



WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH



For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.—Eph 2:10

PT Corner: From the Woman Beside the Man



Hope is defined in the dictionary as a desire with anticipation accompanied by expectation of belief in fulfillment; someone or something on which hopes are centered. Hope is said to have great power and influence on our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We are encouraged not to underestimate it. There are amazing stories that can be read about unspeakable hardships, tragedies, and circumstances where people made it through because of hope. Just a little time on the internet reveals blogs, podcasts, movies, songs, poems, articles, and books all devoted to the topic of hope. You can find all kinds of accolades given to hope; it is said to reduce stress, improve quality of life, and increase happiness to name a few. Hope is said to make tough life situations more bearable as we envision a better future for ourselves.

I happen to agree with all of the above. We need it. Hope is necessary for life. The opposite of hope is despair, disbelief, and hopelessness. Opposite hope is certainly no place to stay, no way to live, and produces an atmosphere or state of being impossible to thrive in. One very honest quote I read said *“Hope is the last thing ever lost”* (Italian Proverb).

Recently at WMBC we have been attempting to live out **1 Peter 3:15** by way of video testimonies. This verse encourages Christians to *“always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* The hope we have is not in the power of wishful thinking; it is in a person named Jesus Christ.

“Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a ‘wish’ (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather, it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made.” – R.C. Sproul

A Christian hope is built on the *certain* foundation of the gospel and on the promises of God’s word; the Bible. **Romans 15:4** tells us that *“everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”*

In these weekly testimonies we hear of hope that was once placed in the unreliable, untrustworthy, inconsistent, and temporal before finding hope in Christ who is solid, faithful, unchanging, and eternal. They testify of the only hope that made a lasting difference in their lives. God wants us to walk in hope and not despair.

If you have been feeling more than a little hopeless over this past year, be encouraged. He calls us to hold onto hope, *“pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people”* (Ephesians 1:18).

God’s word is filled with stories of his people who persevered with expectant hope, trusting in Him to bring them through. We, too, can move forward in ‘confidence’ with our hope ‘centered’ on Christ, envisioning a ‘better’ future that he has secured for us by his life, death, burial, and resurrection. As it is written in **1 Peter 1:1-9** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

This is HOPE FULFILLED!

Thank you for partnering with us!

WMBC sends 1% of tithes and offerings to support **Adult & Teen Challenge**.

ATC's mission is to provide adults & teens freedom from addiction and other life-controlling issues through Christ-centered solutions. Through effective discipleship, mentoring, and life-skills training, **ATC** and its affiliates have seen positive outcomes and radical life-transformation throughout its sixty-year history.



Connect with WMBC online!

Website: www.westernmountainschurch.org -

listen to our weekly sermons, find information about the church and our ministries, watch ministry micro casts (short videos about our ministries), resources, calendar of events, online giving and programs we support.



Facebook Public Page: <https://www.facebook.com/WesternMountainsChurch> - see what's going on at the church, get links to our website and weekly sermons.

Facebook Private Page: For members and regular attendees to be able to post private prayer requests and other information related to the WMBC body. This page is by invitation only and cannot be shared. If you wish to be connected to this page, please contact Crystal Fitch at westernmountainbaptist@tds.net

WMBC YouTube Channel: on YouTube, search for Western Mountains Baptist Church and look for our logo (above). You can watch all of our sermons and micro casts. Don't forget to subscribe!

CoVid Testimony

We often think in terms of some day. Some day we will do this or some day we will go there or some day, we will get that done. About this time last year, Carter and I decided that someday had arrived! We agreed that we don't want our kids to be left with unfinished projects or problems to deal with after we are gone. So, we decided to pick away at completing projects we already had materials for. We decided to do the things we had been putting off to do **SOME DAY!**

What do you know? It's working. Carter built a dump trailer out of scrap parts he had been saving for years. He also cleaned up the yard and hauled off junk vehicles that had accumulated. I've been sorting through paperwork and getting rid of things we don't need. We're not done yet, but we got a good start.



Don't get us wrong. We do see what's been happening around the country and the world. It's been horrendous. The number of people that have died is staggering. Never in our lifetime have we seen such a deadly force as this COVID 19 virus. In the beginning we didn't know anyone who had gotten sick. By now probably everyone knows someone. No one has gone untouched. We have lost friends and relatives. Some have lost jobs and businesses. Our son in California is struggling to keep his restaurant open. We all have lost freedom to travel, to gather together and to visit extended family and friends. Yes, we all miss our lives before COVID 19.

Mostly we miss the people. Yet, we will miss them even more if we don't expect to see them again in Heaven. As we show others that we care about them, they will notice. As we show others that we are confident in God's handling of the future, they will notice. They will notice Kindness, Patience, and Encouragement when so many are fearful and focusing on themselves. Yes, Carter and I are trying to get our house in order, but we are not missing the fact that this pandemic has also given us opportunities to help some of our unsaved friends and family face facts. We can ask them "Do you know where you are going when you die?" Near death experiences have power to turn lives around. We need to pray for courage to speak up. We need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings, recognize opportunities and take action!

Through all of last year we have been reminded over and over again of **Roman 8:28**. "**And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God and are called according to His purpose.**" We trust that God is in control, even in desperate times like these. We also trust that when we look back at the year 2020, despite the losses and hardships, we will be able to see evidence of God at work even in these terrible circumstances. And that's the key isn't it? If we look to God instead of focusing on our problems, we will see the good!

We miss our WMBC family. We have been thankful for all the sermons on CD, emails and phone calls. We are trying to be patient, but we are eager to see you all again in person!

Love, Jean and Carter Sawtell

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the **First Choice Pregnancy Center**. There were 29 baby bottles filled with coins and bills. Once the money is counted we will receive the total amount collected. Nicole Fletcher and her daughters delivered the bottles and got a grand tour of the facility. During May, in honor of Mother's Day we will do another fund raiser to continue our support of this Bible-based pregnancy center. Join us for our upcoming business meeting, April 11th, to help make a decision to add them to our list of supports.



Erin and Meagan delivering baby bottles



Bottles ready for our May fundraiser



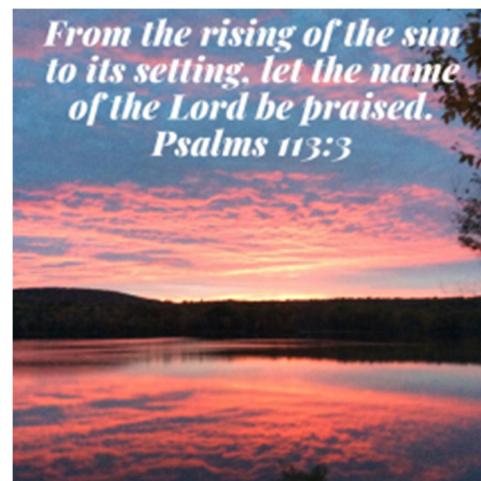
EASTER

Easter Son-rise Service @ 6:15am

Men will prepare **breakfast** to be served at 7:15am.

We will be celebrating the **Lord's Supper** during our regular Sunday service at 10am.

Please join us in worshipping and praising our **Risen Lord!**



In 2007, Tracy Bessey of Kingfield, started a program as part of an independent study to earn college credit that would provide a meal to senior citizens at the Kingfield Senior Housing to help them "bridge the gap" through the last week of the month and the arrival of their Social Security check on the first of the next month. It was overwhelmingly appreciated by the residents. In the beginning, Bessey and her husband Tom, prepared meals at their home. In 2008, to keep the program going, the Girl Scouts under the leadership of Sue Jones, took over the program and named it "**Bridging the Gap**". The Girls Scouts disbanded in 2010 at which time the United Methodist Church of Kingfield took over the program expanding it to include the elderly living *outside* of the Senior Housing community. At that time about 36 meals were delivered on the last Saturday of each month.



The program ran successfully for several years. In 2017, when Pastor Connie Maginnis passed away and the church lost its volunteer staff, the WMBC agreed to take on the program and the **Bridging the Gap Ministry** was established. Today, the **WMBC Bridging the Gap Ministry** delivers on the average of 70 meals the last Saturday of each month. Not only are meals delivered to the elderly in Kingfield, but has expanded to include people in the surrounding towns of North New Portland, Freeman and Salem. There are 15 volunteers that include delivery drivers, cooks and kitchen help. All food is homemade, and usually includes two choices for an entrée, and dessert. A summer cookout is held at WMBC for seniors and rides are available for them to attend.

In 2020, due to CoVid-19, **BTG** chose not to deliver meals in March to prevent unknown and unnecessary exposure to those most at risk. In April, Hannaford donated frozen meals to the program and volunteers were back out delivering! In May, the program went back on schedule. 734 meals were served in 2020.

In addition to the volunteers who cook and deliver meals, local businesses that include Longfellow's Restaurant, Annie's Market, The Woodsmen, and Tranten's Store (now Mainly Provisions) supply prepared food and paper products. Poland Springs makes an annual donation, and **BTG** is also a supported ministry through WMBC.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in," - Matthew 25:35

If you or a friend of yours would like to be included as a recipient of a meal through **Bridging the Gap**, please contact Cathy Haines, Coordinator at 678-2442.

Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

Mondays @ 6:30pm—Men's Bible Study

Tuesday @ 9:00am –Sewing Class

Wednesdays @ 9:00am—Women's Bible Study

Wednesday @ 6:00pm—Adult Bible Study

Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

WMBC Scholarship

For the 5th year, WMBC is offering a \$1,000 **Scholarship** to a high school senior attending Carrabec or Mt. Abram. Students are encouraged to complete the application on our website: www.westernmountainschurch.org or complete a printed form and mail to: WMBC, PO Box 264, Kingfield, ME 04947. For more information see the guidance counselor at school or contact the church.

Deadline for the Scholarship Applications is Saturday, May 15, 2021.



We are looking for contributions & ideas for future newsletters. If you have ideas to share, please contact the Newsletter production team of

Crystal Fitch, Pat Pray or Luci Milewski or email: newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org

What's Happening @ WMBC

April

2nd—Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm

3rd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

4th—Son-rise Service @ 6:15am, Breakfast @ 7:15a & Lord's Supper during regular service

6th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

10th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

11th—Business Meeting after church

20th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

24th—Bridging the Gap

24th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

May

Baby Bottle Fundraiser for First Choice Pregnancy Center

1st—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

2nd—Lord's Supper

4th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

8th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

9th—Mother's Day

15th—WMBC Scholarship Application Due

18th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

22nd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

29th—Bridging the Gap

31st—Baby Bottle Fundraiser Ends

June

1st—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

5th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

6th—Lord's Supper

15th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

20th—Father's Day

26th—Bridging the Gap

26th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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