



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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## JUST ASK

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Matthew 7:7-11*  
 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

*10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”*

Christ invites us to ask, so that we can receive what we ask from God. This promise is based on two important aspects of God’s

character.

The first aspect is God’s generosity. God longs to bless and is happy to bless us. Many of us live with the delusion that God hates blessing us and doles out only the stingiest blessings when we pressure and cajole Him. How sad! The Bible presentation is of a God who lavishes His care on His children. Those who serve Him have no lack. David declares in Psalm 23 that because God is his shepherd, he lacks nothing. Paul echoes that sentiment in the New Testament by noting that God does “exceedingly abundantly” beyond anything we could ask or imagine.

Not only is God generous, but He is also good. God gives only good gifts. This passage argues that if fallen, sinful human parents can give good gifts to their children, how much more will God give good gifts to those who ask Him. The Lord will not give a stone in answer

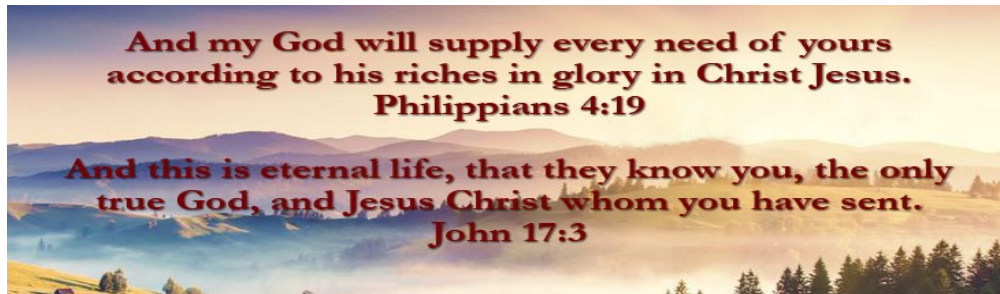
to a prayer for bread, or a serpent in response to a prayer for fish.

In the light of this wonderful promise, what are we to make of the times when our prayers go unanswered? We passionately petition God for items we consider critical, yet He does not give it to us. I wonder if the problem is that in many of those instances, we are inadvertently asking God for serpents, but, being the God He is, He is offering a fish instead. Because we are ignorant of the fact that we were asking for serpents, we are disappointed with God when we should be rejoicing that He gave us much better than we asked for.

Pray to God in confidence. If He does not give what we ask, rest in the assurance that our generous God gives only good gifts.

God bless you,  
 Pastor James

## ABUNDANCE: IN QUALITY & IN QUANTITY



## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p><b>CORPORATE PRAYER</b>  <b>TUE @ 7 PM</b></p> <p><b>April 20</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>  <b>EVERY 3RD SUN @ 6 PM</b></p> <p><b>May 16</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>  <b>SUN @ 11 AM</b></p> <p><b>April 25</b>                  In-person service and livestream.                  Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church’s website.</p>
<p><b>QUICK TIPS</b></p> <p><b>Two ways to give your offering.</b> 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!</p>	<p><b>YOUTH GROUP</b>  <b>FRI @ 6:45 PM</b></p> <p><b>April 23</b>                  Youth meetings are in-person at church.</p>	<p><b>VIRTUAL KIDZONE</b>  <b>SUN @ 4 PM</b></p> <p><b>April 25</b>                  Kidzone is available every Sunday.                  Contact Candice at candicebrich@gmail.com for log on information.</p>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Church’s Quarterly Members meeting will be **Sunday, April 25th** immediately following the morning service.
- **Ladies Meeting** this Saturday at 10:30 am. Contact Candice for login information if you need it.
- Our local Social Security office asked if we could pass this information on to you, especially in these challenging times precipitated by the Covid-19 pandemic: The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides monthly payments to adults and children with disabilities who have income and resources below specified amounts. SSI payments can also be made to people 65 and older without disabilities who meet the financial limits. Find more information at <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi/> or call 1-800-772-1213.
- **Bible reading plans for 2021** are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie’s daily blog on the readings.
- 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.
- Our Mini-Pantry is now closed. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.