



February 4, 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

Wed., February 5 4:00 P.M.	Montreat Wednesday <i>Upper Anderson</i>
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Sat., February 8 9:00 A.M.	MLK Prayer Gathering <i>St. James Episcopal Church, Black Mountain</i>
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Sun., February 9 10:00 A.M.	Sunday Worship Service Souper Bowl Offering <i>Upper Anderson & livestream</i>
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Sun., February 9 after worship	Committee Chairs/Session Orientation Meeting
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Upper Anderson

Sun., February 9
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal
Upper Anderson

Mon., February 10

Church Office Closed *Emails and messages will be monitored*

Tues., February 11
2:00 P.M.

Finance Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Tues., February 11
5:00 P.M.

Mission Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Wed., February 12
4:00 P.M.

Montreat Wednesday
Upper Anderson

Thur., February 13
3:30 P.M.

E&M Committee Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Sun., February 16
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., February 16
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal
Upper Anderson

Tues., February 18
10:00 A.M.

Women's Circle
Upper Anderson

Tues., February 18
4:00 P.M.

Session Meeting
Swannanoa Room



Montreat Wednesdays

Wednesday, February 5 in Upper Anderson

Mark Achtemeier
presents

"Mystery, Promise, and Passion: The Presence of Christ in the Eucharist"

"This is my body...this is my blood". Differing understandings of these words of Jesus have sparked fierce debates among sincere Christians from New Testament times down to the present day. We will look at why beliefs about Christ's presence in the sacrament have generated so much passion across the centuries, and why they matter to us today.

February 12 in Upper Anderson

Mary Donnelly
presents

**"What's It Like to Live with Alzheimer's,
Especially in Your 50's?"** We will screen a recorded interview with a former professor of psychology who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in her late 40s, hearing Joanna speak candidly and poignantly about her particular challenges of living with this condition and of the profound love and support she receives from her husband. There'll be plenty of time for questions and comments.

Note: this program will run from 4:00-5:30 P.M.

**Coffee and Sweets
begin at 3:45 P.M. in Upper Anderson,**

with the program starting at 4:00 P.M.

All Are Welcome!

Upcoming Montreat Wednesdays
[click here for a complete schedule](#)

February 19 - Counseling through a Crisis, while in a Crisis, presented by Ellen Begley, Black Mountain Counseling Center.

February 26 - Potluck Luncheon at 11:45 A.M. - details to follow.

Year-End Giving Statements

Statements of gifts to Montreat Presbyterian Church for calendar year 2024 were distributed in worship or mailed this week. If you have not received your statement, or if you have questions about it, please contact our treasurer, [Lynn Gilliland](#). And if you have not made your 2025 pledge and still wish to do so, please let Lynn know. Thanks for your ongoing and generous support of Montreat Presbyterian Church and its ministries!

L.G.

Martin Luther King Prayer Gathering
This Saturday, February 8

**Swannanoa Valley Martin Luther King, Jr.
Prayer Gathering**



Sponsored by the Swannanoa Valley
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Corporation
www.svmlk.org

**MLK Prayer Gathering
Saturday,
February 8, 2025
9 a.m.**

Saint James
Episcopal Church
424 West State Street,
Black Mountain, NC

Due to the devastation caused by
Hurricane Helene,
we will not charge admission to this year's
Prayer Gathering, nor will we ask local businesses
for ads during this time of rebuilding.
We will gratefully accept donations at the door, by
mail, or online, to fund college scholarships for
local students.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Irene Owens,
former Dean and Professor at North Carolina Central
University, School of Library and Information Sciences. In
addition, she was the first African American to receive
tenure at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Library
and Information Sciences.

During the gathering, Dr. Owens will speak upon our
continuing theme of "Building the Beloved Community."



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Irene Owens

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- All donations are tax deductible and directly fund scholarships for local high school graduates to assist with college expenses at 2-year or 4-year programs.
- Donations will be accepted at the door on February 8, 2025.
- You may mail us a check (payable to SVMLK) at Swannanoa Valley MLK, P.O. Box 1613, Black Mountain, NC 28711
- You may also make a donation via our website: www.svmlk.org

**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.

Thank You

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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Daily Change Offerings, Feb. 2

The in-person total receipts for the **Daily Change Offering** from our worship service this past Sunday were \$406. Many thanks to all who were able to contribute, and for the equally precious prayers and faithfulness of those who were not.

Feb. 4, 2025

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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

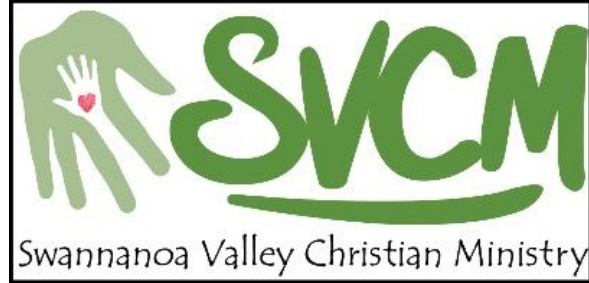
trends of the preceding years—that an ambitious budget for outside mission could be approved and funded. All of these have been factors in 2024 having ended with a budget deficit, and the passage of a 2025 budget that is slightly higher than the total of the pledges we have received so far for this year.

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.

Jan. 28, 2025

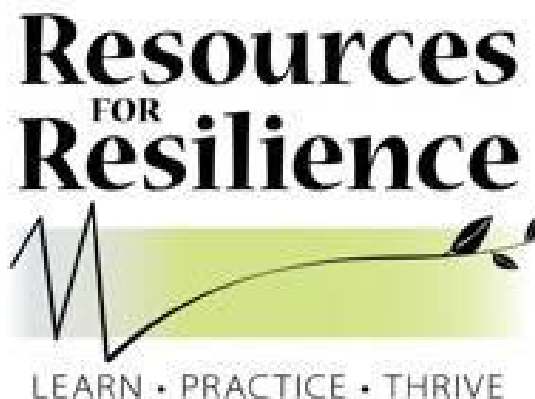
**The 2025 Annual Report
is available at this [link](#).**





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 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!

Jan 29 Clare Frist
Feb 5 Toby Savage
Feb 8 Perry Alexander
Feb 10 John Rogers
Feb 10 Laurence Pagan
Feb 10 Milt Bigger
Feb 13 Marcia Barstow
Feb 15 Jan McRae
Feb 18 Lucile Jackson
Feb 19 Ellen Henschen
Feb 20 Bill Mills

Feb 27 Herb Smith

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

*Our deepest love and sympathy surround Jane
and all the family and friends of
Victor Wilson,
who died peacefully on Sunday, January 19.
A celebration of Victor's life will be held
at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 8, 2025
at Tryon Presbyterian Church in Tryon, NC
and to Pat and the family and friends
of Ted Carey, who died on January 21.*

*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...**

Eade Anderson
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...

U.S. politics, government, citizens, and all elected
officials and public servants
Federal aid recipients, federal employees and
agencies, and 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
Canton/Haywood County long term recovery

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.

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.

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

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@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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