MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 11, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



Chosen Family
by Ezra W Smith

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC — **"Gentle on My Mind"** *by John Hartford*
Liam Jacobs, Guitar

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY — Htet Nyunt
Sandy Springs Education Force

OPENING PRAYER

† **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 106)* Rev. Colussy-Estes

ONE: Praise the Lord. Give thanks for God's goodness.

ALL: God's steadfast love endures forever.

ONE: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

ALL: Save us, O Lord, and gather us from among the nations,

ONE: May we give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.

ALL: Come and worship God!

† **OPENING HYMN** *(#503)* **"Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"**

† **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Mercy, in our impatience for answers, we sometimes turn to idols of our own making and forget our covenant with you. We break the hearts of those seeking you when we choose exclusion rather than arms open wide. Passionate for what is right, we wrong those with whom we differ. Pleased at the invitation to your banquet, we fail to arrive with humility and thanksgiving. Forgive us when our faith is weak and our zeal is too strong … *(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

(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 Sujay Galen

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 25:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14 Rev. Colussy-Estes

SERMON "Chosen Family"

RESPONSE

† **HYMN** *(#769)* **"For Everyone Born"**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)* Rev. Shari Freeman

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. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. 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.

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

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Sujay Galen

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** *(#301)* **"Let Us Build a House"**
(All Are Welcome)

† **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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
Paul Campbell, Guest 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 OCTOBER 11, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am



Upcoming Services/Events:

October 18	Matthew 25:14-30, Psalm 90:1-12, Stewardship Kickoff Sunday Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt
October 24	Emily's Trick or Treat, 2-4pm
October 25	Men's Breakfast Matthew 22:34-46, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt Pumpkin Palooza and Playground Open House, 4-6pm





Emily's Trick or Treat (to cure Crohn's & Colitis): Saturday, October 24, 2-4pm on the courtyard. Join us for a family-friendly Halloween event to benefit the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.



SOCKtober: For the month of October, we will be collecting new and gently used socks in all sizes for men, women, and children which will go to various outreach partners, including Community Assistance Center, Stirred-Up Ministries, International Women's House, VA Domiciliary, and Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. Take this opportunity to shop for new socks and clean out your sock drawer.



Our **October Communion Offering** is also for treats to benefit area schools' fall festival activities. If you would like to help hand out these treats as well as books from the Sandy Springs Education Force Mini Libraries Program at Dunwoody Springs Elementary School in the evening on Thursday, October 22, or Lake Forest on Friday, October 23, email beppielever@earthlink.net or isaac@mvpchurch.org.

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 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** will meet this 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** met last Friday and enjoyed a review of *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* led by Ann Williams. **Circle of Grace** will meet November 15 at 5pm.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry: Do you have the "fall doldrums"? Have you recently retired and feel at loose ends? Have you moved and feel disoriented and disconnected? Have you received a new diagnosis you do not like? Are you a worn-out caregiver and need new ways to cope? Have you lost a job and are discouraged in the job hunt? Are you grieving and need a way forward? Stephen Ministers can help. Please contact Pat Bartee, leader, or a pastor, to connect with 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: Rick Davis *(friend of Charlie Gray)*, Mark & JoAnn Fifield, Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, 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.

Attendance 10/4: Outdoor Worship: 74 Online: 27

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 October 8, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	$ 378,613	$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$ 44,702	$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	$ 5,388	$ 7,500
Total	**$ 428,703**	**$ 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