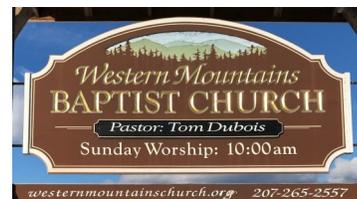




WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH



PT Corner

Many have categorized 2021 as one of the worst years in history. I would not dispute that there were significant challenges for all of us. But I also thought it would be good to reflect on where we have been as a church – what we have heard as a church – and how God has spoken to us in the church.

We started the year about two thirds the way through the Gospel of Mark, shortly after the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the City of Jerusalem, in preparation for the Passover. We saw Jesus ramp up His preaching and His teaching, often in opposition to the Jewish leaders. We saw Jesus tell these leaders – I am the chief Cornerstone – the stone the builders rejected!



We saw Jesus avoid trap after trap, all the while calling out the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, who were trying to make Jesus look foolish, or to speak heresy. One of those confrontations resulted in one of the most profound moments in the ministry of Christ, when He gave us the two most important commandments – to Love God – to Love people!

We saw Jesus establish for all of us that He was both Human and Divine, making Him worthy of our worship.

Jesus taught us about endurance, and how to be alert, as we consider the difficulties coming our way in the Last Days. Are we ready to face the promised trials and tribulations? Jesus was preparing us for the troubles ahead.

Then we walked through the very present trouble of the Garden of Gethsemane, the betrayal from one of His own, the kangaroo court of the Jews, the humiliation from the Roman cohort, the verbal and physical abuse of Jesus, and then His death, burial, and resurrection. We saw the Gospel played out in the details of all this – the Good News of Jesus Christ, taking upon Himself our sin, our guilt, and our shame, suffering the separation from His Father; for you and for me.

We saw Jesus then appear to many, proving out His resurrection, and we saw Him challenge all of us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

We then spent several weeks discovering – Who Are We? We are children of the One True King – we are a royal priesthood, a holy nation. We are a part of God's own possession!

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Sunday School

WMBC is excited to introduce you to “The Gospel Project”. Gospel means “good news”. This study shows how all 66 books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is “one big story” of good news that all point to Jesus at the center. The cool part about this study is that we are all studying the same section of the Bible and have a class for all ages (except nursery age) so families or households can discuss what they are learning at home during the week. Dean Stanley teaches the adult class; Annette Stanley teaches preschool to 3rd grade; Betsy DuBois & BJ Smith teach 4th to 6th grade; and Jim Cockerham teaches 7th to 12th grade students. Come join us, Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.



Church Directory Update

We will be updating the Church's directory this year. Jason and Marilyn Robichaud will be spearheading this. Stay tuned for more information in January. Please welcome our new members and their children, Drew and Lily.



The Cleaning Corner

During this season of thankfulness and giving, I would like to take a moment to recognize the church members who volunteer each month to keep God's house clean. Cliff Stone, Joe Davenport, Martha & Fred Andrews with Emma and Kaitlyn Junkins and my husband Jeff Smith. I am reminded of John MacArthur's quote, "God has designed visible, public gifts to have a crucial place, but equally designed and more vital to life are the hidden gifts, thus maintaining the perspective of unity—all are essential to the working of the body of Christ."

I would also like to welcome our newest volunteers, Chuck & Chris Gallup. They will be joining our team in 2022.

I am blessed to be a part of this ministry. I have found as I am being obedient to God's word that I enjoy my alone time with Him, as His servant.

If you would like to serve God through this ministry, please contact me at 678-2028. We would love to have you as part of our cleaning team.
—— BJ Smith



Pastor Appreciation

The month of October is set aside as Pastor Appreciation month. WMBC certainly appreciates Pastor Tom & Betsy for their loving kindness and patience as they minister to this flock. We presented them with a cleverly designed jumbo card with rhymes, candy and a love offering of money. A heartfelt "Thank you" to Pastor Tom & Betsy!



"I will feed my flock and will lead them to rest," declares the Lord. —Ezekiel 34:15



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Then we spent three months in 2 Thessalonians, where we received practical instruction from God, through the Apostle Paul. Instruction like learning to forgive and to offer grace. We learned that Hell is real, and eternity is long. We learned to not be distracted or discouraged with our circumstances, but to stay focused on God, and on His word.

We learned that we can be comforted by knowing God's Plan, instead of fearful about how things all wrap up in the Last Days. We were reminded that Jesus WINS!

Paul also encouraged us to Stand Firm on the foundation of the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Paul also reminded us of the importance of prayer – praying for ourselves, praying for others – praying for strength and protection against the evil one – praying that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Paul told us of the importance of discipline – being trained to do right, so that when the pressure is on, we have muscle memory to follow God's direction, and not our own.

Then Paul finishes the letter by encouraging us all to do good – to live intentionally – to remember our call and our equipping, and to do what God has literally made us to do.

This Book – 2 Thessalonians, offers such practical, life-application teaching. I hope it spoke to you like it did to me.

We finished off the year with the first five chapters of the Book of Ecclesiastes, where Solomon tells us of the meaninglessness, the vanity of life lived for all the wrong reasons. He tells us of the meaninglessness, the vanity of life lived without a relationship with God. And he speaks from experience!

Friends, I hope our time in the Scriptures has been as meaningful to you this year as it has been for me. I pray as we look forward to 2022, God would continue to meet us, lead us, and guide us through whatever comes our way.

Ladies Bible Study



In this study we will break down the sometimes intimidating doctrine of the Trinity; and discover a beautiful, foundational view of our Triune God that will transform how we relate to Him. Tara-Leigh will teach us how understanding God's three-in-oneness and each of the Persons of God individually— Father, Son, and Spirit—will lead us to deeper intimacy with God and greater joy in knowing Him. We will learn about the unity and diversity of the Trinity as we explore the roles of each person of the Trinity. We will unpack truths about prayer and how we can commune with and talk to God. Lastly, we will seek to understand how to apply the truth of who God is in the Trinity to our everyday life. I am hoping this study challenges and encourages us as we begin 2022. I am looking forward to seeing you Wednesday mornings at 9am, starting January 5th. —Betsy DuBois

Free Street Church Cookie Drive



Our cookie drive was a success. Between our home and onsite bakers, we provided well over our 1,000 cookie goal.



"Taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." - Psalm 34:8

10-Year Anniversary Celebration

It wasn't just any other Sunday at WMBC. It was a very special Sunday. You knew it from the love, joy, gratitude, décor and from the smiles of friends both old and new. It was a reunion of sorts. It was the 10th anniversary of WMBC establishing a home base in its "new building."

After much mingling and friendly fellowship, the service began with testimonies honoring how God has used this body and building to grow His Kingdom. From a small group starting a church around a Kingfield kitchen table to our current building, many took steps of faith and made sacrifices. Members, volunteers from the community and people traveling from 23 other states banded together so that WMBC could have a home base and continue to grow. We can't know the eternal impact of this body or building yet, but the testimonies gave us a slight glimpse into God's eternal Kingdom. The testimonies proclaimed the importance of building relationships, dedication to full-time service, salvation accepted and a soul revived. Other proclamations made on this day about WMBC were, "family, that's why we're here," "labor of love," "God is at work," and "I see Jesus...I see love."

Pastor Tom preached from Romans 12:1-2 challenging us to remain faithful by living our lives sacrificially for the gospel. He reminded us how important it is to live our lives "continually proving the will of God." He encouraged us to accomplish this by reading God's word, prayer, being faithful to tasks and relationships, encouraging one another, holding fast and *"not forsaking our own assembling together" (Heb 10:25)*. One of the primary missions of WMBC is to be "a hospital for the soul." We need to "be the salt and the light." "We need each other to remain faithful" to our mission.

Between the service and the luncheon, there was a fun activity for the children. The adults mingled to observe a special memorial table, the WMBC timeline banner, "Building Up Reaching Out Remaining Faithful" as well as a display of WMBC ministry posters. The in-house ministries represented were: Service, Prayer, Card, CD, Ladies Sewing, Fellowship and Food, Children's Church and Nursery, AV/Technical, Public Relations, Bridging the Gap, Women's and Men's. Also on display were Community ministries supported by WMBC: Teen Challenge, Free Street Church, New Hope Women's Shelter, and First Choice Pregnancy Center.

The crowning jewel that concluded the celebration was an incredible meal themed in the spirit of Thanksgiving that was prepared by many hands. The tables were beautifully decorated, the servers were warm and welcoming, the food was delicious and the fellowship was uplifting.

God is good. He is faithful to complete His good work. This was quite evident at the 10-year anniversary celebration. We looked at the history, listened to the testimonies, were fed God's word and enjoyed food and fellowship. But He is not done yet. The WMBC community has much work to do as we look to the Author and Finisher of our faith.

— Chris Gallup

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting. Psalm 107:1



Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
—Colossians 3:17



Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

Mondays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

Mondays @ 6:30pm—Men's Bible Study

Tuesday @ 9:00am—Ladies Sewing Class

Wednesdays @ 9:00am—Ladies Bible /Study

3:00pm—Adult Bible Study

Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

What's Happening @ WMBC

January

1st—Happy New Year!

2nd—Lord's Supper during regular service

4th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

8th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

8th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

9th—Wendy Merrill, First Choice Pregnancy Center

11th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

16th—Potluck after church "Celebrating your Heritage"

22nd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

25th—Pastor, Elder's, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

29th—Bridging the Gap

February

1st—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

5th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

6th—Lord's Supper

8th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

12th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

22nd—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

26th—Bridging the Gap

26th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

March

1st—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

5th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

6th—Lord's Supper

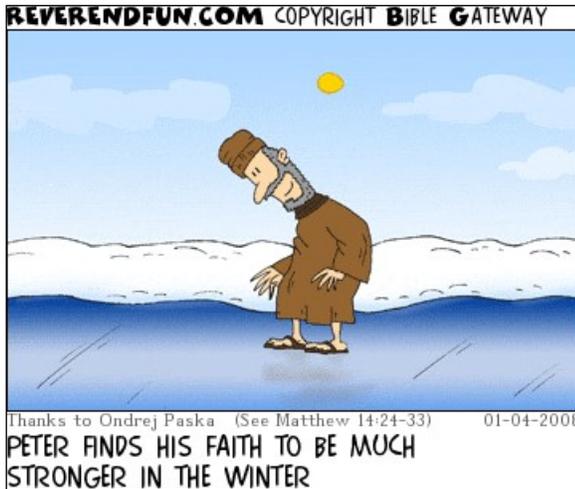
8th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons

12th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

22nd—Pastor, Elders, Deacons

26th—Bridging the Gap

26th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm



"Christmas Stockings" for Edgewood Manor



Annette Stanley has been organizing this ministry for almost 20 years, introducing it to WMBC when she became a member. This year, we were able to bless 36 residents with gifts.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35

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, Chris Gallup or Luci Milewski or email:

newsletter@westernmountainschurch.org

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