



WEEKLY MONTREAT MEMO



THE E-NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

December 3, 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., 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

Wed., December 11
4:30-6:00 P.M.

Carols & Cookies
Upper Anderson

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

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**

***Please note that an incorrect time
was posted elsewhere.
The service will begin at 5:30 P.M.***

All are welcome!

Advent



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.

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 ([click here for the livestream video](#))

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 and livestream

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

Wed., Dec. 11

4:30-6:00 P.M.

Carols & Cookies

Upper Anderson

Come as you are; all are welcome including children and families of the whole community. Carols will be sung; hot beverages, cookies, and other fun will be provided!

Sun., Dec. 15

10:00 A.M.

**Sunday Worship - Advent 3
Service of Lessons & Carols**

Upper Anderson and livestream

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 and livestream

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 and livestream

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 and livestream

"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 and livestream

"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** are being distributed via

e-mail each day of Advent except Sundays. Some are composed by members of the MPC family, and some are from traditional or published sources; some are freshly composed, and some are evergreen.

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

Carols & Cookies



MPC presents

Carols & Cookies

Wednesday, December 11

4:30-6:00 P.M.

* **IN UPPER ANDERSON** *

Come as you are!

All are welcome,

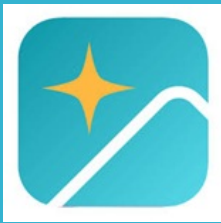
including children and families
of the whole community.

Carols will be sung;
hot beverages, cookies,
and other fun stuff

will be provided!

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!



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](#).**



Begin your holidays at the Annual Christmas Tea, sponsored by the Presbyterian Heritage Center Wednesday, December 4, 2024 from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Presbyterian Heritage Center, 318 Georgia Terrance, Montreat casual dress - free and open to the public



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



Thank you Keith
friends at
Montreat for
your continued
unwavering support
of Bounty & Soul. Your
compassionate contribution
& care matter
greatly!
JW

Dear Keith & Congregation

On behalf of the Bounty & Soul team, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous third and fourth quarter donation of \$3,450 and \$2,500 toward Hurricane Helene relief.

As we recover from the devastation, your contribution will play a significant role in distributing fresh food, much needed supplies, and HOPE to the most underserved and under-resourced communities.

With Gratitude,
The Bounty & Soul Team

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!

Dec 04 Sally Richardson
Dec 06 Kaius Pagan
Dec 08 Cam Murchison
Dec 09 Suzanne Alexander
Dec 12 Jackson Dimmock
Dec 13 Sara Kipp
Dec 14 Sophie Engell
Dec 17 Hal Demarest
Dec 17 Carol Eckard
Dec 19 Anne Peck
Dec 22 Mary Donnelly
Dec 23 William Pender
Dec 24 Gill Campbell
Dec 24 Bill Neely
Dec 28 Bob Eckard

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

We celebrate and give thanks to God for Linda Hobson's ministry with the Donald S. Collins Early Learning Center. Linda and John DeWitt have been honored for their years of dedicated service to the board with an annual Collins Center scholarship in their names. The scholarship fund will assist families in need with tuition costs.

**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

Bob Horowitz, recovering after hip replacement

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

Heath, Peggy, and Margaret Rada

Ellen Ramsey

Lila Ray

Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg), cancer

Jack & Phyllis Sadler, as Jack is treated for a
sarcoma

Judy Shillinglaw

Herb Smith

Goody Thomas (brother of Nancy Thomas), cancer

Rosemarie Wanamaker (friend of the Tutterows)

Christina Tutterow

Mary Jo Wright

We also lift up in prayer...

Those for whom winter weather is potentially

catastrophic

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 boss," **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 issued on Tuesday evenings near sunset.

Contact Information

Rev. Keith Grogg, pastor
pastor@montreachurch.org

Vivian Hare, director of music
music@montreachurch.org

Ellen Dean, clerk of session
clerk@montreachurch.org

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

Bonnie Shoemaker, office administrator
office@montreachurch.org

Church office: 828-664-9212

Website: montreachurch.org

P.O. Box 577, Montreat, NC 28757

Church Office hours: Monday-Friday

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

304 Lookout Road, Montreat





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