



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 • 10:30 AM
Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Beautiful Things”
Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Michael & Lisa Gungor

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: There is a lot to learn from the trees.

ALL: We can learn to be deeply rooted, grounded to the earth and in our faith.

ONE: We can learn to grow up and grow out in the place that we are planted.

ALL: We can learn to rest through difficult seasons and flourish in abundant seasons.

ONE: We can learn to think in years and decades rather than minutes and hours.

ALL: We can learn to be patient and try again next season. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG #487**

“When Morning Guilds the Sky”

LAUDES DOMINI

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised! Be this the eternal song
Through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

† PRAYER FOR CONFESSION

God of Grace, hear the honesty and truth in our confession: We are surprised by how urgently you call us. There are days where we do not feel important enough to be called by you. There are other days where we feel too important to listen to your call. Other days it is just lost in the shuffle. But, there is an urgency to your call that we are surprised to hear. You want us to turn to you now. Forgive us for not responding to this urgency with action, and thank you for offering second, third, and fourth chances to hear your call and respond ... *(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)*

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

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:1-9

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Barren Fig Tree"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Confession of Belhar, 10.3)*

We believe that unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;
in that we love one another;
that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another;
that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind;
have one God and Father, are filled with one Spirit, are baptized with one baptism, eat of one bread and drink of one cup, confess one name, are obedient to one Lord, work for one cause, and share one hope;
together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
together are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity;
together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another;
that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

"On Eagle's Wings"
Chancel Choir

Michael Joncas

† 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

David Barclift

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #280

“Amazing Grace”

AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Allegro”

Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Shari Freeman, Director of Spiritual Care

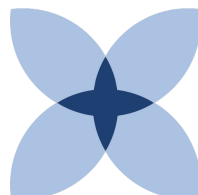
Roy Firestone, Guest Organist

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

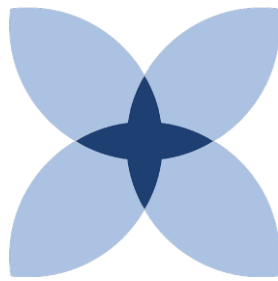


Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

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, 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 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!**)

September 29 "Planting Trees: The Good Soil", Luke 8:4-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Congregational Meeting, Election of new church officers



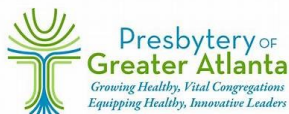
Braves Game: We still have seats available! We're going to the last Braves game of the season on **Sunday, September 29!** Tickets are \$60 each which includes carpool/parking and ticket. Make a check out to MVPC (include in the Memo line "Braves") and leave it in the offering plate or drop it off at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



Volunteers Needed: We are expecting 250-300 people on our campus on Saturday, November 9. We will need parking attendants, fellowship/food volunteers, shepherding, helping wherever help is needed. There is a SignUp Genius for volunteering on our website.

September 15, 2024



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women Day Circle meeting and Bible study will meet on Tuesday, October 8, at 10:30 in the session room. We will be studying Lesson 2: *Songs of Worship and War* in *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 on Friday, October 11, at 10:00 in the session room. We will be reviewing *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*.



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: Still dealing with grief over a relative or close friend far beyond the time expected? Feeling exhausted from caregiving and needing some assurance and resources? At mid-life and feeling your life has lost its vigor and meaning? Complaining that you have no friends while isolating yourself from others? Empty nester needing a new perspective? For all these issues and other "bumps in the road", our church provides a Stephen Ministry with trained, skilled laypeople to walk with you while you find new solutions. 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 or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

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

Christian Sympathy to the family of James and Eva Dreger. James’s father, Philip, died suddenly on September 7. His funeral will be Saturday, September 21 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance: 9/8 Worship 117, Online 14

Financial Update

As of September 11	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$376,761	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 46,476	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,587	\$ 9,000
Total	\$444,824	\$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