



THE MONTREAT MEMO

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA



March 11, 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

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

Mission Committee
Swannanoa Room

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

Montreat Wednesday
Walkup Building

Thurs., March 13
3:30 P.M.

E&M Committee
Swannanoa Room

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

Sunday Worship Service
Upper Anderson & livestream

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

Choir Rehearsal
Upper Anderson

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

Presbyterian Women
Walkup Building

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

Session Meeting
Swannanoa Room

Wed., March 19
4:00 P.M.

Montreat Wednesday
Walkup Building

Sun., March 23
10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Service
Upper Anderson & livestream

Sun., March 23
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal
Location TBD

Mon., March 24
11:00 A.M.

Congregational Care Committee
Swannanoa Room

Tues., March 25
4:30 P.M.

Worship & Music Committee
Swannanoa Room

Thurs., March 27
10:00 A.M.

Christian Education Committee
Swannanoa Room

Wednesday Noon Community Lent Services

Each Wednesday during Lent, the Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association will host a series of short midweek worship services starting at

12:00 P.M. at Black Mountain United Methodist Church.

The Open Table ministry, held each Wednesday at BMUMC, will keep their doors open an additional half hour so that those who attend the services may also join the community for lunch afterward.



**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.



**Montreat
Wednesday**

**This Wednesday, March 12,
Montreat Wednesdays
return to the Walkup Building!**

Laura Hollandsworth Jernigan will introduce her new musical

"The Promise for All the Families of the Earth"

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

All Are Welcome!

Laura Hollandsworth Jernigan is a Presbyterian minister, educator and musician. Laura has composed the music, lyrics, and book for a new musical drama, **The Promise**, which she will introduce to us on March 12.

This past spring, Laura composed a hymn, "New Creation" (music and lyric) which was sung for worship in May for three PC(USA) congregations and in two of our Presbyterian seminaries, Union and Austin.

Laura is the daughter of the Rev. Ned and Peggy Hollandsworth, who retired to Montreat and lived here for many years. A longtime Montreater, Laura has also served in conference leadership roles, including as workshop leader for the Worship & Music Conference and as the Bible Scholar for the 2024 Women's Connection.

Laura is married to John Jernigan, an infectious diseases physician with the CDC in Atlanta, who serves as chief of a branch that works to prevent health care associated infections. They have three

adult sons, and have happily welcomed two daughters-in-law to their family.

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The Hansel Family

invites you to the dedication of an inscribed park bench in memory of **Steve Hansel** at the Historic Piney Grove Cemetery, which Steve served faithfully for many years.

The short program will take place along the back driveway of the cemetery where the bench has been installed under shade trees. Please bring a lawn chair.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

Historic Piney Grove Cemetery

372 Bee Tree Road

Swannanoa, NC

**From the Pastor's Desk:
THANK YOU, MPC Family!**



Dear Beloved Church Family,

Boundless thanks for the wonderfully thoughtful cards and congratulations before, during, and after the beautiful reception after last Sunday's service in appreciation of this congregation's tremendous support over the years (and years, and years) of my progress toward graduation from the Doctoral program at Columbia Theological Seminary.

Thanks to your faithful encouragement and generous support, I finally made it across the finish line on December 31, 2024. MPC's Fellowship Committee, Personnel Committee, Session, and many others worked hard and were extraordinarily considerate in putting together a fantastic celebratory reception this past Sunday, and so many people have offered deeply touching words. The degree itself belongs, in every sense, to the whole congregation of Montreat Presbyterian Church.

This past Sunday, our worship for the First Sunday in Lent included a Service of Gratitude led by Anne Apple and the Peter Marshall Chair in Preaching at Columbia Seminary, Anna Carter Florence, who was

"first reader" of the final project (dissertation) and one of my two primary project advisors. The other, Mark Achtemeier, led the Prayers of the People.

Anne & Anna's liturgy, which deftly incorporated numerous quotes and images from the dissertation, can be [read here](#) or [seen here](#).

Mark's Prayers of the People, which many have also requested, can be [read here](#) or [seen here](#).

We also had inspiring worship offerings from Vivian Hare, Jim Henderson, Harold Bost, Tom Donnelly, Martha Campbell, Jane Alexander, Heath Rada, and many others, including those behind the scenes who make it all work, such as our livestream team, whose dedicated work enables us to be a worshiping congregation both online and in person. What an extraordinary collection of gifts God continues to bless us with!

K.G.

A New Church Directory

Yes! Finally!

We are beginning the process of getting a new MPC Church Directory together.

How can you help? **We need your photo!**

Please submit your photo to the [office](#) by March 31.

The new directories will be available by mid-May.

THANK YOU:
Regular Updates on

Year to Date Special Offerings

With three Daily Change offerings so far this year, MPC's year-to-date support of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's [Daily Change](#) Offering to support hunger ministries is now at \$1278.83, which is tremendous!

Also, after an additional gift, our total giving for the [Souper Bowl Offering](#), benefiting [SVCM](#), is now a remarkable \$1075! Many thanks to all who were able to contribute.

And many thanks to our faithful and diligent treasurer, **Lynn Gilliland**, for overseeing our mission receipts and providing this inspiring information.

K.G.

March 11, 2025

Other Special Services During Lent

A **Taizé service** will be held in Upper Anderson on Wednesday, April 2 at 8:00 P.M.

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MPC's **Maundy Thursday service** will be held in Upper Anderson on April 17 at 7:00 P.M.

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MPC will host the Good Friday service for the community on **Friday, April 18 at 12:00 noon in Upper Anderson.**



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 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.

HIV Testing Kits Urgently Needed for Honduras: How You Can Help

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 team 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.



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

For the latest information from SVCM,
[click here](#)
to visit their Facebook page.

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!

Mar 11 Ray Swetenburg
Mar 12 Gene Shuford
Mar 12 Dan Dean
Mar 13 Andrew Dimmock
Mar 14 Pat Connell
Mar 20 Mark Achtemeier
Mar 24 Jo Ella Bennett
Mar 26 Mary Jo Clark
Mar 26 Aletha Roper
Mar 28 Ginny Soll
Mar 29 Lila Ray
Mar 29 Phyllis Sadler
Mar 29 Susan Maffett
Mar 30 John Hare-Grogg
Mar 30 Rusty Douglas

Our Church Family Prayer List

A CaringBridge page has been established to keep people updated on Lynn Gilliland's niece

and frequent Montreat visitor Katalina Echavarri, seriously injured two weeks ago. [Click here](#) to view the page or sign up.

*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
Katalina Echavarri (niece of Lynn Gilliland), spinal injury
Bob Gambrell, recovering after heart valve 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
Heath, Peggy, and Margaret Rada
Ellen Ramsey
Lila Ray

Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg), cancer
Jack & Phyllis Sadler, in Jack's cancer diagnosis
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, surgery today
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 recovery
Western NC and the many people sending contributions and planning work trips to help
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...***

Robert Gamble, executive director, [This Child Here](#)
(Ukraine), a validated ministry in the Presbytery of
Western North Carolina

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 several volunteer "carpenters," Mark & Kat Achtemeier, Gill Campbell, John Hinkle, Bryant McEntire, Eric Nichols, 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!



PWNC invites you to use this daily Lent devotional;

**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

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

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**



Try email marketing for free today!