

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6, 2024 • 10:30 AM

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

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

World Communion Sunday was first celebrated in 1933 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA as an attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity. Once World War II started, this ritual grew in importance and is still celebrated by Christians across the globe.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *(see insert)* **"We Are Marching"**

South Africa 20th Century

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

This hymn, also known as "Siyahamba" in the Zulu language, became popular in American churches in the 1990s, but its roots date back to the early 1950s. It is called a "zipper song" whereby the lyrics consist of one phrase, repeated with permutations.

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: We gather to worship, celebrating the boundless love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

ALL: Who shines as the radiance of God's glory, who brings peace and wholeness.

ONE: From the rising of the sun to its setting, we lift our voices in praise!

ALL: God reigns over all the earth!

ONE: We join with Christians from every corner of the globe,

ALL: Giving thanks for the ministry of Jesus by celebrating the bread and cup he shared. Let us worship God!

† **MORNING SONG** *(see insert)*

"Gather Us In"

FOUNDATION

Sing the Faith Hymnal

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

God of Grace and Forgiveness, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment, making it difficult for your vines and trees and bushes to flourish. In Christ, you reconciled us as brothers and sisters to be united, and yet we have built walls to separate those who are different from us. By the Holy Spirit we receive wisdom and creativity, but we have used those to trick each other and to develop weapons of destruction and death. In all this we have not lived according to your will, nor to the hope-filled reality of enemy and friend, neighbor and stranger, eating at the same table. Forgive us Lord, for the destruction our separations cause, and guide us toward the path of reconciliation and understanding ... *(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

John 15:1-17

HOMILY

"Planting Trees: The Vine"

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

"The Potter's Hand "

Chancel Choir

Darlene Zschech

arr. Jay Rouse

† 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

Joey Noszek

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Abernethy

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

Shari Freeman

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

“One Bread, One Body”

Chancel Choir

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† **SONG FOR DISMISSAL** (*see insert*)

“For Everyone Born”

Glory to God Hymnal

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abernethy

CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION “Trees of the Field”

(*see insert*)

This joyful hymn, inspired by Isaiah 55:12, first appeared in a hymnal in 1975. It is a call to echo the trees in the hope and love that God inspires as we return to the mission field.

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

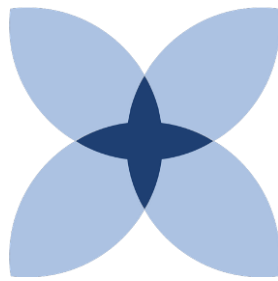


Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 76051
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN STARTING 10/8

Here's what you can expect:

- Crews are laying down fresh asphalt and anticipating completion next week.
- The stop light at Boylston Drive and Mount Vernon Highway will be removed, and only northbound right turns from Boylston are allowed.
- The intersection near the Sandy Springs' library will have a slight change. Turning left from Mount Vernon to Johnson Ferry will be prohibited. However, drivers coming from Johnson Ferry Road towards Roswell Road are still able to make left turns.

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:



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

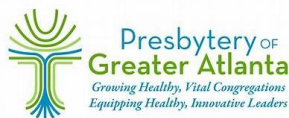
October 20 "Planting Trees: The Useless Tree", Judges 9:7-15, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



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. Dates at various schools are Oct. 24, 25, and 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: 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.



Pumpkin Palooza: Invite your family and friends to our Pumpkin Palooza on Sunday, October 20 from 4-6pm. There will be several activities and a costume contest for anyone between the ages of 0-100!



Committees & Coffee: Plan on staying after worship on Sunday, October 13 in the Fellowship Hall. Committees can meet and discuss their upcoming events.

October 6, 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: Stephen Ministry is ready to meet people where they are, floundering with a personal issue too tough to handle alone. That's where we enter, listening and encouraging, and just being there with you as you begin to solve the problem. Often, we can help you in clarifying problems and offer resources and perspective. Please utilize our skilled, trained laypeople who start with 50 hours of training but are continually adding to their knowledge base to best serve our congregation. 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, Barbara Hughes, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Bob & Donna Martin, Chuck McCrory, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Katherine Slayback (Anna Morine’s caregiver), Ann Young, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Attendance: 9/29 Worship 100, Online 10

Dates for your calendar:

October 27	All Saints Service - Outdoor, bagpipes
November 9	Hosting Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Meeting, 9am-3pm, Volunteers needed
December 1	Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm

Financial Update

As of September 29	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$402,121	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 53,001	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 22,118	\$ 9,000
Total	\$477,240	\$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