



February 18, 2025



### 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

<b>Tues., February 18</b> 10:00 A.M.	<b>Women's Circle</b> <i>Upper Anderson</i>
<b>Tues., February 18</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>Session Meeting</b> <i>Swannanoa Room</i>
<b>Wed., February 19</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>Montreat Wednesday</b> <i>Upper Anderson</i>
<b>Sat., February 22</b> 8:30 A.M.	<b>Choir Retreat</b> <i>Upper Anderson</i>

**Sun., February 23**      **Sunday Worship Service**

**10:00 A.M.**

*Upper Anderson & livestream*

**Sun., February 23**  
**1:30 P.M.**

**Choir Rehearsal**  
*Upper Anderson*

**Tues., February 25**  
**4:30 P.M.**

**Worship & Music Committee**  
*Swannanoa Room*

**Wed., February 26**  
**12:00 P.M.**

**Pot Luck Lunch**  
*Upper Anderson*

**Thurs., February 27**  
**10:00 P.M.**

**Christian Education**  
*Swannanoa Room*

**Sun., March 2**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Sunday Worship Service**  
Daily Change Offering  
Holy Communion  
*Upper Anderson & livestream*

**Sun., March 2**  
**1:30 P.M.**

**Choir Rehearsal**  
*Upper Anderson*

**Wed., March 5**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
*Black Mountain Presbyterian Church*



## **Montreat Wednesday**

In the event of winter weather

**This Wednesday, February 19**

in Upper Anderson  
MPC welcomes Ellen Begley  
Black Mountain Counseling Center

## **"Counseling through a Crisis, while in a Crisis"**

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, our region faced unprecedented devastation, and the Black Mountain Counseling Center was deeply affected. BMCC's newly opened office in Old Fort was lost to the storm. The Black Mountain office suffered significant damage as well; ultimately reducing the private counseling spaces from seven to two overnight. Despite these challenges, the commitment to providing mental health support remains unwavering.

**Coffee and Sweets  
begin at 3:45 P.M. in Upper Anderson,  
with the program starting at 4:00 P.M.**

**All Are Welcome!**

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**In the event of dangerous or inhospitable weather conditions calling for cancellation, notification will be sent via email and posted to [MPC's official Facebook page](#).**

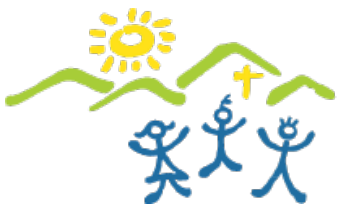
**Please be extra cautious and wary of possibilities, such as invisible ice on the ground or on handrails, etc. Your health and safety come first!**

[Click here for the Spring 2025  
Montreat Wednesday Schedule!](#)

**Potluck Lunch  
Wednesday, February 26  
11:45 A.M. in Upper Anderson**



**All are welcome to join us for a potluck luncheon  
at 11:45 A.M. in Upper Anderson on February 26!  
More info to come.**



**Montaña de Luz**

**MPC will send another delegation  
to Montaña de Luz,  
our mission partners in Honduras,  
June 18-25, 2025!**

A Mission Trip to Montaña de Luz in Honduras is being planned for Wednesday, June 18-Wednesday, June 25. The week will consist of a project or two on

the campus, a Spanish lesson and devotion with the children each morning, planning and presenting activities in the afternoon for the children, helping with a birthday party, volleyball playing or watching, and much more. Financial assistance is available. please let Skeet Ayscue know if you are interested, and he can give you all the details. (The sooner airline tickets are purchased, the better the price.)

S.A.

\*

Among the challenges connected with the sudden pause of USAID is the devastating effect of HIV in Honduras, especially on children, and the imminent loss of their ability to provide for crucial HIV testing. (MdL was originally founded as a hospice for children with AIDS; their mission and ministry have grown to encompass many other areas of care.)

We can do something to help. Anyone can visit a website that offers [two free HIV testing kits](#) per person per quarter (click on the underlined link).

When Skeet and the crew from MPC visit MdL in June, they will take as many HIV testing kits as they can. Skeet will have a basket at worship services where unopened HIV testing kits can be donated for this cause.

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## Some Resources for Witness

It is a fundamental tenet of Presbyterianism that "God alone is Lord of the conscience," and, as a matter of faith, Presbyterians have a faith-based voice to share in the public square. **Our public servants are to be**

**commended, thanked, and respected** for seeking to serve the people and the best interests of the nation, and for making themselves available to hear from their constituents.

Senator Thom Tillis:

DC: 202-224-6342

Hendersonville: (828) 693-8750

Senator Ted Budd:

DC: 202-224-3154

Asheville: (828) 333-4130

Representative Charles "Chuck" Edwards:

DC: 202-225-6401

Hendersonville: (828) 435-7310

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**THANK YOU**  
*Regular Updates on  
MPC's Financial Stewardship*

With an eye on celebrating generosity, sharing good news, and keeping our church family informed about the results of our congregational giving, we will be sharing more frequent reports and updates on our stewardship of resources in this section in the coming months.

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**Souper Bowl Offering, Feb. 9**

The total giving for the [Souper Bowl Offering](#) from our in-person worship service on Sunday, Feb. 9, benefiting [SVCM](#), was a remarkable \$975! Many

thanks to all who were able to contribute, and for the equally precious prayers and faithfulness of those who were not.

*K.G.*

*Feb. 11, 2025*

\*

## **MPC's Helene Recovery Fund and the 2024 and 2025 Budgets**

We have been blessed, in the difficult days after Helene and in the weeks and months since, by the care and compassion of people near and far. On Christmas Eve, the congregation of [Immanuel Presbyterian Church](#) in Schererville, Indiana took up a collection for Montreat Presbyterian Church's Helene Recovery Fund, knowing that our session is making real-time determinations in order to distribute that fund as efficiently and effectively as possible. We have gratefully received over \$800 from that church's generous contribution.

Immediately after Helene struck, the session made targeted grants to a number of local entities for specific purposes which were identified by those entities (MRA, Collins Center, Town of Montreat, BMCC). While that did have an impact on our 2024 budget, we knew that the human needs were significant and urgent, and that we had the financial resources available due to the accumulated year-in, year-out generosity of our congregation and faithful supporters.

We also recognized that our congregants have been generous in directly supporting ministries on the ground while also trying to meet their pledges—and

all while dealing with their own traumas and challenges. The 2024 budget was already a "reach" budget, designed in the hope—justified by the giving trends of the preceding years—that an ambitious budget for outside mission could be approved and funded. All of these have been factors in 2024 having ended with a budget deficit, and the passage of a 2025 budget that is slightly higher than the total of the pledges we have received so far for this year.

At its stated meeting on January 21, the Session affirmed that the money we spent from reserves to assist our local community in its hour of dire need is not to be reimbursed by incoming contributions to MPC's Helene Recovery Fund, but those new receipts will be regarded as resources for additional giving. The session continues to follow the Mission Committee's recommendation that we target ministries that directly meet human needs in our area resulting from Helene's destruction.

*K.G.*

*Jan. 28, 2025*

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**The 2025 Annual Report  
is available at [this link](#).**

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**Wednesday Noon  
Community Lent Services  
Begin March 5**

**COMMUNITY  
LENTEN  
SERVICES**

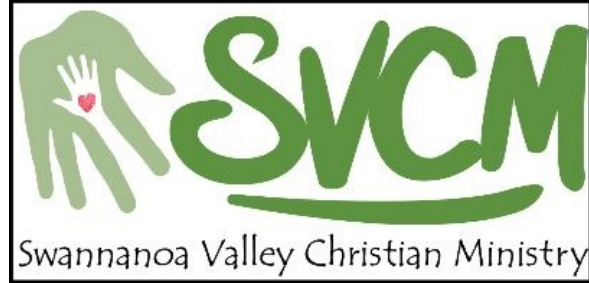
**WEDNESDAYS AT NOON  
MARCH 5 - APRIL 16, 2025**

ALL SERVICES WILL BE HOSTED AT BLACK MOUNTAIN UMC  
101 CHURCH ST. BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL FOLLOWING THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY OPEN TABLE

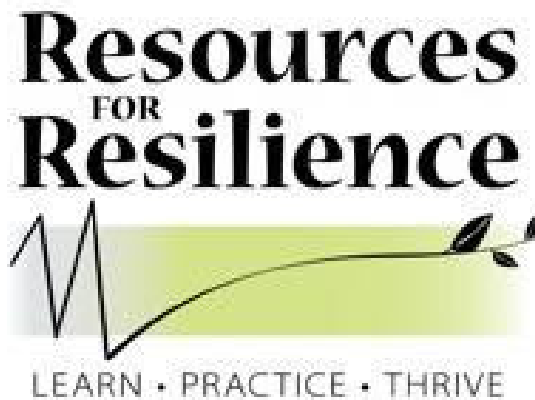
SPONSORED BY SWANNANOVA VALLEY MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE  
SPEAKERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS:

MARCH 5 - BMUMC	APRIL 2 - WARREN WILSON PRES.
MARCH 12 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	APRIL 9 - ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL
MARCH 19 - TABERNACLE UMC	APRIL 16 - FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MARCH 26 - BLK MTN PRESBYTERIAN	GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 - MONTREAT PRES.



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

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



Our own **Ann DuPre Rogers** and her organization, MPC partner ministry Resources for Resilience, are featured in this recent national NPR story: "[After Helene's Floods, North Carolina Tries to Tame Trauma's Lasting Damage.](#)"

Ann DuPre was also asked to join CNN This Morning Weekend to discuss the mental health effects of the devastating California wildfires; see the interview segment [at this link.](#)



## 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](mailto: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!

Feb 18 Lucile Jackson  
Feb 19 Ellen Henschen  
Feb 20 Bill Mills  
Feb 27 Herb Smith  
Mar 1 Amber Moss  
Mar 4 Sam Hobson  
Mar 4 Richard Query  
Mar 7 Amanda Demarest  
Mar 7 Brad Hestir  
Mar 9 Richard Wolfe  
Mar 11 Ray Swetenburg

Mar 12 Gene Shuford  
Mar 12 Dan Dean  
Mar 13 Andrew Dimmock  
Mar 14 Pat Connelly

### **Note from Robert Garrison**

THANKS TO ALL MY CHURCH FAMILY <sup>2-7-25</sup>

THANKS KEITH FOR YOUR 5:00 AM VISIT ON MY DAY OF SURGERY. I ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER AND CONFIRMATION OF OUR TRUST IN GOD.

THANKS LYNN FOR YOUR HIGHLAND FARMS VISIT WITH ME IN THE HEALTH CARE UNIT. YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS APPRECIATED BY MANY.

THANKS FOR THE CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME BACK WHEN I RETURNED WITH MY WALKER. THE KNEE IS GETTING BETTER EVERY DAY.

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ALL MY BLESSINGS.

ROBERT GARRISON

### **Our Church Family Prayer List**

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

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

Harold & Shirley Bost  
Timothy Boyer  
Fred Connelly  
Bob Cumming  
Marinell Davidson  
Hal Demarest, adjusting to pacemaker  
Jackson Dimmock  
Robert Garrison, knee replacement  
Alun Jones (friend of Keith Grogg)  
Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)  
Bob Horowitz, recovering after hip replacement  
Marylyn Huff and family  
Andrea McCallum and family (daughter of Jane & Hugh Alexander)  
Henry Neale  
Kitty Neil  
Jean Norris  
Heath, Peggy, and Margaret Rada  
Ellen Ramsey  
Lila Ray  
Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg), cancer  
Jack & Phyllis Sadler  
Meg Samuels (friend of Vivian Hare), leukemia  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Gene Shuford  
Goody Thomas (brother of Nancy Thomas), cancer  
Rosemarie Wanamaker (friend of the Tutterows)  
Christina Tutterow, non-invasive breast cancer  
Laura Wolfe, in the death of her mother, Louise

**We also lift up in prayer...**

Ministries and organizations that seek to bring people together and work for peace and justice  
U.S. government, citizens, elected officials, and public servants

Federal aid recipients, federal agencies, and federal employees, especially those whose positions have been or are being abruptly terminated  
Vulnerable populations within the U.S.

LA fire victims

Western NC and the many people sending contributions and planning work trips to help

Unhoused people facing winter weather

Bayonnais, Haiti

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

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

*And all the peoples of:*

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)  
North Korea  
Papua New Guinea (landslide)  
Peru  
Russia  
The Sahel region of West Africa  
South Korea  
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

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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.*

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## **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@montreachurch.org](mailto:office@montreachurch.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](mailto: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.

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## Montreat Presbyterian Church

**[MontreatChurch.org](http://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

Ellen Henschen, Lisa Rome (2025)  
John Casper, George Sawyer (2026)

Ginny Soll, Anne Stone (2027)  
Clerk Ellen Dean  
Moderator Keith Grogg (pastor)

## Officers & Committee Chairs, 2025

Clerk: Ellen Dean  
Treasurer: Lynn Gilliland  
Christian Education: Corise Gambrell  
Congregational Care: Anne Stone  
Earth Care Subcommittee: Hal Demarest  
Evangelism & Membership: Keith Grogg (interim)  
Fellowship: Gracie Nichols  
Finance & Property: Dan Dean  
Mission & Outreach: Skeet Ayscue  
Personnel: Lynn Gilliland  
Women's Circle: Corise Gambrell & Sally Woodard  
Worship & Music: Lisa Rome

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## 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](mailto:pastor@montreatchurch.org).**

**Responses intended for the director of music** may be sent to [music@montreatchurch.org](mailto:music@montreatchurch.org).

Midweek, pre-recorded online prayer services are ordinarily

## Contact Information

**Rev. Keith Grogg, pastor**  
[pastor@montreatchurch.org](mailto:pastor@montreatchurch.org)

**Vivian Hare, director of music**  
[music@montreatchurch.org](mailto:music@montreatchurch.org)

**Ellen Dean, clerk of session**  
[clerk@montreatchurch.org](mailto:clerk@montreatchurch.org)

**Rev. Lynn Bledsoe, pastoral visitor**  
[visitor@montreatchurch.org](mailto:visitor@montreatchurch.org)

**Bonnie Shoemaker, office administrator**  
[office@montreatchurch.org](mailto:office@montreatchurch.org)

**Church office: 828-664-9212**

**Website: [montreatchurch.org](http://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**





justeconomics



Visit our  
website

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

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