



**MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025 • 10:30 AM

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

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

Today's theme will be  
"Promises" and all our  
participants are excited  
to share their  
experiences of God's  
Promises in their lives.

**GATHERING**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

Sophie Galen, Acolyte

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"Hold Us Together"**

Matt Maher

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

It don't have a job, don't pay your bills, won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills  
Won't fix your life, in five easy steps, ain't the law of the land or the government

But it's all you need,

Love will hold us together, make us a shelter to weather the storm  
And I'll be my brother's keeper, so the whole world will know that we're not alone

It's waiting for you; knocking at your door in the moment of truth,  
when your heart hits the floor, and you're on your knees,

Love will hold us together, make us a shelter to weather the storm  
And I'll be my sister's keeper, so the whole world will know that we're not alone

This is the first day of the rest of your life this is the first day of the rest of your life  
'Cause even in the dark, you can still see the light, it's gonna be alright; it's gonna be alright

Love will hold us together, make us a shelter to weather the storm  
And I'll be my sibling's keeper, so the whole world will know that we're not alone

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Mary Lea Woods

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Travis and Sam Block

**ONE:** God's promises are from everlasting to everlasting.

**ALL:** **Come, all who are on a journey of faith.**

**ONE:** God's promises stay with us and support us during all parts of our lives.

**ALL:** **Come, all who are hungry, thirsty, and tired along the way.**

**ONE:** God's promises give us hope for a future of life and love.

**ALL:** **Come, all who seek a place to rest and build up your strength.**

**ONE:** God promises to be with us no matter what.

**ALL:** **Come, all who hear this promise. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN *(see insert)*

**“Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”**

Brian Doerksen

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Piper Neumann

ONE: Lord, we are tired.

**ALL: Forgive us for the times we are ready to give up because it all feels too hard. We are quick to lament our hardships, yet we set lofty expectations for others.**

ONE: Lord, we are distracted.

**ALL: Forgive us when we fall asleep to where you are calling us to pay attention. We easily overlook the plight of our neighbors, the wars of the world, and the injustices of a system we benefit from.**

ONE: Lord, we are complacent.

**ALL: Forgive us for the ways we put our own comfort above doing your work. We hoard our gifts, talents, and treasures, while becoming numb to the needs of others.**

ONE: Lord, we are hungry.

**ALL: Forgive us when we do what is easy instead of what is right. We stay on the surface level instead of diving deep where you are calling us. We remain unwilling to face what can be uncomfortable.**

ONE: Lord, we are weak.

**ALL: Forgive us for our show of force when you call for compassion, our greed when you call for selflessness, our timidity when you call us to new adventures ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.**

This prayer was used in a worship service at The Presbyterian Youth Triennium, an every three year gathering of high school youth. This year, Triennium will gather in Louisville, KY, July 28-31. The theme will be “As If We Were Dreaming.”

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

**“Change My Heart, O God”**

Eddie Espinosa

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLE

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

**“His Eye is on the Sparrow”**

Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel

*(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**

<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	Isaiah 41:8-10	Samantha Fifield
<b>HOMILY</b>	“Promises”	Gill Hutt Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt

**RESPONSE**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Confession of 1967, Inclusion Language Version, 9.22-9.23)*

MacKenzie Truitt

**The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace. The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Joey Noszek

**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**

**“JLM”**

arr. Bradley Phillips

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**

John Hibbard

## SENDING

### † CLOSING HYMN (*see insert*)    **“Standing on the Promises”**

R. Kelso Carter

Methodist Hymnal

Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. (*refrain*)

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord, bound to him eternally by love’s strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s sword, standing on the promises of God. (*refrain*)

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit’s call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. (*refrain*)

### † BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**“Jesus Loves the Little Children”**

arr. Mark Hayes

Leading Today’s Worship Service

**Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt**, Associate Pastor

**Jill Hudson**, Music Director

**Rev. Jonathan Freeman**, Guitar

**Chancel Choir**

**Children’s 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

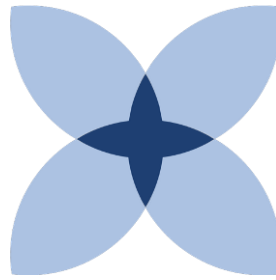


Our mailing address is:  
P.O. Box 76051  
Sandy Springs, GA 30358

[mvpchurch.org](http://mvpchurch.org)

# 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](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:



- February 25** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- March 2** "Shine, Moses, Shine", Exodus 34:29-35, Rev. Barrett Abernethy Preaching  
Burning the Palms
- March 5** Ash Wednesday & Pancake Supper (5:30pm), Service (6:30pm), "Don't Be a Jerk: Jacob (and Rebekah?)" Rev. Barrett Abernethy Preaching



**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/>.



**Lunch Bunch:** Join Isaac & Shari **TODAY** Sunday, February 23 after worship at City BBQ



**Senior Adults:** Join us to tour the Carter Presidential Library on Wednesday, March 12. Meet at the Sandy Springs Library parking lot closest to the church at 1:30pm to carpool. Everyone is welcome! Signup in the Narthex.

**February 23, 2025**



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



Giving



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, March 11. Barbara Brooks will teach Lesson 7: *Confessions of Faith, Mary & Martha*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, March 14. Sarah Chalpan will lead a review of *The Women* by Kristen Hannah. **Circle of Grace** will meet TODAY, February 16 from 5:00-6:30pm at Shelly Ray's home . For more information, contact Lisa Cumming at [lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com)



**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:** Talking with a trusted person who is non-judgmental and who will not be sharing your information with others provides for a major unburdening and frees one to begin seeing the way forward. It is a process and takes time to fully tell your story and be fully heard. Sometimes, families and well-meaning friends lack the listening skills and resources that a trained Stephen Minister can provide. If we can help, we want to. Please call Pat Bartee or a pastor to get connected. Leave a text message if we are unavailable, so we can call back.



**Do you feel a need for prayer?** Have our Prayer Vine pray for you! Email your requests to [barbara@babrooks.com](mailto:barbara@babrooks.com) or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Lloyd Chama, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Mike Damron, Joann Egan, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, Jim Wingate, and the people of Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia

**Attendance 2/16:** 90, Online 20

We mourn the death of Cornelius (Corny) Laube, who died on February 15. A Memorial Service will be held March 29 at 2pm at MVPC.

**Dates for your calendar:**

April 13	Palm Sunday Worship & Luncheon (with Easter Egg Hunt)
April 14-18	Holy Week Worship Services, Daily at Noon

**Financial Update**

As of February 20	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 138,773	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 10,905	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 855	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$150,533</b>	<b>\$586,000</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)