

# THE MONTREAT MEMO



THE WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 10, 2026



## 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., Feb. 10, 2026  
1:00 P.M.

E & M Committee  
*Swannanoa Room*

Tues., Feb. 10, 2026  
5:00 P.M.

Mission Committee  
*Swannanoa Room*

Wed., Feb. 11, 2026  
4:00 P.M.

Montreat Wednesday  
*Thompson Brown Room -  
bottom floor of the Moore  
Center*

Fri., Feb. 13, 2026  
10:00 A.M.-12:00 noon

Pets with People  
*Swannanoa Room*

Sat., Feb. 14, 2026

Service for Kitty Neil

11:00 A.M.

*Upper Anderson*

Sun., Feb. 15, 2026  
10:00 A.M.

MPC Sunday Worship  
*Upper Anderson and livestream*

Sun., Feb. 15, 2026  
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal  
*Upper Anderson*

Tues., Feb. 17, 2026  
10:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Women Circle  
*Thompson Brown Room*

Wed., Feb. 18, 2026  
6:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday Service  
with Black Mountain  
Presbyterian Church  
*Upper Anderson and livestream*

Sun., Feb. 22, 2026  
10:00 A.M.

MPC Sunday Worship  
*Upper Anderson and livestream*

Sun., Feb. 22, 2026  
1:30 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal  
*Upper Anderson*

Tues., Feb. 24, 2026  
2:00 P.M.

Finance Committee  
*Swannanoa Room*

### A Word of Thanks

The Montreat Conference Center is working hard **to repair the heating in the Walkup Building**, and has graciously provided us with **alternative locations** for all events that had been scheduled in Walkup **through March**. The new locations are, and will be,

reflected in our February and March calendars.

## Montreat Wednesday for February 11

The location of Montreat Wednesday for February 11 presentation has been moved to the room on the **bottom floor of the Moore Center** called **"Thompson Brown."**

On February 11, we will welcome Monnie Wright, Director of the Collins Early Learning Center as our guest at Montreat Wednesday. MPC has had a long partnership with the Collins Center (formerly Children and Friends) as it has grown and flourished, providing outstanding early learning experiences for children in the Swannanoa Valley. Monnie Wright has led the Center as it survived the pandemic, moved to a new location, and grew in numbers of families served.

Refreshments at 3:45 P.M.  
Program begins at 4:00 P.M.

For the complete Montreat Wednesday schedule for spring 2026, click [here](#)

**Pets with People**  
**Friday, February 13, 10:00 A.M.-12 noon**  
**Swannanoa Room**

**Calling all Pets** - if you love your people, bring them to our Valentine's Day/Mardi Gras celebration! There will be treats for all. All pets are welcome - cats, dogs, even pet rocks! We look forward to meeting you!

## 2025 Annual Report

The **2025 Annual Report** can be found [here](#) and on the MPC website under "Resources."

## Ash Wednesday Service Upper Anderson

**Wednesday, February 18**

**6:00 P.M.**

**The Ash Wednesday Service  
of  
Montreat Presbyterian Church  
and  
Black Mountain  
Presbyterian Church**

**\***

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent, the season of 40 days (not including Sundays) culminating in Holy Week and leading to Easter Sunday.

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and Montreat Presbyterian Church have a long tradition of

observing the first night of this holy season together, and we celebrate that tradition again this year in Upper Anderson.

**All are welcome!**



**SVCM has an immediate need for**

**Individually packaged snack items**

**Pancake Mix & Syrup**

**Salad Dressing**

**Ketchup, Mayo, and Mustard**

**Diapers, size 5 & 6**

**Combs, brushes**

**Deodorant - Lotion - Shampoo**

**Fitted Sheets - all sizes**

**Towel sets and Hand Towels**

Complete list can be found [here](#)

Donations can be taken to

SVCM at 101 N. Ridgeway Ave., Black Mountain

Monday-Friday | 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

---

## Montreat Presbyterian Church Supports



(Click on the logo for the Helpmate site)

---

## 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 10 John Rogers  
Feb 10 Laurence Pagan  
Feb 10 Milt Bigger  
Feb 13 Marcia Barstow  
Feb15 Jan McRae  
Feb 18 Lucile Jackson

Feb 19 Ellen Henschen  
Feb 20 Bill Mills  
Feb 22 Lesli Hollowell  
Feb 23 Ashley Manson  
Feb 27 Herb Smith

*Congregational Care Committee*

## **Our Church Family Prayer List**

*Our deepest love and sympathy surround Lynn  
& Bill Gilliland and their family  
in the death of Lynn's mother, Kitty Neil.*

*The service will be held Saturday,  
February 14 at 11:00 A.M.  
in Upper Anderson.*

\*

*We also surround  
with utmost love in Christ  
Julie Lehman, Michael Poulos,  
and their family  
in the death of their beloved son  
Nicholas Poulos.*

*The service will be Saturday,  
February 21, 2:00 P.M.  
in Anderson Auditorium.*

\*

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

Nicky Ackerman (Mel & Hank's daughter),

surgery Feb. 9

Harold & Shirley Bost

Timothy Boyer

Tommy Brown

Mary Brueggemann

Nan Clarke

Fred Connelly

Bob Cumming

Marinell Davidson

Joan Deifell

Hal Demarest

Jackson Dimmock

Nancy Dimmock, broken femur

Betty Douglas

Katalina Echavarri

(niece of Lynn Gilliland)

Jack Gilliland (Bill's father), CHF

Bob Hare

Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)

The family of Alun Jones (friend of Keith Grogg),  
who died last week at home in England  
under Hospice care

Joel Kirschner (Betsy's husband)

Bill Moore (former pastor of First Christian Church-  
Black Mountain), cancer

Ann Neel (wrist surgery)

Maggie Ray, recovering  
after hip replacement

Pat Rogers (friend of Keith Grogg),  
cancer

Aletha Roper, broken foot

Meg Samuels (friend of Vivian Hare),  
leukemia

Sara Scarborough

Judy Shillinglaw

Jeremy Shoulta, cancer

Gene Shuford  
Sheldon Smith  
(friend of the Tutterows)  
Julie Simpson  
Rosemarie Wanamaker  
(friend of the Tutterows)

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

Western North Carolina, Texas Hill Country, Pacific  
NW (Washington state) and all other places working  
for relief and recovery in the wake of calamity

Minneapolis

American universities

U.S. government, citizens, elected officials, and  
public servants

U.S. citizens and all those being detained and/or  
deported without due process

Food-insecure populations and people in danger of  
losing SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid assistance

Law enforcement personnel and their families

Monks who Walk in Peace, with Aloka (the peace  
dog)

Military personnel and their families

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 terrorizing enforcement tactics

Victims of human trafficking and domestic or  
targeted violence

Those facing the challenges of aging

People with memory issues and their families

Refugees and all who are displaced

All who work on behalf of the environment

Institutions of higher education  
Churches discerning their future

*And all the peoples of:*

Afghanistan

Displaced Armenians

Azerbaijan

Bangladesh (instability and violence)

Burkina Faso (atrocities)

Cambodia

Colombia

Cuba

Ethiopia

Eritrea

Gabon

Gaza

Greenland

Guatemala

Guinea

Haiti

Honduras

Iran

Iraq

Israel

Jamaica

Kashmir (India, Pakistan)

Kenya

Lebanon

Libya

Malawi

Mali

Morocco

Niger

Nigeria

North Korea

Peru

Russia  
The Sahel region of West Africa  
South Korea  
South Sudan  
Spain (floods)  
Sudan (genocide and displacement)  
Syria  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
Venezuela  
The West Bank  
Yemen

***and our friends, neighbors,  
and partners in ministry,  
including...***

Ardrihaig 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  
Doug Dicks, PC(USA) Global Ecumenical Liaison  
El Refugio  
Frank & Nancy Dimmock  
Montreat College  
Montreat Conference Center/MRA  
OFCB ministries and the people of Haiti  
The Presbyterian Heritage Center  
Presbyterian Church of Taiwan  
Presbytery of Western North Carolina

staff and volunteers

Resources for Resilience

Margery Rossi, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Coordinator of Gun Violence Prevention

Craig & Lynn Sumey, Communitas International Staff  
(Launch Scotland Leadership Team)

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry

[This Child Here](#) (Ukraine)

\*

*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.*



**From PCUSA.org:**

**"[Comforting Words for a Hurting City](#)."**

\*

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



---

## The Carpenters Are Here for You!

The Congregational Care Committee has several volunteer “carpenters.” Gill Campbell, John Hinkle, Eric Nichols, Ashley Manson, Bryant McEntire, Anne Seaman, George Sawyer, Will Stone, Jody Welker, and Kat & Mark Achtemeier 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” like changing hard-to-reach lightbulbs, retrieving items from the attic, changing out those pesky chirping smoke alarm batteries, etc., or even helping with minor electrical and plumbing issues. You may contact them directly or reach them through their “straw boss,” [Kat Achtemeier](#).

---

**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.

## 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**

John Casper, George Sawyer (2026)

Ginny Soll, Anne Stone (2027)

Beth Frith, Bob Horowitz (2028)

Clerk: Ellen Dean

Moderator: Keith Grogg (pastor)

### **Officers & Committee Chairs, 2026**

Clerk: Ellen Dean

Treasurer: Lynn Gilliland

Christian Education: Corise Gambrell

Congregational Care: Anne Stone

Earth Care Subcommittee: Hal Demarest

Evangelism & Membership: Ginny Soll & Jane Alexander

Fellowship: Beth Frith

Finance: Dan Dean

Mission & Outreach: Skeet Ayscue

Personnel: Lynn Gilliland

Property: John Casper

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 noon on Thursday 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.

---

## 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**



**Visit our website**

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!