



# WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 23 July Aug Sept 2024

## Welcome Back Pastor Tom and Betsy



## Baptisms

Following in obedience, (L to R) are Chuck Royce, Doris Foley, Dawson Bredeau, Blanche Sillanpaa, Josh Atwood, Tom Sinitski, and Kayliy Falco were baptized on August 25th at Embden Pond. Thank you to the Howe's for hosting this blessed event.



## Bridging the Gap (BTG) Picnic

We had 38 people at the BTG picnic. The teens did a great job helping with set-up, serving and clean-up. In addition, 44 salads were delivered to the elderly that couldn't make it to the event. Thanks to the leadership of Luci Milewski, Jeff Smith, Marilyn and Jay Robichaud for organizing the meals served and for all the people who contributed food, drinks and deliveries. Also, a shout-out to Longfellow's for contributing the salads served to the elderly.



## Kingfield Days 2024

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to serve our community! We provided free snow cones, popcorn, Bibles, Gospel of John for kids, Bible buddies, prayers and of course, lots of jumping in the bounce house.



## Annual Kennebec River Float Trip

It was another beautiful and successful day at the annual river float trip. Thank you to the Dunphys for hosting and guiding us down the river! A great time was had by all!



## How is God Working in Your Life?

A little bit of background;

In 2017 I lost my only child to brain cancer. His name was Eugene Goss Pray IV (D.J.), he was 37 years old. He loved the outdoors and he loved his 3 children.

It's been nearly seven years since DJ passed. Most days I cope pretty well, but sometimes I struggle. I seem to have a hard time when I hear others complaining about their children. The choices they make or don't make, in life and in love. Recently I attended a bible study and one of the ladies was struggling with their own grown child's choice of not following the Lord. I had been struggling, missing DJ and I thought quietly, "at least you have a child". I know, that seems unkind but that is just where my head was at that day. I was hurting inside and didn't know what to do. I had prayed but couldn't find relief.

Later that afternoon I watched a recent episode of a popular Christian series. Near the end one of the main characters died. It was heartbreaking. Her fiancé asked Jesus to "fix it". He knew that Jesus could. He was upset, bitter, sad, angry and sobbing. Jesus looked at him, and said "it's not her time". He could fix her, but it wasn't the will of the Father. Jesus felt his pain, He felt it deep inside. You could see the pain in His eyes.

And that is what I needed at that moment. To know that Jesus knows my pain. He feels my pain. He feels and knows everyone's pain. He experiences our pain with us. I cried and prayed and thanked Jesus for showing me that just when I needed it most. He is a "Good, Good Father".

**Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted."**

And for those who struggle with adult children who have wandered I offer this prayer; Heavenly Father, I pray for Your mercy and grace for those who are lost, hurting, hopeless, and needy all around the world. I ask for You to compel those souls who are without You as Savior and Lord to hear Your voice as You seek and save those who need You most. I pray this in Jesus precious name. Amen

—Pat Pray



October is Pastor Appreciation month.



## Insights from Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday morning during the school year, Betsy Dubois teaches the Women's Bible Study. Last fall 2023 we studied prayer. The study guide was titled "When You Pray". During this study we covered six prayers from the Bible introduced on video by six different women Bible teachers who lead Bible studies around the country. Betsy guides discussions and helps us think about some things we might have otherwise overlooked. This particular study has stirred up thoughts, and I believe, through the work of the Holy Spirit, has helped me see myself more clearly.

One of the prayers we studied was Psalm 139. I had been drawn to that Psalm over the years and have often been comforted by it. As we looked more closely and I read it over again and again, I began to understand some more of the reasons why it had that impact on me.

**Psalm 139 starts out. v1 " Lord, you have searched me and know me. v2 You understand my thoughts from afar.. v4 Before a word is on my tongue you know all about it.."** . "This Psalm goes on to describe so many ways that God is ever present and present everywhere. He knows our past, present, and future. He has always been and always will be. He is infinite. Knowing this gives me reassurance that God is in control and there is nothing beyond His control.

He makes no mistakes. **v9 ". . . if I take the wings of morning and dwell in the utmost parts of the sea, v10 even there shall your hand lead me and your right hand shall hold me. . ."** These verses, give me comfort and a sense of protection and guidance. **v13 ". . . For you did form my inward parts. You did knit me together in my mother's womb. v14 I will praise you because I have been carefully and wondrously made.. "** **v16 " Your eyes saw me when I was formless. All my ways were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began".**

"This shows me that I am not here by chance. Nothing is a surprise to God. He knows every mistake I have made and will ever make, and he still loves me. He still has a good plan for me to give me hope and the future (paraphrase) Jeremiah 29:11.

**Psalm 139 v18 ". . . When I wake up, I am still with you. . ."** I realize in all this I am not alone and never will be alone. I realize I have value because I am a child of God. I don't have to go searching to find myself. I don't have to go prove myself or prove my worth. What a discovery!

How much time has been wasted? How many lives have been spent by people trying to find themselves or prove themselves not really knowing what they were looking for? How many people get caught up in competition and rivalry trying to prove they are better than someone else? How many people in families, tribes, kingdoms, and nations have spent time boasting, bullying, and trying to be recognized, trying to prove themselves better than others?

I admit, I have been caught up in all this competition and striving for something elusive. Could it be identity? I am even more confident now that above all else my identity is that I am a child of God. My identity is not the sum of my accomplishments, my career, my possessions or even the family I was born into.

If you have followed me in this journey to understanding, please join me in this closing prayer.

O Lord, you know each one of us. You have known us before we were born. We have trusted your son, Jesus, who has taken our sins with him to the cross. He has washed us clean by the blood He shed . When we repented, O God, you forgave us . We are adopted into your family as your children. Heavenly Father, you have a good plan for us. You give us value. None of us is here by mistake. Please help us to stop wasting time. Please help us to know you better so we can do your will and fulfill your plans for each one of us. Please help us to see your priorities and pursue them in your ways and in your timing. We praise you and thank you for your unconditional love, your grace, your long suffering and patience with us. O Lord, please help us to be more like you and please help us to develop these same qualities in our own lives. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

—Jean Sawtell

**For all who are being led by the spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"**

**The spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. Romans 8:14-17**

### 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

### Serving Our Seniors

Serving Our Seniors hosted an event with Western Maine Community Action and Kennebec Valley Community Action Programs on August 22. The representatives are very dedicated to helping those needing fuel, food or housing assistance. If you or someone you know might need assistance, feel free to call 1-800-645-9636 (Franklin County) or 1-800-542-8227 (Somerset).



### Missions Report

We donated \$500. toward a vehicle for a pastor in Kenya, and we reimbursed Carol Thomas for her plane ticket to go to Missouri to work on a Mobile Baptist Builders project. Four children took advantage of WMBC partial funding of a week at a Christian summer camp. This past spring we raised \$455.00 for the North American Missions Board. This annual offering is named in honor of Annie Armstrong who was instrumental in supporting missionaries throughout North America.

—Rosie Bates

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### What's Happening @ WMBC

#### October

1st—Church Leadership Meeting @6:30pm

5th— Men's Breakfast @ 8am

6th— Lord's Supper

8th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

9th—Tentative date for Wednesday night studies to begin  
@ 6:15pm

11th—Family Game Night starts up for winter @ 6:30pm

18th—Serving our Seniors Meeting @10:00am

22nd—Women's Fellowship Meeting @1:00pm

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

26th—Bridging the Gap—Meals delivered to the elderly

#### November

2nd —Men's Breakfast @ 8am

3rd — Lord's Supper

5th—Church Leadership Meeting @ 6:30pm

8th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

11th—Veteran's Day

12th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @1pm

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

21st— SOS (Serving Our Seniors) Meeting @ 10am

23rd—Bridging The Gap—Meals delivered to the elderly

26th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

27th—Thanksgiving Day

#### December

1st—Lord's Supper

2nd—Church Leadership Team @ 6:30pm

7th—Men's Breakfast @ 8am

13th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

10th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

19th—SOS (Serving Our Seniors) Meeting @ 10am

25th—Christ-mas Day

28th—Bridging the Gap ~ Meals delivered to elderly