November 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.

Calendar

Tues., Nov. 17, 2026 **10:00 A.M**	**Presbyterian Women** *Walkup Building*
Tues., Nov. 17, 2026 **3:00 P.M**	**Stated Session Meeting** *via Zoom*
Thurs., Nov. 19, 2026 **10:00 A.M.**	**Christian Education Committee Meeting** *Swannanoa Room*
Sun., Nov. 22, 2026 **10:00 A.M.**	**MPC Sunday Worship** Grace Boyer preaching *Upper Anderson & livestream*

Sun., Nov. 22, 2026 **after worship**	**Choir Rehearsal** *Upper Anderson*
Thursday & Friday **November 26 & 27**	**Church Office Closed** *Thanksgiving Holidays*
Sun., Nov. 29, 2026 **10:00 A.M.**	**MPC Sunday Worship** **Advent 1** *Upper Anderson & livestream*
Sun., Nov. 29, 2026 **after worship**	**Choir Rehearsal** *Upper Anderson*

This Week's Montreat Wednesday Program Postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the program we had scheduled for this Wednesday, "Saving the Hemlocks," has had to be postponed. Montreat Wednesdays will resume in the new year.

Many thanks to all our presenters for a wonderful Fall 2026 program season!

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Wednesday MPC Programs in December:

December 2, 5:30 P.M.

Advent Taize Service,
Upper Anderson

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December 9, 4:00 P.M.
Carols & Cookies,
Upper Anderson

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December 16, 4:00 P.M.
Special Mission Committee Presentation:
Jim McGill, Kenya WASH Ministry
(Water, Sanitation & Hygiene),
Walkup Building

Stewardship Season Update

Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges to support the ministry and mission of Montreat Presbyterian Church in 2027! God has richly blessed our congregation.

The Finance Committee is now in the process of preparing the budget for next year.

If you would like to make a pledge or have a question regarding what you have submitted, please contact **treasurer Lynn Gilliland**. Your pledge can be sent to the treasurer via email.
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Our Gift - Reading More Clearly

Last week Frank Dimmock arrived in Gambella, Ethiopia with 60 pairs of reading glasses donated by our congregation. He was able to distribute many of them to Nuer Christian leaders and ministers who are undergraduate or graduate students in four-year programs at Manpiny Bible College. Some of the 20-76 year old recipients are pictured below.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Earlier this year, the worship committee and session made the decision **to discontinue the midday Montreat Community Thanksgiving service** for this year and going forward.

Attendance has declined year after year—exponentially and, lately, precipitously—to the point that it has become obvious that it has served its purpose and has now become untenable to carry

on. It was marvelous for its time, and those good memories will remain. Thanks be to God!

K.G.

SVCM Service Opportunity

Volunteers are needed to assist with the **Johnny Raines Christmas Cheer** operation which will serve some 350 of our neighborhood children this year.

The opportunities take place over two weeks in December. The first week, volunteers will be receiving gifts from sponsors, and the second week, they will be distributing gifts to parents as they come to pick up the gifts for their children. The location is **First Baptist Church in Swannanoa** and the shifts are 3 hours and 15 minutes.

Click this link to go to the signup page.

If you have questions, please contact **MPC treasurer Lynn Gilliland**.

In addition, SVCM is in need of wrapping paper, gift tags, and tape, as they are providing an opportunity this year for parents to wrap their gifts. You can bring these items to MPC any Sunday for the next four weeks.

THANK YOU!

Presbyterian Heritage Center Book Club: *The Way of Shalom*

with author Tom Frist
Tuesday, November 17, 2:00 P.M.

Author Tom Frist will join us to discuss his book, *The Way of Shalom*, on Tuesday, November 17 at 2:00 P.M. in the PHC Library.
This event is free and open to the public.
To join via Zoom, please **email** for the Zoom link.

The Way of Shalom is the story of an author's enduring friendship with characters from his three previous novels. Wanting to see them again and introduce them to each other, he brings them together from Turkey, Syria, Nicaragua, and Brazil to his small hometown of Montreat, North Carolina. From this meeting, the lives of both the author and of his characters merge into a new international adventure which finally ends on a Brazilian farm.

This is a book which deals with family dilemmas like impossible romance, alienation, death, and inheritance. It is also a book about societal problems like war, genocide, refugees, the clash of religions, leprosy, and stigma. But most of all, it is a book which highlights the desire to make one's life count and to find shalom – wholeness, well-being, harmony, and peace.

Copies of the book are available at the Montreat Book Store and will be avilable at the event. **All sales benefit the Flat Creek Crossing.**

Upcoming Advent & Christmas

Worship Calendar

November 29, 2026
First Sunday in Advent
The Hanging of the Greenery

The beginning of Advent, ushering in the season of expectant waiting for the coming of Christ.

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Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Advent Taize Service
5:30 P.M.
Upper Anderson

A meditative candlelight worship service held between sunset and twilight.

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December 6, 2026
Second Sunday in Advent
Service of Hope and Remembrance
Holy Communion

A communion service for everyone, acknowledging that Christmastime can bring complicated and sometimes difficult emotions as well as peace, hope, joy and love.

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Wed., Dec. 9, 2026
4:00-5:30 P.M.
Carols & Cookies
Upper Anderson
All are welcome, including children and families of the whole community. Carols will be sung; hot

beverages, cookies, and other fun will be provided!

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December 13, 2026
Third Sunday in Advent
Service of Lessons & Carols

The need of humanity for a savior, the promise of the Messiah, and the coming of Christ in the nativity are told in scripture readings interspersed with carols, hymns, anthems, and meditations.

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December 20, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Advent
The Greater Antiphons

The morning service for the fourth Sunday of Advent will feature the eighth-century "O Antiphons," reflecting on seven Biblical images of Christ: Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, Ruler of the nations, Emmanuel (God with us).

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Thursday, December 24, 2026
Christmas Eve Service
5:30 P.M.

The traditional Christmas Eve service will include communion, the singing of "Silent Night," and candlelight.

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December 27, 2026
First Sunday of Christmas

"On the third day Christmas,"

the Christmas celebration continues in worship.

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January 3, 2027
Second Sunday of Christmas
Service begins at 11:00 A.M.
(this Sunday only)

"On the tenth day Christmas..."
Holy Communion and the Ordination and Installation of Elders will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the new calendar year.



SVCM has an immediate need

for the Food Pantry

Toilet paper
Canned Meat
Laundry detergent (and canning jars for dividing)
Deodorant
Period Pads

for the Clothing Closet

Pull-ups
Baby Wipes

Blankets and Comforters, all sizes
Adult backpacks
Sheet sets, all sizes - *(highest priority for Queen size)*
Incontinence bed underpads

The Neighborcare Clinic needs:
Tylenol - Adult, Children (liquid or chewable), Infant
Ibuprofen - Adult & Children (liquid or chewable)

Allergy Meds - Zyrtec or Claritin (NOT bendaryl)
Triple Antibiotic Cream
Hydrocortozone Cream
Arthiritis Cream (Volteran or Tylenol precise)

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. - 2:30 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 the office 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!

Nov 18 Ann Hudspeth
Nov 18 Joe Standaert
Nov 19 Susanne McCaskill
Nov 19 Jean Skidmore
Nov 20 Macie King
Nov 21 Jan Swetenburg
Nov 21 Sharon Welker
Nov 25 Pat Welker
Nov 28 Will Stone
Dec 1 Bruce Rome
Dec 4 Sally Richardson
Dec 8 Cam Murchison
Dec 9 Suzanna Alexander
Dec 12 Jackson Dimmock
Dec 13 Sara Kipp
Dec 14 Sophie Engell

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List



We give thanks to God

and rejoice with Ellen & Gary Henschen
in the birth of their granddaughter,
Eloise Debayle Gurdian,
on November 5, 2026.
Congratulations!

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

Mason Blake, recovering after surgery
Harold & Shirley Bost
Timothy Boyer
William Brown
Mary Brueggemann
Mason Charrier (friend of Corise Gambrell), brain tumor
Fred Connelly
Susan Denne
Jackson Dimmock
Nancy Dimmock
Cathie Dodson
Katalina Echavarri (niece of Lynn Gilliland)
Bob & Corise Gambrell, in the loss of their canine companion Cara
Bob Hare
Clara Hare
Emily Harrin (friend of Lynn Gilliland)
Cheryl Hartman (friend of Vivian Hare)
Kathy Horowitz
Tom Horvath (friend of the Tutterows), cancer
Joel Kirschner (Betsy's husband)
Bill Moore (former pastor of First Christian Church-Black Mountain), cancer
Bob Peel
Meg Samuels (friend of Vivian Hare), leukemia
Farkhunda and Elham Sarabi
(family of local friends, in Tehran)

Bob Shaw
Julie Simpson

We also lift up in prayer...

Flood recovery in Nepal/Tibet
Flooding in the American Midwest
Wildfires in the U.S., Canada, Greece, Spain, France, and elsewhere
Earthquake in Japan
Legal immigrants and asylum seekers in jeopardy of deportation
Refugees and all who are displaced
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 people
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.
Victims of human trafficking and domestic or targeted violence
Those facing the challenges of aging
People with memory issues and their families
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
Canada
Colombia (earthquake recovery)
Cuba
Democratic Republic of Congo (Ebola outbreak, violence, and displacement)
Ethiopia
Eritrea
Gabon
Gaza
Guatemala
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
Iran
Iraq
Israel
Jamaica
Japan (earthquake/tsunami)
Kashmir (India, Pakistan)
Kenya
Lebanon
Libya
Malawi
Mali
Morocco
Nepal/Tibet border (catastrophic flood)
Niger
Nigeria
North Korea
Peru
Russia
The Sahel region of West Africa
South Africa

South Korea
South Sudan
Sudan (genocide and displacement)
Syria
Taiwan
Thailand
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
Venezuela (earthquake recovery)
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
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)

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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.

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.**

Please share scheduling information,
as well as changes to
church member **contact information,**
with the office administrator.

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)
Elders-elect: Mary Donnelly, David Hollowell (2029)

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

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.

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

Vivian Hare,
director of music

Ellen Dean,
clerk of session

Rev. Lynn Bledsoe,
pastoral visitor

Bonnie Shoemaker,
office administrator

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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