

THE MONTREAT MEMO



THE WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 17, 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. 17, 2026
10:00 A.M.

Presbyterian Women Circle
Thompson Brown Room

Tues., Feb. 17, 2026
3:30 P.M.

Stated Session Meeting
via Zoom

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

Choir Rehearsal

1:30 P.M.

Upper Anderson

Tues., Feb. 24, 2026
1:00-7:00 P.M.

Malawi Period Project
*Assembly Room at Givens
Highland Farms*

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

Finance Committee
Swannanoa Room

Wed., Feb. 25, 2026
4:00 P.M.

Montreat Wednesday
Upper Anderson

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.

Presbyterian Women

Join us **Tuesday, February 17 at 10:00 A.M. in the Thompson Brown Room** (bottom floor of the Moore Center) for Lesson Six, taught by Mary Jo Clark, "Finding Our Joy in Christ: 'I Will Say It Again, Rejoice'."

**Ash Wednesday Service
Upper Anderson, 6:00 P.M.**



**Wednesday, February 18
6:00 P.M.**

Upper Anderson

**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, worshiping together in Upper Anderson.

All will be welcome, but none will be required, to come forward to receive the sign of ashes. The style of the service will be based on Taize worship. The congregation is set up facing the lake side windows, below which a long table is set up with liturgical symbols evoking the light of Christ. (Floor cushions will also be available near the front for any who would like to use them.) Seating faces the same direction to embody the reality that our prayer is directed to Christ rather than to each other. The service takes place in muted light and without informal observations or personal interjections, but with scripture, prayers, music, and silence.

The service will be live streamed on MPC's YouTube page ([Montreat Presbyterian Church PCUSA](#)).

All are welcome.

Lent Observances

A change in this year's Lenten observances is that, for a number of cumulative logistical reasons, the Swannanoa Valley Ministerial Association is unable to host midweek noon Lent services for the community this year. Other possibilities for a midweek, in-person observance in Montreat are being explored; **please watch this space** for updates.

In the meantime, we will again offer **daily Lent reflections** beginning the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday) and continuing through the last (Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday).

The **online midweek Evening Prayers** will also continue through Lent and beyond.

The **Maundy Thursday service**, commemorating the institution of the Lord's Supper, will be held on April 2 at 7:00 P.M. in Upper Anderson.

The **Good Friday service**, the most solemn occasion in the Christian liturgical year, commemorating the crucifixion of Christ, will be held on April 3 at 12:00 P.M. in Upper Anderson.

And then the celebration of Christ's resurrection takes place on **Easter Sunday, April 5**, the first Sunday in the seven-week Easter season.

2025 Annual Report

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

Malawi Period Project

The Workshop for the Malawi Period Project has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, February 24th at The Margaret Room, beside the Assembly Room, at Givens Highland Farms from 1:00-7:00 P.M.** Drop in anytime and bring your sewing scissors, a fine tipped permanent marker, your sewing machine, and your sweet self. All levels of

ability welcome to trace, cut, match, sew, trim, flip, iron, sew, snap, and stuff. See you there!

Montreat Wednesday for February 25

The location of Montreat Wednesday on February 25 has been moved to Upper Anderson.

Presentation by Anne Waple

By Thanksgiving of 2025 more than 450 [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) volunteers will have come to Western North Carolina to help with recovery from Hurricane Helene. Anne Waple is a climate scientist with a gift for organizing and coordinating and seeing and sharing the joy and help that our volunteer teams get to offer homeowners across the region. Her presentation will be a first hand opportunity to learn what Presbyterians are doing as part of the on-going Helene recovery efforts.

Refreshments at 3:45 P.M.

Program begins at 4:00 P.M.

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

See below, under the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, for information on a "Lunch & Learn" event on Thursday, February 26 led by our own Christina Tutterow!



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.

SOULTENDING

with Mary Magdalene



Elizabeth
Schrader Polczer



Beth Maczka



Rev. Judith Whelchel

Join us for a Magdalene Gathering — an immersive experience exploring Mary Magdalene's wisdom, art, and ritual.

March 4th - 7th, 2026



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 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 22 Lesli Hollowell
Feb 23 Ashley Manson
Feb 27 Herb Smith
Mar 1 Amber Moss
Mar 4 Sam Hobson
Mar 4 Richard Query
Mar 7 Amanda Demarest
Mar 9 Richard Wolfe
Mar 11 Ray Swetenburg
Mar 12 Gene Shuford
Mar 12 Dan Dean
Mar 13 Andrew Dimmock
Mar 14 Pat Connelly

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

Our deepest love and sympathy surround the family of Henry Neale who died Saturday, February 14.

Service details will be announced.

We 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 this 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

Frank Dodson

Betty Douglas

Katalina Echavarri

(niece of Lynn Gilliland)

Jack Gilliland (Bill's father), CHF

Mari Gramling

Bob Hare

Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)

Steve Huff (Marylyn's son)

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)

The family of Bill Lee

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
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...***

Ardrishaig 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.



*

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



LUNCH & LEARN

with *Christina Tutterow*

“All Are Welcome”

Saying what we mean – and meaning what we say!



Topics include:

- elements of inclusive worship services
- congregational auditing
- interpersonal conversations

Presentation will move beyond discussing the physicality of our congregational spaces toward communicating fuller welcome, openness, and inclusion of those living with disabilities.

This is perfect for all Church leaders (ordained & lay), those who “have the ear” of leadership, and those who are passionate about expanding congregational hospitality and welcome.

Thursday, February 26
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
via Zoom

Register Here
by 2/20/25

Questions? Call 828/438-4217 or
email twilliams@presbyterywnc.org.

Sponsored by the Faith Formation Team of PWNC

[Click here to register!](#)

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.

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

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.**

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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