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# THE MONTREAT MEMO

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA



May 27, 2025

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## 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.

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## Our Calendar

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**Sun., June 1**  
**10:30 A.M.**

**MRA/MPC/BMPC**  
**Summer Worship Series**  
*Anderson Auditorium &  
livestream*

**Sun., June 8**  
**10:30 A.M.**

**MRA/MPC/BMPC**  
**Summer Worship Series**  
*Anderson Auditorium &  
livestream*

**Tues., June 10**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**Mission Committee**  
*Home of Skeet Ayscue*

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**Sun., June 15**  
**10:30 A.M.**

**MRA/MPC/BMPC**  
**Summer Worship Series**  
*Anderson Auditorium &  
livestream*

**Tues., June 17**  
**4:00 P.M.**

**Session Meeting**  
*Home of Ellen Dean*

**Sun., June 22**  
**10:30 A.M.**

**MRA/MPC/BMPC**  
**Summer Worship Series**  
*Anderson Auditorium &  
livestream*

**Sun., June 29**  
**10:30 A.M.**

**MRA/MPC/BMPC**  
**Summer Worship Series**  
*Anderson Auditorium &  
livestream*

## **MPC Sunday Worship This Summer, Beginning This Sunday!**



For our Sunday morning worship services during the summer (June 1-August 3), Montreat Presbyterian Church joins the Montreat Conference Center for the

Summer Worship Series, along with our siblings from Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

**Each Summer Worship Series Sunday service is held in Anderson Auditorium and begins at 10:30 A.M.**

The full schedule can found on the [Montreat Conference Center website](#).

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## **MPC Ushers and Communion Servers Needed for Selected Sundays in the Summer Worship Series**

MPC provides ushers and communion servers for some Sundays of the Summer Worship Series. The dates and descriptions of what is needed are listed below. **Please email MPC [Pastor Keith Grogg](#) with dates you would like to usher or serve communion.**

### **12 MPC Ushers Are Needed for These Sunday Services:**

**June 1** (all spots are filled)  
**June 15** (volunteers still needed)  
**July 6** (volunteers still needed)  
**July 20** (volunteers still needed)  
**August 3** (volunteers still needed)

Ushers meet in the Anderson Lobby at 9:50 A.M. on Sunday. They welcome worship participants at the six Anderson doors and provide bulletins (regular and large print) and children's bags. Ushers collect the offering from the front to the back of the

Auditorium at the appointed time. (Ushering involves navigating the uphill slope of the auditorium floor.) **Usher volunteers receive a free lunch ticket** for the Sunday buffet in the Galax Dining Room at Assembly Inn!

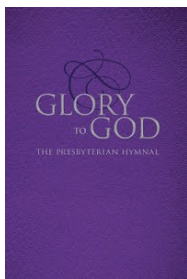
Please email [Keith Grogg](#) if you would like to volunteer to usher, **and include the specific date, or dates, you are available.**

## **12 MPC Communion Servers Needed on Sunday, June 8**

Servers for Holy Communion meet in Anderson Auditorium at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday for instruction. Elements are sometimes brought forward from the back of the Auditorium to the stage. Communion is served in pairs by intinction. **The communion date for MPC servers is Sunday, June 8.** Please email [Keith Grogg](#) if you would like to volunteer to serve communion that day.

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## **Montreat Summer Hymn Sings Starting This Sunday!**



It's time for singing on Sunday nights in Montreat! Each Sunday evening, June 1-August 3, all are welcome to gather **at 7:00 P.M. in the Assembly Inn Lobby** (except July 13 at PHC).

Each hymn sing will feature a different music leader from the community. See the full schedule of music leaders below, and join us any time!

June 1 Eric Wall  
June 8 Peggy Hsaio  
June 15 Susan Strickland  
June 22 Vivian Hare & Keith Grogg  
June 29 Eunice Stackhouse  
July 6 Aaron Price  
July 13 Eric Wall (at Presbyterian Heritage Center)  
July 20 Ted Stewart  
July 27 Bekah Caruso  
August 3 Aaron Price

## The Legacy Committee



**Montreat Presbyterian Church**  
(PCUSA)

***The Legacy Circle***

**The Legacy Committee was formed to encourage the stewardship of accumulated assets and promote an endowment to enhance the church ministry and mission in future years. A key element of this effort is emphasizing planned gifts to the church at the time of death.**



**In 2027 the church will mark the 20th anniversary of its reaffirmation of commitment to the Presbyterian Church (USA).** It is a good time to celebrate the congregation's achievements and dreams of its ministry in the future. The committee announces the creation of a Legacy Circle to record the names of those who have placed the church in their estate plan. Persons who have already made the church a beneficiary in their estate plan, or do so before 2027, will become Charter Members of the Legacy Circle.

A person of faith makes a firm statement of that faith by sharing with the church a portion of assets resulting from the many blessings of God over a lifetime. If added to endowment, the gift keeps on giving in perpetuity. As an example, we have learned of a significant distribution from the estate of Zaida Gilmore. Through her careful planning, Zaida has made sure that her love of the Lord is known, and her generous gesture will serve the church ministry now and in future years.

We thank God for leading Zaida to this example of an enduring statement of faith.

*Jim Henderson for the Legacy Committee*

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**HIV Testing Kits**

## Urgently Needed HIV Testing Kits Can Be Brought to Sunday Services through June 15

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.

Anyone can visit a website that offers **two free HIV testing kits** per person per quarter (click on the underlined link).

**Skeet Ayscue can receive donations of unopened HIV testing kits in the Anderson Auditorium Lobby prior to the upcoming Sunday worship services** up until the Sunday before our mission delegation departs for Montana de Luz, our partner ministry in Honduras, on June 18.

**Thank you!**

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### From the Pastor's Desk: Summer Schedule

Though this time of year brings different schedules, the Montreat Presbyterian Church staff members (office administrator Bonnie Shoemaker, pastoral visitor Lynn Bledsoe, director of music Vivian Hare, and pastor Keith Grogg) **continue their work throughout the summer.**

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**Bonnie will be working off-site on Fridays through August 1** (so office hours during June and

July will be Monday through Thursday). Emails will still be monitored and phone calls answered on those Fridays.

\*

**Keith's Sundays** this summer will include a mix of being part of the Summer Worship Series liturgical team in Montreat on some Sundays, and sharing the Good News on behalf of Montreat with some of our sibling churches on others, including:

June 22, Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian Church

June 29, Mills River Presbyterian Church

July 13, New Hope Presbyterian Church (teaching and preaching)

July 20, Canton Presbyterian Church

## Scenes from the 2025 Kirkin' o' the Tartan











Photo by Ashley Manson

**The link to the livestream recording  
of the 2025 Kirkin' service  
will be permanently available  
on MPC's YouTube livestream page  
([click here for video](#)).**

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## Hope For Tomorrow

The Mission Committee has begun setting up our apartment in Hope For Tomorrow for a new family.

Many thanks to those of you who have already offered to purchase items or who have contributed cash.

Please contact [Nancy Midgette](#) if you would like the most recent list of needs.

Cash is also welcome. Make a check out to MPC and put Hope for Tomorrow in the memo line.

We are eager to meet our new family and want the apartment to be awesome!



## **SVCM has an immediate need for**

**Men's Jeans - small sizes only**

**Women's Underwear - sizes 5 & 6 (new)**

**Men's Underwear - sizes small & medium (new)**

**Hangers for Children's Clothing**

**Twin Sheet Sets**

**Donations can be taken to  
SVCM at 101 N. Ridgeway Ave., Black Mountain**

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## **Montreat Presbyterian Church Supports**



**(Click on the logo for the Helpmate site)**

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## **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!

May 29 Scarlett Parker  
June 4 Clara Hare  
June 5 Keith Grogg  
June 10 Ann DuPre Rogers  
June 15 Mary Jo Wright  
June 16 Linda Hobson  
June 16 Kitty Neil  
June 16 Anne Roger  
June 17 Jim Henderson  
June 20 Jim Layman  
June 20 Tommy Brown  
June 22 Jamie Bibee Lloyd  
June 23 Perrin Wright  
June 23 Heath Phillips  
June 24 Clara Hare-Grogg  
June 27 Rebecca Trump  
June 29 Fred Connelly  
June 29 Ellen Dean  
June 30 Ken Shortridge

*Congregational Care Committee*

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## **Our Church Family Prayer List**

*Our love and sympathy surround and embrace  
Jane and Hugh Alexander  
and all their family and friends  
in the death of their daughter,  
Andrea Alexander McCallum.  
The service will be held*

*Sunday, June 8 at 2:00 P.M.  
at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church,  
Columbia, SC.*

*We also embrace Jean Norris and her family  
in the unexpected death of her sister,  
Corine Ann Barnes, in Georgia last week,  
and John and the family and friends  
of Olivia LaMotte, who died on May 22.  
Service information will be shared  
as it is available.*

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

Sallie Ackerman (Hank's sister), hospitalized  
Harold & Shirley Bost  
Timothy Boyer  
Mary Brueggemann  
Fred Connelly  
Bob Cumming  
Marinell Davidson  
Hal Demarest  
Susan Denne (ongoing illness)  
Jackson Dimmock  
Katalina Echavarri (niece of Lynn Gilliland)  
Beth Fountain, knee replacement this week  
Bob Hare, hospitalized, blood pressure issue  
Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)  
Alun Jones (friend of Keith Grogg)  
Henry Neale, hospitalized  
Kitty Neil  
The Rada family  
Ellen Ramsey  
Lila Ray  
Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg), cancer

Phyllis Sadler and family  
Meg Samuels (friend of Vivian Hare), leukemia  
Judy Shillinglaw  
Gene Shuford  
Goody Thomas (brother of Nancy Thomas), cancer  
Rosemarie Wanamaker (friend of the Tutterows)

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

Western North Carolina and the many people  
sending contributions, work groups, and prayers to  
help with post-Helene recovery  
U.S. government, citizens, elected officials, and  
public servants  
Food-insecure populations  
Federal aid recipients, federal agencies, and federal  
employees, especially those whose funding or  
positions have been or are being abruptly terminated  
Vulnerable populations within the U.S., especially  
children subjected to terroristic enforcement tactics  
Victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and  
gun violence  
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 environment  
All who are grieving the closure of St. Andrews  
University (formerly St. Andrews Presbyterian  
College) in Laurinburg, NC

*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  
Kashmir (India, Pakistan)  
Kenya  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Malawi  
Mali  
Morocco  
Niger  
Nigeria (violence)  
North Korea  
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, formerly Israel & Palestine, now Global Ecumenical Liaison

Frank & Nancy Dimmock

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

Ardishaig Parish Church, our eco-partner congregation in Scotland

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

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!

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### PWNC Newsletter

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



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

**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 issued on Tuesday evenings near sunset.

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## 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 (summer  
schedule): **Monday-Thursday****

**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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