



Imagine

Imagine a church that is passionate, relentless, and unapologetic at reaching people far from God and inviting Christians into that mission.

What is 'Sign Up' day?

It's a day where we stop and recognize we are a part of God's story. For some, we make a new covenant to be a part of God's story at MRC. For others, we recommit to God's story at MRC. Today is about who we [MRC] are and what we [MRC] are up to and how we can be a part of the story.



MRC is a story, a God Story.

5-7 When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?" 8 Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor - and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages." 9-10 Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost." MSG Luke 19

Jesus makes His mission clear. His Father sent Him into this world to find and restore people far from God. What is interesting is how people respond to Jesus. Zacchaeus couldn't believe how fortunate he is. The crowd was noticeably offended. The religious leaders [we would call them church people of that day] seemed confused and became judgmental. Jesus' disciples were there watching and hearing the complaints. What a crazy moment.

Some questions you should wrestle with. How does that happen? Jesus comes to find and restore people. How is that not a good thing? How does that lead to complaints? How could the church people of that day be confused or judgmental about this? For churches today, if this was the passion of God, what should be our passion?

Jesus came to find and restore people. Jesus invited us to continue that mission. In fact, Jesus said, *"18 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* NIV Matthew 28

That's what we are doing. We are making disciples. Baptizing. Teaching. We are joining God in His passion to find and restore people. It's our vision. It's our passion. It's our highest value. It's what being a part of MRC is all about.

A Quick Recap of our History

Before MRC started, in 2001, we took a year to prepare. The biggest thing we did was an 8 week 'Phones for You' campaign. We made over 12,000 phone calls to find people who didn't attend church but were okay with us sending them information about our Grand Opening.

Grand Opening was October, 2001 at the Old Northern High School. We met there for 3 years. We did a full set up and we tear down, every Sunday. We did many new things that many churches didn't do at that time. Served coffee. Wore jeans. Showed movie clips. Had more passionate worship. We saw so many people come and visit. And all those new things seemed to upset individuals. We heard that coffee shouldn't be in church. Movies shouldn't be shown in church. Worship was too loud. But we moved on.

We were completely shocked when the Northern School District broke their contract with us to prepare that building to be torn down – which never happened. With no place to meet, MRC was forced to move in three weeks, to a Saturday night format at Cumberland Valley BIC.

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We still needed to do a full set up and tear down for church at 6 pm. We met there for two years. Do you know what we discovered about church on Saturday night? People didn't want to go to church on Saturday nights - LOL. Our attendance dropped by 65%. Imagine the joy we had in the fall with college football games on Saturday and the NFL Saturday night playoffs.

After meeting the Northern School Board, they agreed to allow us to meet in the Middle School auditorium. We moved back to a Sunday morning format for five years. We continued to do a full set up and tear down. The assumption was, when we go back to Sunday morning, we would go back to larger attendance. Do you know what we discovered? That was a wrong assumption. But we moved on.

During these days, MRC hired an outside consultant to interview those who attended MRC to discover if there was interest in buying land and building a building. There was overwhelming interest so we began a building campaign. We found land, bought it. We started the building process.

We saw men's groups and women's groups really impact people. We started several other ministries. 'The Messy Kitchen' to feed people in need. 'Traffic411' started to fight against human trafficking. 'Gettin Dirty' started to fix cars for those in need. 'Loafin Around Town' picked up bread from Panera and delivered it to the needy.

To reflect on ten years of being a mobile church who did a full set and tear down, we would have to say, 'God is so good.' We would say the beginning years at the Old Northern High School felt volatile. The Saturday night years felt confusing. The Middle School years had lots of activity.

November 2011, we moved into our new building on Big Dam Road. We were excited to have a home. As exciting as a new building was, it took a little while to get handles on how to do church in our new building and not set up or tear down. With our growth, our leadership team agreed we needed to hire Sam Hepner. We did just that two years later on November, 2013.

As we time unfolded, we had to deal with another big blow. Some key leaders who committed to us long term in leadership and giving had walked away. Through all of this, we stayed focused on the mission God gave us. After much prayer, we felt God leading us to start a church plant. We wanted to turn outward, not turn inward.

MRC announced we wanted to start a new church in Gettysburg. And we did. January, 2018 Sam led the Grand Opening of Mountain Ridge Church - Gettysburg [MRG] at the James Gettys Elementary School. MRG now meets at the Heidlersburg Fire Hall.

Then, the pandemic mixed with politics. Phew!

Coming out of the pandemic, God did something we didn't plan. Giving was up. In fact it allowed us to take a strategic risk and hire Pat Wolfkill to help us build community at the very time people need community.



The 7 things we believe at MRC - based on scripture.

God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public - to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's now - this is current history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness.

MSG Romans 3:25-26

#1: We believe the mission of Christ, His passion, cost Him dearly. God sent Jesus to take on the sin of the world. It crushed Him. In fact, the night He was betrayed, Jesus prayed. He asked His Father if there was any other way to accomplish the mission that was given to Him. Heaven was silent. Why did Jesus walk through that unbearable suffering? Because we are all spiritually dead and we need spiritual transformation.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Jesus NIV Matthew 28:18-20

#2: We believe Jesus empowered His church to fulfill that mission as He ascended into heaven. What an incredible moment. Jesus hands His mission over to the church to fulfill. And, Jesus promised that He would be with us.

Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.

MSG 2 Peter 3:8-9

#3: We believe the mission is so important, that God is literally pushing back the end of time. Did you know that? Think of everyone you know that hasn't yet experienced God's grace. God is so in love with them, He is pushing back the end of time to give them time to fall in love with Him.



Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riff-raff?"

Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

- Jesus MSG Matthew 9:10-13

#4: We believe that the local church is at its best when, like Jesus, it focuses on outsiders. Did you see that? Jesus was hanging out with disreputable characters. What an amazing statement from Jesus. "I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders." Jesus was focused on people who were far from God. He was focused on people who needed God's grace.

"If you had one hundred sheep, and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived, you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. In the same way, heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

NLT Luke 15:4-7

#5: We believe, finding the one lost sheep is our unique identity. There are so many good churches filled with good people and good leaders. They accomplish things we can not accomplish. Our unique identity, what we believe God has asked of us, is to be that church that goes after the one lost sheep.

Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you want to come with me, you must forget yourself, carry your cross, and follow me. For if you want to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will find it. Will you gain anything if you win the whole world but lose your life?"

GNT Matthew 16:24-26

#6: We believe the greatest discipleship anyone could engage is joining the mission of Jesus. Only in losing yourself, Jesus said, will you find yourself. There are things you discover in serving that you can not discover in a book or a conference. And we are all for books and conferences. But only in serving do you learn things like empathy, humility and purpose. The greater things in life, the things that change our hearts forever are discovered when we serve. Knowledge is great but if it doesn't become love, Paul told us it's useless in 1 Cor 13.

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The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear.

MSG Romans 3:22-25

#7: We believe that Jesus meets our needs. And, the local church is a place that should empower Christians to reach people far from God. God did what we could never do. Not us. Not a Pastor. Not a Church. No one. As Christians, it's important to enter into that every day. That means enjoying our relationship with Jesus who gives us life and energy. Often times, if someone is outside of a life-giving relationship with Jesus, they can unintentionally expect too much from themselves, their Pastor or Church. If their Church community doesn't meet their expectations, they can find themselves looking for a new Church community that meets their needs.

Reality is, the local Church will fail at meeting everyone needs. That's why we view Church differently. It's a place that empowers Christians to reach people who are far from God. And as they work together, a mature community is formed. A community that loves each other. A community that supports each other. A community that is focused on reaching people far from God together.

When people visit churches, they often ask themselves, "Will the church meet my needs?" We think a better question is, "Will this church help me reach my friends and family who don't know God?"

How can you be a part of the story?



Part 1: How can I be a part of the story? Make a Covenant with MRC.

As a member of the Brethren in Christ Church, I accept the Bible as the Word of God in which is revealed the way of salvation and the guide for faith and conduct. I witness to a personal experience of God's saving grace in my heart and express desire and purpose to live a holy life, apart from sin and separated unto Christ. I covenant as a member of this Brethren in Christ Church to be loyal to the congregation, to consent to instruction in Bible doctrine, to support and sustain the services of the congregation by my regular attendance and prayers, to contribute to the program of the church as the Lord prospers me, and to foster a spirit of Christian fellowship and oneness within the church. Practically, that means, for me, for us as a couple, for us as a family, for the next year, I/we commit to:

1.) Love God. Make the radical decision. End your addiction to tasks and doing. Decide to leave a life of overcommitment and hurry in order to learn how to BE with God before I DO for God. This decision is grounded in a deep inner resolve in which we affirm: "I cannot continue to live the same way and expect different results. I want to be with God - regardless of the cost." Emotional Healthy Discipleship
"You cannot give what you do not possess."

2.) Love Others. We measure our spiritual health by our ability to love others. To be a disciple of Jesus means I experience God's love, forgiveness, and grace. And because of that, I now give that to others.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." NIV Matthew 22: 36-40

3.) Love Growth. To intentionally grow and develop. Do something that grows your dependence on God. Risk. Lead. Serve. Read. Something.

"The greatest tragedy isn't our sin, it's the life we never live."

4.) Attend regularly and serve at MRC. Be a person with the capacity to bring others up. Serve with courage and see that the ordinariness of the day has eternal implications.

"Only in losing yourself, Jesus said, will you find yourself. There are things you discover in serving that you can not discover in a book or a conference. Only in serving do you learn things like empathy, humility and purpose."

5.) Give Financially. Giving our first 10% to the local church is worship. It's practically putting God in first place in our life and declares our dependence on God.

"Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you." - God

I/we sign our covenant to walk with MRC this year, affirm Vision Team, and the budget.

*** This covenant expires every year.



Part 2: How can I be a part of the story? Engage our community - serve.

Attend	You matter. When you consistently attend, it matters. Why? By simply attending, you impact others. Your attendance brings life to others. You may not know it but you could be the relationship connection to someone who may be struggling that morning. Simply put, you matter and you impact others.
On Sundays	Volunteer Children's Ministries/registration/aid/love on babies/child protection updates Worship/sound board/computer Greeting/coffee/safety team Set up and tear down in Heidlersburg Youth Group volunteer
Outside of Sunday	Volunteer Mowing lawn Building maintenance Cleaning of building Flowers and mulching
Events	Volunteering at events Volunteering on the Connect Team and activities



Part 3: How can I be a part of the story? Give at MRC.

It's been our dream to create an environment where people are confronted with a real God who loves them. A place where they discover their value in God and are healed. If God's giving His grace to you has impacted you, we invite you to give financially so God's grace can continue to impact every new person who visits.

Have a Plan Are you living in Financial Freedom? If not, you need a plan. Often we offer the Dave Ramsey Financial Freedom training to help people create a plan. Part of discovering spiritual freedom is fighting for financial freedom because financial chaos does not lead to spiritual peace.

What ask that you give ON PURPOSE and CONSISTENTLY At the end of the month, have you discovered that you have no money left? That's the nature of money. That's why scripture talks about giving what is first. Giving back to God is on purpose, not an end of the month guessing game. Consistent giving is a choice to consistently declare that God is first place in your life financially. It is our declaration that we are dependent on God.

He said how much? God said something alarming. Malachi 3:8-10 ...you are robbing me. *"You ask, 'How have we robbed you?' 'You have robbed me in your offerings and the tenth of your crops. ...Bring to the storehouse a full tenth of what you earn so there will be food in my house. Test me in this.'" NCV*



In Person

When you attend MRC, you can place checks and cash into the gift boxes near the doors.



Online

On our website www.MountainRidgeChurch.org we have a tab at the top that says 'DONATE'. You can enter your credit card information and through PayPal, you can give online.



Bank Check

Several folks have their bank or Credit Union send their tithe check directly to MRC on a regular basis.

Our address: 32 Big Dam Road, Dillsburg Pa 17019



ACH

Every month, you can give your bank the permission to move your tithe from your account into MRC's account. A separate form must be filled out - see next page.



Land/Stock/Large Gifts

From the sale of property, a settlement, inheritance, a will, etc. please see us for details.

Authorization for Direct Payment - ACH Debits



❖ I [we] herby authorize Mountain Ridge Church, to initiate debit entries to my [our] Checking or Savings account indicated below and the depository financial institution named below, herein after called 'BANK' to debit the same to such account. I [we acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my [our] account must comply with the provisions of the U.S. law.

❖ This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Mountain Ridge Church has received written notification from me [or either of us] of it's termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Mountain Ridge Church and Bank a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Your Name [s]:		Date:	
Amount to be transferred each month:		<input type="text"/>	
Bank Name:			
Bank Address [street]:			
Bank Address [town, state, zip]:			
Account Number:			
Transit ABA Number	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature			

The money transfer is one time a month. Depending on weekends and holidays, mid month [15th or later].

John Doe 123 Main St Anywhere US 10111	790
Date _____	1-678/1239
PAY TO THE ORDER OF _____	<input type="text"/>
_____	DOLLARS
Your Bank 456 Main St Anywhere US 10111	
MEMO _____	
<input type="text" value="1234567891"/>	<input type="text" value="1001001234"/> <input type="text" value="0790"/>



Part 4: Affirm our budget.

	2020	2021	2022-2023
Total Giving	\$362,000	\$428,700	
Staff			
Salary	\$165,100	\$202,600	\$202,600
Housing	\$44,200	\$44,200	\$44,200
<i>IRS requires pastors to pay 15.2% taxes on social security.</i>			
Health Insurance	\$15,100	\$15,800	\$15,800
Pension	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$21,000
Operating Expense			
Mortgage and Rent	\$91,500	\$128,200	\$121,900
<i>Mortgage balance Dec 2021 \$1.3 million</i>			
Office Supplies	\$28,500	\$18,000	\$18,000
<i>Workman's Comp, Supplies</i>			
Sunday Service & Community	\$12,300	\$5,200	\$5,200
BIC Tithe			
	\$36,000	\$40,000	
Total	\$407,000	\$469,000	\$428,700
<i>Cost to do church each week: \$8,244</i>			

Vision Team

Jim Barton, Melissa McElwee, Joe Schoffner, Jami Himes, Beth Adams

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Part 5: How can I be a part of the story? Use Technology.



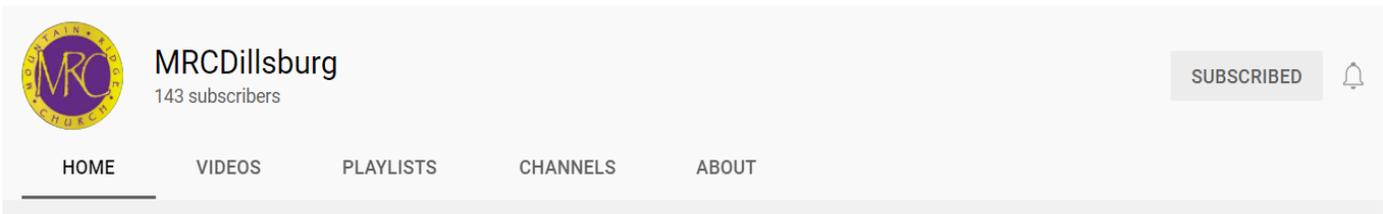
A daily Bible Study to start your day. 1. Go to 'spotify' 2. Type in 'Ready Heart' 3. Hit 'play'



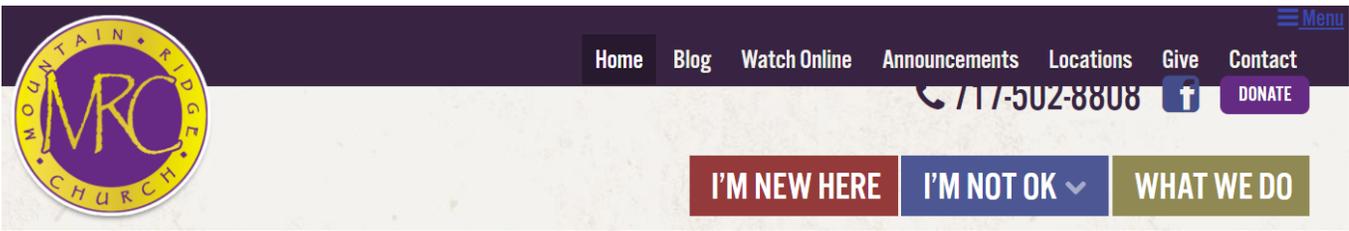
See our postings everyday. Bible verses, announcements, etc.

And every Sunday @ 9 am we post the link that takes you to youtube to see our message.

YouTube Our YouTube channel is 'MRC Dillsburg'



Our website is www.MountainRidgeChurch.org



Our Instagram is [mountain_ridge_church](#) and [mrc_youthgroup_](#)



We are a part of a regional youth group.

FaceBook: [nyryouth](#)

Instagram: [nyryouth](#)

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