



WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 21 Spring 2024

Pastor Tom's Corner

Trustworthy



One of the reasons many of us live here in Maine is the changing of the seasons. By this time every year, many of us are longing for Spring. We are ready to put the cold of winter behind us, and we look forward to the warmth, the green grass, and the leaves once again unfurling in the trees. Then we look forward to the warmth of summer, and walks along the beach, and dips in the lake. Then as the summer heat begins to take its toll, we look forward to the cooler days of Autumn, and the beauty of the changing of the leaves. And then for many of us, the promise of the coming snow and the fun we have in the snow, creates some anticipation in us as well. One of the things we may not always consider, as we go from season to season is that our God is behind it all. He is steadfast and true. In fact, this changing of the seasons reminds me of the promise of God made to Noah and his family after the flood, found in **Genesis 8:22**. "While the earth remains, Seed time and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease." When the sun comes up, it is a reminder of His promise. When the sun sets, it is a reminder of His promise. When winter turns to spring, it is a reminder of His promise. God, because of His infallible nature, MUST be true to His promises! We can count on it! Each day, as the sun rises and the sun sets, and each season, as God fulfills this promise, made way back in the days of Noah, I hope we take stock, and KNOW that we serve a faithful and trustworthy God, who keeps His promises. What promise of God do you need to remember today? What promise of God do you need to claim as your own today?

Resolve Life Center (Formerly First Choice Pregnancy Center)

Wendy Merrill, Executive Director at Resolve Life Center, visited WMBC during our Sunday Service on February 25 to update the congregation. We have the privilege of allocating funds to the Resolve Life Center in Waterville as part of our annual budget. We also sponsor "Baby Bottle" collections throughout the year (see back page). First, Wendy acknowledged that the abortion topic is uncomfortable for some but she boldly proclaimed the forgiveness of Jesus Christ. She also reminded us of how precious life is to the Lord using Scripture. One verse that she so beautifully illustrated was **Psalms 139:13** "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Wendy is a knitter and sees every stitch flow across her knitting needles as she creates her piece. She related this to the Lord knitting us in our mother's womb. He sees and knows everything about us, too, as our lives flowed through His hands when he formed us.

As she spoke of how all humans have intrinsic value and shared more Scripture, it was very sobering to be reminded of Maine passing the 9-month abortion bill into law and now wants to enshrine abortion as a right in our Constitution. More positively, she pointed out that nationwide there are 2700 life centers versus 700 abortion clinics, and millions of lives have been saved between 2008 - 2022 in nationally affiliated life centers. She is amazed by God's provision and the generosity of His people. After purchasing a new home for Resolve, they didn't borrow one cent for the \$700,000.00 required for renovations. Volunteers have donated 91 Saturdays towards this new facility and provided skills, services, parts, technology, etc.

All services offered at Resolve are free and include ultrasound, post abortion counseling, lab tests, parenting classes, abstinence education in the schools etc. There's much that we can do as Christians to "speak up for those who can't speak for themselves". **Prov 31:8**. We can give of our time, money, resources, volunteer, become a prayer partner, become a board member, write to your legislator on life issues, give testimony to the legislature, etc.

Two dates to place on your calendar are: May 18th the annual Walk for Life; and on May 25 The Life Revolution event with Seth Gruber organized by Wendy's young friend, Anna.

Pictured above is Wendy Merrill and Anna.

—Chris Gallup

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exalts, and with my song I shall thank Him." Psalm 28:7

Ladies Sewing and Rug Braiding Classes

As I have been recently attending the Tuesday morning quilting and rug braiding groups, I have been witnessing the benefits of the camaraderie and fellowship that harken back to the days of barn raisings and quilting bees. Even with all the modern inventions and technology today there is still a tendency to become isolated and lonely. Women in generations passed overcame geographic isolation by gathering at special times to help each other at quilting bees. The same ministry of helping, problem-solving, fellowship, and spiritual encouragement happen every Tuesday morning from nine until noon at the Western Mountains Baptist Church quilting and rug braiding groups.

When people get together, we realize we are often dealing with the same sorts of problems in our lives. We are not alone. We can share disappointments and triumphs and lessons we have learned along the way. Now if you are thinking of joining us, don't worry about being perfect or making the perfect quilt or rug. Basic sewing skills are needed, but remember we learn more from our mistakes than from our successes. In life it's easy to get hung up thinking if we don't measure up. We just give up. Well, we've all been there, but help is available. We are better off if we remind ourselves daily, that we are not perfect, we are forgiven.

As we learn to love our neighbors as ourselves, we realize that includes learning to forgive our neighbors as we learn to forgive ourselves, even for not being the perfect people we thought we were supposed to be. Only the hand of God can take the broken pieces of our lives and turn them into masterpieces. Let's remember to not stress about being perfect, but thank God for His guiding hand and think about the words written by George Beverly Shea in his song "He's Still Working on Me".

He's still working on me
To make me what I need to be
It took him just a week to make the moon and stars
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars
How loving and patient He must be
'Cause He's still workin' on me

Phillipian 1:6 "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

—Jean Sawtell



Kathy McClure (L) started the sewing group in Oct. 2018. Here she is helping Elizabeth Davis who with Kathy's guidance has made a quilt for each of her six kids.



Pat Sanders, Eddie Curtis



Jackie Kennedy, Crystal Fitch, BJ Smith and Kathy McClure



Kay Sawyer and Pat Pray



Doris Foley and Cindy Dunphy



Janet Scolerio



Doris Foley, Debbi Rudolph and Eddie Curtis



Tammy Dunphy

Wednesday Night Bible Studies

Last fall 2023, WMBC offered three classes on Wednesday nights studying a variety of topics. Each study consisted of a video presentation by a reputable Bible teacher. The discussion following each presentation was guided by one of the deacons or elders.



Each class included 10 sessions and featured the following topics and teachers:

- 1) "Where Do we Go from Here ?" presented by Pastor David Jeremiah, and facilitated by a combination of Dean Stanley and Jean Boucher. (How Bible prophecy relates to current events)
- 2) "Getting to the Heart of Parenting" presented by Pastor Paul David Tripp, and facilitated by David and Nicole Fletcher
- 3) "Forever" presented by Paul David Tripp and facilitated by Chuck Gallup, (Life isn't a destination, but preparation for eternity).

Among those who participated a few had these comments:

Georgie Woodford attended the prophecy study and said she appreciated the way each class focused on answering the questions, "What does it mean? and Where do we go from here?" She said it was clear in the discussion that "... there were differences of opinion on details not spelled out in the Bible. . ." Georgie added "... that these differences of opinion. . ." on things that God did not see fit to reveal in his Word, "... do not need to divide us . . ."

Stephanie Diedricks shared this about "Getting to the Heart of Parenting",

"Pastor Paul David Tripp has an attention grabbing way of delivering a message . . . He uses personal experience combined with knowledge and love of God's Word . . ." She went on to say that "... He adds humor to advice that many of us parents are able to relate to. . ."

About the "Forever" class, Gidget and Chuck Royce had this to say "... We enjoyed every week and didn't want to miss a single one. . . The classes . . . changed our perspective from focusing on day to day life, to seeing life through the lens of forever " (keeping Heaven in mind) "and living for that purpose. . ."

A new group of classes started February 21, 2024 at 6:15 PM and will continue for 10 weekly sessions. The topics included are:

"A Study on Israel"

Presented by Christians United for Israel (CUFI) featuring multiple speakers.

Discussions will be guided by Deacon Jim Cockerham and a study on marriage titled, "What Did You Expect ?"

Presented by Paul David Tripp and discussions guided by Pastor Tom DuBois.

We are encouraged by participation in the first series of studies and anticipate lively discussions during the next round of classes. At WMBC we strive to offer opportunities for learning discipleship. Application of God's principles continues to be relevant and needed in our world today . There is no cost. If you can't attend all 10 sessions, please join us when you can. Keep an eye out for the next round of Wednesday night studies and join us, as you feel led.



— Jean Sawtell

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; "II Timothy 3:16

Serving our Seniors

On January 18th, the Serving Our Seniors (SOS) ministry hosted an incredible event with guest speakers Janice and Carie from "Seniors Plus". The amount of information and resources provided by these highly trained, personable speakers was exhilarating. Topics discussed included: how they are funded, services provided for seniors, financial support for caregivers, services specific for veterans and services specific for seniors with dementia. Other topics were adaptive equipment, classes/programs available for seniors as well as caregivers, and assistance with meals. The presentation regarding Medicare was rife with helpful information. They provided counseling to better understand Medicare, as well as discussion about the differences between Medicare Advantage and Medicare Original, Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), and Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) which is the highest tier of financial assistance within the Medicare Buy-in program.

The speakers also answered any questions and addressed individual concerns or issues that some of the attendees were dealing with. The SOS hopes to repeat this event and invite these guest speakers back when the weather allows for more of our seniors to be able to attend.

If you have questions or need help with any of the topics mentioned above, you can contact:

SeniorsPlus (Franklin, Oxford, Androscoggin counties) (207) 795-4010

Spectrum Generations. (Somerset county). (207) 474-8552 / 1-800-639-1553

—Stephanie Diedricks

WMBC Scholarship

For the 8th year, WMBC is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a high school senior attending Carrabec or Mt Abram. Students are encouraged to complete the application on our website @ www.westernmountainchurch.org or complete a printed form and mail to: WMBC, PO Box 264, Kingfield, ME 04947. FMI see the guidance counselor at school or contact the church. Deadline for the Scholarship Applications is May 15, 2024.

Cabin Fever Reliever

The annual Cabin Fever Reliever held on February 10th was a real family affair. Teens were helping littles, moms were organizing and leading activities, and dads were tending to the children. Various activity stations were available including a selection of crafts, face painting, decorating Valentine cookies, building blocks, balloon animals as well as tunnel and tent exploration. An informal survey on Sunday showed that the bounce house was the #1 favorite among the children.



Weekly Meetings @ WMBC

Sunday @ 9am—Sunday School—all ages

Sunday @ 10am—Church Service

Sundays @ 6:30pm—Youth Group

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)

@ 6:15pm—Discipleship Studies

Thursdays @ 9am—Strong Bones Exercise for Seniors

Saturday @ 6:00pm—Prayer Meeting

Right Now Media

In addition to the physical library at WMBC, we have an abundance of biblical educational resources online available to anyone affiliated with Western Mountains Baptist Church. RightNow Media is a "streaming library of more than 20,000 Bible study videos" and includes kid's shows such as "Superbook", "Bibleman", and "The Creators". A sampling of study topics from their site are: "Living for Christ in a Culture that Doesn't", "Your Marriage; God's Masterpiece", "Joshua - Courage for everyday people", parenting, anxiety, prayer and many more. Go to westernmountainchurch.org and you'll find RightNow Media under the Media tab. WMBC pays an annual fee to enable us free access to RightNow Media, however, some of the study guides may include a fee.

—Chris Gallup

Baby Bottle Collection Campaign

Fill a baby bottle with change for Resolve Life Center. We collected \$750.00 in January. Another campaign is planned in May for Mother's Day. Look for the bottles!

"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, ..." Psalm 127:3

Western Mountains Baptist Church

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What's Happening @ WMBC

April

2nd—Pastor Tom's Anniversary with WMBC

2nd—Church Leadership Meeting @6:30pm

6th— Men's Breakfast @ 8am

7th— Lord's Supper

9th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

9th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

12th— Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

13th—Ladies Brunch @ 10am / Jean Sawtell speaker

18th— SOS (Serving Our Seniors) Meeting @ 10am

19-21—Weekend to Remember in Portland

23rd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @1:00pm

23rd—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

27th—Bridging the Gap ~ Hot meals delivered to elderly

May

2nd — National Day of Prayer

4th —Men's Breakfast @ 8am

5th — Lord's Supper

7th—Church Leadership Meeting @ 6:30pm

12th—Mother's Day

14th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @1pm

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

16th— SOS (Serving Our Seniors) Meeting @ 10am

25th—Bridging the Gap ~ Hot meals delivered to elderly

25-27—Memorial Day Weekend

28th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

28th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30pm

June

1st—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

2nd—Lord's Supper

4th—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

11th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

16th—Father's Day

20th—SOS (Serving Our Seniors) Meeting @ 10am

24-28—Vacation Bible School (VBS)

25th— Women's Fellowship Meeting @1pm

25th—Pastor, Elders, Deacons Meeting @ 6:30

29th—Bridging the Gap ~ Hot meals delivered to elderly