

## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

On this Labor Day weekend, we give thanks for our church family who give of their time and talents. We are especially grateful for those who volunteered for our Healthy Aging Conference last weekend and Vacation Bible School last month!

### GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**“Blessed Be Your Name”**

Matt Redmon

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Call all the laborers, O God,

**ALL: Call your laborers who wake early,**

ONE: Call your laborers who came late,

**ALL: Call your laborers who feel overlooked.**

ONE: Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage,

**ALL: Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields,**

ONE: Call your laborers who use their wage to spread your love,

**ALL: Call all your laborers, O God.**

ONE: Tell us to roll up our sleeves, for we know that we have work to do.

**ALL: Let us find you in the work we share here and now, let us worship God.**

† **MORNING SONG (#343)**

**“Called as Partners in Christ's Service”**

BEECHER

*(see the Blue Hymnal)*

† LABOR DAY LITANY (*see insert*)

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

**"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)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac 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

Rev. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16

HOMILY

*"Planting Trees: The Planters"*

## RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language 9.46*)

The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation. Because Jesus identified himself with the needy and exploited, the cause of the world's poor is the cause of his disciples. The church cannot condone poverty, whether it is the product of unjust social structures, exploitation of the defenseless, lack of national resources, absence of technological understanding, or rapid expansion of populations. The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare. It encourages those forces in human society that raise hopes for better conditions and provide people with opportunity for a decent living. A church that is indifferent to poverty, or evades responsibility in economic affairs, or is open to one social class only, or expects gratitude for its beneficence makes a mockery of reconciliation and offers no acceptable worship to God.

As we proclaim this Affirmation, we invite you to wonder how MVPC is responding to the needs of those in poverty in all of its forms, and how else might we respond to carry out our mission to "Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve."

**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**

**"Just Over in the Glory Land"**

Joseph Linn

Chancel Choir

† **DOXOLOGY**

**"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**

Bob Addison

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL *(see insert)*

**"A Man Owned a Vineyard"**  
*(to the tune of "To God be the Glory")*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

† CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL BENEDICTION

**"All Who Love & Serve Your City"**

### 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  
**Chancel Choir** at MVPC

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

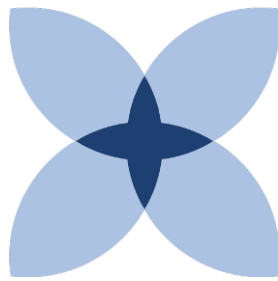
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

# MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School  
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection  
10-10:25am

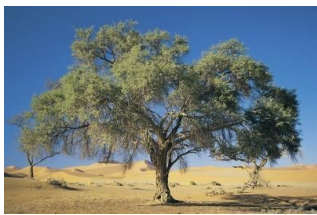
Worship  
10:30-11:30am

**Parking at MVPC during the week:** if you come to the church, please park in the church staff designated spots on the Johnson Ferry side. Sometimes the lot will be full due to school events but these spots will be coned off. If you ever have trouble finding a spot, call the church office and we will come help you.

**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:



- September 8** *"Planting Trees: The Mustard Tree"*, Matthew 13:31-32, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
MVP Foundation Sunday - Join us as we celebrate 25 years of the Foundation with Fox Bros. BBQ luncheon to follow.
- September 15** *"Planting Trees: The Barren Fig Tree"*, Luke 13:6-9, Shari Freeman
- September 22** *"Planting Trees: The Budding Fig Tree"*, Luke 21:29-33, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
Outdoor Service, Blessing of the Animals during worship (BRING YOUR PET!)

**LUNCH  
BUNCH**

**Lunch Bunch:** Join Isaac and Shari for lunch after worship TODAY, September 1 at City BBQ!



**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.



**Small Groups:** Small groups start on September 15 and go until October 13 or 20. One of the Sunday groups will meet at Carrie Southard's home at: 5411 Redfield Circle in Dunwoody. Their study is via DVD of *"The Case for Christ."* The other group will meet in the Session Room. Sam McClurg will lead the discussion on *"Grace, Not Perfection"* on DVD. Please sign up on the table in the Narthex.



**The September Communion Offering** is focusing on children's needs for the Food Pantries 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. For more information, please go to [www.ourcac.org](http://www.ourcac.org).

**September 1, 2024**



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

Giving



**Presbyterian Women:** the **Day Circle** meeting and Bible study will be on September 10 at 10:30 in the session room. This year we will be studying *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture* by Dale Lindsay Morgan. Contact Sarah Chalpan if you need a book. (Note the difference in meeting time – 10:30). The **Book Circle** will meet September 13 at 10am and the book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.



**Adult Sunday School:** Discovery meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum *“The Present Word”*. Crossroads meets in the Session Room and is studying *“Understanding the New Testament”* by David Brakke, Ph.D. Both classes meet at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



**Stephen Ministry:** Stephen Ministry is open to church members and the community. If you have grief that is bearing you down, recent job loss or a new, chronic or terminal health diagnosis, empty nest blues, mid-life angst, a move that has been disorienting, or other upsets that make you sad or confused, we are happy to walk with you through it and be a sounding board and offer resources. Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, 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](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.



**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, A.J. Cole, Chitip Likitcharoen, Lorry Clark, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chuck McCrory, Bruce Morine, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Minnie Robinson, Maeve Ross, Chandler Schaefer, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine’s caregiver), and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance:** 8/25 Worship 101, Online 10

### Financial Update

As of August 29	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$365,026	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 45,456	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,394	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$431,876</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)