



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - OUTDOOR
APRIL 26, 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

“Give Me Love”
Courtyard Crooners

by: George Harrison

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*written by Carol Penner*)

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

ONE: We need your presence on the long road, Lord.

ALL: The road between fear and hope.

ONE: The road between the place where all is lost,

ALL: And the place of resurrection.

ONE: Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,

ALL: We are in need of your company!

ONE: Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,

ALL: Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour. Let us worship God.

† **OPENING HYMN** (*see insert*)

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(written by Moira Laidlaw)*

Rev. Colussy-Estes

ONE: Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

ALL: **When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you out of our lives.**

ONE: Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

ALL: **We are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognize you in our neighbor, or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.**

ONE: Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

ALL: **Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of you. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travelers on the road to Emmaus, we too hasten to share this great good news with others ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.**

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

† RESPONSE

"Be Not Afraid"

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

(All children of God 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

Donna Martin

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SERMON

"The Road to Austell"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*)

“Day of Arising”

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*Apostles’ Creed*)

Rev. Shari Freeman

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.

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

“This is Land is Your Land”

by: Woody Guthrie

(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 (#399)(2x)

“God Welcomes All”

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God’s love is strong and it never ends.

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Donna Martin

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** (*see insert*) **“We Gather Here in Jesus’ Name”**

† **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

by: James Koerts

Cover Art – *Breaking Bread* by: Christa Prema Seva Ashram

Leading Today’s Worship Service

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Rev. Jonathan Freeman, Contemporary Musician

Chancel Choir

Courtyard Crooners

Chris Duncan

Rev. Jonathan Freeman

Mike & Kathy Havey

Nichol Jacobs

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

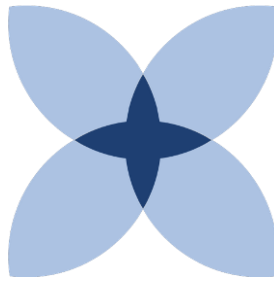
We are located at:
471 Mount Vernon Hwy., NE
Sandy Springs, GA 30328



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

MVPC Announcements....

Sunday School
9:15/9:30 - 10:15am



Connection
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

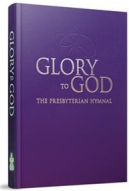
Upcoming Services/Events:



- April 28** Taizé, 7pm in the Sanctuary
- May 3** 1 Peter 2:2-10, Acts 7:55-60, Rev. Shari Freeman
- May 10** 1 Peter 3:13-22, Acts 17:22-31, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes



The rose on the Communion Table is in honor of the birth of Lilly Annette Donaldson on April 15. Parents are Steve & Margo Donaldson along with siblings Charlotte, Emma, & Jake. The proud grandparents are Charlie & Lisa Gray.



Adopt a Hymnal has begun! If you wish to dedicate a hymnal, please fill out the enclosed form and put it in the offering plate or turn it in to the office along with a check made out to MVPC or may use PayPal.



Our April Communion Offering is for the Community Assistance Center Food Pantry. This month, we are focusing on items for summer lunches and diapers. Many CAC clients rely on school lunches and breakfasts, so those families get extra food during the summer months. 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. Anna Morine has a special request for diapers in sizes: Newborn, 2, 5, and 7. They can be dropped off in the Outreach Bin outside the church office



Love Your Neighbor - a multifaith concert benefitting CAC this Thursday, April 30 at 7pm at The Weber School Performing Arts Center. Our choir will be performing! If you wish to purchase tickets, use the QR code on the enclosed sheet.

Elizabeth Small was an important member of our congregation and the director of Youth Ministry at MVPC for 20 years. After multiple health issues over the last five years and some devastating financial losses, Elizabeth now resides in an Asst Living facility in Birmingham. While Elizabeth has a monthly income from Social Security and a pension, it is not enough to cover her expenses in assisted living. A group of Elizabeth's friends in Birmingham has begun a fundraising effort. John Chesnutt is coordinating resources from members of Mount Vernon seeking to provide financial assistance and are inviting your prayerful consideration to join this group. Checks can be made out to the "Elizabeth Small Support Fund" and mailed or dropped off at the church office.

April 26, 2026



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

Giving



Presbyterian Women: The **Day Circle** enjoyed the Bible study last Tuesday led by Pat Bartee. On May 12, Sarah Chalpan will teach lesson 9: *When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus*. The **Book Circle** will meet on May 8. Gigi Gunther will lead a review of *James* (historical fiction and humor). **Circle of Grace's spring schedule:** May 3 at Dale Morine's home. Please email Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com if you have questions.



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 & holding babies, and toys for toddlers.



Adult Sunday School: Discovery meets at **9:15am** in the Chapel and is using the curriculum "*The Present Word*". **Crossroads** meets at **9:30am** in the Session Room and is using a video curriculum about "*The Historical Jesus*", led by Prof. Bart Ehrman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministry is trained in emotional support for early stages of memory loss and dementia, chronic disease, rehab, and dying. All are vital services for our aging members of the congregation. For others, Stephen Ministers are ready to help with grief, loss of a job, moving issues, mid-life changes, death of a spouse or child or friend, empty nest, retirement, divorce, caregiver encouragement, or a series of events that have made you upset. We are extremely good listeners and can help you with perspective and clarification of your goals, so you can optimize reaching a workable solution. We are especially skilled in short-term disruptions of normal living. We work with congregation members, relatives and friends of our members, and people from the community around our church. Please utilize us as the need arises. Please contact Pat Bartee, Stephen Leader, or a pastor to get involved.



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: Carol Beckman, Dee Bradford-Smith, Ann Dillon, Allison Eustis, Bruce Hagenau, George Hammett, Megan Kendall, Kathryn Mackie, Barbara Pirkle, our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and Zambia.

Christian sympathy for the friends and family of Sam Brasher who died March 16. A service will be Saturday, May 9 at 2pm in the Sanctuary.

Attendance 4/19: Sanctuary: 88 Online: 18

Financial Update

As of April 23	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 197,609	\$460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 19,742	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 2,680	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 220,031	\$ 527,500

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