MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF SUNDAY
October 18, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



Parable of the Talents
By Annette Gandy Fortt

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC **"Deux Rigaudons"** *André Campra, arr. Michel Rondeau*
Emily Cook, Oboe

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY Sam McClurg, Los Niños Primero

OPENING PRAYER

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

ONE: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, and queens, God is the Lord of all life.

ALL: In God we live and move and have our being.

ONE: God requires of us faithfulness and service.

ALL: We reach out to others with God's love.

ONE: Let us praise God who walks daily by our side.

ALL: Let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

† **OPENING HYMN** *(#720)* **"Jesus Calls Us"**

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

Sovereign God, we are too easily pulled this way and that by those who promise instant solutions for the world's woes. We want everything to be whole and happy, and we don't know what to do. So, we pay attention to the loudest voices. We place blame for our woes on the shoulders of a few people. We seek instant answers from unreliable sources. Lord, turn us around. Help us know that you are our Lord and our sole provider. You have given us abilities, understanding, and ways we can bring peace and justice. Help us place our trust in you … *(silent confession)* … **Amen.**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† **RESPONSE** *(#698, 2x)* **"Take, O Take Me as I Am"**

Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

(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 Gill Hutt

SCRIPTURE Psalm 90:1-12
Matthew 25:14-30 Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt

SERMON "Digging in the Dirt"

RESPONSE

† **HYMN** *(#684)* **"Faith Begins by Letting Go"**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language Text)* Rev. Shari Freeman

Wherever the church exists, its members are both gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of mission in the world. The church gathers to praise God, to hear God's word for humankind, to baptize and to join in the Lord's Supper, to pray for and present the world to God in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world's affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity.

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 **"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"** *arr. by Richard Hillert*
Emily Cook, Oboe

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** Gill Hutt

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** *(#761)* **"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"**

† **BENEDICTION** Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt

POSTLUDE **"Italian Hymn"** *arr. by Albert L. Travis*

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!

Call to worship and prayer of confession adapted from ministrymatters.com

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 OCTOBER 18, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:



October 25 Men's Breakfast
Matthew 22:34-46, Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
Pumpkin Palooza and Playground Open House, 4-6pm

October 27 Taize, 7pm

November 1 Outdoor-All Saints Sunday, Matthew 5:1-12, Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes







Our guest preacher today is Rev. Christina Toney-Schmitt. She is an ordained provisional deacon in the United Methodist Church. She serves in extension ministry at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta where she works alongside donors to cultivate legacy gifts that impact their communities for the generations to come.



Men's Breakfast: next Sunday, October 25, 8:30am in the Kirk Center

Pumpkin Palooza: Join us at the new playground on Sunday, October 25, from 4-6p.m. for Pumpkin Palooza, a community event featuring pumpkin decorating, a costume contest, family fun activities, Happy Tails Dogs, and a picnic supper! All are invited!



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 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: Last Tuesday the **Bible Study** enjoyed Lesson 2, *Connected in Christ* taught by Pat Bartee. On November 10, Rev. Shari Freeman will teach Lesson 3, *Freedom in Christ*. The **Book Circle** will meet on November 13, and Kathy Havey will lead a review of *Remember Us* by Robert M. Edsel. **Circle of Grace** will meet November 15 at 5pm.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry: Hurricanes are somewhat like emotions, transient, intense for a time, sometimes damaging but always disruptive. When you feel yourself engulfed by emotion over an event, a personal issue, or health, think about including a Stephen Minister on your journey. A Stephen Minister can help you "hear" yourself and your thoughts, assist you in processing the swirl of events and emotions you are feeling, and add perspective and encouragement. Please contact Pat Bartee, Leader, or a pastor to get involved.



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, Dick Freeman, 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 10/11: Worship: 75 Online: 21

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 15, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	$ 381,793	$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$ 45,762	$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	$ 5,429	$ 7,500
Total	**$ 432,984**	**$ 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