

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

AUGUST 11, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Today is guitarist Emi Lutz's last Sunday with us. She is off to college next week and we are grateful for her many talents and warm spirit she has brought to our church's life.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Rest on Us"

Maverick City Music

Rev. Jonathan Freeman & Emi Lutz, Guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: As we watch the landscape of our campus change, we reflect on God's creation of trees.

ALL: God is the maker of heaven and earth and all that is within it.

ONE: The trees in Scripture reflect the nature of God.

ALL: God sustains us, shelters us, and nourishes us.

ONE: The trees in Scripture tell the story of God.

ALL: They give us vantage points to see God more clearly.

ONE: The trees in Scripture invite us into a deeply rooted faith.

ALL: With joy and thanksgiving, let us worship God!

† MORNING SONG *(see insert)*

"In The Garden"

United Methodist Hymnal

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

Merciful God, we try to hide from your presence, knowing that we have traded your abundant life for a wasteland of sin. We have not followed your will, but instead heeded other voices and pursued our own desires at the expense of others. We are so misguided that we struggle to discern good from evil, too often making the wrong choice and choosing the wrong side.

We ask for the courage to tell you truthfully what we have done. We pray for forgiveness so that we can live with ourselves, with others, and with you. You alone can restore us. In steadfast love, look upon us and reclothe us in your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord ...
(silent confession) ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

“We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

HOLY GROUND

Glory to God Hymnal

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground. (2x)

This hymn of God’s assurance is perfect for this season in which we draw closer to God through the holy ground of creation. Next week our scripture will be on the burning bush which this hymn draws inspiration.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward.
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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:1-24

HOMILY

“Planting Trees: The First Tree”

Today, we begin a new sermon series, *Planting Trees*. While “rooted” in the changes we see going on around our campus, like the uprooting of many trees, we hope you see how God uses trees throughout the Bible to inspire our faith.

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.038-6.040)*

The first covenant God made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam, and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. Man, by his Fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace: wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life, his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe. This covenant of grace is frequently set forth in the Scripture by the name of a testament, in reference to the death of Jesus Christ, the testator, and to the everlasting inheritance, with all things belonging to it, therein bequeathed.

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

"Living Hope"

Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Emi Lutz, Guitar

† DOXOLOGY #592 "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

Mary McClurg

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL *(see insert)*

"Standing on the Promises"

PROMISES

Glory to God Hymnal

Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. *(refrain)*

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword, standing on the promises of God. *(refrain)*

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. *(refrain)*

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary No. 2"

Arlen Clarke

(Please stay after worship for cake for Emi Lutz.)

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

Emi Lutz, 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

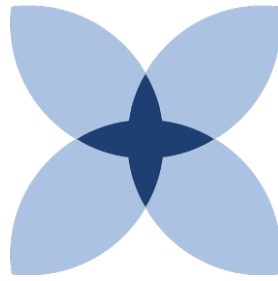


Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

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, 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:



August 18 *"Planting Trees: The Burning Bush"*, Exodus 3:1-10, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

August 25 *"Planting Trees: The Broom Tree"*, 1 Kings 19:1-9, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Presbyterian Women: The kickoff luncheon for Presbyterian Women is TODAY in the Kirk Center right after the service. We will be sharing salads and enjoying the beginning of a new year of Bible lessons, fun, and fellowship. This year we will be doing the Horizons Bible Study, *"What She Said!"* It is a study of quotes from women in the Bible taken directly from scripture. Study books will be available at the luncheon for \$5.



Healthy Aging Event: Sunday, August 25, 1:30-4pm. For more information, please check the Senior Adult Table in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer for this event, contact Isaac or Pat Bartee.



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.



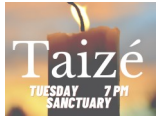
Our August Communion Offering is new school supplies for Sandy Springs Education Force and Stirred Up Ministries. SSEF creates targeted programs that educate, inspire and prepare public school students in Sandy Springs for a competitive world. Stirred Up Ministries is an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta.

August 11, 2024



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

Giving



Taizé: Join us for our next service on Tuesday, August 27 at 7pm in the Sanctuary.



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: Lonely after a move? Having trouble recovering from divorce or news of a chronic health problem? Empty nest blues? Lost a job or making major life changes? Grieving longer than is comfortable or tolerable? At MVPC, you do not have to make the journey alone. Please choose a confidential, one-on-one relationship with a specially trained Stephen Minister. Call Pat Bartee or a pastor to get involved.



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, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Chuck McCrory, Bruce Morine, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Minnie Robinson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine's caregiver), and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Christian Sympathy to the friends and family of Dave Whitacre who died August 3. His funeral will be Saturday, August 24 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance: 8/4 Worship 80, Online 10

Giving Statements for January-June 2024 have been emailed or mailed.

Thanks for all you do for MVPC! Yvonne

Financial Update

As of August 8	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$340,129	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 40,186	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,063	\$ 9,000
Total	\$401,378	\$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