

# MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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## SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Jonah 3:5  
“And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.”*

In order to seize an opportunity, we must first see the opportunity. Many of us miss opportunities because they often come dressed as warnings. The Ninevites in our text were able to discern that there was an opportunity in their warning. Even though Jonah had proclaimed a message of only judgment,

the Ninevites realized that the judgment was not arbitrary, but was directly related to their sinful actions and lifestyle. They correctly deduced that if they were to amend their ways, they could possibly be forgiven and avert the prophesied judgment. They, therefore, decided to throw themselves on the mercy of God. They acknowledged their wickedness and error, and cried out to God in true repentance. They were so serious they even covered their animals in sackcloth and made them fast (3:7-8). God saw their heartfelt repentance and spared their city from destruction.

Many times, we as Christians see God’s warnings as immutable declarations of

judgment. The truth is that God generally would rather forgive us than judge us (Psalm 86:5). If we heed His warning and truly repent, He is ready to forgive. If He could so readily forgive the wicked, ungodly Ninevites, how do you think He’ll respond to us, His dear redeemed children?

If you recognize that you have wandered away from God, or grieved Him in some serious way, why don’t you like the people of Nineveh turn from your sins and cast yourself in humble contrition upon Christ?

God bless you,  
Pastor James

## GOD FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE US

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Romans 2:4

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bring a friend and come celebrate God’s faithfulness as we **celebrate our 13th Anniversary and Friend Day on Sunday October 3 at 11 am.**
- Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos annual Walk for Life is this Saturday October 2nd at 9 am. Registration is at 8:30. Please contact Lori to sign up to walk and you may also contact a walker if you’d like to sponsor someone.
- **Growth Groups begin October 7th and 8th.** Sign up at the Information Center or online at our webpage to attend a group convenient to you.
- We plan to clean Oak Grove, our adopted street, on October 16th. Please see Tom for more details.
- The Community Bible Institute (CBI) will be offering two online classes this Fall. For more details contact Pastor Jimmie Van Sant @ 973 534 0835.
- *Want to discover God’s will for your life? Join us at church for our in-person Evening Service the 1st and 3rd Sunday @ 6 pm.*
- 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.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING

<b>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</b>	<b>EVENING SERVICE 1st &amp; 3rd SUN @ 6 PM</b>	<b>OUR 13<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</b>
<b>Sep 28</b> Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com	join us in-person at church.	<b>Oct 3</b> In-person service & livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church’s website.
<b>GROWTH GROUPS THU &amp; FRI @ 7 PM</b>	<b>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</b>	<b>KIDZONE SUN @ 11 AM</b>
<b>Oct 7 &amp; Oct 8</b> in-person at church. <b>BEGIN SOON</b> Plan to attend one convenient to you.	<b>Oct 1</b> Youth meetings are in-person at church. for ages 13 & older	<b>Oct 3</b> Kidzone is available every Sunday during the morning service. for ages 4 – 12 yrs. old.

### 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!