



The Weekly eNewsletter of Montreat Presbyterian Church USA



THE WEEKLY MONTREAT MEMO

December 8, 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., Dec. 8
4:00 P.M.**

Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting
via Zoom

**Tue., Dec. 8
6:30 P.M.**

Session Meeting
via Zoom

**Wed., Dec. 9
5:00 P.M.**

Hymns of Christmas - A Montreat Wednesday Presentation of the Christian Education Committee
distributed via Constant Contact

**Wed., Dec. 9
by 8:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday Evening Prayer
Service for the Second Week of
Advent**
via Constant Contact

**Sun., Dec. 13
9:30-10:15 A.M.**

Church Chat
via Zoom

**Sun., Dec. 13
by 10:00 A.M.**

**MPC Sunday Worship Service
Third Sunday of Advent**
via Zoom

**Sun., Dec. 13
by 1:30 P.M.**

Children's Virtual Gathering
via Zoom

**Wed., Dec. 16
5:00 P.M.**

A Christmas Tapestry
distributed via Constant Contact

**Wed., Dec. 16
by 8:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday Evening Prayer
Service for the Third Week of
Advent**
via Constant Contact

**Sun., Dec. 20
9:30-10:15 A.M.**

Church Chat
via Zoom

**Sun., Dec. 20
by 10:00 A.M.**

**MPC Sunday Worship Service:
Service of Lessons & Carols**
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.

Urgent Request from SVCMM

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 and winter clothing.

Please **check the weekly item in the MPC Memo titled "Friends & Partners in Ministry" to keep up with news of SVCMM** and other important ministries in our community. (See below.)

Montreat Wednesday 5:00 P.M. Hymns of Christmas

MONTREAT WEDNESDAY
This Wednesday Dec. 9th

The Hymns of Christmas 2020

Vivian Hare and John Rogers



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

JOIN US FOR THIS PROGRAM!!

Evening Prayer Service 8:00 P.M., Wednesday, Dec. 9

This Wednesday, an Evening Prayer service of less than 10

minutes' duration will be distributed by :00 P.M. from the pastor's hearth. **A series of Wednesday Evening Prayer services** will be provided through Advent.

A Talk in the Woods 7:00 P.M., Thursday, December 10



What makes the tree at Christmas important—for you, for those whom you know, for so many societies around the world? What are the economic and environmental effects of the practices around Christmas trees? How does living in Western North Carolina influence the way that we think about the use of trees? You are invited to join in a conversation about Christmas trees, sharing your thoughts and ideas, and listening to others talk about them, too. 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 January 14 and the topic will be keeping warm.

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.

Recipe Sharing During Advent

We are still collecting and enjoying the Christmas recipes from our



church family and friends. We invite more of you to share some of your special recipes along with a note about what makes it special.

Please submit one or two recipes, along with a little note about what makes each recipe special. Recipes will be shared online throughout Advent! They will also be posted on our website for everyone to enjoy.

Submit to Grace Nichols as soon as convenient at:

grace5cents@gmail.com

Christmastime Photos from Your Household

In preparation for Advent and Christmas, we would like to collect two photos from our church family members.

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 you're 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 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 "**Christmas Picture**"
- **send it to Keith at pastor@montreatchurch.org**

THANK YOU!

Suggested Holiday Reading & Entertainment

Holiday Movies for December:

- **THE SNOWMAN**, (1982), a beautiful animated short film with gorgeous mu-sic. Based on Raymond Briggs' exquisite book. Available on Amazon Prime Video, YouTube, Vimeo.
- **MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL**, (1992) silly, imaginatively interpreted, timely message. Available on Disney+, Amazon Prime Video, and YouTube.
- **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**, (1948), classic black & white w/Jimmy Stewart & Donna Reed. Available on Amazon Prime Video, YouTube and on USA Network on Friday, 12/11 at 8p.m.
- **THE LIFE AHEAD**, a new film on Netflix (2020), is very intense, very powerful, and not for the fainthearted. stars Sophia Loren and is directed by her son Eduardo Ponti. It looks at issues of aging, race, and relationships. Brave your way through its beginning in Italian.... It will go to English.... A warning: this film does contain profanity. Nevertheless it will perhaps leave you with a bit of a different lens with which to look at the world.

Book suggestions & a fieldtrip:

- Our little village is surrounded by the forest. You will never think about it in the same way again after reading **THE OVERSTORY** by Richard Powers or **THE EDGE OF THE ORCHARD** by Tracy Chevalier.
- You may want to plan a *a walk in the woods* at **THE NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM** to learn more about the trees that are so vital to our well-being as residents of this world. Throughout December and early January, the arboretum also offers a *fantastic holiday lightshow*. COVID-19 precautions are in place, so this might be a safe activity for your 'bubble' or household.

From Mary Jo Clark and the Christian Education Committee

Epiphany Star Words

Star Words Returns!

Star Words is back for 2021, this time in a virtual format. We will be gathering over Zoom on the evening of Wednesday, January 6. Before unwrapping our words for 2021, we'll take a moment or two to reflect on how this year's word helped shaped our life in 2020. We'll then talk about ways we can experience our new Star Word as a spiritual gift and reflect on it throughout the year.

You will have the opportunity to safely receive your star for the coming year before the event. Details about distribution, as well as a link for the Zoom meeting, will be in an upcoming Memo. Hope to see you there!

Christina Tutterow
Worship & Music Committee

Advent Calendar

Wed., Dec. 9
5:00 P.M.

**Hymns of Christmas - A Montreat
Wednesday Presentation of the
Christian Education Committee**

*Learn the history and reflect on the
meaning of some of our most sacred
Christmas music.*

Wed. Dec. 9
by 8:00 P.M.

**Evening Prayer for the Second Week
of Advent**

Sun., Dec. 13
10:00 A.M.

**Service for the Lord's Day - Third
Sunday of Advent**

*Traditionally "Gaudete" Sunday, the
Sunday of Advent reflecting joy--the day
the pink candle is lit in the Advent wreath!*

Wed., Dec. 16
5:00 P.M.

"A Christmas Tapestry"

*Scenes of the scripture readings woven
together to tell the story of the nativity,*

presented by members of the Montreat Presbyterian Church family.

**Wed. Dec. 16
by 8:00 P.M.**

Evening Prayer for the Third Week of Advent

**Sun., Dec. 20
10:00 A.M.**

Service of Lessons & Carols

Humanity's need 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.

**Wed. Dec. 23
by 8:00 P.M.**

Evening Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

**Thu., Dec. 24
5:00 P.M.**

Christmas Eve Service

The online traditional Christmas Eve service will include communion, the singing of "Silent Night" and an appropriate version of the ceremony of candlelight.

**Thu., Dec. 24
10:00 P.M.**

Christmas Eve Late Compline Service

In monastic and other worshipping communities, compline is the service for the "completion" of the liturgical day. Our late Christmas Eve service, made available online, will be quiet, meditative, and mainly musical, allowing for a moment to rest in the beauty of the coming of Christ.

**Sun., Dec. 27
10:00 A.M.**

The Service for the Lord's Day - First Sunday of Christmas

We are not finished with Christmas yet! In fact, we're just getting started. The 12-day season that begins on December 25

continues the joyful observance of Christ's nativity and the holy mystery of his humanity and divinity.

Sun., Jan. 3
10:00 A.M.

**The Service for the Lord's Day -
Second Sunday of Christmas**

On the Tenth Day of Christmas, we will celebrate holy communion, install our new session members, and observe one last Sunday of Christmas until December 2021!

Wed., Jan. 6
Time TBA

Epiphany
"Star Words" revisited

Friends & 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 New/Unused men's, women's, and children's underwear**. If convenient, these may be left on the back porch during the week. 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!

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
Dec. 24 Gill Campbell
Jan. 2 Eade Anderson
Jan. 7 Marinell Davidson
Jan. 8 Ron Nalley
Jan. 10 Steve Sewell

Congregational Care Committee

Our Church Family Prayer List

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
Virginia Bibee (Jamie Lloyd's mother), exposed to Covid-19
Ken Boyer
Sylvia Boyer
Connie Bristow (friend of Genie Sullivan)
Calvin Chesnutt, hospitalized with Covid and pneumonia
Chandler Coggeshall (son of Genie Sullivan), recovering from
heart surgery
Pat Connelly, recovering after hip replacement surgery
Doris Cook, sister of Dora Hinkle
Roy Davidson (friend of Mason Blake), fighting lung cancer
Joan Deifell
Frank Dodson, broken leg
David Duncan, continuing severe back pain
Jane Frist, Covid

Bob Hare, Covid

Clara Hare

Laura (Marylyn & Olson Huff's daughter-in-law), Covid

Dick Keefer

Maggie Lauterer

Margaret Linton

Bob Martin (son of Billie Martin), Covid

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

We also lift up in prayer...

Highland Farms residents and staff

Deerfield residents and staff

Communities, families and persons who are at risk

Victims of human trafficking

Victims of domestic violence

People experiencing 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

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

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



justeconomics



Visit our
Website