



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## FORGIVING BECAUSE WE ARE FORGIVEN

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 18:32-33  
Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'*

Forgiving is hard business. Yet forgiveness is essential business because we inevitably offend each other as we seek to live in community in this fallen world. As broken, sin-damaged individuals even at our best we are prone to cause unintentional harm, and at our worst we cause intentional, brutal damage. If we do not have a way to resolve and heal these hurts we devolve into bitter, vengeful people piling harm upon harm.

For many the recourse for harm is vengeance. The offender needs to hurt as much as we did – or more. At the very least they need to grovel before us and beg our grudging forgiveness. But God's prescription is different. He calls us to forgive freely, fully, and frequently. This seems like a tall order for us because we often forget how much we have been forgiven ourselves.

To cement this truth in His disciples' mind, Jesus told the compelling story of a servant who owed his master more than he would ever be able to repay. This meant he, his wife, and children would be enslaved, and all his possessions sold to cover the debt. The hapless servant begged his master for more time to pay. The compassionate master summarily dismissed the entire debt and released him of any obligation. Upon leaving his master's presence this servant came upon another servant who owed him a miniscule sum of money. When he demanded immediate repayment, his fellow servant begged for mercy. But he enforced the law and demanded

that his debtor be sold into slavery until he could pay off the debt.

Upon hearing about this development, his now furious master summoned him, castigated him, and imposed upon him the full penalty for his debt while rebuking him with these scathing words: "should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" This servant should have forgiven because he had just been forgiven. This is the principle upon which God wants us to live. Because He forgives us fully, freely, and frequently, we ought to forgive those who wrong us. We do not need to wrestle with whether or not they deserve our pardon. Out of the great bounty of our forgiveness, we can write off the debts owed to us.

We are forgiven so we can forgive.

Who do you need to forgive today?

God bless you,

Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**MAR 14**

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**MAR 17**

In-person at church.  
For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**MAR 19**

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**MAR 19**

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service  
Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**GROWTH GROUPS**  
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

Continue this week  
Plan to attend one convenient to you. Sign-up on our website or the Info. Ctr.

**MAR 16 & MAR 17**

In-person at church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**MAR 19**

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

- Explore Mountain Stream Classes for those interested in becoming members of Mountain Stream or just finding out more about our church begin Sunday March 19 @ 10 am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- Rhonda Nichols went to be with the Lord on Friday. Her funeral service will be at church this Saturday, March 18th with viewing from 9am – 11am and the service to follow.
- Join us for Good Friday Service April 7 @ 7pm and Easter Celebration Service Sunday April 9 @ 11 am.
- Ladies Meeting Saturday, March 25th @ 10:30 am. Surprise guest speaker. Door prizes for the first 10 ladies. Lina Scibelli hosting. Invite your friends.
- Save the date: Vacation Bible School will be from July 17-21. Be praying how God might use you in this ministry.
- Growth Groups continue Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you. Questions are available at the Information Center or on our website @ www.mountainstreamchurch.com.
- We're updating our Church Directory. If you'd like to be included, please contact Lori at 570 688 3072 or niclorpc@gmail.com by March 31st.
- If you'd like to be part of the church's refreshment team, please contact Lori Ditaranto for details.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes www.cbcpoconos.org and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at hleet1412@gmail.com for more information.

### QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. 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!