



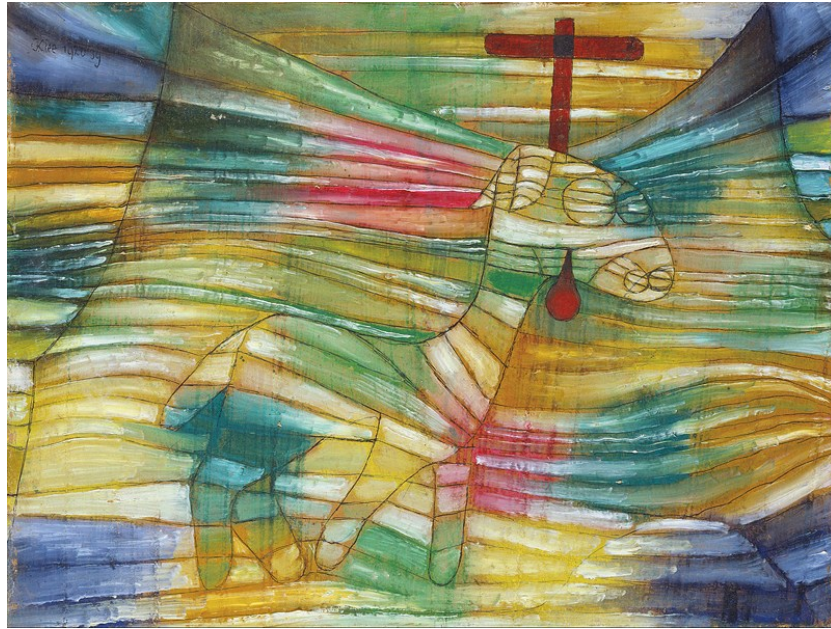
## MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 18, 2026 • 10:30 AM

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

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



### GATHERING

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**"40"**

Rev. Jonathan Freeman  
*Words & Music: Bono & The Edge*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**OPENING PRAYER**

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from Psalm 40*)

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

ONE: I waited patiently for the Lord to hear my plea.

**ALL: God's arm lifted me up and set my feet upon a rock.**

ONE: My mouth is filled with songs of praise.

**ALL: Happy are those who trust in the Lord.**

ONE: I celebrate the goodness God has shown me.

**ALL: We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.**

† OPENING HYMN (*see insert*)      **“You Are My Strength When I Am Weak”**

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our baptismal hope,

We are impatient. Forgive us when we do not wait patiently for your direction or when we are too patient with our misdirection.

Hold us to the promises made at our baptisms, sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Give us the courage to speak what we have seen, and empower us with your Holy Spirit.

Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion and justice, in which the mystery of your love is revealed ... Amen

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL:   **Thanks be to God.**

† RESPONSE (*#343, v.1*)

**“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”**

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.

*Text: Jane Parker Huber. Music: John Zundel. ©1981 Jane Parker Huber*

**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**

Pat Davis

**SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

**SERMON**

“The Next Day”

## RESPONSE

† HYMN (#126) "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.10-8.12*) Rev. Shari Freeman

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me." "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber ... I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

"We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God, still other events and powers, figures and truths, as God's revelation.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

OFFERTORY "Lord, O Lord, Your Name is Wonderful"

Handbells: Bob Martin, Kathy Havey, & Joan Rownd

*Words & Music: Hal H. Hopson*

*(If you would like to contribute financially to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church or its mission, ushers will be stationed at the doors of the narthex to accept your gifts.)*

† DOXOLOGY (2x) "God Welcomes All"

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a doxology. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and key of G major. The first system has lyrics: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system has lyrics: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.".

This "short song" is a part of regular worship at the Iona Community, an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pat Davis

## SENDING

### † CLOSING HYMN (#563)

### “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Words: James Weldon Johnson. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, ©1921 Edward B. Marks Music Company*

### † BENEDICTION

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

### POSTLUDE

### “Voluntary in C Major”

*Phil Lehenbauer*

James Weldon Johnson wrote this poem for a school assembly in honor of Lincoln's birthday in 1900 at which Booker T. Washington spoke. Once set to music, it has become deeply important in the African American community, and all who seek liberation from oppression.

*(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!)*

#### Leading Today's Worship Service

**Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes**, Interim Senior Pastor

**Rev. Shari Freeman**, Associate Pastor

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

**Jill Hudson**, Music Director & Organist

**Rev. Jonathan Freeman**, Contemporary Musician

**Chancel Choir**

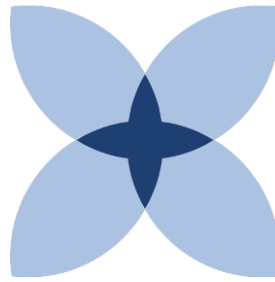
We are located at:  
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

## Upcoming Services/Events:



**January 25** "Our Calling", Ordination & Installation of new Session Members, Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:1-23

**February 1** "Blessed Are ...", 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-2  
Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

### Church Office Closed tomorrow January 19

**Worship Note:** For the next few weeks we will be using sections from the Theological Declaration of Barmen. Written by a group of church leaders in Germany to help Christians withstand the challenges of the Nazi party. While some churches took the union of Christianity, nationalism and militarism for granted, others resisted. Among those determined leaders were Hans Amussen, Karl Koch, Karl Iraruer, Martin Niemoller (author of the First They Came poem) and theologian Karl Barth. The declaration contains six propositions, each quoting from Scripture, stating the implications of the day and rejecting false doctrine. The declaration proclaims the church's freedom in Jesus Christ who is Lord of every area of life. The church obeys him as God's one and only Word who determines its order, ministry and relation to the state.

**Book Sorting:** Join us TODAY, Sunday, January 18 at 4:00pm in Gailey Hall.

**Senior Adults:** The Seniors are hosting a luncheon at Aldo's Italian Restaurant, at the northwest corner of Abernathy and Roswell Rd ([6690 Roswell Road NE Sandy Springs, GA 30328](https://www.google.com/maps/place/6690+Roswell+Road+NE+Sandy+Springs,+GA+30328)) on Wednesday, January 28 at 11:45 a.m. Fun people of all ages are welcome! Please text or call Mary Lea (404.668.0151) if you would like a ride.

**Inquirers Lunch:** If you're interested at learning more about MVPC, join us for lunch on Sunday, February 1. Please contact Shari if you're interested.

**MVPC is the CAC "Congregation of the Month".** The Canopy Thrift Shop needs your donations. Most needed items are blankets, sheets, comforters (especially King size), curtains, towels, men's pants, children's winter clothing, heavy coats, costume jewelry (jewelry bin in the church office).

**The January Communion Offering** is for the Food Pantries at 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](http://www.ourcac.org).



January 18, 2026



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

Giving



**Presbyterian Women:** The **Day Circle** will meet on Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30 in the session room. Pat Bartee will conduct the meeting and Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt will teach Lesson 6: *Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I will Say it Again, Rejoice"*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, February 13, at 10:00 in the session room. Sarah Chalpan will lead a review of *My Sister's Grave* (mystery thriller fiction) by Robert Dugoni. **Circle of Grace:** please email Lisa Cumming at [lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com](mailto: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.



**NEW! Little Blessings Room:** The Little Blessings Room (located in the Session Room) is available for parents to go with their 0-3 year olds during the worship service. The worship service is live-streamed into the room, and there are chairs for nursing and holding babies and toys for toddlers.



**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:** With new starts and new aspirations, we begin to encounter another year of opportunity and promise. If you could use an encouraging, non-judgmental partner to help you gain new perspective, please call on our Stephen Ministry. 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](mailto:barbara@babrooks.com) or call her at 404.422.5175.

**Prayer Concerns:** Bob Addison, Carol Beckman, Lorry Clark, Jeane Gilliland, Gloria Gillespie, Bruce Hagenau, Shelly Hines, Lois Johnson, Megan Kendall, Charlotte Mills, Moira Speirs, and ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

**Christian Sympathy** to the friends and family of Barbara Bruce who died Saturday, January 10. A memorial service will be Saturday, March 21 at 1pm in the Sanctuary.

**Attendance 1/11:** Sanctuary: 91 Online: 32

<u>Dates for your calendar:</u>	
<b>January 19</b>	Church office closed
<b>January 25</b>	Ordination & Installation of new Elders
<b>February 18</b>	Ash Wednesday

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**Financial Update**

As of December 31	Actual YTD	2025 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 523,521	\$500,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 66,831	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 7,319	\$ 26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$597,671</b>	<b>\$ 586,000</b>

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](mailto:debbie@mvpchurch.org)