WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 13, Spring 2022

PT Corner

Most people in Maine look forward to Spring, especially after a long, cold, snowy winter. The newness of the buds on the trees, the green grass, the daffodils and crocuses all make us feel pretty good after the one note wonder of winter. New beginnings often make people consider what we should be doing new in our own lives. Some people choose the new year to make changes, and some people choose a time like the Spring to make new changes. These regular markers in our lives provide opportunities for evaluation, and then change.

Here is an observation I have made over my five decades on this planet. Some of us – maybe even most of us are not real fans of change. Yes, we see the importance of it. We even sometimes strive to make changes – diets, exercise, bettering ourselves through a reading program, you know the drill. And there are others who are so comfortable in their sameness that change does not even really occur to them, and is avoided at all costs.

My encouragement for all of us as we move into Spring is this: I believe God's Word calls us to live a life of INTENTIONALITY. Let me explain what I mean. God, according to *Ephesians 2, verse 10*, made us for a purpose – a specific purpose for each individual person. If we are simply going through the motions of life, and not seeking out, and then working through this purpose, we are living life without intention.

Maybe you read this, and you say to yourself, I do not know what God has purposed for my life. So, what do I do? How do I start? How can I discover this purpose?

Good questions! We can start by living out the purpose God made for every Christian – following the commands of God. Jesus told the Pharisees the two most important commands – love God, and love your neighbor. We can do this today! We can do this right now!

We can also seek out our specific purpose through prayer. Our God is a God of revelation. He is not hiding from us. In fact, the Book of Revelation tells us that He stands at the door and knocks! He is waiting

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Bible Studies

Other than the obvious...coffee and snacks, **Bible Study** is a way to get to know others and their needs so we can pray for them. We are part of the body of believers and therefore our dependence on God and others is essential. We are called to be a light in the dark world (*John 1:4-5*). Although attending church is part of being a Christian, joining in on a **Bible Study** and/or **Sunday School** offers us a deeper dig into God's word and others outlook on scripture. It helps us to better know God and His character, gives us useful evangelizing tools, and strengthens our faith as we become aware of others prayers and answered prayers.

1 John 5:14 says that *if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.* Daily communication with God strengthens our dependence on Him, helps us to become spiritually mature so when life hands us lemons we know where our help comes from. *1 Peter 2:2* talks about our spiritual maturity and that *like newborn babes we start out just wanting milk and crave more as we grow*. By joining in on a **Bible Study** our appetite grows and deepens our desire for more spiritual knowledge and helps us to live out our faith.

God made us to need Him and others... you can't be a standalone Christian. There are several opportunities for **Bible Study** throughout the week and **Sunday School** at WMBC. Come join us, get to know others and you will be blessed, as will we. See the back page of the newsletter or weekly bulletin for a list of active **Bible Studies**.

——-Carol Thomas

Food and Fellowship

How many of you like food (other than Pastor Tom)? How many of you like talking with others? *1 John 1:7 says, "but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."* See, Tom especially, it's not wrong to eat and have fellowship with each other, but if we do it walking in the Light, the Light of Jesus Christ, He will cleanse us in His blood. In *Acts 2:42*, it says it's even great to do so often! ☺ The verse says, *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* In *Romans 12:5,* it says, *"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* So, together, we are one body in Christ. We should act like we aren't strangers! *John 13:35* says, *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* ——- Erin Fletcher, Age 11

Prayer Ministry

Matthew 6:9-13

How's your prayer life? This question convicts me more often than not. God's Word tells us to "*Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1Thes 5:17-18)*. Prayer requires effort and commitment on our part, yet it is such a unique honor and privilege to talk intimately with the one true God.

Our Heavenly Father loves and delights in His children and desires a relationship with them. Prayer is a vital part of this relationship. Prayer begins our relationship with God; it then builds this relationship with the Lord, builds up His Church, and ultimately brings glory to Him.

Our faith begins with a prayer when we realize our sin, turn to Him and sincerely ask Jesus for His gracious forgiveness. We build our faith and trust in Him as we confidently pray to our Heavenly Father with adoration, thanksgiving, individual needs and requests (*1 John 5:4*). Prayer builds up the Church as we pray for and encourage each other. Prayer exhibits our dependence on an almighty, omniscient, omnipresent loving Father Who is only capable of good.

Ultimately, prayer brings glory to God. The psalmist, David, prays to the LORD in *Psalm 141:2* and asks, *"Let my prayer be set forth before you as incense…"* Let's fast forward to *Revelation 5:8*. The setting is the Throne Room and the Lamb is about to open the scroll. As He takes the scroll, 4 creatures and 24 elders fall down holding golden bowls of incense *"which are the prayers of the saints."* What an awesome privilege to know that the prayers we say today will be part of this incredible praise and worship as our worthy Victor prepares to open the scroll!

"Saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing" (Rev 5:12).

We have an amazing opportunity to serve the Lord, our church and others through the **Prayer Ministry** at WMBC. Our resident prayer warriors, Crystal and Bryan Fitch, lead the **Prayer Ministry**. They have been members of WMBC for the past 14 ½ years and started the **Prayer Ministry** shortly after attending. They enjoyed praying during services at their previous church and desired to continue that commitment at WMBC.

Crystal and Bryan describe prayer as "invaluable." "Asking God to bless our time every Sunday as well as praying for our pastor, the congregation, the praise team, **Children's Church, Jr. Church** and all the teachers while the service is actually happening is powerful."

What they like best about this ministry is that anyone can participate and many do. There are no special guidelines or any specific way to pray. It's a conversation with God – there are no judgments; God knows our heart no matter what words we use or don't use. Most people are blessed by their time lifting up our church body in prayer.

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Baby Bottle Collection

In January, WMBC collected a love offering for the **First Choice Pregnancy Center**—one of the ministries we support. WMBC attendees took baby bottles home and filled them up with change and returned them at the end of the month. A total of $1,034.93 was sent to **First Choice** in addition to our regular monthly support. We are pleased to have so many of our people support their efforts on encouraging pregnant women to choose life for their babies. In their January newsletter, **First Choice** reported that in the 4th quarter of 2021, 9 known babies were saved!

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for us to have these kinds of conversations with Him, asking Him to reveal what He is calling us to do. And friends, be sure that we are good listeners as we pray, so that we hear Him when He tells us where He wants us to plug in.

My hope for Spring for each one of us is that we would begin something new. That we would not leave our Christianity on the bedside table, or in the seat at church. But instead, we would look to live intentional lives in service to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

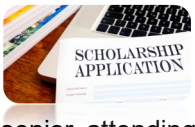
What are your passions? What are your gifts and talents? What are your resources? How will God direct you to utilize these things as a member – a part of the Family of God? If we leave these questions unanswered, then we are missing out on the abundant joy that Christ Jesus promises to those who intentionally live for Him.

John 15

10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

WMBC Scholarship



For the 6th 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, contact the church or view the microcast on our website. The deadline for the Scholarship Applications is May 15th, 2022.

$2,022 in 2022

Have you ever heard of a palindrome? The definition is a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same backward as forward. Here are a couple examples: RACECAR is one you may remember from school or how about this date 02/22/20. A recent fun palindrome: 2/22/22 is one of wildest palindromes and is unofficially called "Twosday". The next "Twosday" won't happen for 400 years in 2422. Imagine being born at 2:22 am and celebrating your 22nd birthday on 2/22/22?

According to the Guinness World Records, the Finnish 19-letter word saippuakivikauppias (a soapstone vendor), is the world's longest palindrome word in everyday use.

Well, it turns out Western Mountains Baptist Church (WMBC) has a unique palindrome like situation this year I want to tell you about and hope you participate in.

Most of you know we recently celebrated our 10-year anniversary in our beautiful building, and with that came a mortgage which we are in a position to pay off this year with your help! If each WMBC member family made a faith pledge of $2,022 which is roughly one month's mortgage payment, we could pay off the mortgage this year in 2022! This will be a defining moment for WMBC and another reason to praise and give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We will have envelopes in the chairs specifically for the "**$2,022 in 2022**" campaign or you can simply put your gift in the tithe box with a note in the memo section letting us know you want this to go toward the mortgage. There are many options to get this done. Maybe you are willing and able to do this as a one-time gift. Maybe you want to do this in monthly gifts, or weekly gifts. Maybe $2,022 is a seemingly unreachable goal. Would you consider half, or a quarter, to help the church get to the finish line? Maybe God has blessed you mightily this year, and through prayer, and listening to God, He is encouraging you to give beyond one month. However God is directing your steps, please respond accordingly.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. It's each of you that truly makes WMBC so special. I look forward to seeing how God blesses us through the "**$2,022 in 2022**" campaign. This Campaign will officially kick off at the beginning of April, targeting April 3 as the first Sunday to accept pledges.

Remain Faithful, Jim Cockerham, Deacon

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It's an encouraging ministry when witnessing God's answers to prayer and assuring people that others care enough to pray for them and their loved ones. Crystal and Bryan are so thankful and honored by the prayer concerns that are placed in the prayer baskets for Sunday morning prayer. These requests are also handed to Pastor Tom so that he can pray specifically for them during the week.

The Fitches also lead the WMBC Saturday night prayer meeting at 6:30 pm. They pray for churches that have closed, open churches, local officials (wardens, police, etc.), the community, the Maine Baptist Assoc., and often the Sunday morning prayer requests, too.

In addition to prayer times during the service on Sunday mornings and Saturday nights; folks can email a private or shareable request to Pastor Tom during the week at pastorwmbc@gmail.com and also submit a prayer request to Pastor Tom on the WMBC website: westernmountainschurch.org under contact us.

If you'd like to participate in the **Prayer Ministry,** please contact Crystal or Bryan by calling or texting 491-7433, or email westernmountainbaptist@tds.net.

To learn more about the Prayer Ministry, please check out the microcast on the church's website: westernmountainschurch.org.

In summary, the foundation of WMBC, our pastor, leadership, church body and the **Prayer Ministry** is a testament to the verse in *Matthew 21:13a* when Jesus said, *"It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer."* It is an honor to be a part of the membership at WMBC. ——-Chris

Women's Tea

Saturday,

April 9, 2022

@ 1:00 PM

Speaker: Georgie Woodford

"Women Teaching Women"

FMI call Pat Sanders at 684-2158.

Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

Mondays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

@ 6:30pm—Men's Bible Study

Tuesday @ 9:00am—Ladies Sewing Class

Wednesdays @ 9:00am—Ladies Bible Study

@ 3:00pm—Adult Bible Study (Freeman Twp)

Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

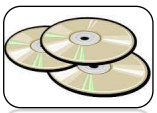
Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

John Chestnutt, Tom DuBois, Jim Cockerham, David Fletcher, subs Isaiah Dunphy and Jay Robichaud

If anyone is interested in joining the League in the fall, please see

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ——- 1 Corinthians 12:4

Did You Know?



We have a **CD ministry**. Now some of you may think CDs are a thing of the past and you are partially right. But some of our wiser more experienced brothers and sisters have been unable to navigate the internet. That certainly doesn't make them less wise or lacking in life's experiences. It simply means they would rather stick with what they know. If you know someone like this or if you are someone who would rather not try to conquer the internet, please contact Pat Pray at the **CD Ministry** table in the back of the sanctuary after service. Or you can call her at 628-4624.

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

What's Happening @ WMBC

April

1st—"$2,022 in 2022" Kickoff

2nd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

3rd—Lord's Supper

5th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

9th—Women's Tea @ 1pm

10th—Palm Sunday

12th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

15th—Good Friday Service @ 6:30pm

17th—Easter Sunrise Service @ 6am

followed by Easter Breakfast @ 7am & Worship @ 10am

23rd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

26th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

30th—Bridging the Gap

May

1st—Lord's Supper

3rd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

7th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

10th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

14th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

24th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

28th—Bridging the Gap

28th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

June

4th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

5th—Lord's Supper

7th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

11th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

14th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

25th—Bridging the Gap

25th Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons @ 6:30pm

Western Mountains Baptist Church

928 Carrabassett Rd (Rt 27), New Portland, ME 04961

PO Box 264, Kingfield, ME 04947 * 207-265-2557

www.westernmountainschurch.org

pastorwmbc@gmail.com