



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 29, 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**

**"Here I Am to Worship"**

Tim Hughes

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God of the Soil, prepare us to receive your words of love and hope.

**ALL: Ready our hearts and spirits to do your work.**

ONE: May we be the good soil,

**ALL: Growing the seeds of God's love.**

ONE: May we bear good fruit,

**ALL: Honoring and serving God.**

ONE: May we tend to the soil for others,

**ALL: That they may receive your love and grace. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #391**

**"Take My Life"**

HENDON

*(Please use the Blue Hymnal)*

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of the Soil, you long for your words of love to grow in our hearts and minds.  
Yet, as the parable describes, your Word often does not take root in our lives  
and instead withers or is snatched away.

○ Lord, save us from hardness of heart, where your Word cannot take root.

○ Lord, save us from shallowness of mind, where your Word withers away.

○ Lord, save us from idolizing this world, where everyday cares choke out  
your Word.

○ Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil, where your Word flourishes and  
yields a harvest, bringing salvation to ourselves and those around us ...

*(silent confession)* ... Amen.

As you say  
this  
confession,  
think where  
you see  
hardness,  
shallowness,  
and idolizing  
in your own  
life and  
world and  
ask yourself  
how you  
might work  
to lessen  
that  
brokenness  
in your own  
life and in  
our society.

† 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

Luke 8:4-15

HOMILY

*"Planting Trees: The Good Soil"*

## RESPONSE

This Catechism, written in 52 sections so that one could be read each Sunday, was published in 1563. This is the first section and is often seen as a summation of the entire Catechism.

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Heidelberg Catechism, 4.001)*

ONE: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

ALL: **That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

### 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

**"Hymn of Fellowship"**  
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

### † 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

Debbie Barcliff

**SENDING**

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL (*see insert*)

**“The Summons”**

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

**“Jubilant Psalm”**

Phil Lehenbauer

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The nominees are as follows:

**Ordained & Installed Elders:**

Barbara Brooks	3 year term
Ben Cumming	3 year term
Mike Havey	2 year term
Penny Kiel	2 year term

**Installed Elders:**

Malinda Holmes	1 year term
Carrie Southard	2 year term
Ed Spain	3 year term
Mary Lea Woods	3 year term

Per the church’s bylaws we must hold a congregational meeting by the last Sunday in September to elect new church officers, also known as elders. As Presbyterians, we govern by elders that we elect for up to 3 year terms. Those to be “ordained and installed” will be first time elders if elected. Those to be “installed” have served as elders previously.

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.*

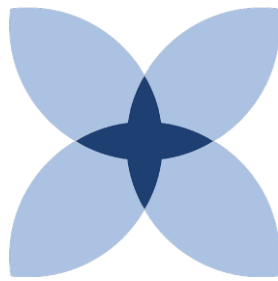
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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:



**October 6** "Planting Trees: The Vine", John 15:1-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy  
World Communion Sunday

**October 13** "Planting Trees: The Sycamore Tree", Luke 19:1-10, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt  
Committees & Coffee after worship in the Fellowship Hall



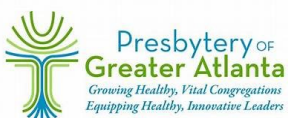
**Congregational Meeting** immediately at the end of the service **TODAY** to elect our new church elders.



**Lunch Bunch:** join Isaac and Shari today after worship (and before the Braves game) for lunch at City BBQ.



**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).



**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 29, 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:** Nothing gets better until you start to tackle the issue! Let your trained, skilled Stephen Minister walk that journey with you, listening with confidentiality in mind, helping you clarify the real problems and root causes, offering encouragement and resources and comfort as you work through issues that have been dragging you down. 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, Block family, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Lorry Clark, A.J. Cole, Gene Elder, Allison Eustis, Chitip Likitcharoen, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Bob & Donna Martin, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine’s caregiver), and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance:** 9/22 Outdoor Worship 91, Online 20

**Dates for your calendar:**

October 6	World Communion Sunday
October 13	Committees & Coffee, after worship in Fellowship Hall
October 20	Pumpkin Palooza, 4-6pm
October 27	All Saints Service - Outdoor, bagpipes
November 9	Hosting Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting, 9am-3pm
December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm

**Financial Update**

As of September 26	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$389,399	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 51,228	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,863	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$462,490</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