



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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HOPE REBORN

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Luke 1:18
And Zechariah said to the angel,
"How shall I know this? For I
am an old man, and my wife is
advanced in years."*

Zachariah wanted proof. The announcement he had just heard seemed too good to be true. A life-long dream he had reconciled himself to never seeing fulfilled was now being

presented to him. He wanted an iron-clad guarantee before allowing his hopes to rise again. He and his wife Elizabeth loved and served the Lord, but they had not been able to have any children. Now when they were too old, an angel of the Lord had just informed him that they would have a child – and not just any child – but the child who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. Could this be true? De-

spite Zachariah's initial hesitancy, time would prove God's promise to be true. Within the year Zachariah and Elizabeth welcomed their baby boy, John.

Christmas is a reminder that we can hope in God. Millenia before, God promised that He would send a Redeemer – not just to bring temporal freedom – but to provide salvation from sin which is humanity's greatest need. As God pursued this global program, He also paused to bestow special favor on an obscure couple. Even as God is directing the affairs of the universe, He still takes interest in individuals and their circumstances.

Many of us endure challenges and frustrated dreams which have slowly strangled our hopes. We mope through life convinced that nothing will ever change. Our relational issues will not be resolved. Our financial issues will remain dire. Our personal struggles have no answer. Sin's domination of us will never end. But the arrival of Jesus Christ about two thousand years ago challenges those assumptions.

Christ's birth (and John's) are striking reminders that God keeps His promises, and that He reverses seemingly impossible situations. God can work in your life just as He did in Zachariah's and Elizabeth's. The first thing He wants to do is to deliver you from your sin. Then He will lead you into fullness of life as you yield to Him.

What is sapping you of hope? Over this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of Christ, may our hope in God be rekindled and strengthened. May we demand no further proof. May the many miracles surrounding that first Christmas remind us that God keeps all His promises. And that He will keep His promises to you.

Have a Wonderful, Hope-filled Christmas!

God bless you,

Pastor James



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

DEC 20

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

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

DEC 23

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

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

JAN 1 & JAN 15

Join us in-person
at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

DEC 25

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

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM
DEC 25

In-person service & livestream

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



➤ CHRISTMAS & YEAR END ACTIVITIES

Christmas Eve Service	December 24 th @ 7 pm
Christmas Service	December 25 th @ 11 am
New Year's Eve Service	December 31 st from 8pm-10pm
New Year's Service	January 1 st @ 11 am

- Karen Hunter-Shay is to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please see Pastor James.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Meadows at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- Join us **Saturday at 7 pm for our Christmas Eve service.** Bring a batch of your favorite cookies for us to enjoy together.
- Join us **Sunday at 11 am for our Christmas Service.**
- The Church's Annual General Business Meeting will be on January 14th @ 2 pm at church. All members, please plan to attend.
- 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!