



PT Corner



The SCOTUS this month did something many people thought would never happen. They overturned Roe versus Wade, removing the constitutional protection for abortion. In my naivete, I thought this decision would be widely celebrated by all Christians. However, social media has proven me very wrong. Then I began to pay more attention to why some believe what they believe, and why they would be angry/distraught/sad/confused by this ruling.

First, let me clearly state my own opinion, which I believe I can support through the Scriptures. No matter the moral quandary, no matter the consequences of poor decisions, no matter the horrible circumstances that we can conjure up regarding an unexpected or unwanted pregnancy, the next best decision should not be “kill the baby.”

Having said that, and having believed it, I also (think) I hear the arguments and the debates from those who think differently than me.

I hear the argument that many pregnancies and the burdens that come with them often fall solely on the woman carrying the baby. I readily acknowledge this is wrong and needs to change. Let’s work on this together. I love the example set in the Song of Solomon. This love story between Solomon and his Shulamite wife walks us through their courtship, and on two separate occasions, Solomon says this (in chapter 2, verse 7 and 3, verse 5).

*“I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
By the gazelles or by the hinds of the field,
That you will not arouse or awaken my love
Until she pleases.”*

She wants him, and he wants her, but he knows they must WAIT! And wait they do until the consummation of their marriage in chapter 4.

We must teach the men to be people of responsibility, both in their choices, and in dealing with the consequences of their choices. Men, step up! Be respectful partners. Be responsible parents. Take care of those God has entrusted into your care.

I hear the argument that our government has done little to support women through their pregnancies with proper affordable health care. This too is solvable at the ballot box. We can support and promote candidates that understand the issues, and who propose legislation that deals with this weak link in the system.

I hear the argument that all these pregnancies are going to lead to a need for more adoptions and more foster care needs. Adoptions in this country are crazy expensive. We can solve that problem, right? We are smart enough, and capable enough to look at this issue, analyze the issue, and develop a better system that makes adoption of newborns and babies relatively quick and inexpensive.

We can do a much better job of challenging people, including ourselves, to participate in the foster care program. We can figure out why more people do not participate in this program, and look to remove any barriers that exist. We can better inform families on how they can be part of the foster care system, making a difference in the lives of children.

The last argument I will try and address is the “my body, my choice” argument. Given that I am a man, I am starting from a position of weakness. But hear me on this. The Scriptures are clear. Let me start with what God says through the Psalmist in Psalm 139. **We are fearfully, wonderfully, and skillfully MADE!** BY GOD! I did not make me. You did not make you.

As a child of the King, we are His! Ephesians 2, verse 10 says this:

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

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God's workmanship – that is who we are, and each of us was made for good works. I cannot believe that one of those works is killing the unborn.

I know there are likely other arguments that could be made. I know that there is a good chance I will not convince many to change their attitude or their opinion. So, I hope we will all consider what the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says in Romans 15, verses 5-7.

5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

Christ accepted me when I still had many challenges and wrong thinking to overcome. Christ still accepts me, and I am SURE I still have challenges and wrong thinking to overcome. Our ultimate goal, according to this passage is to have the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus. Paul is praying for us toward that end! And the purpose of this oneness is to glorify God.

So, we may not see eye to eye on this subject, but it will not cause me to reject you. I hope you can say the same thing to me. I hope that we can look for, and work toward solutions to the issues that are of concern as we begin this new chapter in our country.

As we enter into difficult conversations, maybe even full-blown debates, may we remember the words of 1 Peter 3, verse 15.

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Yes, make a defense. But remember how he concludes his statement. With gentleness and reverence. Friends, avoid the shouting matches. Avoid the name calling. The goal is to be of one mind with Christ. The goal is to share hope, our hope in Christ Jesus.

Remember John's description of Jesus. He was full of grace and truth. So, let's be gracious to one another, as we share God's absolute truth.

One last thing. I hope we all realize the truth in the Gospel that tells us that Christ went to the cross to cover our sins. If you have made that decision to abort your baby, there is forgiveness for you at the foot of the cross. 1 John 1, verse 9 says it best.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Friends, that is God's demonstration of His unconditional, self-sacrificial love. He offers it to you and to me. Our job is to confess it to Him, and lay it at His feet. The cross, the sacrifice of Jesus is intended to remove the penalty of the sin, and to remove our guilt and our shame. Claim it! Live it. And love Him for it.

2022 Mortgage Payoff Campaign

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.’” —Malachi 3:10



Thank you for your faithful donations towards the mortgage payoff. As of April 1st, our mortgage balance was \$93,836. We have received \$19,505.00 toward the mortgage leaving our remaining balance at \$69,631.62 as of June 30th!

First Choice Pregnancy Center

For Mother's Day in May, we held a fundraiser for the [First Choice Pregnancy Center](#) in Waterville. We raised approximately \$400 due to your generosity! Please pray for the Lord to touch hearts, to provide peace, guidance and everything needed to choose life!



Vacation Bible School

Monumental Vacation Bible School – Celebrating God’s Greatness



Kids chasing bubbles, making new friends, cheerfully eating vegetables, joyful squeals, smiles, blue skies, desert scenes, cacti, praises, glow sticks, jumping, twirling – these were just some of the sights and sounds as we celebrated God’s greatness at **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** from June 20-24. There were 36 children registered, 16 teens helping, 22 church members volunteering and 8 moms participating. All in all, a success!

Each day during the opening ceremony, the children were presented with one aspect of God’s greatness and that became the common theme as they made their way through the various stations. They learned that God loves us no matter what, God is with us everywhere, God is in charge, God is stronger than anything (even death!), and God is surprising!

They heard stories of Joseph’s trials and faithfulness as he depended on God. Jesus and Pharaoh even made an appearance! They watched videos showing real-life accounts of children overcoming adversity, played games and had hands-on science-y demonstrations. Midway through the morning everyone stopped at the snack station for refreshment.

The mission focus for the week was Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Maine Inc. The children were asked to bring in donations to support the CEF Chapel on Wheels. The donation amounts were expressed in terms of gallons of gas for transporting the Chapel to state fairs. **VBS** donations equaled \$336.50 or 67 gallons of gas! For every \$5.00 a bottle was filled with colored water. The five colors were used to explain the Gospel Story to the children: black represented sin, red – the blood of Jesus, white – His blood makes us pure, yellow – a home in heaven, and green – growing in Christ. The bottles were then placed along the front stage so that the children could visualize the total donation.

The week culminated with a closing ceremony on Sunday with continued praises, a coinciding message from Pastor Tom and a BBQ. All weeklong, the young people heard messages of hope and love, perhaps some for the first time. Let’s pray for the next generation that these messages have touched young hearts and will bring forth new and/or strengthened faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 18:16 But Jesus called the children to Him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. _____ Chris Gallup



Bridging the Gap

Cathy Haines, my long time ministry partner at **BTG**, has decided to retire her duties to pursue life's other endeavors.

Cathy and I started as delivery volunteers in 2017 when the ministry was being run out of the Methodist Church in Kingfield. Pastor Connie Maginnis spearheaded that effort until she took ill and had to step away. Upon her passing, the staff felt they were unable to continue running the ministry and asked Cathy and I if we could take it on. So, in 2018, with the help of some remaining volunteers from the Methodist Church, and new ones from WMBC, the current **BTG** ministry was born.

The ministry has grown from 35 to 70 recipients mostly due to Cathy's tireless efforts at fundraising. She was a hands on manager that covered every detail so each meal was delivered without exception. She will be truly missed.

Luci Milewski came on board as a delivery person shortly after the transition to WMBC. Her enthusiasm and organizational skills were an instant infusion of energy. She became part of our leadership team and has graciously agreed to assume Cathy's duties.



I'm looking forward to seeing this ministry continue to provide the same God driven services that our community has come to experience and appreciate. —Jeff Smith

Men's Ministry

My name is Jean Boucher and I head up the **Men's Ministry**. What the ministry does is give opportunities for men to be able to get together to study God's word, build relationships, and have the opportunity to play and work together. Some of the things we do are Monday night Bible Study at the church. We study verse by verse books of the Bible and look at ways to apply that to our lives. On the first Saturday of the month we have breakfast and a devotion and discussion. On occasion we take on work projects to minister to others while working together. We also try to put together small retreats or overnight events. The bonds that are built between men are important especially in times where the things of the world continue to cause division and separation. **John 13:35** puts it best, "By this they will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."



The world puts plenty of pressure on men these days. We try to create a safe atmosphere where men can share their burdens without feeling the judgment that comes from others. **Galatians 6:2** says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

God has called men to set the example for others. Unfortunately, many of us did not have good examples to follow, but as we follow the example of Christ we can be the difference in someone else's life. We invite all men whether members or not to come join in our journey. Monday night study is at 6:30pm at the church. Saturday morning men's breakfast is on the first Saturday of the month at the church starting around 7:45am.

WMBC Scholarship

Every year WMBC awards a \$1,000 **scholarship** to a student graduating within the Mt. Abram and Carra- bec regions who is pursuing post- secondary educa- tion. This year's recipient is Zekari- ah Coolong from Strong, ME.



Congratulations, Zekariah!



Thank you to all of our **VBS** volunteers!



Valley of the Shadow of Death

When God wants your attention, He has ways of getting it. It will always bring Him Glory.



Three years this coming November, Richard (Richie) Schobel was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. His cancer doctors gave him three to six months to live if he chose not to take treatment. So without hesitation Richie decided he was going to try treatment. He knew on that day he had to get close to the Lord. Richie had grown up going to church but when he became a teenager he'd fallen away. It was time to get right with God. Early in his illness he said he was visiting a local business and one of the employees he knew (Joe Davenport) offered him a copy of Our Daily Bread and invited him to church. And ever since that day it's been a blessing. With all the prayers for him, prayers by him, and coming to church on Sundays, it's lifted up his heart and made him see life differently.

Richie will be on treatments for the duration of his life. One treatment a week for two weeks then a week off. "That's it, no breaks, it is what it is," he says.

Before Richie was given his cancer diagnosis, he'd had a major stroke. He lost all ability to talk. The stroke woke him up in that he knew he had to change some things in his life. But God wasn't part of Richie's plan yet.

When I asked Richie how he sees God working through him now he said, "I see Him working through me every day." After chemo treatments Richie has "down time." It's what the drugs do to his physical body. But Richie says, "through Him I get strength." He is only able to keep going and persevere because of God. He says, "I'm like a Timex, I take a licking and keep on ticking." He wants to see his grandkids grow up and he's just not ready to leave yet. But if the Lord calls him home tomorrow, he's ready for that too.

His family is very supportive and gives him the encouragement he needs. He's taken up golf and an occasional winter vacation in Florida. His main source of hope comes from God. He talks to God regularly and asks for His blessing.

Richie knows all too well he played hard in his life. And he feels as though he's paying for his sins. But on the other hand, he's asked the Lord for forgiveness and believes it's been granted to him: that Jesus paid the ultimate price. Richie takes all his days one at a time. His favorite scripture is:

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me. —Psalm 23:4

— Pat Pray

Women's Ministry

The **Women's Ministry** meets twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons at 1:00pm.

We are here to minister to women of all ages, young and old. We do Bible study once a month and have fellowship meeting once a month.



For Bible study, we focus on a scripture or subject that we feel will minister to women or one that has gotten a woman's curiosity. We read and discuss the Word and cross reference it, then take prayer requests.

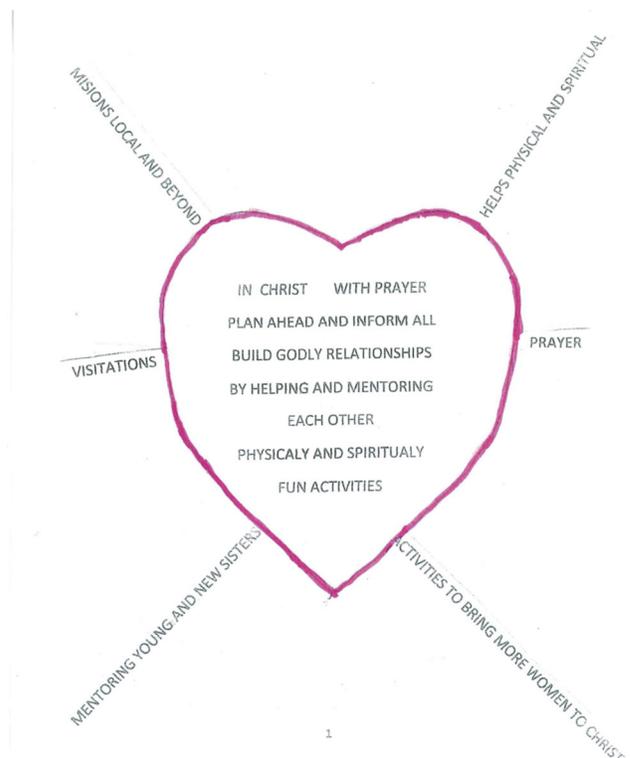
For our fellowship meeting, we bring handwork; from coloring to games, knitting or sewing, etc. If someone has something that they want help with we try to help. We also include a scripture or two and take prayer requests.

We have a Ladies Brunch or Tea once a year with a speaker.

Solon's Women's Shelter (New Hope) has been a recipient of gifts we have made and bought. One year we gave mittens and hats to Kingfield Elementary School. We are open to other suggestions.

My main reason for doing the **Women's Ministry** is for women to get closer to Jesus, to know their sisters in Christ, and to become comfortable enough to call a sister in time of need or praise. Please join us.

— Pat Sanders



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 (on break)

@ 5:00pm—Adult Bible Study (Freeman Twp)

Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting



CPR Class

A special thank you to New Portland resident, Nanci Mahlmann, EMT-CC, for teaching a CPR class on March 19 to WMBC members and attendees. Ten people earned their certification in CPR.



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

July

- 2nd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 3rd—Lord's Supper
- 4th—Independence Day
- 7th—VBS Follow-up meeting @ 4:00pm
- 12th—Women's Fellowship @ 1pm
- 12th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 16th—Kingfield Days
- 24th—River Rafting & Picnic after church
- 26th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 26th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 30th—Bridging the Gap Picnic @ church
- 31st—Baptism at Clearwater Lake, Industry after church

August

- 2nd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 6th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 7th—Lord's Supper
- 9th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 9th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 23rd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 23rd—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 27th—Bridging the Gap

September

- 3rd—Men's Breakfast @ 8am
- 4th—Lord's Supper
- 5th—Labor Day
- 6th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm
- 13th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 13th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 24th—Bridging the Gap
- 27th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm
- 27th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons @ 6:30pm

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