



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

On February 21, 1999, the Session of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church approved the Bylaws of the MVP Foundation, paving the way for 25 years of philanthropic stewardship.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Mighty to Save"

Hillsong Worship

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We marvel at the mysteries in God's world.

ALL: **We stand in awe at the power of God.**

ONE: We look at the tiniest seeds and wonder what will happen.

ALL: **From that small seed will grow a large shrub as big as a tree.**

ONE: Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

ALL: **God will use our gifts in miraculous ways. Let us worship God!**

† **MORNING SONG #361**

"How Firm a Foundation"

FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you,
who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;

The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

Though we are playing on the word "Foundation", this hymn, filled with biblical imagery has united people for centuries, including former northern and southern soldiers just prior to the 1898 Spanish-American War.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of the Mustard Seed, we remember with gratitude those who generously sowed the seeds of faith in our lives. And yet, we confess that too often, we have failed to plant seeds of faith in the lives of others. We have valued our personal agendas over yours. We have been disinterested in caring for your creation. We have hoarded our own mustard seeds instead of planting them in others' gardens. Our lives have become so entangled with the values of the world that we forget what you have said and done and promised.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know that when we fail to follow your examples for loving others, our lives become parched and unfruitful, and our faith becomes stunted and dry. Bless us and renew us, we pray, so that we remain focused on you at all times and in all places, strengthening our faith and tuning our hearts to bear the fruit of your mercy, and your love, and your undying life ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† 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 13:31-32

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Mustard Seed"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

"Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls"
Chancel Choir

Z Randall Stroope

† 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

Susan McLeish

Today, we welcome former member Susan McLeish, the daughter of our former Parish Associate, the Rev. Dr. Doyne Michie, to offer the Prayer of Thanksgiving. The Magic Penny Fund, inspired by Doyne's "Ministry of Laughter," was vital in helping to plant the seed for the MVP Foundation.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion.
If you prefer to remain seated, an usher will bring communion to you.)*

COMMUNION MUSIC

"At the Table"

Josh Garrels

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Guitar

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† **SONG FOR DISMISSAL #438**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"A Trumpet Dialogue"

Alfred V. Fedak

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

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

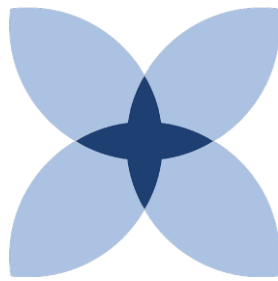


Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

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 15 *"Planting Trees: The Barren Fig Tree"*, Luke 13:1-9, 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!)

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 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.

September 8, 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 this Friday, 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 this Friday, 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 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, Bruce Morine, 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

Attendance: 9/1 Worship 94, Online 14

Financial Update

As of September 5	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$370,961	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 46,266	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 21,434	\$ 9,000
Total	\$438,661	\$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