MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



Laborers in the Vineyard
from "Art in the Christian Tradition," a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC — **"Come, Be Baptized"** *by Gary Alan Smith*
Laurie Swann, Soloist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY — Sujay Galen
Atlanta Ministry with International Students (AMIS)

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Toney-Schmitt

ONE: God promised to rain bread from heaven to sustain God's people in the wilderness.

ALL: God's people went out in the morning to gather bread for the day's journey.

ONE: God promised that there would be food on their plates in the evening.

ALL: God's people received quail and meat to be shared at the end of the day.

ONE: God provides in times of difficulty and celebration.

ALL: Let us worship God!

† **OPENING HYMN** *(#65)* **"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

God of Justice and Forgiveness, meet us in the moments of our failure so that we might have the courage to try again. At times, we have failed to praise your generosity. You give freely and abundantly, yet we focus on what our neighbor has instead of what we have received. You sustain us daily, yet we give in to the fearful urge to hoard. You invite more and more people in, yet we wonder if there will be enough room. Meet us in these moments of failure, remind us of your covenant promises, and encourage us to try again … *(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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Rev. Toney-Schmitt

KRIS ARTHUR PLAYER, child of Richard & Nikole Player

(All children of God are invited to come forward to be a part of the baptism.
Afterwards the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(The Apostles' Creed)*

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.

† **BAPTISMAL HYMN** *(#482)* **"Baptized in Water"**

† **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 Kris Koellner

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12: 2-6
Matthew 20: 1-16 Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SERMON "On Wanting"

RESPONSE

† **HYMN** *(#487)* **"These Treasured Children"**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(5.122, The Second Helvetic Confession)* Rev. Shari Freeman

For we teach that God gives a rich reward to those who do good works, according to that saying of the prophet: "Keep your voice from weeping…for your work shall be rewarded." The Lord also said in the Gospel: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven," and, " Whoever gives to one of these my little ones a cup of cold water, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." However, we do not ascribe this reward, which the Lord gives, to the merit of the person who receives it, but to the goodness, generosity and truthfulness of God who promises and gives it.

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 **"The Greatest of These"** *text by Christopher Wordsworth*
music by Jane Marshall

† **DOXOLOGY** *(#608)* **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Kris Koellner

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** *(#710)* **"We Lift Our Voices"**

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE **"Prelude and Fugue in C major"** *J.S. Bach*

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
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

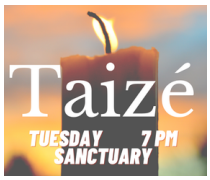
MVPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:



September 22	Taize, 7pm
September 27	Outdoor Worship/Blessing of the Animals, Matthew 21:23-32, Rev. Shari Freeman
	SSEF Book Sorting after worship
October 4	World Communion Day, Isaiah 55:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21,
	Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes





Congregational Meeting: We will have a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, September 27 at the end of worship to hear the report of the nominating committee and elect our new class of elders.



Fall Small Groups: Small Groups will meet for five weeks starting TODAY, 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, to remember people that are no longer here, or to give special thanks to someone. Please complete the form in the bulletin and put it in the red box in the Narthex or return to the church 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: Our **Bible Study** next meeting is on Tuesday, October 13, at 10:30am in the Session Room. 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 10:00am 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 November 15 at 5pm.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry: If you are struggling alone with a problem that keeps you up at night, makes you anxious during the day, and contributes to the stress already in your life, it may be time to involve one of our trained Stephen Ministers. A Stephen Minister can help you relieve anxiety, can allow you to unburden in safety, and once lighter and in control, you can begin to wisely problem-solve. If Stephen Ministry can assist you, we are here. 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)*, Mark & JoAnn Fifield, Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, George Hammett, Helen Johnson, 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 9/13: Sanctuary: 97 Online: 31

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 17, 2026	**Actual YTD**	**2026 Budget**
Pledge Member Giving	$ 358,580	$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$ 44,045	$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	$ 5,253	$ 7,500
Total	**$ 407,878**	**$ 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