Are you on our mailing list for the weekly *Happenings* email? How about the monthly newsletter *The Good News*? If not and you would like to receive them, send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org

Ministry Team Cards: these cards include events for August–October and are available to be picked up in the Narthex.

The September Communion Offering is for the Food Pantry at the Community Assistance Center. CAC provides basic needs assistance for Dunwoody and Sandy Springs neighbors to prevent homelessness and hunger while promoting self-sufficiency and empowering them to thrive. There has been an increased need for personal items at the Food Pantry. For more information, please go to www.ourcac.org.



Stephen Ministry: Most often, to better situations, especially within ourselves, it takes action. That action can be in baby steps, but it starts the process of moving forward. Your church's Stephen Ministers are skilled and trained to assist you in that journey and want to walk beside you, listening, hearing, encouraging, and offering resources and support as you see your way forward. Please call on us. Contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader.

The MVPC Members' Gift of Wisdom: Fall issue is available in the Narthex and Information Centers.

MVP Foundation: Join us in our "\$22K for 2022" matching campaign! We have a wonderful donor willing to match dollar for dollar up to \$22K. To date we have received \$12K. The MVP Foundation has provided over \$500,000 to various mission partners such as our Youth Group, Los Niños, CAC, as well as the Intern Program here at MVPC.



Do you feel a need for prayer? Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to pbartee@yahoo.com or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

Prayer Concerns: Mrs. JB, James Ballew, Dee Bradford-Smith, Nicole Brown, John Robert Christian, Allison Eustis, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Rob Southard, Wilma Turner, Dave Whitacre, Jeannie Lee, Karla Schultz and people of Ukraine, and Zambia.

Attendance: 9/4 Worship 75

Please sign the Attendance Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor!

Financial Update

Sept 1-7	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 3,3830	\$ 350,201	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 150	\$ 32,203	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 20	\$ 6,421	\$ 10,000
Total	\$4,000	\$388,825	\$ 519,000

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org