

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NINTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

JULY 21, 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 Clafouti made by Patricia Hibbard. You can find this recipe on page 144 of the "Sharing our Best" cookbook.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Oceans"

Hillsong

Emi Lutz & Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shari Freeman

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP *(from John Calvin's Institutes)*

Faith is a firm and certain knowledge of God's benevolence toward us, founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship God!

Barrett had to memorize John Calvin's definition of faith his first week of classes at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He wrote this Call to Worship from memory and invites you to take this bulletin home with you to memorize it as well (it is Vacation Bible School season after all)!

† MORNING SONG #276

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *(refrain)*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(refrain)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Holy Wisdom, your scripture defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. We read this scripture, and we realize this is a faith that asks more of us than we can comprehend. You ask us to hold a faith that transcends time and understanding. You ask us to live out a faith that celebrates what is unknown rather than what is known. How can we love or trust that which we do not know?

Help us to reframe our faith. Help us to see that while our call in worship is to “know” you, that our faith leads us to the One whom we can never fully know. For you are God and we are not. For you are whole and we are broken. Help us in this knowledge to humble ourselves before you, and before our neighbors, and before ideas that seem foreign to us. Let us listen for your still, small voice in the vast unknown, learning and cultivating a faith that stirs from deep within and yet lies far beyond our sight. In your Holy Name, we confess we long for a much richer faith ... *(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.

Carolyn
Winfrey
Gillette is a
Presbyterian
Minister and a
gifted hymn
writer,
authoring over
400 hymns.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

(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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURES

Galatians 5:22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

HOMILY

"Summer Fruit: Faithfulness"

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Westminster Confession of Faith 6.078 and 6.080*)

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts; and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word: by which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer, it is increased and strengthened.

This faith is different in degrees, weak or strong; may be often and many ways assailed and weakened, but gets the victory; growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

"I Can Hope (Because Your Faithfulness is Great)"

Laurie Swann, Soloist

† **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 pardoned 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.

This Offertory was written by Jill Hudson in 2021 to accompany a Women's Bible study at St. Luke's on lament. In scripture, lament usually leads to hope.

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pat Davis

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL *(see insert)*

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

GLORY TO GOD Hymnal

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. *(refrain)*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. *(refrain)*

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary No. 2"

Arlen Clarke

Leading Today's Worship Service

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Emi Lutz, Guitar

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.*

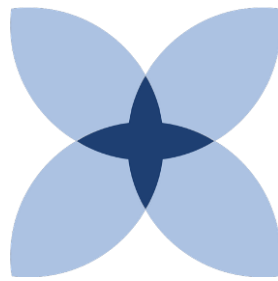
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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: mvpcchurch.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 28 "Summer Fruit: Gentleness", Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 11:28-30
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

August 4 "Summer Fruit: Self Control", Galatians 5:22-23, Nehemiah 4:1-23
Rev. Barrett Abernethy



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/



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/>



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 21, 2024



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

Giving



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



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 or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

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

Attendance: 7/14 Worship 79, Online 16

Financial Update

As of July 17	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$318,926	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 33,493	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 20,709	\$ 9,000
Total	\$373,128	\$578,000

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