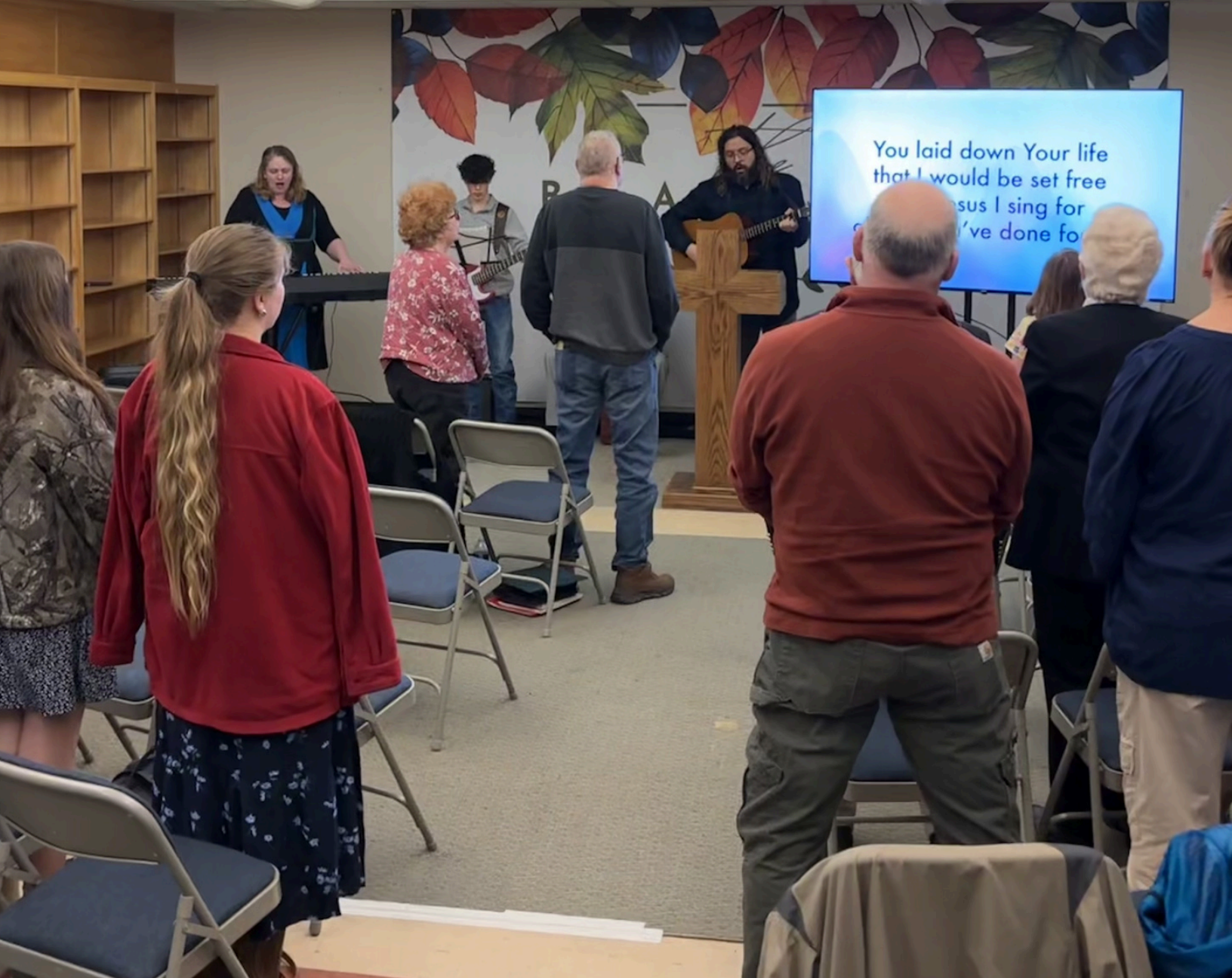


THE BRANCHES BULLETIN

ROOTED. ABIDING. BEARING FRUIT.

*A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANCHES COMMUNITY CHURCH
A CHURCH PLANT REACHING MONTPELIER, VT*



STRONGER TOGETHER



One of the sweetest parts of Easter week for us was getting to spend it with another church family here in Montpelier.

On Thursday, we had the opportunity to meet with Capital Community for their Easter service. Then on Sunday morning, we were able to worship together again through a combined worship team at our own Easter service. It was a simple but meaningful reminder that the work God is doing in this city is bigger than any one group of people meeting in one place.

There is something encouraging about seeing believers come together with a shared desire to make much of Jesus and serve the community well. In a season where so much has felt uncertain, this was one of those moments that felt like a quiet confirmation of God's hand at work.

We are thankful for the friendships He is allowing us to build, and we are excited to keep following His lead in the days ahead.



“Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice.”

Romans 15:5-6



WHEN DOORS DON'T OPEN

“When doors don’t open, we’ll praise God in the hallway.”

That has become a steady reminder for us in this season.

One of our biggest prayer requests has been for a place to meet here in Montpelier. We have investigated several opportunities that seemed promising at first, only to have those doors close. Each time, there is a real sense of disappointment. It is hard not to picture what could be, and then have to reset again.

But the hallway is not wasted space.

It is the place where trust grows. It is where God keeps working, even when nothing feels settled yet. And in this season, we have seen that firsthand. He has continued to provide what we need for right now. He has opened conversations, strengthened relationships, and given direction one step at a time.

We may not have the door yet, but we are not standing still.

We are still praying, still moving forward, and still expectant. We believe the Lord is at work, and we are looking forward to sharing more about this in the near future.

*State Street road closure and crowd gathered
for No Kings Day at the Capital Building*

*Photo credit: Montpelier Police Department
Facebook page*



TAKE HEART

By: Grace Bradley



There are some things Jesus said that probably would not make it onto most inspirational quote signs.

In John 15 and 16, He tells His disciples plainly that following Him would not always be easy. He tells them they would be hated, misunderstood, and opposed. That is not exactly the kind of message most people would choose if they were trying to motivate a crowd.

But Jesus was not trying to build a crowd. He was preparing His people. He wanted them to know ahead of time that hardship, rejection, and resistance would come. Not so they would live discouraged, but so they would not fall apart when it happened.

That matters, because sometimes when things get hard, our first instinct is to wonder if something has gone wrong. We assume that if we are walking in obedience, everything should start falling into place quickly and easily. But that is not what Jesus promised. He said: “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you.” (John 15:18) And then later, after warning them about what was ahead, He gave them this incredible reminder: “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33)

That verse has been especially meaningful to us lately. There have been moments in this season that have felt discouraging. There have been closed doors, uncertainty, and times where it would be easy to let frustration creep in. But Jesus never told us to measure His faithfulness by how smooth the road feels.

He told us to find our peace in Him.

That means we do not have to panic when things are hard. We do not have to assume that resistance means God is absent. Sometimes the very presence of difficulty is just a reminder that we are still living in a broken world while trying to faithfully follow a victorious Savior.

And the good news is this: Jesus has already overcome the world. Not “He might.” or “He will”. He already has!

So we keep going. We stay faithful. We keep praying. We keep serving. We keep trusting that even when things feel uncertain, Jesus is still Lord over every part of the story.

Take heart. He has overcome the world.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US



There's a place for you!

In the two weeks leading up to the July 4th weekend, we want to put a door hanger on every door in Montpelier! **We need volunteers to help!**

How You Can Partner With Us

- **Pray** for open doors, gospel conversations, and a strong Launch Day
- **Serve** by helping distribute door hangers throughout Montpelier
- **Join** us for our **July 4 Community BBQ**
- **Help** us spread the word about our **July 5 Launch Day Service**
- Come as a church, family, small group, or individual

Why It Matters

- Montpelier has approximately 3,700 households
- Our goal is to place a door hanger on every door
- We want every individual in our city to know they are invited

Who's Already Joining In

- Faith Community Church in Barre will be joining us in these efforts as we move toward Launch Day
- We are thankful for those who have already partnered with us!

Want to Help?

We would love to connect with you!

“For we are God’s coworkers...” 1 Corinthians 3:9

Online giving available here through Tithe.ly



visit our website for more information

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