



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' DAY - OUTDOOR

OCTOBER 27, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Today, we welcome the John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums to MVPC. Together for over 35 years, the JMMPD performed at the 1996 Olympics and continues to perform at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. They practice each Saturday on our campus, and we are grateful for their partnership.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PIPE & DRUM PROCESSIONAL

"Amazing Grace"

John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: The broom tree, the fig tree, the sycamore tree, and so many more ...

ALL: You lead your saints to many trees along the journey of faith.

ONE: Today we come to the tree of life,

ALL: Bringing light to the world as we remember those who have joined the great cloud of witnesses.

ONE: Let us celebrate the seeds they have planted.

ALL: Let us wonder together what we must cultivate so the forest may bear faithful fruit for generation upon generation. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG** *(see insert)*

"For All The Saints"

SINE NOMINE

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Light, today the scripture proclaims that you are a healer of nations. As we come to you near the end of another long season in which we have divided ourselves by political ideologies, remind us that we are not painted red or blue, but rather cast in the mold of the potter, Jesus Christ. That is why we celebrate the saints. For death reminds us that we are more than just a voter, rather we are a creation of your image meant to embody your Spirit. Today, we are called to be people who share the light, for that light comes from you.

May we share that light as we remember the saints who have joined the church triumphant. May we share that light to a community who needs to hear the pipe and drum. May we share that light so that when we glorify you we can sit under the branches of the tree of life and be enriched by the fruit of the faith you bestow.

Lead us, Dear God, so that when death and division point us to darkness, we will continue to point to the one who provides the light ... *(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)

CELEBRATION OF THE SAINTS

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

Dale Turner	8/26/23
Eleanor Brazell	1/16/24
Louise Lord	3/18/24
Gilbert Hastings, Jr.	4/19/24
David Whitacre	8/3/24
Barbara Bush	8/17/24
Nancy Nutter	9/20/24
Barbara Hughes	10/14/24

On this day, we remember those in our community of faith who have died in the past year, and we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age.

BAGPIPERS LAMENT

“MacPherson’s Lament”

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

*(The children are invited to Children’s Church in the Chapel.
Please greet each other with the peace of Christ,
in a manner comfortable for one another.)*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shari Freeman

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Tree of Life"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from Question 38 of the Shorter Catechism)*

ONE: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

ALL: At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

**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

"Down to the River to Pray"

arr. Sheldon Curry

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

Elizabeth Tate

SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

African-American Spiritual

I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river,
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.

I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain,
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean,
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.

Love, joy, and peace are the first three fruits mentioned in the fruits of the spirit in Galatians 5:22.

† BENEDICTION

Shari Freeman

POSTLUDE

“Highland Cathedral”

John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

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 of MVPC

John Mohr MacKintosh Pipes & Drums

*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



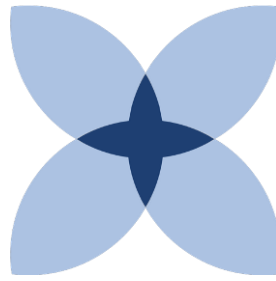
Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

MVPC Announcements....

Zooming Thru the Carols!

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

November 3
Stewardship Sunday
Bring your Pledge Card

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:



November 3 *"Planting Trees: The Acacia Tree"*, Exodus 25:10-16, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Stewardship Sunday, Bring your Pledge Card!

November 10 *"Planting Trees: The Cedars of Lebanon"*, 1 Kings 5:1-18,
Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Our **October Communion Offering** is for treats to benefit area schools' fall festival activities. If you would like to help hand out these treats as well as books from the Sandy Springs Education Force Mini Libraries Program, contact beppielever@earthlink.net. The last school is Nov. 1.

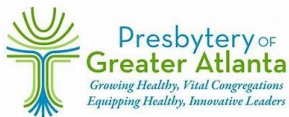


SOCKtober: We will be collecting new and gently used socks in all sizes for men, women, and children which will go to various outreach partners, including Community Assistance Center, Stirred-Up Ministries, International Women's House, VA Domiciliary, and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries.

Volunteers Needed for Presbytery Meeting We expect 250-300 visitors on campus on Saturday, November 9, as we host the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. We still have open volunteer spots for this event, including parking attendants, registration help, ushers, greeters, childcare, and help preparing and serving lunch. Please sign up using the link on our website or let a staff member know if you are available to help make this event successful!

Lunch Bunch: Join Isaac and Shari for lunch TODAY at City BBQ.

Senior Adults: Christkindle European Market, Nov. 4. Carpool will leave the church at 10:30am



October 27, 2024



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The Presbyterian Women **Day Circle and Bible study** will meet on Tuesday, November 12, at 10:30 in the Session room. Barbara Brooks will lead Lesson 3: *Conversations of Kindness: Ruth and Naomi* in *What She Said: Quotable Women in Scripture*, by Dale Lindsay Morgan. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, November 8, at 10:00 in the Session room. Pat Davis will lead a review of *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate and Sophie Amos.



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 Ministers offer one-on-one, confidential, encouragement and clarity as you face big decisions, deal with an overly full life, receive bad news, overcome grief and learn how to live alone. We come to meet with you weekly to help you "get on top of" issues and return to normal functioning. No one in our congregation or community should feel they are alone in their struggles with our skilled, trained laypeople available. Reach out to Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get connected.

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, Lorry Clark, Hazel Cofield, Viola Crawford, Mike Damron, Gene Elder, Chitip Likitcharoen, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback, Ann Young, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 10/20 Worship 97, Online 16

Dates for your calendar:

November 9	Hosting Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting, 9am-3pm, Volunteers needed
December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm

Did we mention that November 3 is Stewardship Sunday? Bring your pledge card!

Financial Update

As of October 24	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$429,633	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 54,656	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,368	\$ 9,000
Total	\$506,657	\$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