

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 2, 2026, 10:30 am

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

† *You are invited to stand when you see this symbol.*



Vision of the Sermon by Paul Gauguin

GATHERING

BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"From the Rising of the Sun"

This is hymn #670 in your new hymnal.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Shari Freeman

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Pastor Nominating Committee

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Shari Freeman

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: O God, lend your ear to hear our prayer and praise this morning.

ALL: Receive our songs, our words, and our longings.

ONE: In God we have an everpresent audience, an advocate on our behalf.

ALL: In God we have support and rest, a recognition of our need.

ONE: Draw close to us, O God, so that your face is near.

ALL: May we be satisfied by the fullness of your presence. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#336)

"We Gather Together"

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles—into fractured relationships, family differences, and un-reconciled situations with people we care about. We hold on tight to the status quo and do not want to loosen our grip because we fear that our very lives will be dislocated by your values of justice, mercy and peace. Help us to wrestle with conflicting values, desires, and pressures, so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† RESPONSE (#399, 2x)

"God Welcomes All"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

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

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Stacia Minton

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Genesis 32:22-31

Rev. Freeman

SERMON

Wrestling With God

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#760)

"Bring Many Names"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

Rev. Colussy-Estes

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator, ignoring God's commandments... Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the Covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

OFFERTORY

"Prayer"

Hermann Hagedorn / David W. Guion

Laurie Swann, soloist

Lord, in this hour of tumult, Lord, in this night of fears, Keep open, oh, keep open my eyes, my heart, my ears. Not blindly, not in hatred, Lord, let me do my part; Keep open, oh, keep open, dear Lord, My eyes, my mind, my heart! Hear Thou my pleading, Hear Thou, my prayer!

(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 (#80, 2x)

"You Shall Go Out With Joy"

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Stacia Minton

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Colussy-Estes

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. 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.

ONE: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with the faithful of every time and place:

ALL: (#552) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

ONE: ...great is the mystery of faith.

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...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

(The congregation is invited to come forward to receive communion. If you prefer to remain seated, an elder will bring communion to you.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Let it Be"

arr. Reductio

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#833)

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Festive Trumpet Tune"

David German

The primary role of a postlude is to provide a musical transition that connects 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!

Today's liturgy is adapted from "The Church of Scotland's Starters for Sundays" materials. The Psalm 17 reading is a paraphrase authored by Nan C. Merrill. Merrill was an American spiritual leader, author, and founder of the Friends of Silence movement, a non-profit community dedicated to fostering prayer, contemplation, and reverence for silence across cultures and faiths.

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director & Organist

Liam Jacobs, Contemporary Musician



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

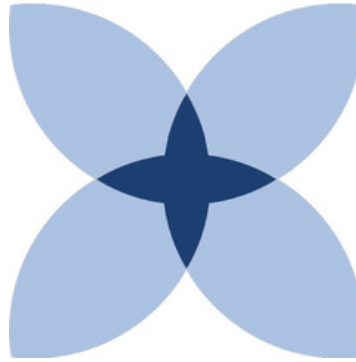
Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org.

CCLI License #2404763

MVPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 2, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am



Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am



Upcoming Services/Events:

August 7 Movie Night in the Courtyard at 8pm

August 9 10:30am, Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship, Psalm 69:5-12, Genesis 33:1-17, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
Presbyterian Women Fall Kick-off Luncheon after worship

August 23 Emory Brain Health Event: Called to Care, 1-3pm



CAT Scan Survey is live and ready for your feedback. The PNC will provide technical help today after worship in the Session Room.

Lunch Bunch: Join us today at City BBQ after worship.



Outdoor Movie Night: Join us this Friday, August 7 at 8pm on the courtyard to watch "The Muppets".

Construction: Parking on the back side of the church/the Spruill Lane side of campus is prohibited during construction. Also, during the summer, please use the Johnson Ferry entrance.

Our **August Communion Offering** is new school supplies for the Sandy Springs Education Force Teacher's Closet. SSEF creates targeted programs that educate, inspire and prepare public school students in Sandy Springs for a competitive world.

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.

Sandy Springs
EDUCATION FORCE
Educate - Inspire - Prepare





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

Giving



Adult Sunday School: Discovery meets at 9:30am in the Chapel and is using the curriculum "The Present Word". Crossroads meets at 9:30am in the Session Room, and is using a DVD series titled The History of Christian Theology by Prof. Phillip Cary of Eastern University. Contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt for more information.



Presbyterian Women: Save the date! The Presbyterian Women's Kickoff Salad Luncheon will be next Sunday, August 9 after the morning service in the Kirk Center. Bring a salad along with a serving utensil and enjoy fellowship as we prepare for another year of Bible study. You will also be able to purchase a study guide. **Circle of Grace:** We're back! Our meetings this Fall will be August 16, September 13, and November 15. Please email Lisa Cumming at lisa.j.cumming@gmail.com if you have questions.



Stephen Ministry: Helping people of all ages with grief has been a "staple" in our current Stephen Ministry. But we also have helped those with job loss, early dementia, the disorientation of a move, and dying. Our original training, along with further continuing education, keeps our skills honed. We now have begun serving with Vitas Hospice on a rotating basis and are sharing our skills with the community beyond our church walls. If we can help journey with you as you face a difficult time, please contact Pat Bartee, leader, or ask one of our pastors to connect us.



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: Dee Bradford-Smith, Betsy Cozine, Nancy Vaughn Fletcher, Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, Gail Hakim, George Hammett, Nancy Kennedy, Kathryn Mackie, Kathy Whitacre-Stewart, our homebound & isolated members, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Zambia.

Attendance 7/26: Sanctuary: 71 Online: 25



Financial Update

As of July 30, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 301,238	\$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 32,639	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 4,361	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 338,238	\$ 527,500

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