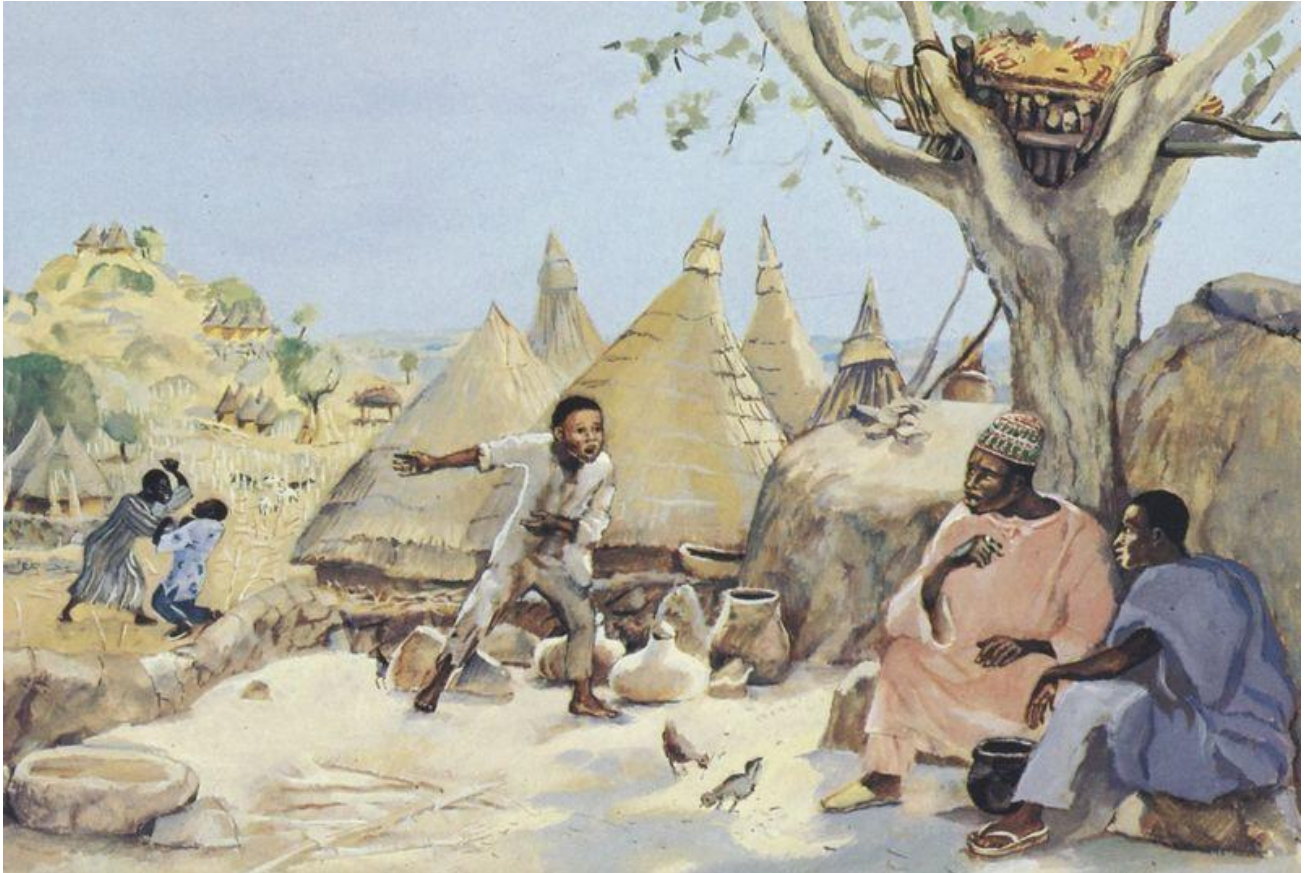


MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



The Unforgiving Servant, by Jesus Mafa, 1973

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

"Better is One Day"
Cody Otero, Vocals

by Matt Redman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

OPENING PRAYER

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Colussy-Estes

ONE: Sing songs of hope and peace.

ALL: **God's love and power have lifted us.**

ONE: Sing songs of mercy and grace.

ALL: **God's mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.**

ONE: Thanks be to God for all of God's love and mercy.

ALL: **Praise be to God for the grace extended to each one of us. Let us worship God!**

† OPENING HYMN (#267)

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Shari Freeman

Gracious and loving God, you have lived for us, yet we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us, yet we have not forgiven others. You have loved us, yet we have not loved ourselves, nor have we loved one another. Have mercy on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive others and live for you. Help us to love through Jesus Christ ... *(silent confession)* ... Amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

† RESPONSE (#471)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise; all my hope comes from God.

The Lord is my song; the Lord is my praise; God, the wellspring of life.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Colussy-Estes

(All children of God are invited to come forward for storytelling and prayer.)

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

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holly Duncan

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 50:15-21

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

SERMON

"What do we owe each other?"

RESPONSE

† HYMN (#444)

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language, 9.21*) Rev. Toney-Schmitt

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

OFFERTORY

"God, Who Built this Wondrous Planet"

by Craig Courtney

Liam Jacobs, Tenor Saxophone

† DOXOLOGY (#608)

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holly Duncan

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Colussy-Estes

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Freeman

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Toney-Schmitt

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

"I Will Sing New Songs"

"Hear My Prayer, O Lord"

Kiley Carpenter, Soprano

From Biblical Songs, Op. 99, Antonin Dvorak

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† CLOSING HYMN (#435)

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Amazing Grace"

arr. J. Christopher Pardini

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!

Call to Worship is from Ministry Matters. Prayer of Confession is from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.

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

The Chancel Choir of Mount Vernon



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

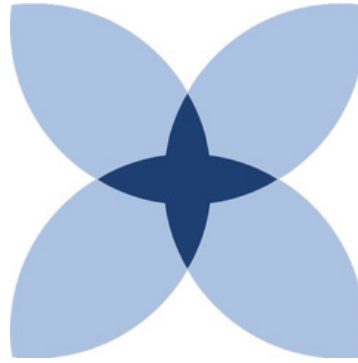
Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 76051, Sandy Springs, GA 30358

mvpchurch.org

CCLI License #2404763

MVPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am



Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:

September 20 Matthew 20:1-16, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

September 22 Taize, 7pm

September 27 Outdoor/Blessing of the Animals, Matthew 21:23-32, Rev. Shari Freeman



Join us as we kick off the new Fall Sermon Series TODAY Sunday, September 13, and stay for Fox Brother's Barbeque for lunch compliments of the MVPC Foundation! We'll have a presentation by the Foundation about their work and a chance to share more thoughts with the PNC as they continue their work towards calling the next pastor of MVPC.



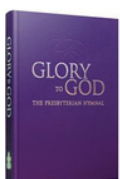
Fall Small Groups: Small Groups will meet for five weeks starting on September 20! A signup table is currently in the narthex with information about meeting locations and the books each small group will read.



Small group with Holy Innocents' & SSUMC "Reading the Bible for All Its Worth" This is a 6-week course with a goal to help you better appreciate what the Bible is, but also to read it with greater confidence and insight. It begins Wednesday, September 16 from 7-8:15pm at Holy Innocents'. Please scan this QR Code to register for the course. If you're interested or have questions, contact Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt.



Our **September Communion Offering** is for the Community Assistance Center food pantry. Originally called the Community Action Center, CAC was started in 1987 in Gailey Hall by five congregations including MVPC. Now the organization has four locations. Pick up a blue bag in the Narthex.



Adopt a Hymnal - Dedicating a hymnal to someone is a good way to honor people close to us or to remember people that are no longer here or to give special thanks to someone. Please complete the form in the bulletin and leave in the red box in the Narthex or return to the office. The suggested donation per hymnal is \$25



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

Giving



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 as well as 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 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: Last Tuesday, the **Bible Study** enjoyed our first meeting and lesson. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, October 13. Pat Bartee will teach lesson 2, *Connected in Christ in the Horizons Bible Study, United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. The **Book Circle** will meet on Friday, October 9, at 10:00 in the Session Room. Ann Williams will lead a review of *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* (historical fiction) by Kristin Harmel. **Circle of Grace** will meet TODAY, September 13 at 5pm.



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry: Sometimes, you just need another ear and another voice to regain perspective. Your Stephen Ministers are ready to "be there" for you when you have difficulty in your life. Please contact Pat Bartee, leader, 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: Rick Davis (*friend of Charlie Gray*), Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, George Hammett, Mary Lynch (*Felicia Hutt's mother*), Kathryn Mackie, Kathy Whitacre-Stewart, our homebound & isolated members, PNC, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Israel/Gaza, Nepal, Ukraine, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Zambia.

Attendance 9/6: Fellowship Hall: 70 Online: 15

BE AWARE: 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.

Financial Update

As of September 10, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	\$ 357,048	\$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	\$ 44,045	\$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	\$ 5,146	\$ 7,500
Total	\$ 406,239	\$ 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