



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

JUNE/JULY 2023



A Letter From The Pastor

BY REV. BARRETT ABERNETHY

Summer Worship Plans

The old cliché, “The church is not the building but the people.” will truly apply to Mount Vernon Presbyterian this summer. No matter if you read this in June or even July we will likely be worshipping somewhere besides our sanctuary. Our long-awaited HVAC replacement project will happen this summer in the sanctuary, and we will draw closer to God in places like the Fellowship Hall, the Gym, and (if the weather is mild) outside on the courtyard. Though we will not be in the thin place - a place

where heaven and earth seem ever so close - that is the sanctuary, I do hope that this summer you will see the beauty of other thin places on our campus. Here is what you can expect this summer:

June 4

We will begin our worship odyssey in the Fellowship Hall. This summer, our sermon series will appropriately follow the Sermon on the Mount, a time of worship in a non-sanctuary setting. For this Sunday, we will read Matthew 5: 1-12, the Beatitudes. We will also commission church members as they serve the mission field in various ways this summer.

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June 11

We might call this one Braves Sunday as you are encouraged to wear the attire of our favorite team, and then hopefully you will carpool with us immediately following worship for a 1:30 first pitch between the Braves and the Washington Nationals. Prior to that fun, we will continue our series focusing on Matthew 5: 13-20.

June 18

We might call Father's Day Shari Sunday as Shari will lead us while Isaac and I are both gone. Shari will be offering a challenging word from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5: 21-37.

June 25

Isaac returns from Zambia for our final Sunday of June and our final Sunday worshipping in the Fellowship Hall (for a while) and calls us to "Love our Enemies," Matthew 5: 38-48.

July 2

Los Niños Sunday finds us beginning our July Sundays in the Activities Building Gym! Once again we will rejoice God with our friends from Los Niños Primero as we celebrate the success of their summer enrichment program with worship and a meal to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

July 9

Family Promise will be occupying the Fellowship Hall from July 9- July 23. Our second Sunday in the Gym will find us back at the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6: 1-18, and we will also celebrate communion.

July 16

Back in the Gym continuing up the mountain with Matthew 6: 19-34.

July 23

Isaac will lead this Sunday inviting us to "Do Unto Others," Matthew 7: 1-12.

July 30 and August 6

Where will we be? We're not quite sure. Hopefully back in the sanctuary, but if not, the thin place of the Fellowship Hall will once again welcome us as we close this series on the "Straight and Narrow," Matthew 7: 13-23 and then heed the words of the "Hearers and the Doers," Matthew 7: 24-29.

Come join us wherever and however we are for we aim to meet you wherever and however you are, with the peace of Jesus Christ.

*Grace and Peace,
Barrett*

2023 Session Members & Ministry Teams

Moderator(s)

Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Clerk of Session

David Hill

Christian Education

Mary McClurg
Meg Christian

Congregational Care

Pat Bartee
Htet Nyunt

Fellowship

David Barclift

Finance/Administration/ Stewardship

Charlie Gray
John Hibbard

Outreach

Beppie Lever
Braegan Abernethy

Senior Adults

Dee Bradford-Smith

Witness

We are all witnesses to the love of Jesus Christ.

Worship

Gloria Gillespie
Malinda Holmes
Amy Kiley

January 1 - April 30, 2023	Actual YTD	2023 Budget
Member Giving Pledge	\$211,528	\$421,275
Member Giving Non- Pledge	\$24,828	\$60,000
Non member giving & Loose offering	\$2,712	\$9,000
Total Received	\$239,068	\$540,275

GRADUATING SENIORS



Jack Allen
The Mount Vernon School
University of North Georgia



Jack Nelson
Pope High School
Auburn University



Ben Barber
The Marist School
University of North Carolina



Aidan Ray
The Mount Vernon School
University of Georgia



Kyle Cumming
The Mount Vernon School
Appalachian State University



Luke Van Putten
The Mount Vernon School
University of Georgia



Marily Minton
Dunwoody High School
Georgia Tech University



Taylor Wade
Whitefield Academy
Georgia Tech University

OUTREACH



The Spring Cleaning Drive-Through Drop-Off Event on April 23 was a huge success! Isaac coordinated the Young Adults to help with unloading cars and sorting items. We got items for CAC, Clifton Night Shelter, SSEF, and Stirred-Up Ministries. We had to request that CAC bring their truck instead of their van because we had so many donations for them.



Our April Communion Drive resulted in 280 pounds of food and toiletries for CAC – they were thrilled that we donated exactly what was on their wish list. Our May Communion Offering is Snacks and New and Gently Used Sports Equipment for Stirred-Up Ministries, and June will be for the International Women’s House.

Barrett and Evie attended the ceremony where the CAC Business Office and Education Center at 1130 Hightower Trail was named the Tamara Carrera Center, in honor of the Executive Director from 1997-2021 who began that role when CAC was located in our Gailey Hall.



Isaac, Anna Morine, and David Hill were among the MVPC Members who attended the Sandy Springs Education Force Volunteer Breakfast. Isaac also helped out at the Lake Forest ES End of Year Celebration for the SSEF Reading Buddies Program. All Students at SSEF End of Year Celebrations received books to read over the summer from the Mini Libraries Program stored in Gailey Hall.



SENIOR ADULTS



Lunch at Tupelo
Honey Restaurant
April 30

Book Sorting for Sandy Springs Education Force



LEARNING ALONG WITH SHARI FREEMAN



Officially an Inquirer!

On May 25, I met with the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Committee on Preparation for Ministry and was accepted as an inquirer for ordination in the PCUSA. The inquiry phase is the first step of Presbyterian ordination. It is a time for the Presbytery and myself to get to know each other and explore my call to serve as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA. The committee members are ordained pastors and chaplains who are all members of the Presbytery. The interview went great! First, they asked me to describe my journey to this point. They asked me about my experience at Mount Vernon and what I liked about working in congregational ministry. They wanted to know about my classes at Columbia and which ones I had enjoyed the most. We talked about my experience as a Chaplain at the Atlanta VA Medical Center last summer and the work I will do at Presbyterian Village in Austell this summer. The committee was supportive and encouraging, and I look forward to continuing this ordination journey. I am very thankful for all of you at Mount Vernon, as I would not be on this journey without your support and encouragement.



Congratulations to the Honorable **Wendy Hagenau** for receiving the Pollard Award. This is a lifetime achievement award from the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association! Wendy stepped down recently as the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court of the 11th Circuit. She is looking forward to a well earned retirement next year. Way to go Wendy!!!

WORSHIP



Summer at MVPC

Join us for casual worship in the air conditioned Fellowship Hall and Gym in June and July!

Come climb the mountain (hint, hint) with the pastors this summer!

Taize

This service takes place every fourth Wednesday at 8:15pm.

What is Taize? This is a service of songs, silence, and scripture. It began in 1940 amid the violence of World War II in France. In line with these beginnings, Taize prayer is intended to suspend time for the parishioner. The simplistic songs are meant to be a chant that become prayers, while the silence invites one to talk to God, or more importantly, for God to speak to you.

Next service: Wednesday, July 26 at 8pm
Outdoor at the Labyrinth at the Library.





New Member!

Farewell Lunch

Hazel Cofield

Family from
Ukraine



We continue to grow with our newest member!
Joey Noszek

Farewell lunch for Barbara Bruce before her move to NC.



Hazel Cofield, our oldest church member (101 in September!) hosted Barrett at her home in May. Wonderful fellowship!



Julie and John Chesnutt welcomed the Minnieve Family from Ukraine on Sunday who they are sponsoring to Atlanta for two years. The mother, father and two sons will be staying with the Chesnutts until they find an apartment and get settled.

Mailing address:
MVPC
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Church Office
404.255.2211



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY
8AM-4PM
FRIDAY 8AM - 2PM

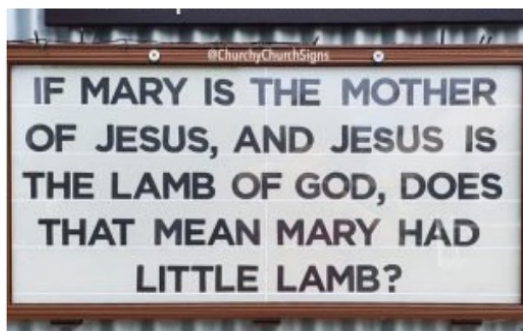


Church Office will be
closed Monday &
Tuesday, July 3 & 4

THIS & THAT

4th of July
Holiday

Lost & Found



"Here's Your
Sign"

Church Bulletin Blooper:

"Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary."

Photos courtesy of: Dee Bradford-Smith, Donna Martin, Beppie Lever, Barrett Abernethy, Isaac Toney-Schmitt

The Spring/Summer Issue of
THE MVPC MEMBERS' GIFT OF WISDOM
is available in the Narthex.

JUNE CALENDAR

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AA-Chapel Mon 6:30pm AI-Anon Tues 7:00pm Thurs 8:00pm Fri - 8:00pm	AA Kirk Center Mon 8:00pm Tues 8:00pm Wed. 8:00pm Thurs. 8:00pm Fri. 8:00pm	WORSHIP WILL BE IN FH DURING JUNE & JULY		1 9am Bagpipes-GH	2 8am Budget Prep	3 9am Bagpipes-GH
4 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB - FH	5 1pm Senior Adult Mtg.- Session	6 1pm Staff Meeting	7 6pm Music Dir. Search - Session	8 2pm Ledger Meeting 2pm Vernon Springs Bible Study	9 8am Budget Prep	10 9am Bagpipes-GH
11 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:30am Carpool to Braves game 7pm ACB - FH	12 5:30pm FAMT - Zoom	13 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Worship Meeting	14	15 Noon- SSICA - Chapel	16	17 9am Bagpipes-GH
18 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB - FH	19 6pm Magic Club-FH CHURCH CLOSED	20 1pm Staff Meeting	21	22 6:30pm LNP	23	24 9am Bagpipes-GH
25 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB - FH	26	27 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm CE Meeting	28 5:30pm M&M	29	30	



Mount Vernon Presbyterian
Church
Blessed to be a Blessing

Sunday Worship
10:30am Sanctuary

Office Hours
M-Th 8am - 4pm
Fri 8am - 2pm

JULY CALENDAR

July 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AA - Chapel Mon 6:30pm Al-Anon Tues 7:00pm Thurs 8:00pm Fri - 8:00pm	AA Kirk Center Mon 8:00pm Tues 8:00pm Wed. 8:00pm Thurs. 8:00pm Fri. 8:00pm					1 9am Bagpipes-GH
2 LNP Sunday Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 1pm Staff Meeting	6 2pm Ledger Meeting	7 8am Budget Prep	8 9am Bagpipes-GH
9 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 7pm ACB - FH FAMILY PROMISE	10 5:30pm FAMT - Zoom	11 1pm Staff Meeting 5pm Worship Meeting	12 Good News Deadline	13 2pm Vernon Springs Bible Study	14	15 9am Bagpipes-GH
16 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10am Connection Snacks 11:30am Session Mtg. GH 7pm ACB - FH FAMILY PROMISE	17 6pm Magic Club-FH	18 1pm Staff Meeting	19 Good News Deadline	20	21	22 9am Bagpipes-GH
23 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School	24	25 1pm Staff Meeting	26 8pm Taizé - Library Labyrinth Good News Published	27 6:30pm LNP	28	29 9am Bagpipes-GH
30 Worship 10:30am 9:30am Adult Sunday School 8:30 am Meri's Breakfast	31					



Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church
 Blessed to be a Blessing

Sunday Worship
 10:30am Sanctuary

Office Hours
 M-Th 8am-4pm
 Fri 8am-2pm

JUNE/JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jack McGuire	6/3
Heidi Nelson	6/5
Jeff Schneider	6/6
Tracy Hahn	6/7
Claire Thompson	6/7
Jack Allen, Jr.	6/9
Dale Morine	6/9
Robert Barclift	6/13
Allison Eustis	6/13
Brent Scheieger	6/14
Carrie Southard	6/14
Isaac Toney-Schmitt	6/14
Rachel Reid	6/16
Susan Simon	6/16
Braegan Abernethy	6/16
Addison Baitcher	6/18
Cole Truitt	6/18
Ross Truitt	6/18
MacKenzie Truitt	6/18
Dee Bradford-Smith	6/18
Amanda Badenhorst	6/20
Mavis Boadi	6/21
Beverly Northrop	6/23
Julie Chesnutt	6/25
Denise Hunt	6/26
Joan Rownd	6/28
Katy Thompson	6/29

ICE CREAM, SHAKES & POPSICLES
SIZZLING BBQ
 FUN IN THE SUN
poolside
 DAD, DADDY, DADA
SUMMER
 FLIP FLOPS
 Sunglasses
 HAPPY → BIRTHDAY



Mary Sanford	7/1
Lorry Clark	7/4
Barbara Hughes	7/5
Robin Truitt	7/5
Susan Fields	7/5
Carol Beckman	7/7
Ed Taylor	7/7
Peter Thomas	7/11
Martha Baitcher	7/12
Sally Williams	7/12
Christ Sprung	7/14
Debbie Barclift	7/15
Aubrey Forlines	7/16
Connor Hughes	7/18
Gail Williams	7/24
Mike Havey	7/24
Glenn Grove	7/24
Gill Christian	7/25
Warren Gray, Jr.	7/26
Verne Bliss	7/30

Staff Birthdays

Yvonne White	January 26
Shari Freeman	June 11
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt	June 14
Debbie Nysewander	July 2
Rev. Barrett Abernethy	October 30
Steve Ray	December 1

If you have a birthday in June or July and don't see your name on the list, please contact debbie@mvpchurch.org or call the office.

Getting to Know...

BRAEGAN ABERNETHY
OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



What is your favorite thing about your career?

Even though I am now a manager and not working at Georgia State University with patrons regularly, I still feel the importance of the work that I do as a librarian and how the library is such an essential place for students and faculty. I try to remind myself that the resources I help provide are meaningful and impactful to their coursework and scholarship.

What is your favorite family tradition?

We save the Christmas cards that we receive and keep them in a basket. Throughout the next year, we pull one out at dinner and pray for the family/person that sent us the card.

What two radio stations do you listen to in the car the most?

When Evie's in the car with me it's Disney Hits. When I'm commuting to work, I typically listen to The Daily, a New York Times podcast.

What was the last book you read?

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks. It's a fictionalized account of the history of the Sarajevo Haggadah, which resides in the National Museum in Sarajevo. This 14th century illuminated manuscript has survived quite a journey from its creation in Spain to its present day location, including being saved from Nazi plundering during WWII by the museum's chief librarian.

What's the craziest thing you've done in the name of love?

Willingly marry a man bound for seminary!

Is your grief lasting longer than expected? Is your empty nesting preventing current joy? Are you expecting a job change by choice or not by your design? Are you moving or new and friendless? Are you at midlife and feeling adrift? Have you recently been diagnosed with a lifelong health issue you can't quite wrap your head around? Are you experiencing early signs of memory loss and need someone to walk through it with you? These are some of the issues Stephen Ministers are trained to handle. They listen. They encourage. They help you clarify goals, see your strength, and offer resources and strategies to try.

To restore hope, contact a pastor or Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, to get started.



SESSION MEETING SUMMARY

Stated Session Meeting May 21, 2023

At the May Session meeting, the following information was discussed and action taken as listed:

- Andrea Brantley, Executive Director of Family Promise of North Fulton/DeKalb from Family Promise will share information about Family Promise during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:15) in the Chapel on June 25.
- Vacation Bible School will be a one-day event on August 12. This format was very successful last year.
- We will have a lunch in Fellowship Hall (church will move to the gym) on July 2 where we will host our Los Niños Primero families; families will provide part of the food and the Fellowship Ministry team will provide burgers and dogs.
- The FAMT reminds everyone that the HVAC installation begins next week. Member giving remained on track for the month of April.
- Elder Commissioners to the May 2 Presbytery Meeting gave a report on actions taken at that meeting.
- Rev. Abernethy gave a report on church attendance for MVPC, the Presbytery, and national data for PCUSA; Mount Vernon membership and attendance remains steady while Presbyterian churches around the country show declining attendance and enrollment.

- The Clerk gave an overview of the annual Presbytery review of Session Minutes. MVPC's minutes are in good order. In the near future we will add an Excel spreadsheet feature to the minutes that summarizes Session action. This will make searches for information from previous years much easier.
- A committee is being formed to work over the next several months to develop emergency procedures for the church. Some of the work will address medical and weather emergencies as well as intruder emergencies.
- Moving communion from July 2 to July 9 was approved.
- The Fellowship Ministry Team will begin to organize "get to know you dinners" that will allow new members a chance to get to know church members. This will be organized in a similar way to what we once did with "Dinners for Eight."

First day of new HVAC installation!



*We will not meet in June.
The next Stated Session Meeting will be
July 16.*

PRAYER VINE



James Ballew - courage, faith, and healing as he has surgery to treat bladder cancer.

Becky - Mary Lea Woods' sister-in-law continued healing from a bad fall.

College graduates - Ryan Sawyer (Brown University) and Charlie Plumly (Naval Academy at Annapolis). Blessings on them as they embark on their careers.

David Cullen - Comfort and peace to his family after his death. He was the son-in-law of Mary Kilgore.

Eliana - Carrie Southard's niece seeking a manageable medical and therapeutic answer to mental health issues.

Frank Mayer - Colleen Nelson's father is being treated for lung cancer.

Chuck McCrory - peace and faith as he battles severe cirrhosis, Amy Kiley's boyfriend's father.

Neil Morrison - Betsy Cozine's friend as she completes treatment for breast cancer.

Donna Neumann - peace to her and her family on the death of her father, Paul.

Andy Nelson - healing as he continues treatment for Leukemia.

Catie O'Hare - gratitude for the safety of family members who had a tree fall on their house.

Elaine Player - born to Nikki & Richard Player on May 17

Mrs. JB - still waiting on a bone marrow donor.

Blessings to our homebound members who often tune into our services.

Blessings for all ministries our church supports in Atlanta (CAC, Stirred-Up Ministries, Clifton Shelter, International Women's House, SS Education Force) and 2 crisis nurseries, a church, and 2 schools in Zambia. Bravery, courage, and faith for the people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Syria, and Turkey.

Do you need prayer?
Have our Prayer Vine pray for you!
Email your requests to pbartee@yahoo.com



P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

Return Service Requested

Got News? We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the third Wednesday of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

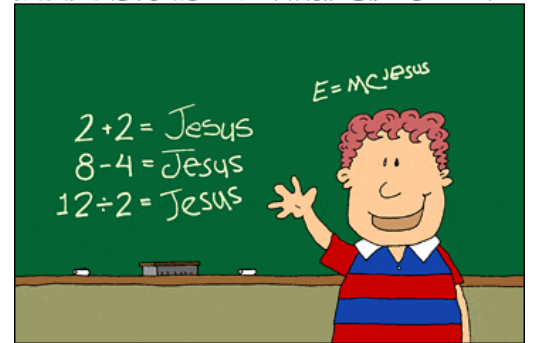
If you no longer wish to receive the Good News, please send an email to debbie@mvpchurch.org.

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

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Thanks to Gert-Jan van Heugten 06-16-2008

IN BIBLE CLASS WE LEARNED THAT JESUS IS THE ANSWER

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