

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 18, 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

"My Soul Cries Out with A Joyful Shout"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Text and Music: Rory Cooney. ©1990 Gia Publications.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

MVPC SAFETY UPDATE

Penny Kiel

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We plant,

ALL: **And God gives the growth.**

ONE: We water,

ALL: **And God gives the growth.**

ONE: We are God's servants, working together,

ALL: **And we trust in God for the results. Let us worship God!**

This Call to Worship is inspired by 1 Corinthians 3:7 which was the scripture used to open the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on May 21, 1789 in Philadelphia, PA. The sermon offered in conjunction with this text was given by John Witherspoon.

† OPENING HYMN (#442)

“The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the word.
From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Text: Samuel John Stone. Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Community, you call us to be a unified people, connected to each other, respectful of each other, and leading with your love and grace. However, we are people who are quick to abandon unity and instead create divisions. We puff ourselves up and pridefully see ourselves as better than others. We are quick to argue with others who believe differently from us. We hang on too tightly to our opinions of you and the world. We miss the big picture of your great love for us and the abundance of your grace and mercy. Lead us humbly to a place of unity so that with opened eyes and hearts, we may respond to your invitations and bring you glory ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† **RESPONSE (#106)**

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation.

Text and Music: Donald Fishel. ©1973 International Liturgy Publications

MINUTE FOR MISSION - Graham Duncan

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

(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. Abernethy

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

HOMILY

“The First Presbyterian Conclave”

This past Tuesday at the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Spring meeting, we welcomed the Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly, Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson.

RESPONSE

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from The Confession of Belhar, 10.2-10.3)*

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.

We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

We believe that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.

PRAYERS 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

"Let Music Fill This Place"

Chancel Choir
Text & Music: Joseph M. Martin

† DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

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.

Text: Thomas Ken. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Genevan Psalter.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Meg Christian

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN *(see insert)*

"We Are One in the Spirit"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Abernethy

† CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Bind Us Together"

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

"DUKE STREET"

Arr. Kenneth Kosche

This final hymn celebrates a key aspect of Presbyterian heritage and theology: connection to one another in and through the love of God. We are called to share in the spiritual gifts and in the work of discipleship together as this song illuminates.

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, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir

Beth Abernethy

Nichol Jacobs*

Nathan Abernethy

Amy Kiley

Pat Bartee

Bob Martin

Barbara Brooks

Anthony Menardi*

Ann Dillon

Joey Noszek

Alma Dowdakin

Joan Rownd

Jonathan Freeman*+

Rebecca Shipley*

Gloria Gillespie

Laurie Swann*

Kathy Havey

Barbara Williams

Mike Havey

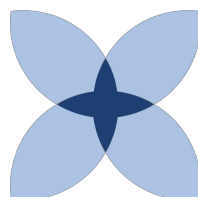
Worth Williams

Malinda Holmes

* *staff singer*

*+ *contemporary musician*

*If you are interested in joining MVP Church,
go to the Visitor's Table to pick up a visitor bag and a little gift.*

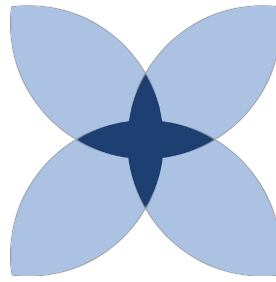


We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

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

MVPC Announcements....

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:



- May 25** "While He Was Blessing Them", Luke 24:44-53, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
- May 27** Taizé, 7pm
- June 1** "Colors of Christ: *Rainbow*", Genesis 9:7-17, Rev. Barrett Abernethy
Feel free to wear multiple colors
- June 8** Ordination of Shari Freeman, 10:30am; Luncheon to follow

Our **May Communion Offering** is for the summer camp program of Stirred-Up Ministries, an enrichment program for at-risk youth in the East Lake area of Atlanta. In addition to the summer camp program, Stirred-Up Ministries offers year-round support to these youth and their families including after school tutoring and mentoring, family counseling and intervention, and a food pantry for emergency needs. For more information, please go to <https://stirred-up.org/>

 **stirred:up**



Baby Shower: Presbyterian Women and Circle of Grace invite all church members to join us for lunch after church on June 1 at 11:45 in the Kirk Center to celebrate Christina and Isaac, who are having a baby girl this summer. Their friends and families have already provided everything on their registry, but a gift card to Amazon, Target, Publix or a casserole for their freezer would be most welcome. Please RSVP by May 28 to debbie@mvpchurch.org or at <https://evite.me/Y5Se4aHT1y>



We will be **sorting books** for Sandy Springs Education Force in Gailey Hall **TODAY** at 4:00 p.m. You don't have to be a senior citizen to help us help our local schools!



Mail Delivery: We are experiencing delays in receiving mail. If you send anything to the church, please update your records to: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

May 18, 2025



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** met May 13. Sarah Chalpan taught Lesson 9: *The Sound of Silence, Lydia and Philippi Slave Girl*. The **Book Circle** met on Friday, May 9. Beth Abernethy lead a review of *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 Old Testament*", Prof. Robert D. Miller, The Catholic University of America. Both classes meet at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Ernest Hemingway once wrote that, in our worst moments, it isn't advice we need, but it is human connection. And that is something a Stephen Minister offers. We connect weekly to offer listening, encouragement, and comfort without judgment or sharing your stories with others. Sometimes, it can be that neutral voice, along with the care of family and good friends, that helps move one forward. Please connect with us by contacting Pat Bartee or a pastor.



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: Keith Bumgarner, Jeannie Chettleburgh, Lorry Clark, Mike Damron, Gene Elder, Sherri Galloway, Malinda Holmes, Karen Morine, David Wassermann and the people of Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian Sympathy to the family of Carolina Kirby-Smith who died on April 27. Her memorial service will be June 28 at St. James Methodist Church.

We celebrate the marriage of Robert and Maddy Barclift who were married on May 3.

Attendance 5/11: 108, Online: 12

Dates for your calendar:

Summer Sermon Series: June 1 - August 3: Colors of Christ: Exploring Faith in the Stained Glass

June 22 Los Niños Primero Sunday, 10:30am

Financial Update

As of May 15	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 249,371	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 27,962	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,691	\$ 26,000
Total	\$280,024	\$ 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