



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

“Satisfied (All My Life Long)”

Clara Tear Williams

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Gather around to hear the voice of the Lord calling out from the heavens!

ALL: God’s voice hovers over the waters and thunders from on high!

ONE: A voice that shakes trees, gnarls landscapes, and sparks flames.

ALL: A voice filled with majesty that projects glory out in waves.

ONE: And a voice that calls on us in our baptism to join in and be the Beloved.

ALL: A voice that we have heard before and will hear again. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN #492

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, Trusting the promise, faithfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God’s praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, we are God’s children, joyfully now God’s praises we sing.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Water and New Life, you've called out to each of us in our baptism. In movements that feel like a gentle dove from heaven or a rushing current beneath the water's surface or sparks of Holy fire, you make your presence known. In your own baptism you joined yourself with our earthly mission of reconciliation, peace, and unity. We confess that we are not fully capable of completing this mission. We confess that we fall short again and again. We also rejoice that anything we lack is made whole by your love for us. Renew the mission of reconciliation, peace, and unity within us.

(Congregants are now invited to turn to those near them to offer this blessing.)

May your life be a river. May you flow with the purpose of the One who created and called you, who directs your course and turns you ever toward home.

May your way shimmer with the light of Christ who goes with you, who bears you up, and who calls you by name.

May you move with the grace of the Spirit who brooded over the face of the waters at the beginning, and who will gather you in at the end ... (silent confession) ... Amen.

This blessing, written by UMC Pastor Jan Richardson invites us to remember our baptism. On this Sunday, we are invited to remember what many of us cannot recall, that parents or loved ones brought us to the font and welcomed God to wrap us in the clothes of Christ.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: ...In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

† RESPONSE *(see insert)*

"Change My Heart, O God"

Eddie Espinosa

BAPTISM OF LIAM ANDREW QUALLS

Rev. Abernethy

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.

Presbyterians believe that we should baptize children "without undue haste nor undue delay." This emphasizes that when we baptize the communion of saints - both parents and parishioners - commit to raise the child to know the love of God.

SONG OF WELCOME #498

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"
(see Blue Hymnal)

KINGDOM

(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

The baptism of Christ is referenced in all four Gospels. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, John 1:29-34 and this one. John's Gospel is the only one to omit God's famous line, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with who I am well pleased."

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

HOMILY

"Epiphany Upon Epiphany"

RESPONSE

OFFERTORY

"Down to the River"

arr. Sheldon Curry

† 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

Bob Addison

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Abernethy

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 Elder will bring communion to you.)*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Rev. Abernethy

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN #356

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary No. 11”

Paul F. Page

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

*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

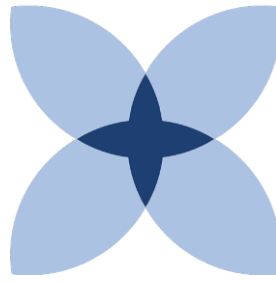


mvpchurch.org

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

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:



January 19 *"Letter to American Christians", Romans 8:22-27, Rev. Barrett Abernethy*

January 26 Ordain/Install New Church Officers, Luke 4:14-21, Rev. Barrett Abernethy



Men's Breakfast: All men are invited on Sunday January 19 at 8:30am in the Kirk Center.



Adult Sunday School: There will be a combined class on Sunday, January 19 with CAC Executive Director, Francis Horton. Come learn/get an update about how CAC is supporting more than 10,000 people annually in Sandy Springs and Dunwoody.



In January, MVPC is the **Congregation of the Month** for 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.



Presbyterian Women: the Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 14. Sarah Chalpan will teach Lesson 5: Speaking Word of Lord, Huldah. The Book Circle was cancelled for this month due to the inclement weather forecast.

January 12, 2025



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

Giving



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: The Stephen Ministry at MVPC is ready to empower you by listening carefully and asking clarifying questions that help you solve your problems. We are not counselors or advisors, but we are lay - people who will stand by you in tough times to encourage you as you make changes. All our ministers have had over 60 hours of training to comfort, encourage, clarify, identify depression and suicidal intention, or even refer you to professional counseling. Contact 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 her at 404.626.2432.

Prayer Concerns: Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Jeanne Gilliland, Helen Johnson, Kirt Lattanze, Corny Laube, Chitip Liticharoen, Karen Morine, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Christian Sympathy for the family of Hazel Cofield who died on December 14. A service will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 2pm at Patterson's Funeral Home in Sandy Springs.

Attendance 1/5: 75, Online 20

Dates for your calendar:

February 2	Boy Scout Sunday, 10:30am
February 23	Youth/Young Adult Sunday, 10:30am, Annual Church Meeting and Brunch, 9am in Fellowship Hall

Financial Update

As of December 31	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$539,080	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 60,737	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 23,050	\$ 9,000
Total	\$622,867	\$578,000

****Note: 2024 giving statements will go out by email or mail. If you have questions, please contact Yvonne.****

If you have any announcements that you would like to appear in the *Happenings* or *Good News*, please email them to debbie@mvpchurch.org