

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Why Are You Afraid?



This question from Jesus seems unreasonable when you become aware of the circumstances under which He posed it. According to Matthew 8:23-27, the disciples were out on the lake in the midst of a great storm that was threatening to swamp their boat. Their fear appears reasonable. Death seemed imminent. Circumstances were beyond their control. Any normal person would be afraid. So why did Jesus ask such a question?

Jesus wasn't minimizing the reality of the threat of the storm: He was challenging His disciples for failing to understand the meaning of His presence among them. True, He was sleeping. But He was there. Their boat could not go down. They just needed to call on Him.

Even when they finally did the right thing and woke Jesus up, their demeanor was still one of frenzy, claiming that they were perishing. But Jesus was there. He was present. They were in the safest place on earth. Hence Jesus' penetrating question: "Why are you afraid?"

Today, we may feel like we are in a prolonged storm. Our lives may have been upended. But Jesus is still present in our lives. He is still the God who commands the wind and waves to be still. Do not let the storm around you cause you to lose sight of the glorious reality that our Lord is with us. Do not let fear overwhelm you. You Savior is right there asking, "Why are you afraid?"

May God help us to find the assurance and courage that comes from the reality of His presence. May God give us peace today and in the days ahead by reminding us that even when it looks like He is sleeping, He is still Master of all. He can calm your circumstances in a moment. But more than that, He can speak peace to your heart in the midst of the storm.

Do not be afraid.

Do not be afraid.

Matthew 8:26

"And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?' Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."

God bless you.

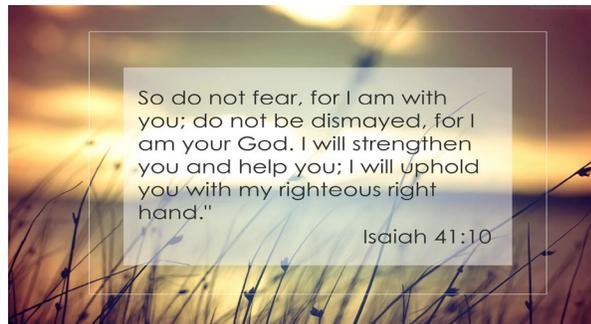
Pastor James

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!

"Remember, I AM with you ALWAYS"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Explore Mountain Stream Classes** for those interested in becoming members or simply finding out more about Mountain Stream continue **Sunday**. Please contact Pastor James at 570-856-3310 or mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.
- **As we observe social distancing** at our in-person services, there is only a **limited number of persons who can be accommodated inside the building** at one time. **Please call ahead (570-856-3310)**, or email us at mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com if you are planning to attend this Sunday's service so we can make adequate preparations. If you'd prefer to come and stay outside, you are welcome to. You don't need to call.
- If you are **interested in learning basic music** (primarily for church worship purposes), please come to church on **Saturdays at 5 pm** for free instructions in keyboard, guitar and drumming. For more information please contact Dwain Gayle at 347 677 2923.
- Nick Smith, Guistino Joseph and Giovanni Joseph are to be baptized and received into membership. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Our next baptism is planned for Sunday, September 13 after the morning service. More details will follow, but please save the date.
- **The Church Mini Pantry** is available thanks to the generosity of each of us. The trailer is unlocked and you can enter from the side door. We would like to help as many people as we can, please be considerate of others, take what you need. You do not need to make a donation in order to take items. We are asking you to donate as you are able (just leave the items neatly in the trailer). If donating items, please ensure items are in good condition and not expired.
- Please see our webpage for detailed information on in-person gatherings.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

If at any time during this virus outbreak you feel that you need some help: whether you are physically unable to go out for groceries, or you might need a little financial help due to the virus, or you just need prayer, feel free to reach out to us, our contact details are below.

305 Dartmouth Dr., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 * email: mountainstreamchurch@gmail.com * PH: 570-856-3310
Mailing address: Box 192 Bushkill, PA 18324

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE. @ 7 PM

August 25

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for details.
rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

August 28

Youth meetings are in-person at church.

SUNDAY SERVICE
@ 11 AM

August 30

In-person service and livestream.

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

VIRTUAL KIDZONE
SUN @ 4 PM

August 30

Kidzone is available every Sunday.

Contact Candice at
candicebrich@gmail.com for logon information.