



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## OATH-FREE LIVING

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 5:37*  
*"Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."*

**It is true! I swear!**

These are common oaths for many of us. But Christians should never have to swear.

The need to swear represents a failure already because it implies that we are not always true to our commitments or declarations. In the preceding verses (Matthew 5:33-36), Jesus addressed the common expectation that people should not swear falsely. Everybody (ok, most people) would agree

with that sentiment. If we swear, we should keep our oaths. But, why should we need to swear at all in the first place? The oaths we take are meant to indicate that in this matter we are being sincere and honest. But what if we were people who were generally faithful and truthful in all our matters? Then there would be no need for us to swear!

The idea of being consistently truthful and faithful might sound like such a high – almost unattainable – ideal to many of us. But those of us who walk with the God of truth should aspire to be people of truth. We should be people who so rest in the Lord, and live in surrender to Him, that we habitually live in the truth. The Apostle John reminds us that we are commanded by God to live in truth (2 John verse 4). God not only commands us to live in truth, but He also enables us to through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

While our judicial and civil systems sometimes require us to swear or take oaths because they do not know us personally, those who know us should never have to require us to swear. Our "yes," should be "yes!" and our "no," "no."

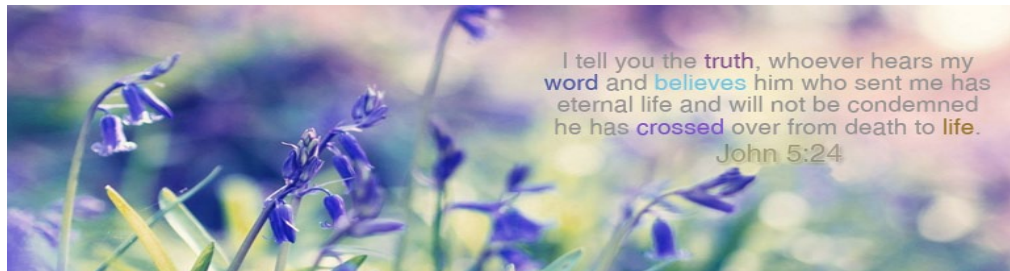
How about you. Is your "yes," yes, and your "no" "no"?

May our sense of always living in the presence of God lead us to be people of integrity who traffic in truth and honesty.

God bless you,

Pastor James

## I TELL YOU THE TRUTH



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p><b>CORPORATE PRAYER</b> TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p><b>January 26</b> Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE</b> EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p><b>February 21</b> Please contact us by phone (570 856 3310) or email (mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or rcantio@gmail.com) for login information.</p>	<p><b>WORSHIP SERVICE</b> SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p><b>January 31</b> In-person service and livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p><b>ONLINE GROWTH GROUPS</b> THU &amp; FRI @ 7 PM</p> <p><b>February 11</b> (in-person) &amp; <b>February 12</b> (online) Sign up at the information center or online to join. email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com or call for log on details.</p>	<p><b>YOUTH GROUP</b> FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p><b>January 29</b> Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL KIDZONE</b> SUN @ 4 PM</p> <p><b>January 31</b> Kidzone is available every Sunday. Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Online Ladies Fellowship Saturday Jan 30 @ 10:30 am. Come help us plan for the rest of the year!
- Support the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos' Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Take a baby bottle and fill it with coins, cash, or a check and return it to Lori by Feb 14
- Online Growth Groups begin the week of February 7th. Please sign up at the Information Center or online to join a group.
- We would like to have an in-person Growth Group on Thursdays. If you are interested please let us know either by email, or through the contact form on our Website.
- 2021 Church Directory will be published soon, if you need to update your information or want to be included please visit our website under **ABOUT** at the top of the page or use this convenient link.
- Bible reading plans for 2021 are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today.
- We are excited to have you at our in-person worship at 11 am on Sundays. Please call ahead to 570 856 3310 or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

### QUICK TIPS

**Two ways to give your offering.** Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!