

**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 10, 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**

**“Will the Circle be Unbroken”**  
Mike & Kathy Havey

Ada R. Habershon  
Charles H. Gabriel

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Yesterday we welcomed our siblings in Christ from across Greater Atlanta.

**ALL: Tomorrow we will invite the children to come to you.**

ONE: Today we welcome the worshiping body to your temple.

**ALL: The cedars of Lebanon that built solid temples celebrate and welcome communities coming together to glorify your name.**

ONE: Let us live into the spirit of Solomon and Hiram, creating space for the people to find solace.

**ALL: Let us worship God!**

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, whose Fall Stated Meeting we hosted yesterday, is the largest of 166 Presbyteries that together make up the PC(USA) denomination.

† **MORNING SONG #430**

**“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”**

DARWALL'S 148TH

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend, let wisdom be our guide,  
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of the Elect, we come before you grateful, not because we cast a ballot and chose you, but because you chose us. You, once again, extend your forgiveness to us when we divide ourselves into tribes instead of building relationships and inspiring trust. Today, you reveal to us the gift of those relationships that cross boundaries. Through the trust of Solomon, King of Israel, and Hiram, King of Tyre, we witness how the cedars of Lebanon can build a temple for your glory. Inspire us to forge these alliances and build these temples. Let us build this temple in our hearts this morning, and let us share its contents to those still fuming, still gloating, and still believing the fallacy that a house divided can stand. For the temples we are called to build can connect the elect and the unelect. The temples we are called to build can bond Democrats and Republicans. The temples we are called to build can ensure healing and wholeness, and imagine a world built on the truth your Son proclaimed: that God’s grace has the power to redeem ...  
*(silent confession)* ... Amen.

“In a world where we too often equate political power with the ultimate and the will of God, the church must not give more glory, honor, and dominion to such realms than is proper. The political posture the Christian community is called to embody is civility in an increasingly uncivil society.”  
-Rev. Chris Currie, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church, New Orleans, LA

† 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. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 5:1-18

HOMILY

*"Planting Trees: The Cedars of Lebanon"*

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*John 14:1-7*)

**"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."**

**Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"**

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."**

PRAYER 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

**"Deep River"**

John Leavitt

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

Sarah Chalpan

## SENDING

† SONG FOR DISMISSAL #366 "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

St. Catherine

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;

O knit my thankful heart to Thee, and reign without a rival there!

Thine wholly, Thine alone, I'd live, myself to Thee, entirely give.

O, grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but Thy pure love alone;

O may Thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!

All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;

Care, anguish, sorrow melt away, where'er Thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire or seek, but Thee.

This hymn, translated from German by John Wesley, was introduced to him by a group of Moravians he met in the American colony of Georgia in 1737. Wesley quoted the hymn in his final sermon before he returned to England.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

arr. Robert J. Powell

### 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

**Chancel Choir** of 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

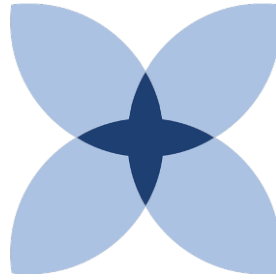


Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

# MVPC Announcements....

**Zooming Thru the Carols!**  
**Write down your favorite carols.**

**Sunday School**  
**9:30 - 10:15am**



**Connection**  
**10-10:25am**

**Worship**  
**10:30-11:30am**

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**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:



**November 17** *"Planting Trees: The Olive Tree"*, Matthew 25:3-10, Rev. Barrett Abernethy

**November 24** *"Planting Trees: The Oaks of Righteousness"*, Isaiah 61:1-7,  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt



**Senior Adults:** Saturday, November 16. We'll carpool to Red Top Mountain in the morning, have lunch in Cartersville followed by a visit to the Booth Western Museum. Please sign up at the Seniors table on Sunday or contact Mary Lea Woods at [woods1166@yahoo.com](mailto:woods1166@yahoo.com) or 404.668.0151.



**Thanksgiving: New this year,** we would like to pair families celebrating Thanksgiving with church friends who might be alone that day. If you would be interested in hosting someone, or interested in being a guest, please sign up at the Seniors table on Sunday by Nov. 10.



Our **November Communion Offering** will continue one of our congregation's longest outreach traditions by collecting non-perishable food items to fill Thanksgiving baskets for Stirred-Up Ministries. **We will Stuff the Bus on Sunday, November 17, so please bring your items by 10:00am that day.**

You can make a child's holiday season a little happier! Give holiday gifts to children of local families in need through the Community Assistance Center. Donors are asked to spend ~\$100 per child and bring their new and unwrapped gifts to CAC. The adoption portal closes the first week of December. Visit <https://ourcac.org/give-to-youth-programs/> for more info.



**November 10, 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 this 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 Friday, December 13, at 10:00 in the session room. Ann Young will lead a review of *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.



**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 available to our congregation, our community, and friends of our members. If grief is lasting way too long, or just beginning and you feel yourself sinking, or you've lost your job, or the last child has headed off to college and you are confused about your purpose in life, or you just got bad health news, we can help. We are extremely good at listening and helping you clarify goals and find solutions, walking beside you through the problem. Contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader or a pastor to get started. 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](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com) or call the church office at 404.255.2211.

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Lorry Clark, Hazel Cofield, Mary Collins, Viola Crawford, Mike Damron, Gene Elder, Bruce Hagenau, Megan Kendall, Erven Kimble, Corny Laube, Chitip Likitcharoen, Chuck McCrory, Bill & Susan McLeish, Karen Morine, Andy Nelson, Maeve Ross, Chandler Shaefer, Katherine Slayback, Ann Williams, Ann Young, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance:** 11/3 Worship 123, Online 9

**Dates for your calendar:**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 1  | Hanging of the Greens and Dinner, 5pm                |
| December 15 | Atlanta Concert Band Performance                     |
| December 22 | Lessons & Carols                                     |
| December 24 | Live Nativity 4:30pm<br>Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm |

*There is still time! Please consider giving a pledge for 2025 if you have not done so.*

**Financial Update**

| <b>As of November 7</b>               | <b>Actual YTD</b> | <b>2024 Budget</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Pledge Member Giving                  | \$441,887         | \$509,000          |
| Member Giving Non-Pledge              | \$ 56,406         | \$ 60,000          |
| Non-Member Giving &<br>Loose Offering | \$ 22,566         | \$ 9,000           |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>\$520,859</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](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)