



MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

eBulletin weekly issue No. 188 • November 13, 2023

www.mountainstreamchurch.com

THE HEART OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Acts 4:13
Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*

There is something profoundly transformative about the presence of Jesus. People who spend time

with Jesus find that their lives are changed by His teachings, His example, and His in-dwelling presence.

Shortly after Christianity began, Peter and John healed a lame beggar through the power of Jesus. As the crowds surrounded them in response to this amazing miracle, they seized the opportunity to preach Jesus as the Savior of the world. The religious elite of the time rejected Jesus and opposed any proclamation of Him.

Consequently, they accosted Peter and John and after holding them in prison for a night organized a hostile interrogation. They expected to make short work of these uneducated religious upstarts who did not have the benefit of their expert training. Adopting their most intimidating stance, they sternly questioned the disciples about their actions and teachings. To their shock the two interrogees answered with courage, calm and clarity, and pointedly upended their interrogators' position (Acts 4:9-12). The only conclusion the religious council could draw was that these men had been transformed by the time they had spent following and serving Jesus. It is only their close interaction with Him that could account for their wisdom and courage.

Many times, we try to find strategies and formulae to promote our spiritual growth. We make rules about how often and how long we will read our Bibles. We establish stringent personal standards and erect imposing boundaries around our lives. While these steps are not bad in themselves and may even be helpful to us,

bereft of Jesus they are insufficient to produce spiritual growth. The heart of spiritual growth is intimacy with Jesus. We need to get to know Him, love Him and lean on Him. As we devote ourselves to getting to know and love our Savior, we find ourselves being changed by the radiance of His presence. As we joyfully surrender more and more to Him, He lovingly reveals what we need to change and empowers us to do it. Christian growth is not a product of cold rules and regulations. It is the natural outcome of intimacy with the living, breathing Jesus Christ who is the greatest transformative Agent in the universe.

So why don't you get closer to Jesus and have Him transform your life?

May those who interact with us can't help but note that we have been (are walking) with Jesus.

God bless you,
Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

NOV 14

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

NOV 17

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

DEC 3 & DEC 17

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

NOV 19

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

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

NOV 16 & NOV 17

Restarting soon.
In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

NOV 19

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

- Our Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon will be November 19 immediately following the morning service. Please sign up at the Information Counter to bring a dish.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about our church continue next Sunday @ 10 am. Please sign up at the Information Counter to attend.
- Growth Groups conclude this week. Preparation questions are available at the Information Counter or on our website.
- The Funeral Service for Herbie Mack (Charlotte's husband & Alexis' dad) is Wednesday, November 15th @ 10:00 am at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset NJ.
- Susan Heck: With The Master Ministries is hosting a Ladies Conference: Thankfulness In All Seasons at Pocono Bible Conference, November 17 & 18. For further information contact Julie Rosati at 646 315 5818 or juliebeyel@yahoo.com.
- Living Hope Baptist Church is hosting a free Wellness Conference under the theme: "Embracing Hope this Season," with Dr. James Meyer on December 2. You may register at: <https://livinghopepoconos.com/events>.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- 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.

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!