MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 27, 2026 10:30 am

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

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

Red Vineyards Near Arles
Vincent van Gogh, 1853-1890

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC **"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"** *by Peter Scholtes*
Mike and Kathy Havey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Shari Freeman

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY Mike and Kathy Havey
Community Assistance Center (CAC)

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Traditional Franciscan Pet Blessing)* Rev. Freeman

ONE: Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.

ALL: You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land.

ONE: You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his siblings.

ALL: We ask you to bless our pets and, in your love, enable them to live according to your plan.

ONE: Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

ALL: Let us worship God!

† **OPENING HYMN** *(#15, v. 1-4)* **"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

God of Grace, we cherish the many works of your hands. Water, earth, and sky are yours, as are all their inhabitants, wild and tame. We thank you for the creatures that nourish, sustain, enrich, entertain, and protect our communal life. We carry your charge to care for them well, a charge that we do not always remember. Remind us how to care for your creation so that all may flourish and thrive in your transforming love … *(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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Rev. Toney-Schmitt

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(All children of God are invited to come forward to assist with the blessings.
Afterwards the children are invited to Children's Church in the Chapel.)

† **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Piper Neumann

SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32 Rev. Freeman

SERMON "In The Vineyard"

RESPONSE

† **HYMN** *(#53)* **"O God, Who Gives Us Life"**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*from The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.032*) Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

This good and almighty God created all things, both visible and invisible, by his co-eternal Word, and preserves them by his co-eternal Spirit, as David testified when he said: "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of God's mouth." And, as Scripture says, everything that God had made was very good, and was made for the profit and use of humanity. Now we assert that all those things proceed from one beginning.

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 **"Heaven Help us All"** *by Ron Miller/Joan Baez*
Mike and Kathy Havey

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Piper Neumann

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** *(#20)* **"All Things Bright and Beautiful"**

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Freeman

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

POSTLUDE **"Let All Things Now Living"** *arr. by Marvin Gaspard*

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.

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

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 27, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:

October 2	Church office will be closed
October 4	World Communion Day, Isaiah 55:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21, Sign up to bring your favorite bread! Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
October 11	Phillipians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

Scan Here for Bread Signup Sheet

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

Book Sorting: Join us for the SSEF book sorting **this afternoon** after worship in Gailey Hall.

Active Adults: You are invited to lunch on Tuesday, September 29 at 11:50am at TOP Korean BBQ & Hot Pot, 6340 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd., NE - near Costco.

Fall Small Groups: Happening now! A signup table is 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" There's still time to join! 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 began 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.

cac
communityassistancecenter

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.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

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: 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, Mary Lynch *(Felicia Hutt's mother)*, Kathryn Mackie, Karen Roberts, Kathy Whitacre-Stewart, our homebound & isolated members, PNC, ACE, CAC, Los Niños Primero, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries, Israel/Gaza, Nepal, Ukraine, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Zambia.

Christian sympathy to the friends and family of Helen Johnson who died on Friday, September 18 after being hospitalized for pneumonia.

Attendance 9/20: Sanctuary: 82 Online: 22

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 24, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	$ 366,130	$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$ 44,105	$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	$ 5,318	$ 7,500
Total	**$ 415,553**	**$ 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