



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 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

"Psalm 139"

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Music: Matthew Black

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

Charlie Gray

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

ALL: The Word of the Lord is our daily bread.

ONE: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

ALL: Our strength is in the faithfulness of God.

ONE: People of God, at this Kingdom crossroad, whom will you serve?

ALL: We serve the Lord our God alone. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#428)

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our firstfruits give.

To comfort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
To tend the lonely in distress, is angels' work below.

The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, though dim our faith may be;
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

William Walsham How

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Shari Freeman

Almighty God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know what tempts us and what gives us life. You know our vulnerabilities, and you know our sin. We confess that we have failed to follow your teaching. We have disobeyed your word. And, we have denied your provision and care, choosing instead to rely on our own devises and cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE

"O God, You Are My God"

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

Words and Music: David Strasser. ©1991 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing.

We have sung
this as our
Response hymn
for over three
months, and we
will continue to
sing it through
the Navigating
Roads series.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(All children 5th grade and younger are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.
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. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:1-11

HOMILY

"Navigating Roads: Distractions"

RESPONSE

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Westminster Larger Catechism, 7.189*)

ONE: May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

ALL: True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance, their inseparable union with Christ, his continual intercession for them, and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

We don't often get to use the Westminster Confession in worship. The Catechisms, especially, are better suited for Sunday School settings.

OFFERTORY

"Take My Life and Let it be Consecrated"

Dilon Bryan, French Horn

Words: Frances R. Havergal. Music: William Schoenfeld.

† DOXOLOGY (#592)

"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, Geneva Psalter

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Diane Bumgarner

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Shari Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PRAYERS 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

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Laurie Swann, Soloist

arr. Lee Kjelson

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

(During this hymn members are invited to come forward and place their pledge cards in the basket.)

† CLOSING HYMN *(see insert)*

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given; Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong";
Let the poor say, "I am rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks.

Lyrics: Henry Smith

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

"Toccata (in D Minor)"
BWV565

J.S. Bach

(The primary role of a postlude is to provide a musical transition, connecting the sacred worship experience to the secular world as people leave the church. Feel free to depart during the postlude, or hang around and hear the grand Mount Vernon organ!)

Navigating Roads

My "walk of faith" began as a teenager! I went to a Methodist youth camp in Florida for the summer. We had a great time meeting campers each week. As an adult, I found that prayer was important in leading a safer and peaceful life. Later, I went to live in India for many months to explore different faiths. Seeing others turn to God in their paths was reassuring.

Judith Roe

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor of Spiritual Care

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

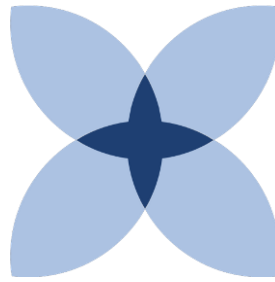


We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

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:



November 9 **"Navigating Roads: The King's Highway"**, Numbers 20:14-21
Guest Preacher: Rev. Patrick Day

November 16 **"Navigating Roads: The Via Dolorosa"**, Luke 23:26-32



The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that both our Session and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta have approved our choice for Interim Pastor, Kate Colussy-Estes. She will start with us in the office on Monday, November 3 and her first Sunday with us will be November 16. Please plan to attend a reception for Kate after the November 16 service.



The Elegant Elf Marketplace: Join us next Saturday, Nov. 8 as we kick off the holiday shopping season with 100+ vendors. \$8/person in advance, or \$10 at the door. For more info, contact Mary Lea Woods.



Our **November Communion Offering** will continue one of our congregation's longest outreach traditions by collecting non-perishable food items for Stirred-Up Ministries to distribute in Thanksgiving baskets for vulnerable families in the East Lake area of Atlanta. Stirred-Up Ministries is a year-round enrichment program for at-risk youth providing summer sports camps, tutoring, mentoring, and family counseling designed to help the kids succeed in school and embrace God's vision and purpose for their lives.

November 2, 2025



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** will meet on November 11 at 10:30 in the Session Room. Shari Freeman will teach Lesson Three: *Jesus is Tested* in the 2025-2026 Bible study guide, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The **Book Circle** will meet on November 14 and review *The Ride of Her Life (Nonfiction biography)* by Elizabeth Letts. **Circle of Grace** women will meet from 5:00pm-6:30pm on November 16 at Shelly Ray's home for our annual College Care Package gathering, where we make care packages for our youth members in college. Please email Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com if you would like to join our group of women who get together multiple times a year for fellowship and a devotional.



Adult Sunday School: **Discovery** meets in the Chapel and is using the curriculum "The Present Word". **Crossroads** meets in the Session Room and is using a video curriculum about "The Historical Jesus", led by Prof. Bart Ehrman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Both classes meet at 9:30 a.m. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: At our recent conference for Stephen Ministry, the founder reminded us that Jesus not only offered forgiveness from sin, but he offered an ABUNDANT life. And that is what Stephen Ministers do, help you through a troubling issue and then assist you in restoring or recreating an abundant life moving forward. We believe it is possible with even a health diagnosis, dementia, or dying. If you need us, please call and leave a message or email Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or ask a pastor to connect us. Contact Pat Bartee 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: Carolyn Bowen, Dick Freeman, Gerald Fudge, Lorry Clark, Megan Kendall, and the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, ACE, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Attendance 10/26: Outdoors 119 Online: 21

Dates for your calendar:

November 30 Hanging of the Green

December 16 Longest Night, Taizé Service

December 24 Live Nativity/Christmas Eve Service

There will be no offering plates in the month of November.

Financial Update

As of October 30	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 438,188	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 54,305	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 6,045	\$ 26,000
Total	\$498,538	\$ 586,000

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