

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 26, 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

“Sanctuary”

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

John Thompson &

Randy Scruggs

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

ALL: **As we offer healing and hope to our world.**

ONE: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

ALL: **As we stand for justice and engage in faithful obedience.**

ONE: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us,

ALL: **As we proclaim that the year of the Lord’s favor has come. Let us worship God!**

This call is based on Luke 4:18-19, where Jesus begins his ministry. He is quoting Isaiah 61:1-2 a text inspired by the Israelites returning home after the Babylonian exile.

† OPENING HYMN (#343)

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shari Freeman

O Great God, you share words of hope and Good News with us. But sometimes, we cannot hear them because our attention is not focused on you. You call us to share the Good News with those around us. But sometimes, we hesitate to speak out, to call out injustice, and to declare your Kingdom come, because we fear going against the status quo. We confess our reluctance to receive our calling as your people, chosen by you to be witnesses to your dream of justice and joy.

Remind us, God, that you have made us for your service, and recharge us with your Word. Renew us, and grant us courage to live out your way of healing and hope ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† 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

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Barbara Brooks, Ben Cumming, Mike Havey, Malinda Holmes, Penny Kiel, Ed Spain, Carrie Southard, Mary Lea Woods

The new church officers who are being ordained and installed will serve between 1 and 3 year terms on the Session, the governing body for all PCUSA churches.

† 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.

The rite of laying on of hands (Acts 13:1-3) is not only meant to show support for those who have been chosen for service, but to also reveal how faith is passed on not just with words, but also action.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PRAYERS FOR THE ORDAINED & INSTALLED

† 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

Luke 4:14-21

HOMILY

“A Year of the Lord’s Favor”

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#434)

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

Today we all are called to be Disciples of the Lord,
To help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflict cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**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

“God Be In My Head”

John Rutter

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**

Pat Davis

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** (*see insert*) **"The Summons"** John Bell and Graham Maule

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in C"

J.S. Bach

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

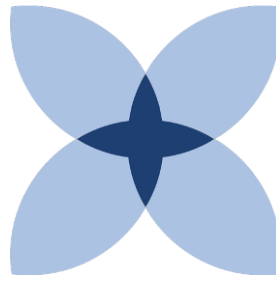
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

MVPC Announcements....

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 28** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- February 2** Scouting Sunday & Communion, "The Eagle Spirit", Isaiah 40:21-31
Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching
- February 9** "Covenantal Love", Genesis 12:1-9, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is actively responding to the devastating wildfires in Southern California. Please consider donating to support their relief efforts at the link provided. You can also donate to MVPC online or by check and specify California Wildfires: <https://mvpchurch.org/give/>.



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.



Sandy Springs Education Force: Electronics Recycling & New School Supply Drive, Saturday, Feb. 1, 10am-1pm, North Springs High School Parking Lot



Senior Adults: CAC Tour Jan. 29, meet at the church at 12:45pm to carpool. Please sign up at the Seniors table in the Narthex.



Lunch Bunch: There will be **NO** lunch bunch today. The next one will be Sunday, February 23.

January 26, 2025



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



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on February 11. Pat Davis will teach Lesson 6: *Song of Blessing, Elizabeth & Mary*. The **Book Circle** will meet on February 14. Marion Satterfield will lead a review of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, and Kathy Havey will lead a review of *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.



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: Do you need an unbiased, non-judgmental, trained and skilled layperson to walk with you through a troubling event in your life? Stephen Ministers listen, ask clarifying questions, encourage, and help you begin to find solutions. It is a process that has been effective for many with short-term issues. 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: Dee Bradford-Smith, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Jeanne Gilliland, Corny Laube, Chitip Liticharoen, Thazin Win Maung, Karen Morine, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

Christian Sympathy for the family of George Henry who died on January 17. A service will be held on Tuesday, **January 28** at 12pm at Sandy Springs Chapel.

Attendance 1/19: 101, Online 15

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
February 23	Youth/Young Adult Sunday, 10:30am; Annual Church Meeting and Brunch, 9am in Fellowship Hall
March 5	Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper (5:30pm) and Service (6:30pm)

Financial Update

As of January 23	Actual YTD	2024 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 89,538	\$509,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 2,527	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 147	\$ 9,000
Total	\$ 92,212	\$578,000

****Note: 2024 giving statements have gone 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