

# MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

JULY 14, 2024 • 10:30 AM

***Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.***

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

This morning's Summer Fruit dish is Pineapple Cake made by Pat Davis. It was submitted by Mary Francis Walker who got it from Fannie Armstrong. You can find this recipe on page 138 of the "Sharing our Best" cookbook.

## GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"Give Thanks"**

Henry Smith

**"More Precious Than Silver"**

Lynn DeShazo

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Jesus said, *"You give them something to eat."*

**ALL: Yes! Let us share generously the summer fruit; banana bread, apricot bars, cherry cheesecake, and today, pineapple cake!**

ONE: What does the sharing of these treats reveal?

**ALL: That freedom in Christ is not freedom to live isolated and independent, but rather communally and connected. This is living out the Fruit of the Spirit!**

ONE: Let us be inspired this day to continue to bear this fruit through the generosity found at the water's edge in the form of five loaves and two fish!

**ALL: An appetizing call, pastor! Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG** *(see insert)*

**"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"**

BEACH SPRING

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed,  
So may we be signs of oneness 'mid earth's peoples, many hues.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Agape One, in a world that talks of *quid pro quos* and caring for the other only if it leads to personal gain, you tell us to sit in groups of fifty to feed us. This is generosity in action. This is why we make the orange blossom muffins, the Lizzies, and Mama's Apple Cake - to point us to the peaceful satisfaction found in serving someone else and expecting nothing in return. Your Apostle Paul tells us that through the freedom to share love and generosity we will become enslaved to one another. This does not mean we will own each other, rather it means we will *be-long* to one another. We will *be* for one another and we will *long* to serve each other. Inspire this generosity within us so we may serve 5,000 as your Son did. Inspire us so we may be moved like the church in Galatia to be led and fed by the spirit and not the flesh. In the name of the one who loves us without condition, we pray ... (*silent confession*) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE (*see insert*)

**"The Fruit of the Spirit"**

ASH GROVE

Caroline Winfrey Gillette

The fruit of the Spirit is love for our sharing,  
It's joy in the gospel that we have from you.  
It's peace that we live out with courage and daring;  
It's patience, for we know that we have sinned, too.  
It's kindness in all things and generous giving;  
It's faithfulness seeking to follow your way.  
It's gentleness, Lord, and it's self-controlled living;  
Now make us more fruitful in these things, we pray.

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Shari Freeman

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)*

*Afterwards the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)*

† 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. Toney-Schmitt

**SCRIPTURES**

Galatians 5:22-23

Luke 9:10-17

**HOMILY**

*"Summer Fruit: Generosity"*

## RESPONSE

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Heidelberg Catechism Question 86)*

ONE: Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

ALL: **Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living, our neighbors may be won over to Christ.**

The 129 questions of the Heidelberg Catechism are structured into 52 groups, one set for each Sunday. Some Reformed churches preach from the Sunday's scripture and that Sunday's Catechism questions.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shari Freeman

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.

### OFFERTORY

"Grace"

Laura Story

### † DOXOLOGY *(see insert)* "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,  
Whose grace has pardon me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

### † PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bob Martin

## SENDING

### † SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

#### **“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”**

LAND OF REST

The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name  
To bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.

We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;  
Where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.

We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed  
And, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.

Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

### POSTLUDE

#### **Rigaudon on “Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies”**

Dennis Janzer

The Rigaudon  
is a French  
baroque  
dance with a  
lively duple  
metre.

#### Leading Today's Worship Service

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor

**Shari Freeman**, Director of Spiritual Care

**Jill Hudson**, Music Director

**Rev. Jonathan Freeman**, Guitar

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,  
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift.*

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

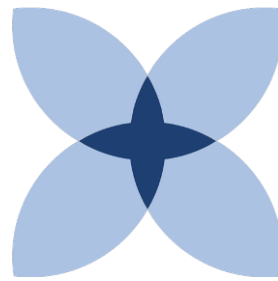


[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)

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

# MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School  
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection  
10-10:25am

Worship  
10:30-11:30am

**Welcome! We are glad to worship with you today!**

**Visitors & Membership:** Please go to our website: [mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org), contact our church office at **404.255.2211**, or speak with one of our pastors after the service. Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it down the pew as you greet your neighbor.

## Upcoming Services/Events:



**July 21** "Summer Fruit: Faithfulness", Galatians 5:22-23, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16,  
Shari Freeman

**July 28** "Summer Fruit: Gentleness", Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 11:28-29  
Rev. Toney-Schmitt

**Our July Communion Offering** is for the Atlanta VA Domiciliary. The Domiciliary provides residential rehabilitative programming for Veterans facing homelessness, mental health and/or substance use disorders. They facilitate community reintegration by promoting autonomy and self-sufficiency through assessments, treatment, education, referrals and linkages that improve veterans' quality of life. For more information about the VA Domiciliary program, please visit [va.gov/homeless/dchv.asp](http://va.gov/homeless/dchv.asp)

**VBS 2024! Saturday, August 10** from 9:30-2:30. All children in preschool through rising 5th grade are invited to join! Registration link: [www.myvbs.org/mvpc2024/](http://www.myvbs.org/mvpc2024/)

**Braves Game:** We're going to the last Braves game of the season on **Sunday, September 29!** Tickets are \$60 each which includes carpool/parking and ticket. Make a check out to MVPC (include in the Memo line "Braves") and leave in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office.

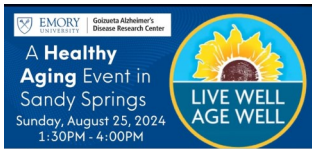
**Columbarium:** Did you know that MVPC has a columbarium? Recently, several church members have secured a niche. If you are interested in purchasing a niche for you or a loved one, the cost is \$2,000 for one or \$2,400 for two people. We encourage you to consider this because starting **August 1** the cost per niche will increase to \$2,500 for one and \$3,000 for two people. If you prefer a burial plot, MVPC currently owns 2 plots at Arlington Cemetery. If you would like to inquire about these plots, the columbarium, or any funeral wishes you may have, please contact the church office.

**July 14, 2024**



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

Giving



**Healthy Aging Event:** Sunday, August 25, 1:30-4pm. For more information, please check the Senior Adult Table in the Narthex. To register for the event, go to the following link: <https://mtvernonhealthyaging.eventbrite.com/>



**Family Promise** is here for two weeks until July 21! There are still several places you can help! Go to our website or the link in the Happenings email for the SignUp Genius.



**Adult Sunday School:** Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum *"The Present Word"*. Crossroads meets in the Session Room and is watching a DVD series titled *"Great Figures of the New Testament"* by Amy-Jill Levine. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



**Stephen Ministry:** Getting close to the commissioning of new Stephen Ministers, it seems a good time to talk about the ministry at our church. We are part of an international group of laypeople across all faiths, more than 80,000 strong, all working within churches to help extend long-term pastoral care to congregations and their communities. Stephen Ministry at MVPC has been rekindled three times after its original start in the 1980's. The current group started in 2019. We offer a layperson who will walk with you through life's challenging moments in a confidential, one-on-one relationship for as long as needed. Our Stephen ministers train for 50+ hours to be the best listeners, the most compassionate and non-judgmental encouragers, and to offer you community resources to help you on your journey.



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

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Chitip Likitcharoen, Lorry Clark, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine's caregiver), Yvonne White, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance:** 7/7    Worship 87,    Online 16

### Financial Update

As of July 8	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$313,564	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 33,443	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 20,597	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$367,604</b>	<b>\$578,000</b>

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