

THE WEEKLY MONTREAT MEMO

The Weekly eNewsletter of Montreat Presbyterian Church USA



January 5, 2021

Twelfth Day of Christmas



All are Welcome!

Please contact the church office (office@montreatchurch.org) if you would like to sign up to receive resources for Sunday home worship!

In-person worship services & gatherings are temporarily suspended.

All staff are continuing their work from home offices or remote locations.

Our Calendar

Wed., Jan. 6
7:00 P.M.

Epiphany: Star Words
via Zoom

Sun., Jan. 10
9:30-10:15 A.M.

Church Chat
via Zoom

Sun., Jan. 10
10:00 A.M.

MPC Sunday Worship Service
via Constant Contact

Sun., Jan. 10
1:00 P.M.

Children's Virtual Gathering
via Zoom

Sun., Jan. 17
9:30-10:15 A.M.

Church Chat
via Zoom

Sun., Jan. 17
10:00 A.M.

MPC Sunday Worship Service
via Constant Contact

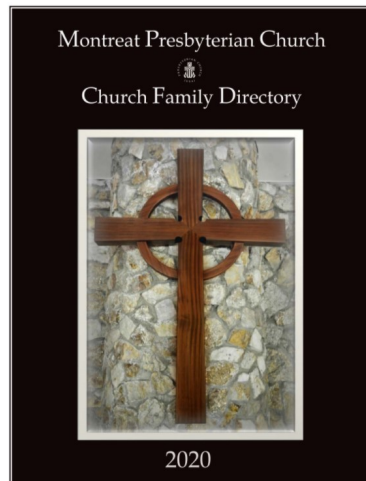
Tue., Jan. 19
6:30 P.M.

Session Meeting
via Zoom

Please share scheduling info with the office administrator at office@montreatchurch.org.

In order to streamline communication and avoid confusion, **any requests made to the MRA on behalf of church programs** should come through the church office, and we will direct them to the appropriate contacts at MRA.

New Directory



Many of you picked up your new directories at the drive-through event just before Christmas, and it was great fun to see people in person!

Get new directory: We would love to hear from you if you will be in the area and can get your directory in the coming days. Please email Ellen Dean to arrange a time to get the directory.

Email Version: If you are part of the directory and would like a copy sent by email, please contact Patty at the church office to request it (Office@MontreatChurch.org/828-664-9212).

Corrections: Please email Patty with any corrections to your contact information.

Thank you!

*...And on behalf of a grateful congregation, the pastor offers a **gigantic thank-you** to Judy Shuford, Peggy Williamson, and all the committee members and volunteers who helped with this enormous, painstaking and greatly rewarding project!*

K.G.

Session Updates

Among the results of our 2021 Session Retreat this past Sunday...

The **2021 Church calendar** (passed as an "omnibus motion") can be found by clicking **[here](#)**. It will remain posted on the church website throughout the year. This constitutes our announcement of dates and occasions for Holy Communion in 2021, and also indicates our special offerings schedule, among other information. Note that **any in-person gatherings being considered for the latter part of the year are entirely theoretical** and can only be confirmed several months from now. For the time being, the outlook for in-person worship, meals or other events in 2021 is based solely on hope and nothing more.

We give **thanks to God for the outstanding service of a number of committee chairs** who have made a profound difference during their terms. **Everett Culpepper**, who has just rotated off the session at the conclusion of a momentous 3-year term, steps down as chair of the Finance Committee. **Jim Henderson**, a longtime member of the committee and an elder currently on session, is this year's Finance Committee chair. **Linda Hobson** has concluded a profoundly extraordinary term as chair of the Worship Committee. (She had graciously agreed to serve one year in that capacity, succeeding **Betsy Kirschner**, who had served with distinction for several years previously.) **Jane Alexander**, an active member of that committee, has been appointed chairperson for 2021. And **Eric Nichols**, longtime member of the Mission Committee, has concluded a marvelously consequential term of

service as chair, a position to which the session gratefully appoints another long-time committee member, **Nancy Midgette**.

Given the circumstances in which the Church continues to minister in the world this year, it seemed to behoove us to provide for continuity in the form of asking **Jane Alexander**, who has just completed a session term, to continue in her role as clerk of session. This, we are delighted to report, she was happy to do! (Sessions may appoint someone as clerk who is not a member of the session; in such instances, the clerk does not have the privilege of vote in session meetings. Voice is not automatically granted, either; our session intends to provide for Jane to be granted voice in our meetings when her particular wisdom and knowledge are needed for our deliberations.)

Thanks be to God, and many thanks to the gracious servants who have offered their dedication to these roles, and to those who now succeed them. The Session has every confidence that God has much in store for us and that these servants have been called for this very moment.

Epiphany Star Words: A Zoom Event This Wednesday, January 6, 7:00 P.M.



Star Words, an Epiphany practice we began last year, is back for 2021, this time in a virtual format. You may have had an opportunity to pick up a small bag containing a wooden star with a word printed on it. That word, received at random, can become a basis for personal contemplation for the following year.

We'll have a chance to open those together during our online Zoom gathering at 7:00 P.M. on the evening of Wednesday, January 6 (Epiphany). Before unwrapping our words for 2021, we'll take a moment for 2020 participants to reflect on how this year's word helped shaped their life this year. We'll then talk about ways we can experience our new Star Word as a spiritual

gift and reflect on it throughout the year.

If you would like to have a Star Word but have been unable to obtain a star, a convenient home option is to visit <https://epiphanystars.neocities.org/>, a website that automatically generates a word for the year.

A Zoom link will be sent via Constant Contact before tomorrow evening's online gathering, at which Christina Tutterow will preside.

We hope you can join us!



Friends & Partners in Ministry



SVCM is still taking food donations at the door at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. We are also taking donations of small, snackable items, including water, for the Blessing Box in front of the church. As it gets colder the shelter situation is limited and more people stop by for emergency supplies. Emergency packages usually contain things like nuts, granola bars, pop top foods like Vienna sausages, and some personal care items like masks, hand sanitizer, and hand cream, etc.

There is also an urgent need for men's, women's and children's underwear and for winter clothing.

Tithes and Gifts for the Mission of Montreat Presbyterian Church

Thank you for Your Faithful Contributions! The church could not support the mission and outreach of MPC without your continued faithful financial support.

Two Ways to Give to the Church During This Time

1. You can mail a check to the Montreat Presbyterian Church office: MPC, P.O. Box 577, Montreat, NC 28757. Blue

envelopes are available! We have placed a plastic box on the window sill outside Keith's office, inside of which are the blue envelopes addressed to MPC. We will keep replenishing them as long as we are having online services. (Please be sure to close the box after getting some out in order to keep them as dry as possible.)

2. You can use the auto-pay (Bill Pay) of your checking account to mail a check either each week or set up on a recurring basis.

Be assured that all of us at Montreat Presbyterian Church are here for each other every step of this journey.

*Everett Culpepper - Chair of Stewardship/Finance Committee
Gill Campbell - Treasurer*

Upcoming Birthdays

If the information in our files is incorrect, or if you would prefer not to be listed, or if someone's birthday is missing from our list, please accept our apology and notify us at office@montreatchurch.org so we can make the correction. This listing is intended to be inclusive, not exclusive, and is not necessarily indicative of any particular church membership status. The list will appear weekly, and is intended to cover the next few weeks. Blessings to you on your birthday and always!

Jan. 7 Marinell Davidson

Jan. 8 Ron Nalley

Jan. 10 Steve Sewell

Jan. 11 Eric Nichols

Jan. 13 Rebecca Moss

Jan. 15 Brown McCallum

Jan. 15 Eve Carter

Jan. 19 Savannah Parker

Jan. 19 Sara Scarborough

Jan. 19 Robin Tutterow

Jan. 22 Dick Ray

Jan. 23 Trisha Edington

Jan. 23 Katie Pagan

Jan. 24 Corise Gambrell

Jan. 26 Jane Frist

Jan. 29 Clare Frist

Jan. 30 Bill Seaman

Feb. 4 John Rogers

Feb. 5 Toby Savage

Feb. 8 Perry Alexander

Our Church Family Prayer List

We remain in fervent prayer for all who are battling Covid--
our family and friends at Highland Farms and everywhere.

***The Montreat Presbyterian Church family
is in prayer for...***

Sally Baisley (Christina Tutterow's mom), hospitalized

Ken Boyer

Sylvia Boyer

Connie Bristow (friend of Genie Sullivan)

Chandler Coggeshall (son of Genie Sullivan)

Pat Connelly

Doris Cook, sister of Dora Hinkle

Roy Davidson (friend of Mason Blake), fighting lung cancer

Joan Deifell

Frank Dodson

David Duncan, continuing severe back pain

Jane Frist

Bob Hare

Jim & Betty Henderson, Covid

Dora Hinkle

Louis Holleman (brother of Corise Gambrell),

Covid and heart issues

Dick Keefer

Maggie Lauterer

Margaret Linton

Jamie Bibee Lloyd and her mother, Virginia Bibee, Covid

Rob Martin (son of Billie Martin), Covid

Scotty McAliley

Bev MacSherry
William Pender
Margaret Rada
Ellen Ramsey
George Ramsey
Jerilyn Scheef (Julie Simpson's sister)
Bob Shaw
Belle Shipley
Elizabeth Sorenson (Keith Grogg's mother)
Ginnie Stevens, cancer and other health problems
Arline Taylor

*Our deepest Christian love and sympathy surround
Janie & Randy Moore, Jane Frist, Tom & Clare Frist,
and all the family and friends of Calvin Chesnutt.*

We also lift up in prayer...

Highland Farms residents and staff
Deerfield residents and staff
Election officials
Communities, families and persons who are at risk
Victims of human trafficking
Victims of domestic violence
People experiencing undesired change in employment
Teachers
Worshippers longing for communal, face to face worship
Front line workers including: poll workers, hospital workers,
grocery workers, first responders, nurses, doctors, public
health officials, national guard, nonprofits who serve in close
contact with the public, nursing home and care facility
employees, builders, police, post office employees, volunteers
serving the community, elected and appointed officials and
decision makers, market farmers, maintenance workers, food
suppliers, medical technicians, factory workers, delivery

packers, truck drivers, food distributors, waste and recycling industry workers, journalists covering public events, security details

People in trauma recovery and/or dealing with depression

Those who are not able to be with their loved ones in nursing homes, hospitals, or care facilities

Military men and women, stationed at home, far away, on ships, at air bases, or deployed in areas of conflict

Small business owners

All victims of war and destruction

Parents with children at home

Parents and children separated from each other

Neighbors vulnerable to poverty and hunger

Refugees fleeing war, famine and gangs

Prison workers and inmates

***and our friends and partners in ministry,
including...***

Elmarie & Scott Parker, our Mission Co-workers in the Middle East

Victor and Sara Makari, our Mission Co-workers in Palestine

Ardrishaig Parish Church, our eco-partner congregation in Scotland

Black Mountain Counseling Center

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Bounty & Soul

Christ Community Church

Donald S. Collins Early Learning Center, Black Mountain

Rev. Deanna Hollas, PC(USA) Gun Violence Minister

Kairos Prison Ministry

Montreat College

Montreat Conference Center

OFCB ministries and the people of Haiti

The Presbyterian Heritage Center

Presbytery of Western North Carolina staff and volunteers
Resources for Resilience
Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry
Yokefellow Prison Ministry

A Note from Clara Hare:

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls to Bob Hare during his recent COVID illness and time of isolation and continuing time in quarantine. He and our family appreciate all your loving support.

Clara Hare and family

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If you or someone you know would like to be added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

Please also let us know when it is appropriate to remove the name from the prayer list.

The Carpenters

Steve Hansel, Gill Campbell, John Hinkle, Eric Nichols, William Pender, Bill Roberts and Mark Achtemeier are ready to assist anyone who needs a helping hand with the little household things like: change a light bulb, retrieve items from a hard-to-reach closet shelf, change the batteries in a smoke detector, move furniture and the like. You may contact these gentlemen individually or reach out to Kat Achtemeier at 563-580-6489.

PWNC Newsletter

Find the latest news from the
Presbytery of Western North Carolina [here](#).

Montreat Presbyterian Church

MontreatChurch.org



OUR MISSION

*In the fellowship of Jesus Christ
we Listen for the word of God in our lives
Love with open hearts and open minds
Walk the path of faith together
Serve others and Welcome all.*

OUR VISION

*Led by the Holy Spirit
We proclaim the word of God
Through our ministry and mission.*

The Session

Mason Blake, Beth Fountain (2021)
Jim Henderson, Ann DuPre Rogers (2022)
William Brown, Ellen Dean (2023)
Clerk Jane Alexander
Moderator Keith Grogg (pastor)

Officers & Committee Chairs, 2021

Jane Alexander, clerk
Jim Henderson, assistant clerk
Gill Campbell, treasurer
Bill McCaskill, assistant treasurer
Mason Blake, Christian Education
Beth Fountain, Congregational Care
Hal Demarest, Earth Care Subcommittee
Judy Shuford, Evangelism & Membership
Grace Nichols, Fellowship
Jim Henderson, Finance & Property
Nancy Midgette, Mission & Outreach

Ann DuPre Rogers, Personnel
Jane Alexander, Worship & Music

Want to talk? Need a pastor?

Call the office at 664-9212,
or email Keith at pastor@montreatchurch.org,
and we'll find a time that works.

Rev. Margaret Peery also provides pastoral care:
parishvisitor@montreatchurch.org

**MPC Weekly Communications:
Sunday Worship,
The Montreat Memo (e-newsletter),
"From the Pastor's Desk,"
and occasional midweek prayers
and special announcements**

Are you or someone you know **having trouble receiving our emails via Constant Contact?** Be sure to check your "Promotions" category for email that may have been diverted from your main inbox, as well as checking Spam and other folders. For Vimeo and other broadcasts, sometimes it may be helpful to move your laptop a bit closer to your wifi router.

The Memo is usually published on Tuesday afternoon. **Please submit items for the Memo by the Friday morning before the week in which they are to appear.** Thank you! (Articles submitted may be edited for accuracy, clarity or brevity.)

The Montreat Memo is sent from the Montreat Presbyterian Church office email account. **Responses intended for the pastor may be sent to pastor@montreatchurch.org.**

Responses intended for the director of music may be sent to music@montreatchurch.org.

A second weekly publication, "From the Pastor's Desk," is issued late in the week, usually on Saturday. FTPD is designed to offer concise updates and a brief word from the pastor during the time of social distancing. **FTPD also includes the link for the next morning's Church Chat.**



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