

# From the Pastor's Desk



Saturday, July 4, 2020

## July 4th Summertime Blessings

This Sunday of Independence Day Weekend again brings three great opportunities: "Church Chat" at 9:30 A.M., the Summer Worship Series service at 10:30 A.M., and the 7:00 P.M. Hymn Sing. **Details and links are provided below.**

### **FOR THIS SUNDAY, JULY 5:**

#### **9:30 A.M. Church Chat**

**[Click here to join friends before the service for "Church Chat."](#)**

An online Zoom opportunity to see friends and check in before the Montreat summer worship service.

Drop in and leave as you feel comfortable. Each week a convener will simply make sure that everyone who wants to check in and catch up can do so. Feel free to join even if you think you want to be a silent participant. Everyone is welcome!

#### **10:30 A.M. Worship**

**[Click here to join the online worship service](#)**

shortly before 10:30 A.M.

**The bulletin** can be downloaded

from the Conference Center's [Worship page](https://montreat.org/events/summer-worship-2020)  
(<https://montreat.org/events/summer-worship-2020>).

*(Please note: the bulletin is sometimes not updated  
until the morning of the service.*

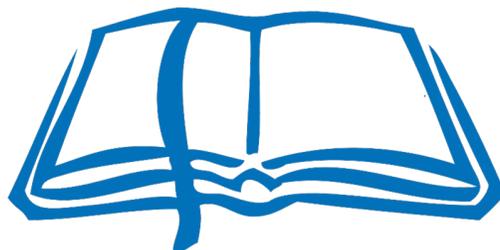
*This is a link to the Montreat Conference Center website,  
which is not administered by our office.)*

**Last Sunday's service** (June 28)  
can be seen in its entirety [here](#).

### **7:00 P.M. Montreat Hymn Sing**

Join Jeremy Roberts as he leads the hymn sing this Sunday evening  
at 7:00 P.M. The summer hymn sings are held "in real time"  
and you can **use [this link](#) to join.**

The pre-chosen hymns are included in a PDF [here](#) which can be  
printed for singing, or you can simply sing from your screen.  
Those who have hymnals at home can make a request during the  
Hymn Sing. If you would like to borrow a Glory to God hymnal  
for the summer, please speak with Martha Sloan  
at the Montreat Conference Center.



*Then the angel showed me  
the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal, flowing*

*from the throne of God and of the Lamb  
through the middle of the street of the city.  
On either side of the river is the tree of life  
with its twelve kinds of fruit,  
producing its fruit each month;  
and the leaves of the tree  
are for the healing of the nations.*

Revelation 22:1-2

### **A Prayer for July 4, 2020**

God our Maker, Sovereign, and Righteous Judge,  
Christ our Savior, Teacher, and Lord,  
Holy Spirit our Breath of Life,  
Uniting Comforter and Tireless Advocate,

Thank you for the blessings of summertime,  
of families and friendships and good neighbors,  
of warming nostalgia for the past  
and grateful appreciation for this day  
and attainable dreams for the future.

Thank you for the abundance  
with which the United States of America has been blessed.

Our lives, our freedoms,  
our meditations, our decisions,  
our words, our actions  
our relationships, our interactions  
and our dispositions toward one another  
are subject to you, O God.

Help us, we pray, as persons, as people, and as one nation,  
to find in you the strength  
to model our own kindness, generosity, and compassion  
on the goodness and divine humanity of our Savior;  
to choose what is faithful,  
to right what is wrong,  
to replace partisanship for its own sake  
with shared dedication to the mutual benefit of all,

to settle for nothing less than the flourishing  
of all people and communities,  
to celebrate what is beautiful,  
to elevate that which is most noble,  
and to embody the love for humankind and all creation  
by which you so graciously and extravagantly  
make us all one with ourselves, each other, and you.

K.G.

*Finally, beloved, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing,  
whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.  
Keep on doing the things  
that you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you.*

Philippians 4:8-9

## Contact Information

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**Clara Hare-Grogg,  
Young Adult Volunteer**

**Clara's YAV Weblog page [Link](#)**

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