



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 • 10:30 AM - OUTDOOR

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

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"The Heart of Worship"
Matt Redman

Donna Maini

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Lord God, maker of heaven and earth,

ALL: We gather together in your name.

ONE: We come as living sacrifices,

ALL: To offer you our worship, thanksgiving, praise, and prayers.

ONE: Through the power of your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds,

ALL: So that we may recognize your presence, hear your voice, know your will, and walk in your way. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG**

"Come! Come! Everybody Worship"
NATALIE

Refrain

Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise!
Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always!

Worship and remember to keep the Sabbath day.
Take a rest and think of God; put your work away! (*refrain*)

Worship and remember the Lord's unending care,
Reaching out to love and help people everywhere! (*refrain*)

Worship and remember your blessings great and small.
Give to God an offering; show you thanks for all! (*refrain*)

Worship and remember how Jesus long ago
Taught us how to talk to God; something we should know! (*refrain*)

Worship and remember that God is like a light,
Showing you the way to go; ever burning bright! (*refrain*)

Natalie Sleeth
(1930-1992)
was an
American
organist and
composer of
hymns and
choral music.
She wrote
over 180
pieces of
music for
church and
school.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Forgiving God, we confess that we are too often conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits so that we might go forth to serve your people...*(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE

"Here I Am, Lord"

HERE I AM, LORD

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night

I will go Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

Each year the Presbyterian Church USA celebrates Theological Education Sunday to highlight the important work being done by our seminaries. Today, 12 seminaries are entrusted to provide the educational foundation pastors need to be able to preach, teach, pray and lead.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8

HOMILY

A Living Sacrifice

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from The Confession of 1967*)

Shari Freeman

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in humanity. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and one another. God enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves. Despite our sins, God gives us the power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all humanity.

The Confession of 1967 is built around a single passage of scripture: "In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self..." (2 Cor. 5:19)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

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.

† HYMN

"Thy Word"

Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, and I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sam McClurg

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

REPTON

How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear,
If worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.

We marvel how Your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure,
Whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear Your name,
And by our faults obscure Your power to cleanse and cure.

In what You give us, Lord, to do, together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to You
The cross You hung upon all you endeavored done.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

"Above All"

arr. Mark Hayes

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

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and 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 25 World Communion Sunday, Guest Preacher Gabriel Walder, Executive Director of Alliance For Children Everywhere

October 2 Deuteronomy 11:18-21, "Sola Scriptura", Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Two Called Congregational Meetings: Sunday, **September 25** after worship to elect new church officers. Sunday, **October 16** after worship, 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.

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.

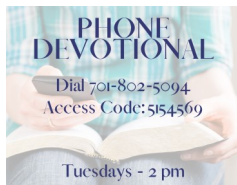
Men's Breakfast: All men are invited next **Sunday, September 25** at 8:30am in Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker is Gabriel Walder from Alliance for Children Everywhere.

Senior Adults: Fall Outing to North Georgia on **Saturday, October 22** with stops in Tallulah Gorge, lunch at Sky Valley, Highlands Bascomb Art Center, and Jaemor Farms. Sign up in the Narthex!

Volunteer Help Needed! One of the outreach ministries MVPCh supports is the Sandy Springs Education Force. On October 22 the SSEF annual Lightning 5K/10K race will be held. We need volunteers to assist with the race for several hours that morning. The work will be fun and easy. David Hill is the race course volunteer coordinator. Let David know you are willing to help – see him after the service or email him at david.hill321@comcast.net.

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 2 from 2-4pm at Gailey Hall. Please bring non-perishable food to benefit Stirred Up Ministries and the "Stuff the Bus" event in November.

September 18, 2022



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Sunday Circle met on Sunday, September 11 and the Day Circle met on Tuesday, September 13. They studied lesson 1, *Sabbath and Celebration*, in our study guide, *Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. The Book Circle met on September 9 and reviewed *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman. Information for the Circle of Grace will come later.

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, Eliana, Allison Eustis, Neill Ferrill, Alistair & Karen Morine, Irene Nelson, Rob Southard, Wilma Turner, Dave Whitacre, Jeannie Lee, and people of Ukraine, and Zambia.

Condolences to Robin Truitt and her family, on the death of her mother, Hester Shank.

Attendance: 9/11 Worship 100
 Online 16

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

Financial Update

Sept 8–15	Actual	Actual YTD	2022 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 8,045	\$ 358,246	\$449,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 350	\$ 32,553	\$ 60,000
Non Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 115	\$ 6,536	\$ 10,000
Total	\$8,510	\$397,335	\$ 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