

MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



The Meeting of Esau and Jacob
Woodcut on paper, by Jacob Steinhardt

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Liam Jacobs, Tenor Saxophone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: As we journey through our lives,

ALL: God meets us where we are.

ONE: As we navigate relationships with others,

ALL: God's grace leads us to reconciliation.

ONE: As we settle in new places,

ALL: God is present with us. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (#396)

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Gracious God, like Jacob, we often make choices out of fear, choosing self-protection over trust in you. We fear reaching out to reconcile with others. We fear facing the consequences of our actions. We hold back love, mercy, and peace, seeking safety behind our own walls. Forgive us for our fear, our hesitation, and our unwillingness to let go of what we think will protect us. Help us to trust you more deeply, to be willing to meet others with humility, and to allow your peace to guide our steps. Even in fear, may we still pray, prepare, and move forward in your strength ... *(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: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

All children of God are invited to come forward.

Afterward, the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Kathy Harbin

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 69:5-12
Genesis 33:1-17

Rev. Colussy-Estes

SERMON

"Reunion"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#445)

"God, How Can We Forgive"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of Belhar, 10.3*)

Rev. Shari Freeman

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 of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 Little Light of Mine"

arr. Stephan DeCesare

Liam Jacobs, Tenor Saxophone

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"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*) (3x)
While you go out with joy!

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kathy Harbin

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#74)

"When God Restored Our Common Life"

† BENEDICTION

Rev. Colussy-Estes

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary in C major"

Phil Lehenbauer

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. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate 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

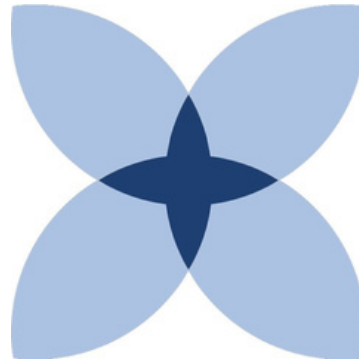
Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

CCLI License #2404763

MVPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR AUGUST 9, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am



Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am



Upcoming Services/Events:

August 16 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45; Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28,
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

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

August 23 Psalm 69:5-12, Genesis 33:1-17, Rev. Shari Freeman

SCAM ALERT: Scammers are at it again! Please do not respond to any text or email that appears to be from any of our pastors or staff members requesting money or gift cards. If you have any questions about emails from staff, please contact the church office.



CAT Scan Survey is live and ready for your feedback. The PNC will provide technical help today after worship in the Session Room. Please complete by August 15.



Emory Brain Health Event Called to Care: Supporting caregivers, families, and people living with Dementia, Sunday, August 23 at 3pm. Memory screening will be available free to registrants.

Construction: We are nearing the end of the parking lot construction! Please continue to use the Johnson Ferry entrance until further notice.



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.



Recycling Event: Saturday, August 15, 10am-1pm, North Springs High School Parking Lot, \$25 donation to benefit Sandy Springs Education Force.



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: The Presbyterian Women's Kickoff Salad Luncheon is TODAY, Sunday, August 9 after the morning service in the Kirk Center. 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: The summer is ending and fall will arrive at its own pace. As your house empties of children, grandchildren, and house guests, take a moment to reflect and take care of your own concerns. If having a trained, trustworthy companion along for that inner journey would help, your Stephen Ministry is here for you. To contact us, call and leave a message for Pat Bartee, leader or ask a pastor to refer you.



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: Bob Addison, Rick Davis (friend of Charlie Gray), Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, Gail Hakim, George Hammett, Nancy Kennedy, Kathryn Mackie, Kathy Whitacre-Stewart, our homebound & isolated members, PNC, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Zambia.

Attendance 8/2: Sanctuary: 77 Online: 21



Financial Update

As of August 6, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 321,215	\$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 32,792	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 4,736	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 358,743	\$ 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