

"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12



WEEKLY MONTREAT MEMO



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

November 19, 2024



All Are Welcome!

Please contact the [church office](#) to be added to our email list or to sign up to receive our home worship services.

Our Calendar

Tues., November 19
10:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Women's Circle
Upper Anderson

Tues., November 19
4:00 P.M.

Session Meeting
via Zoom

Wed., November 20
5:45 P.M.

Church Covered Dish Dinner
Upper Anderson

Thurs., November 21
3:00 P.M.

Worship & Music Committee
Swannanoa Room

Fri., November 22
10:30 A.M.

Officer Preparation for Elders-Elect
Pastor's Study

Sun., November 24
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., November 24
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal
Upper Anderson

Thurs., November 28
11:00 A.M.

Thanksgiving Service
Upper Anderson

Thursday & Friday,
November 28 & 29

Church Office Closed
Happy Thanksgiving!

Sat. Nov. 30
10:00 A.M.

Rehearsal for Hanging of the Greenery Service
Upper Anderson

Sun., December 1
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
1st Sunday of Advent:
Hanging of the Greenery
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., December 1
11:30 A.M.

Choir Rehearsal
Upper Anderson

Sun., December 1
3:00 P.M.

Service for June Peel
Upper Anderson

Tues., December 3
4:00 P.M.

Session Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Wed., December 4
5:30 P.M.

Taize Service
Upper Anderson

Sun., December 8
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
2nd Sunday of Advent
Upper Anderson & livestream

Tues., December 10
2:00 P.M.

Finance Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Tues., December 10
5:00 P.M.

Mission Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room & Zoom

Thurs., December 12
3:30 P.M.

E&M Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Sun., December 15
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
3rd Sunday of Advent:
Service of Lessons &
Carols
Upper Anderson & livestream

Tues., December 17
10:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Women's Circle
Upper Anderson

Sun., December 22
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
4th Sunday of Advent
Upper Anderson & livestream

Tues., December 24
5:30 P.M.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service with Communion**
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., December 29
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
1st Sunday of Christmas
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., January 5
11:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
**Special start time for Jan. 5
service only**
Upper Anderson & livestream

Covered Dish Dinner!
This Wednesday, Nov. 20
in Upper Anderson



Join us for our **covered dish dinner in Upper Anderson on Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 5:45 P.M.!**

Please bring your family, friends, neighbors and a covered dish to share--or just come as you are and enjoy food and fellowship.

This will be a celebration of the conclusion of our Stewardship Season.

In keeping with our status as an Earth Care Congregation, we encourage people to bring and take home washable tableware if possible.

Jackets Distributed



Those who have attended recent meetings in the "Swannanoa Room," our meeting space in the Allen Building, have noticed that the room was lined on all four sides by boxes and bags containing almost 900 light jackets, donated from one source who wanted to get them to people who needed them in the aftermath of Helene. **Peggy & Jim Williamson** and others graciously took on the challenging and time consuming role of inventorying and finding distribution outlets among regional and national agencies--not to mention a few Clemson fans. **Many thanks to everyone who has helped to see these**

donated goods on their way!

MPC agreed to be a temporary clearinghouse for these items in order to help reduce the overwhelming inventories faced by other area agencies. All who have given have done so in love and compassion, and we are grateful to have played a part. MPC is **not** currently a hub for distribution.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Thanksgiving Day, November 28
11:00 A.M.
Upper Anderson

We will hold the community Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Day at 11:00 A.M. in Upper Anderson. The service generally lasts just under 30 minutes and is a great time to pause with members of the community, including visitors in town for the long weekend, and acknowledge the blessings of our lives.

The service is designed to allow any who will be participating in the Thanksgiving dinner at Assembly Inn to be there in plenty of time. (Dinner reservations have now reached their capacity.)

Montreat Wednesdays



Montreat Wednesdays have not been possible since Helene, and the decision was made in October to suspend the remainder of the Fall

2024 program schedule until the new year.

One logistical issue--though far from the only one--is that the Walkup Building is a crucial staging site for Montreat infrastructure repair, and will be unavailable at least through the end of 2024. Ordinarily, Walkup is by far the most accessibility-friendly venue for our Montreat Wednesday events.

When we are able to resume scheduling in the spring, we will have an embarrassment of riches to put on the calendar! Many thanks to all who have been preparing presentations.



*The Service for June Peel
will be held **Sunday, December 1, 2024**
at 3:00 P.M. in Upper Anderson.*

A Note from the Treasurer

As our fiscal end of year approaches, you can download your giving statement in Realm. If this is not possible, please contact Lynn at treasurer@montreatchurch.org and she will be glad to send one to you!

Advent Approaching



The season of **Advent** is set aside in the liturgical calendar as a **time for intensive individual and communal introspection and reflection as we prepare for the coming of Christ** and consider our own readiness for that event.

In the Western Church, Christmas is always observed on December 25. The four Sundays before that date are the four Sundays of Advent, and the week that follows each is "the First Week of Advent," "Second Week of Advent," etc.

Christmas, a twelve-day festival commemorating and celebrating Jesus' birth, is only just beginning on December 25. (Dec. 25 is not the historical calendar date of his birth, which remains unknown; it is simply the date chosen centuries ago to be the beginning of the feast celebrating his incarnation). In church, the twelfth day is as much Christmas as the first, and the days in between offer disciples a spiritually healthy season of joy and gratitude, unencumbered by the trappings of the commercial world that claim so much of our time and attention in December.

The 13th day, January 6, is (in Western church tradition) **Epiphany: the commemoration of the magi finding the child Jesus** after following a star.

K.G.

Upcoming Advent/Christmastime Services & Events

Sun., Dec. 1

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship - Advent 1: The Hanging of the Greenery

Upper Anderson

The beginning of Advent, observed in a service of words, music, and symbols ushering in the season of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ

Wed., Dec. 4

5:30 P.M.

Taize Service

Upper Anderson

A meditative candlelight worship service held between sunset and twilight

Sun., Dec. 8

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship - Advent 2: Hope and Remembrance

Upper Anderson

A communion service for everyone, acknowledging that Christmastime can bring complicated and sometimes difficult emotions as well as peace, hope, joy and love

Sun., Dec. 15

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship - Advent 3 Service of Lessons & Carols

Upper Anderson

The need of humanity for a savior, the promise of the Messiah, and the coming of Christ in the nativity are told in scripture readings interspersed with carols, hymns, anthems, and meditations.

Sun., Dec. 22

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship - Advent 4

Upper Anderson

The morning service for the fourth Sunday of Advent will strike a tone of gratitude, anticipation, and wonder.

Tues., Dec. 24

5:30 P.M.

Christmas Eve Service

Upper Anderson

The traditional Christmas Eve service will include communion, the singing of "Silent Night" and the ceremony of candlelight.

Sun., Dec. 29

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship - 1st Sunday of Christmas

Upper Anderson

"On the 5th day Christmas," the Christmas celebration continues.

Sun., Jan. 5, 2025

11:00 A.M. (Special start time for this Sunday only)

Sunday Worship - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Upper Anderson

"On the 12th day Christmas..." Holy Communion and the Installation of Elders will be celebrated on this, the last day of the 2024-25 Christmas season and the first Sunday of the new year.

Also:

- **Daily Advent Devotionals** (some tried and true, some newly composed), from traditional sources or composed by members of the MPC family, will be distributed via e-mail each day of Advent except Sundays. If you receive the Memo, you will receive the devotionals.

- **Midweek Evening Prayer online services** reflecting the season will continue throughout Advent and into the new year.

Taizé Service
Wednesday, December 4, 5:30 P.M.
Upper Anderson



Montreat Presbyterian Church &
the Montreat Conference Center
present

An Evening Prayer Service
for Advent
in the contemplative style of
Taizé worship

Wednesday, December 4, 2024
5:30 P.M. in Upper Anderson

All are welcome!



Online Membership Directory Update

Now more than ever, we need to be connected to each other, and the Realm Membership Directory is the way to go!

If you are a member of the MPC family and have not yet had a chance to sign up to use our **new** directory through **Realm Connect** - now is the time to do so!

For assistance with getting connected, please notify the [church office](#).

Thanks so much for helping us make this transition as smooth as possible! As always, **if you have any questions, please contact the [church office](#).**





The SVCM icon above
is a link
to the SVCM website.

**For the latest information
from SVCM,
click here
to visit their Facebook page.**

Montreat Presbyterian Church supports



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 not necessarily indicative of 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!

Nov 19 Susanne McCaskill
Nov 19 Jean Skidmore
Nov 20 Macie King
Nov 21 Jan Swetenburg
Nov 21 Sharon Welker
Nov 25 Pat Welker
Nov 28 Will Stone
Dec 01 Bruce Rome
Dec 04 Sally Richardson
Dec 06 Kaius Pagan
Dec 08 Cam Murchison
Dec 09 Suzanne Alexander

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

*Our deepest love and sympathy
surround Margaret & Bill Waterstradt
and all the family and friends
of Charlie Newton, Margaret's brother.*

*The Service for June Peel
will be held Sunday, December 1, 2024*

at 3:00 P.M. in Upper Anderson.

*The Service for Olson Huff
will be held Saturday, May 17, 2025
at 11:00 A.M. in Anderson Auditorium.*

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

Nicola Ackerman (Hank & Mell's daughter-in-law),
cancer

Harold & Shirley Bost

Timothy Boyer

Fred Connelly

Bob Cumming

Marinell Davidson

Jackson Dimmock

Beth Fountain

Marylyn Huff and family

Alun Jones (friend of Keith Grogg)

Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)

Andrea McCallum and family (daughter of Jane &
Hugh Alexander)

Meg (friend of Vivian Hare), leukemia

Kitty Neil

Bob Peel and family

Margaret Rada

Peggy Rada

Ellen Ramsey

Lila Ray

Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg), cancer

Judy Shillinglaw

Herb Smith

Goody Thomas (brother of Nancy Thomas), cancer

Rosemarie Wanamaker (friend of the Tutterows)

Christina Tutterow, medical testing
Mary Jo Wright

We also lift up in prayer...

All Western NC agencies, construction crews, and
volunteers involved in search, rescue, recovery, and
reconstruction

Bayonnais, Haiti

Victims of gun violence, human trafficking, domestic
violence, and hunger

U.S. politics and government

Those facing the challenges of aging

People with memory issues and their families

Law enforcement personnel and their families

Military personnel and their families

Refugees and all who are displaced

All who work on behalf of the natural environment

Canton/Haywood County long term recovery

And all the peoples of, or in:

Afghanistan

Displaced Armenians

Azerbaijan

Bangladesh (instability and violence)

Burkina Faso (atrocities)

Cuba

Ethiopia

Eritrea

Gabon

Gaza

Guatemala

Guinea

Haiti

Honduras

Iran

Iraq

Israel
Kenya
Lebanon
Libya
Malawi
Mali
Morocco
Niger
Nigeria (famine)
Papua New Guinea (landslide)
Peru
Russia
The Sahel region of West Africa
South Sudan
Spain (floods)
Sudan (genocide and displacement)
Syria
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
The West Bank
Yemen

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

Doug Dicks, Israel & Palestine
Frank Dimmock, Africa Partnership Liaison,
The Outreach Foundation
Elmarie Parker, Mission Co-worker in the Middle
East
Ardrishaig Parish Church, our eco-partner
congregation in Scotland
Cathy Chang, Mission Co-Worker in Philippines
Black Mountain Counseling Center
Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Bounty & Soul

Christ Community Church, Montreat

Donald S. Collins Early Learning Center,

Black Mountain

Rev. Margery Rossi, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Coordinator of Gun Violence Prevention

Jose La Lont Jones, Democratic Republic of Congo

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

*

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 Are Here for You!

The Congregational Care Committee has nine volunteer "carpenters," Mark & Kat Achtemeier, Gill Campbell, John Hinkle, Bryant McEntire, Eric Nichols, William Pender, Anne Seaman, and Jody Welker, who stand ready to be of help! These folks are glad to lend a hand to help people for whom physical limitations make it difficult to do household "little things:" change a light bulb, retrieve items from a hard-to-reach closet shelf, change the batteries in a smoke detector, etc., or even minor electrical and plumbing issues. You may contact them directly or

reach them through their "straw bos s , " **Kat Achtemeier**. If you feel led to add your name to this list of "carpenters," please let Kat know!

PWNC Newsletter

Click the image below
to find the latest news from PWNC!



**Please submit all requests
for *Memo* announcements
by Thursday of the week before they appear.
Send information to the office administrator at
office@montreatchurch.org.**

All of our MPC mailings, including the Memo, are part of the same subscription. We cannot yet offer a menu from which to choose different mailings to receive or decline, so to be subscribed to the Memo is to receive all other church emails as well. Anyone who has unintentionally unsubscribed from all MPC mailings may resubscribe or contact the **office** for assistance at any time.

**Please share scheduling information,
as well as changes to**

church member **contact information**,
with the office administrator at
office@montreatchurch.org.

Unless otherwise stated, 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 those requests to the appropriate contacts at MRA.

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

Lynn Gilliland, Grace Nichols (2024)
Ellen Henschen, Lisa Rome (2025)
John Casper, George Sawyer (2026)

Clerk Ellen Dean
Moderator Keith Grogg (pastor)
Elders-Elect: Ginny Soll and Anne Stone (2027)

Officers & Committee Chairs, 2024

Ellen Dean, Clerk
Lynn Gilliland, Treasurer
Peggy Williamson, Christian Education
Anne Stone, Congregational Care
Hal Demarest, Earth Care Subcommittee
Ellen Henschen, Evangelism & Membership
Grace Nichols, Fellowship
Dan Dean, Stewardship of Finance & Property
Nancy Midgette, Mission & Outreach
Lynn Gilliland, Personnel
Corise Gambrell & Sally Woodard, Women's Circle
Lisa Rome, Worship & Music

MPC Weekly Communications

Are you, or is 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.

The Memo is usually published on Tuesday afternoon. **Please submit items for the Memo by the Thursday 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.

Midweek, pre-recorded online prayer services are ordinarily

Contact Information

Rev. Keith Grogg, pastor
pastor@montreatchurch.org

Vivian Hare, director of music
music@montreatchurch.org

Ellen Dean, clerk of session
clerk@montreatchurch.org

Rev. Lynn Bledsoe, pastoral visitor
visitor@montreatchurch.org

Bonnie Shoemaker, office administrator
office@montreatchurch.org

Church office: 828-664-9212

Website: montreatchurch.org

P.O. Box 577, Montreat, NC 28757

Church Office hours: Monday-Friday

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

304 Lookout Road, Montreat





[Visit our Website](#)

Montreat Presbyterian Church | P.O. Box 577 | Montreat, NC 28757 US

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