



# WESTERN MOUNTAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Winter Wonderland

As I write this article, our plow guy is trying to move 10 inches of snow from the church parking lot. I am not sure he is a fan. I am always surprised when I hear that someone does not like winter, if they have lived in this area of the State for any length of time. It is such a part of our culture here. In fact, over the years I have adapted in different ways to these winter months. I used to love to ski (I still do, but it is expensive!). When I moved to Salem, the following winter, I purchased my first snowmobile. I now love to go snowmobiling!



Why am I telling you this? I believe one of the ways we can thrive is to be able to adjust to the circumstances of our lives. We can adjust to the changing seasons. We can adjust to the changes in our bodies as we age. We can adjust to the changes in the people in our lives – be it family changes, friendship changes or new people entering into our spheres of influence.

Autumn is my favorite season. But I am not going to pine away during the winter months, wishing to have those fall months back. Instead, I am going to embrace the snow and the cold and find a way to thrive in it.

I think the Book of James can help us see how this is done, looking at **James 1: 2- 4**. **“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let a endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”**

Now, James is not talking about the changing seasons and weather. James is talking about changes that come through various trials. We have choices as we face those trials. We can wallow in the trial, like some of us wallow when the snow is flying, or we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, know that the Lord is also aware of our trial. And the Lord will carry us through it!

We can also know that as our faith in Him is tested, it will produce in us endurance. Did the Lord help me get through that last trial? Why yes, He did! Then I can have a level of assurance that He will get me through the next one, thereby building endurance. This endurance to handle hard things helps us to more fully rely upon God, and not just in the trials, but in all things. That will have its perfect result – making us complete, and lacking in nothing, for the Lord provides all our needs.

So, get outside! Play in the snow! Breathe in that cold air, and thank God for lungs that breathe, snowflakes that point to His creative nature, and thank Him for placing us in this most beautiful part of His world. Let’s be joyful this winter.

## Thanksgiving



There was much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving at WMBC. Our church purchased 86 turkeys to help local families. 82 went to the Economic Ministry and 4 went to Bridging the Gap. The fundraising goal was \$1500., and we raised \$1560.! Thank you to Brenna Cockerham for coordinating this effort.

Our church pot luck Thanksgiving dinner was absolutely delicious and very well attended. Thank you to Nicole Fletcher for organizing such an incredible meal and to everyone who helped.



— Chris Gallup

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians**

## Homeless Ministry



Chuck and I began serving with a homeless ministry about a year ago. Chuck met Pastor Paul King from Free Street Church in Skowhegan at a men's retreat and knew that this was the opportunity we had been praying for.

We both have had a heart for the homeless, but we were just unsure of how to best serve. Pastor Paul alternates between serving the homeless community in Bangor and Portland on Sundays.

We have committed to serving Portland with him every other Sunday. We like to have every other Sunday to spend here in our home church.

As we began serving with Pastor Paul, the needs became clear and we began to understand our parts in the ministry. Currently, we gather necessities such as: clothes, sleeping bags, blankets, hand warmers, toothbrushes, socks and other needed items to deliver along with making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and helping Pastor Paul serve hamburgers and water. There are many hurting people in this world, and although we cannot help all of them, we are being faithful in what God has called us to do - love and serve those he brings into our path. Please reach out to us if you would like information on getting involved. Here is the link to our Amazon wish list that we keep updated with the current needs. [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/289D7PAB9D59S?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/289D7PAB9D59S?ref_=wl_share)

In His Service,  
Gidget and Chuck Royce

## The Miracle of Christmas....A Night in Bethlehem

It was the night before Christmas Eve and all throughout WMBC was a joyful excitement in anticipation of the children's Christmas pageant. Children ran circles around the people arriving it was almost difficult to walk in a straight line. After the opening prayer and on the first note of, "Mary Did You Know?", a hush came over the sanctuary. The children did not disappoint. Each and every one knew their cue and performed their role perfectly. But there was one character who wasn't as cooperative as the children, and that was a boy donkey named Sue. Mary (Vienna) and Joseph (Drew) literally pulled Sue across the room in front of the stage while his owner coaxed him from behind. Jose Martinez, who provided narration and music, played the last notes of "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" ever so slowly to accommodate Sue's reluctance and to keep pace with the program. All in all, it was wonderful!



Many people made this program such a blessing to approximately 100 people in attendance. From the moms who directed (Summer Martinez, Stephanie Diedricks, Kalyn Adams), to the costume designers (Janette Jackson and Kathy Bennett), and to the dads building sets as well as running lights and sound (Oskar Martinez, Paul Diedricks, Jay Robichaud, George Dereszynski), it was an amazing effort! Over 40 hours of planning, practicing, strumming, measuring, cutting, sewing, sawing, nailing, and hauling went into the program. Thank you to all who brought their time and God-given talents forward to provide this Christmas gift.

After the program, we concluded with a message from Pastor Tom, a candle-lit singing of "Silent Night", and a bountiful cookie fest!



—Chris Gallup

## Youth Group Update

For the WMBC teens, 2024 was a year filled with fun times, service activities, and spiritual growth. We kicked off the year with our annual New Year's Eve bash; watching a Charlie Brown Christmas, were served a delicious taco dinner by the teens, and wrapped up the evening with a fireworks display. What a lovely time serving and making memories with our church family! We are eagerly anticipating this event again in the coming weeks. In February we spent some time at the Sugar Bowl, bowling with our teens and some of their family members who joined in on the fun.

In the Spring, we were blessed with the opportunity to serve a church member with a yard clean-up, ensuring her yard was summer-ready. She was very appreciative, showing us with delicious snacks and many "thank you's!" In May, we enjoyed beautiful views atop Bald Mountain (Weld) followed by a sweet treat at the Ice Cream Shoppe in Farmington. We enjoyed God's breathtaking artistry in nature, and in our tastebuds! A few weeks later we surprised the "Strong Bones" exercise group with some healthy snacks to enjoy during their Monday morning class.

During the summer months, we had a wonderful time joining in on the Bridging the Gap (BTG) picnic, socializing with and spooning-out delicious food for our senior friends. It was beautiful weather and a beautiful time had by all in attendance! BTG does a wonderful job catering to this community and we were happy to come alongside for this event. In July, many of our teens rolled up their sleeves and worked hard ministering to the children in attendance at Vacation Bible School (VBS). Anyone involved in VBS is blessed-and exhausted-by the end of that week! We met in August for a campfire, s'more's and yard games behind the church with our teens and their families. We talked around the fire about the life and extraordinary faith of a missionary to Indonesia, Darlene Diebler Rose. If you have a chance, look up this saint's courageous story!

In the Fall, we hiked to Poplar Stream Falls in Carrabassett Valley. We enjoyed a picturesque waterfall, lovely weather, and fellowship with each other. This past December we enjoyed a Christmas party with some family fun (blind-folded sugar cookie decorating contest anyone?) and a more serious time reflecting on the gift of our humble Lord. We wrapped up the year with our New Year's Eve party and were excited to enjoy that time with you all once again!



Throughout the year we meet most Sunday evenings from 6-7:30 pm, where we have fun earning candy with Bible trivia, play games together, and gather around the Bible to grow through teaching and prayer. We are honored to serve the church ministering to your teens and covet your prayers for this ministry! God Bless,

—Marilyn and Jason Robichaud



## Game Night

Don't forget game night on the 2nd Friday of the month at 6:30pm. Join us for food..fellowship..fun!



## Christmas Giving

During the season of celebrating the indescribable gift of the Father sending His Son, we had the opportunity to share His love with our community. Pat Pray organized an Angel Tree by which 13 local children at the Carrabec Community School were blessed with gifts. Annette Stanley and the church body arranged for 60 residents at Edgewood Manor to receive gifts desired. Brian Fitch, Laurie Quinn and numerous bakers sent over 950 cookies to the Free Street Church children's Christmas party. Let's pray that the Father's love was apparent and the recipients desire to know Him and the true meaning of Christmas.

**"...and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."**

**Luke 14:14**



\_\_\_\_Chris Gallup



### 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 “Superbok”, “Bibleman”, and “The Creators”. A sampling of study topics from their site is: “ 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](http://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

### Prayer for WMBC in 2025

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. John 17: 20-21

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### What's Happening @ WMBC

#### January

1st—Happy New Year

4th— Men's Breakfast @ 8am

5th— Lord's Supper

7th—Church Leadership Meeting @ 6:30pm

10th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

14th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

16th—Serving our Seniors Meeting @10:00am

25th—Bridging the Gap—Meals delivered to the elderly

28th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @1:00pm

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

#### February

1st —Men's Breakfast @ 8am

2nd—Baby bottles filled with donations due for Resolve

Life Center

2nd — Lord's Supper

4th—Church Leadership Meeting @ 6:30pm

11th—Women's Fellowship @1pm

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

14th—Family Game Night @ 6:30pm

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

22nd—Bridging The Gap—Meals delivered to the elderly

25th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

#### March

1st —Men's Breakfast @ 8am

2nd — Lord's Supper

4th—Church Leadership Meeting @ 6:30pm

11th—Women's Fellowship @1pm

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

14th—Game Night @ 6:30pm

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

25th—Women's Fellowship Meeting @ 1pm

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

29th—Bridging The Gap—Meals delivered to the elderly