

The Weekly Montreat Memo



THE WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER OF MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

November 10, 2020



All are Welcome!

Please contact the church office (office@montreatchurch.org) if you would like to sign up to receive resources for Sunday home worship!

In-person worship services & gatherings are temporarily suspended.

All staff are continuing their work from home offices or remote locations.

Our Calendar

Tue., Nov. 10 | 4:00 P.M.

Mission Committee Meeting
via Zoom

Wed., Nov. 11 | by 6:00 A.M.

Wednesday Morning Prayer Service
via Constant Contact

Wed., Nov. 11 | 11:30 A.M.

Music & Worship Committee Meeting
via Zoom

Wed., Nov. 11 | 5:00 P.M.

Montreat Wednesday
distributed via Constant Contact

Thu., Nov. 12 | 3:30 P.M.

Evangelism & Membership Committee Meeting
via Zoom

Sun., Nov. 15 | 9:15-10:30 A.M.

Sunday Church Chat
via Zoom

Sun., Nov. 15 | by 10:00 A.M.

MPC Sunday Worship Service
distributed
via Constant Contact

Sun., Nov. 15 | 1:00 P.M.

Children's Virtual Gathering
via Zoom

Wed., Nov. 18 | 2:00 P.M.

Christian Education Committee Meeting
via Zoom

Please share scheduling info with the office administrator at
office@montreatchurch.org.

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 them to the appropriate contacts at MRA.

Black Mountain Counseling Center Fundraiser, Nov. 10, 7:30 P.M. It's Not Too Late to Sign Up!



Tonight is a special event! Ken Grogg (the chef brother of our pastor Keith Grogg) will be hosting a fundraiser event for the Black Mountain Counseling Center called "Cooking in the Time of COVID".

This will be a live cooking event from Minnesota where Ken lives. You do not cook during the event, but will get to enjoy learning through special culinary information and stories.

All proceeds will go to support the work of the Black Mountain Counseling Center, providing mental health care for many in our wide community, especially those who do not have insurance and/or cannot afford this important care. Mental health needs have been even greater with the pandemic.

- **Cost: only \$25 per computer/household with all proceeds going to support mental health care of the Black Mountain Counseling Center.**
- **When: Tuesday, November 10 (tonight!) at 7:30 P.M.**

Please see more info and register online here:
<https://www.blackmountaincounseling.org/events>

Or you can also call the counseling center: (828) 669-9798 to register. You will receive a link after registering.

A great cause and a great virtual event! We hope you can consider supporting the counseling center this special way.

Black Mountain Counseling Center

Morning Prayer Service 6:00 A.M., Wednesday, Nov. 11

This Wednesday morning, a Morning Prayer service of less than 10 minutes' duration will be distributed at 6:00 A.M. from the pastor's porch.

Montreat Wednesday

We have two great Montreat Wednesday presentations scheduled for the next two weeks. We hope you will join us via the link that will be provided.

MONTREAT WEDNESDAY
Next Wednesday Nov. 11th

The Covid Crisis and Our Local Community Service Organizations - Part Two

Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, Donald S. Collins Early Learning Center and Buncombe County



**PRESENTED ON-LINE: A LINK WILL
BE SENT OUT NEXT WEDNESDAY**

JOIN US FOR THIS PROGRAM!!

MONTREAT WEDNESDAY

Next Wednesday Nov. 18th

**Welcome, Dr. Byron Wade: A
Fireside Chat with Our New
General Presbyter**



Dr. Byron Wade and Rev Keith Grogg



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
NOVEMBER 18TH AND JOIN
US FOR THIS PROGRAM!!**

A Talk in the Woods Nov. 12 Event

Western North Carolinians are fortunate to live among such wondrous mountains that show an abundant display of color in the fall. How can we both enjoy and respect this natural world that is all around us?

Listen and share as we create community across the Presbytery and discuss environmental issues and earth care concerns with others who have similar interests. Join our monthly gathering of people who have an interest in earth care ministry by ZOOM on **November 12 at 7:00 P.M.**

Please register in advance. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The next Talk in the Woods will be December 10 and the topic will be the Christmas tree industry.

A Talk in the Woods is sponsored by the Earth Care Team of the Presbytery of WNC.

For more information about A Talk in the Woods or the Presbytery's Earth Care Team contact Jane at janelaping@sbcglobal.net.

Stewardship Update

Responding With Gratitude

Last month our Stewardship Team shared examples of ways the Spirit is moving in our midst during this most unusual year when more is needed in the communities we serve at home and outside the valley.

The church is grateful to have received **79** pledges as of Sunday, November 8, 2020. Among those are nine new "giving units" who have pledged for 2021. We welcome others to respond soon. Giving plans can be emailed to the church treasurer at treasurer@montreatchurch.org.

We look forward to a 2021 budget that enables our congregation to expand the boundaries of our faith, trust, and gratitude as expressed in the life and work of MPC.

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Preparations

Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ--preparing spiritually and in every other way for our ultimate encounter with Christ. Advent is observed beginning four Sundays before Christmas (which in 2020 is Nov. 29).

Please see below for some of the ways our church is inviting you to join in these observances:

- to contribute a **daily devotional** for use in Advent
- to send a **photo** from your household with a lit candle for use on Christmas Eve
- to send another **photo** from your household showing what Christmastime means to you

Please note: **You don't have to do everything that's being offered**--though you can if you wish! **We hope you will pick and choose an Advent/Christmas/Epiphany schedule that helps you** to prepare for Christ's coming in whatever way works best for you and your household.

Adequate rest is a spiritual discipline, too!

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Advent Devotionals

The Pastor is inviting any and all interested members of the extended MPC family to participate in providing

an original daily devotional during Advent 2020.

First, please let me (Keith) know if you are interested in writing a short devotional reflection for our congregation by just sending me a brief note to tell me so at pastor@montreatchurch.org. **It is not too late to volunteer to contribute a devotion! Instructions will follow, toward the end of this week.**

Each brief daily Advent devotional offering will be based on an individual lectionary passage for that day which will be suggested to each participant. The reflections used will be 1-2 paragraphs/1-8 sentences/1-150 words in length. Writers may choose for themselves whether to follow this optional theme for Advent: "The Sovereignty of God: God Rules, Redeems and Restores the World with Love."

Please let me know if you are interested in participating at pastor@montreatchurch.org. Devotional reflections will be provided to the congregation for each day of the 2020 Advent season. Thank you!

K.G.

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Requests for Two Pictures

In preparation for Advent and Christmas, we would like photos of as many members of our church family as we can get, in both of these formats:

1. We would welcome photos of individuals or households **holding a lit candle with a somewhat dark background**, if you would be willing to have your photo be part of a montage for Christmas Eve. Picture quality may vary in such circumstances; we are entirely unconcerned about that: if it has you in it, it's already high quality.

If you would like to participate, please do the following:

- take it as a **horizontal** photo
- email it with the subject line "**Candle Picture**"
- send it to Vivian Hare at music@montreatchurch.org

AND...

2. Similarly, we would love to have **photos of members of our church community showing whatever Christmastime means to you**--expressions of faith; family; your home; a dinner table; the way your home is decorated; etc. These are for more general montages throughout the season. If you would like to participate, please do the following:

- take it as a **horizontal** photo
- email it with the subject line "**Candle Picture**"
- send it to Vivian Hare at music@montreatchurch.org

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"Make an Advent Wreath at Home"

The Worship & Music Committee invites you to join us in preparing an Advent wreath for home use. You can click [here](#) to open, print, or download a short item called "Making an Advent Wreath at Home."

ALSO: With grateful thanks for the gracious generosity of an anonymous financial contributor, the church has acquired a new Advent wreath stand, selected by the Worship & Music Committee! The new stand, with Advent wreath and candles, will be featured in our online Advent and Christmas services this year, and will be seen in person for years to come when we meet again for worship together in our sanctuary.

Partners in Ministry



The Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry continues to operate during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

SVCM is still taking food donations at the door at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. We are also taking donations of small, snackable items, including water, for the Blessing Box in front of the church. As it gets colder the shelter situation is limited and more people stop by for emergency supplies. Emergency packages usually contain things like nuts, granola bars, pop top foods like Vienna sausages, and some personal care items like masks, hand sanitizer, and hand cream, etc.

Apart from food, there is an urgent need for men's, women's, and children's underwear. There is also a need for fall & winter clothing. The regular food donations are taken to SVCM after 4 on Mondays. You can drive by the front of the church and leave your donations in the marked bins. You may also donate to the Blessing Box located by the White Horse parking lot. Thank you for your continued support. Please find the SVCM Tidings Newsletter here. Thank you for your support.

Tithes and Gifts for the Mission of Montreat Presbyterian Church

Thank you for Your Faithful Contributions! The church could not support the mission and outreach of MPC without your continued faithful financial support.

Two Ways to Give to the Church During This Time

1. You can mail a check to the Montreat Presbyterian Church office: MPC, P.O. Box 577, Montreat, NC 28757. Blue envelopes are available! We have placed a plastic box on the window sill outside Keith's office, inside of which are the blue envelopes addressed to MPC. We will keep replenishing them as long as we are having online services. (Please be sure to close the box after getting some out in order to keep them as dry as possible.)

2. You can use the auto-pay (Bill Pay) of your checking account to mail a check either each week or set up on a recurring basis.

Be assured that all of us at Montreat Presbyterian Church are here for each other every step of this journey.

Everett Culpepper - Chair of Stewardship/Finance Committee
Gill Campbell - Treasurer

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 intended to be inclusive, not exclusive, and is not necessarily indicative of any particular 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. 13 Jane Anderson
Nov. 13 David Neel
Nov. 18 Ann Hudspeth
Nov. 18 Joe Standaert
Nov. 19 Jean Skidmore
Nov. 19 Susanne McCaskill
Nov. 20 Les Butler
Nov. 20 Macie King
Nov. 21 Jan Swetenburg
Nov. 24 Jim Layman
Nov. 24 Kay Layman

Dec. 4 Sally Richardson
Dec. 6 Kaius Pagan
Dec. 8 Cam Murchison
Dec. 9 Suzanne Alexander
Dec. 11 Calvin Chesnutt
Dec. 12 Jackson Dimmock
Dec. 13 Sarah Kipp
Dec. 14 Sophie Engell
Dec. 17 Hal Demarest
Dec. 19 Anne Peck
Dec. 23 William Pender

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

Our love surrounds Joan Deifell
and the family and many friends of Jey Deifell.
A service will be held when it is safe to do so.

We remain in fervent prayer for all who are battling Covid--
our family and friends at Highland Farms and everywhere.

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

Sally Baisley (Christina Tutterow's mom), in palliative care
Evelyn Bannerman, diagnosed with Covid
Ken Boyer
Sylvia Boyer
Connie Bristow (friend of Genie Sullivan)
Chandler Coggeshall (son of Genie Sullivan), recovering from heart surgery
Pat Connelly, hip replacement postponed
Doris Cook, sister of Dora Hinkle
Roy Davidson (friend of Mason Blake), fighting lung cancer
Joan Deifell, and all the family, in the death of Jey Deifell
Frank Dodson, broken leg
David Duncan, continuing severe back pain

Jane Frist
Bob Hare
Clara Hare
Dick Keefer
Maggie Lauterer
Margaret Linton
Scotty McAliley
Bev MacSherry, cancer
Margaret Rada
Ellen Ramsey
George Ramsey
Jerilyn Scheef (Julie Simpson's sister)
Bob Shaw
Belle Shipley
Elizabeth Sorenson (Keith Grogg's mother)
Ginnie Stevens, cancer and other health problems
Arline Taylor
Bob Thompson (father of the late Jane Hansel), under Hospice care
Michael Wiseman (Dora and John's grandson) tested positive for covid

We also lift up in prayer...

Highland Farms residents, particularly those being treated for Covid
Voters, poll workers, election officials, and postal employees
All who are running for office
Communities, families and persons who are at risk
Victims of human trafficking
Victims of domestic violence
People experiencing loss of, or undesired change in, employment
Teachers
Worshippers longing for communal, face to face worship
Front line workers including: hospital workers, grocery workers, first responders, nurses, doctors, public health officials, national guard, nonprofits who serve in close contact with the public, nursing home and care facility employees, builders, police, post office employees, volunteers serving the community, elected and appointed officials and decision makers, market farmers, maintenance workers, food suppliers, medical technicians, factory workers, delivery packers, truck drivers, food distributors, waste and recycling industry workers, journalists covering public events, security details.
People in trauma recovery and/or dealing with depression
Those who are not able to be with their loved ones in nursing homes, hospitals, or care facilities

Military men and women, stationed at home, far away, on ships, at air bases, or deployed in areas of conflict
Small business owners trying to keep afloat and take care of their employees
People earnestly grappling with issues and trying their best to be faithful
All victims of war and destruction
Parents with children at home
Parents and children separated from each other
Neighbors vulnerable to poverty and hunger
Refugees fleeing war, famine and gangs
Prison workers and inmates

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

Elmarie & Scott Parker, our Mission Co-workers in the Middle East, and the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon
Victor and Sara Makari, our Mission Co-workers in Palestine
Ardrishaig Parish Church, our eco-partner congregation in Scotland
Black Mountain Counseling Center
Black Mountain Presbyterian Church
Bounty & Soul
Christ Community Church
Donald S Collins Early Learning Center, Black Mountain
Rev. Deanna Hollas, PC(USA) Gun Violence Minister
Kairos Prison Ministry
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
Yokefellow Prison Ministry

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

Steve Hansel, Gill Campbell, John Hinkle, Eric Nichols, William Pender, Bill Roberts and Mark Achtemeier are ready to assist anyone

who needs a helping hand with the little household things like: change a light bulb, retrieve items from a hard-to-reach closet shelf, change the batteries in a smoke detector, move furniture and the like. You may contact these gentlemen individually or reach out to Kat Achtemeier at 563-580-6489.

PWNC Newsletter

Find the latest news from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina [here](#).

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

Jane Alexander, Everett Culpepper (2020)

Mason Blake, Beth Fountain (2021)

Jim Henderson, Ann DuPre Rogers (2022)

Moderator Keith Grogg (pastor)

Elders-elect (to be seated in January): William Brown, Ellen Dean

Officers & Committee Chairs, 2020

Jane Alexander, clerk

Jim Henderson, assistant clerk

Gill Campbell, treasurer

Bill McCaskill, assistant treasurer

Mason Blake, Christian Education

Beth Fountain, Congregational Care

Hal Demarest, Earth Care Subcommittee

Judy Shuford, Evangelism & Membership

Grace Nichols, Fellowship
Everett Culpepper, Finance & Property
Eric Nichols, Mission & Outreach
Ann DuPre Rogers, Personnel
Linda Hobson, Worship & Music

Want to talk? Need a pastor?

Call the office at 664-9212,
or email Keith at pastor@montreatchurch.org,
and we'll find a time that works.

Rev. Margaret Peery also provides pastoral care:
parishvisitor@montreatchurch.org



Visit our Website