MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 25, 2026, 10:30 am

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

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



Signs Photographed in Thailand

GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GATHERING MUSIC **"Hold Me, Jesus"** *by Rich Mullins*
Asa Pedi, Soloist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY Holly Duncan, Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

OPENING PRAYER

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

ONE: Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

ALL: God's ways are just and merciful.

ONE: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

ALL: In all that they do, they prosper.

ONE: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

ALL: Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice. Let us worship God!

† **OPENING HYMN** *(#366)* **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

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

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. … *(silent confession)* … **Amen.**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

† **RESPONSE** *(#698)* **"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 James Wolters

SCRIPTURE Psalm 1: 1-6
Matthew 22:34-46 Rev. Toney-Schmitt

SERMON "The Greatest Commandment"

RESPONSE

† **HYMN** *(#688)* **"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from the Heidelberg Catechism)* Rev. Shari Freeman

Christ teaches us this:
" 'You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.'
This is the greatest and first commandment.
"And a second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
"On these two commandments hang
all the law and the prophets."

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 **"Think on These Things"** *by Beth A. Elston*
Chancel Choir

If you would like to contribute financially to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church or its mission, ushers will be stationed at the doors of the narthex to accept your gifts.

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

† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** James Wolters

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** *(#693)* **"Though I May Speak (The Gift of Love)"**

† **BENEDICTION**

Please join us outside as we dedicate and bless the new playground.

POSTLUDE **"Toccata in D minor, BWV 565"** *J.S. Bach*

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.

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 25, 2026

Sunday School
9:30-10:15am

Connections
10-10:25am

Worship
10:30-11:30am

Upcoming Services/Events:



October 27 Taize, 7pm

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

November 8 Matthew 25:1-13, Rev. Shari Freeman





Pumpkin Palooza: Join us TODAY at the new playground 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!



Volunteer Lunch: We will be celebrating everyone who volunteers at church on Sunday, November 8 after worship with a meal in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited!



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.



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: We will meet on November 10 at 10:30am in the Session Room. 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: At our church, you never have to walk alone. Troubles do come in all our lives, but they don't have to be born alone. Our Stephen Ministers are standing by, continually updating our helping skills, so that we are ready to listen, encourage, and uplift you so you can solve your problems and move forward. 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, Dick Freeman, Gerald Fudge, Sherri Galloway, 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 10/18: Worship: 77 Online: 43

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 22, 2026	Actual YTD	2026 Budget
Pledge Member Giving	$ 385,083	$ 460,000
Member Giving Non-Pledge	$ 45,802	$ 60,000
Non-Member Giving & Loose Offering	$ 5,577	$ 7,500
Total	**$ 436,462**	**$ 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