



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCOUTING SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

Today we are pleased to worship with Troop 463 and Pack 236 of Scouting America (formally known as the Boy Scouts of America). Troop 463 is the oldest and largest troop in Sandy Springs and traces its lineage to Troop 1 Sandy Springs circa 1941.

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Rick Founds

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The law of a scout says, "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

ALL: **The law of Christ says, "You shall love the Lord your God and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

ONE: We come together today to celebrate the laws that bind our oath to one another and our faith in God.

ALL: **Help us, Great God, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

ONE: Help us to do our duty by remaining physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

ALL: **Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN

"We Thank You, God, For Values"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation")

We thank you, God, for values that guide us day by day —
that help us learn to follow your faithful, loving way.

We thank you, too, for Scout Troops — where youth are taught to be
mature and moral leaders in each community.

For Scouts earn trust from others; they're loyal to the end.
They're helpful, friendly, courteous to stranger and to friend.
They're kind and they're obedient, they're cheerful, thrifty, too;
They're brave and clean and reverent in all they try to do.

We thank you, God, for values that send our youth outdoors
for hiking and canoeing, for cook-outs and S'mores.

As youth go out exploring, they learn creation's worth.
They care for what you've given — the water, sky and earth.

A Presbyterian Pastor, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette wrote this hymn for Scouting Sunday. She wrote it inspired by the scout law which has 12 points (found in our Call to Worship). To live it out these points are not always easy to do, but a scout always tries.

† PRAYER FOR HOPE

Robert Barclift

Transcendent God, throughout the ministry of this church, we have been inspired by the mission of the scouts. From the Scout Hut we now call Gailey Hall to the several Eagle Scout projects that bless and beautify our landscape, this relationship has shaped our ministry. We give thanks that Troop 463 and Pack 236 have returned to our campus. May our call as a church and their call as a troop ensure that this community be a space where young people can thrive and the next generation can know what it means to serve God and to serve country. Let this call root itself in a love of neighbor, no matter the creed or origin. For when we open the doors of our huts or our sanctuaries, all may know that the call of the Christian and the call of the Scout possess a common ideal grounded in an adventurous spirit of grace and gratitude. May we join hands and hearts in the opportunity to serve and to be served by the One who stands apart yet is always present. In your holy name, we lift this hope heavenward ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Shari Freeman

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

BLESSING OF THE SCOUTS/CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

(All scouts are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)

O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life. We lift to you the ministry of scouting that has been part of this community for many years. We give you thanks:

- for camping and outdoor adventures,
- for study and work, to build character;
- for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;
- for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.

Bless the work of scouting, in this place here at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church and around the world. Through its efforts, may these young men and women, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in love for you and for all people.

We pray for continued safety and growth for scouts and leaders, their families, friends, and all who may be influenced by this program. We pray for continued support from this congregation here at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, and that each and every scout may consider this community a place of welcome and love.

We thank you for your calling to serve the least of these, and in so doing, to discover ourselves in your image of grace and love. In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:21-31

HOMILY

"The Eagle Spirit"

264 Eagle Scout projects have been completed by members of Troop 463. Most have been done in and around Sandy Springs (see insert), but others have gone out-of-state and one was completed in Kenya.

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

"Eagle's Wings"

Michael Joncas

Nathan Abernethy, Nichol Jacobs, Anthony Menardi, Laurie Swann - Soloists

† 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

Sam McClurg

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 (#280) “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

John Newton

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;

’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures;

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

POSTLUDE

“Meditation on AURELIA”

Elizabeth Krouse

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

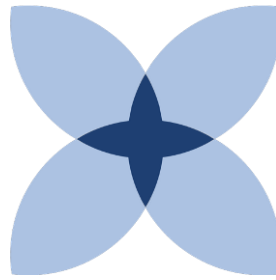


mvpchurch.org

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

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:30 - 10:15am



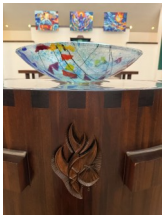
Connection
10-10:25am

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:



February 9 "Covenantal Love", Genesis 12:1-9, baptism of Liam Andrew Qualls
Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching

February 16 "Reconciling Love", 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Rev. Barrett Abernethy preaching



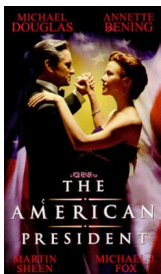
Brunch & Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 23, 9am in Fellowship Hall



The February Communion Offering is for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Clifton Sanctuary Ministry provides a transformational experience for unhoused men through comprehensive life skills training, purposeful and assertive case management, collaborative community partnerships, and dedicated volunteers. For more information, please go to <https://www.cliftonsanctuary.com/>.



Small Groups: Have you signed up yet? They begin today! February 2-March 2, please sign up in the Narthex.



Senior Adults: Join us on Saturday, February 15 at 1pm in the Session Room to watch "The American President" starring Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Popcorn, snacks, and beverages will be provided.

February 2, 2025



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

Giving



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: Still grieving, maybe beyond a "reasonable" time? Recently divorced and needing to recreate your life? Changing job or location and need assurance and a new perspective? Multiple issues have taken their toll and demoralized you? Stephen ministers can help listen, encourage, add perspective, and support you during a troubling time. 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 barbara@babrooks.com or call her at 404.422.5175.

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

Attendance 1/26: 98, Online 14

Dates for your calendar:

Tuesdays in February: Towers Residents, join us for Vespers in the Sun Room, 6:30pm
 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 30	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 93,503	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 10,277	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 423	\$ 26,000
Total	\$104,203	\$586,000

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



Eagle Projects Completed by Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Members & Friends

- 2023 Andrew Sevcik, built the new labyrinth on the MVPC campus.
- 2020 Ty Klein, built storage cubbies for Los Niños Primero.
- 2019 Jack McGuire, replaced tree and landscaping in front of Sanctuary building.
- 2018 Connor Plumly, flagpole at Mark Trail Swimming and Tennis Club.
- 2018 Charley Plumly, the Pavillion at Lost Corner Preserve in Sandy Springs.
- 2016 Connor Hughes, constructed and landscaped gravel patio in front of Gailey Hall outdoor fireplace.
- 2016 A. J. Whitney, restored exterior and landscaping in front of Gailey Hall.
- 2016 James McGuire, restored back patio and landscaping for Gailey Hall.
- 2014 Ian Michael Hughes, cleared and built outdoor Nature classroom on Mount Vernon Presbyterian School Upper School Campus.
- 2011 Alex Butler, built outdoor classroom between North Wing & Education Building.
- 2009 Robert Barclift, built outdoor classroom and sitting area at Mount Vernon Presbyterian School, Upper Campus.
- 1988 William Moses, built benches and updated landscaping for Church campus.



2011 & 2023
Alex Butler & Andrew Sevcik



2016
Charley Plumly



2009
Robert Barclift



2016
Connor Hughes



2018
Connor Plumly



2009
Alex Butler