

# Valley Views



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2020



*Pastor Mike Hill*

## The Tomb is Empty - Our Hearts are Full

-Dayspring

The first tree budded in our yard yesterday, and my daughter was ecstatic. “Mom!” she cried. “Look how beautiful!” I was struck by the way her joy spilled over into my own heart. I stood for a moment in awe of new life. Fresh beginnings. The promise of spring made visible. As we were getting ready for Easter, a season of renewal, it was the unbridled excitement my daughter displayed that let me experience joy in a new and unexpected way.

And suddenly, I was reminded of the empty tomb and the childlike wonder of those who witnessed it—who stood at the entrance of the place where just hours before, the turning point in history had happened: human feet on holy ground. Hearts filled with the utter delight of God’s love made visible in a way that it had never been before.

That’s what I want on Easter Sunday. Even more than egg hunts and chocolates and new dresses (which are all delightful!) I want to be filled with His joy in a new way, and let it spill out everywhere.

And I believe the children in our lives have a lot to teach us about joy. Jesus knew it, too:

*He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:2-3 NIV*

### ***Be humble:***

Children ask questions. They haven't yet convinced themselves that they're self-sufficient beings who should know most everything. If we've been following Christ for awhile, we're likely very familiar with the facts about Easter morning. We feel safe knowing the answers and sometimes we let that be enough. But what if we ask God for more this year? Ask Him to nudge us out of our comfort zones into new experiences of His resurrection life? Sure, we can celebrate those cherished traditions, but let's show up with anticipation too—trusting Him to do a new thing.

### ***Leave room for wonder:***

One of the surest routes to authentic praise is to sink our roots deep in the wonder of life, as our children do naturally. Genuine gratitude springs from being present in the moment, aware of even the simplest joys. This Easter season, consider revisiting (or beginning) that gratitude journal. The more blessings you discover, the more you will be filled with praise for the One who provided them. As you reflect on the empty tomb, your heart will be worship-full!

### ***Share the joy:***

"Did you see that?" "Watch this!" "Look close, Mama!" Our little ones often express their feelings without filters. They want to draw us in to their experience so that we can share their excitement. But we grown-ups sometimes forget how wonderful shared joy can be. We assume others wouldn't understand or won't be interested in our experience. However, it is very likely there are people in our lives right now who desperately need a renewed sense of hope. As you celebrate the resurrection this year, allow that joy to spill over. Whatever it looks like for you, share the joy you've found in Christ with those around you—not because you have to, but because you just can't help yourself!

So let us come to Him this Easter as His children, with open hearts and willing hands, to love and serve in whatever way He leads us. As we envision the empty tomb and celebrate that eternal freedom we have been given, let's not keep this joy to ourselves. Let's be a part of bringing His Kingdom here, today—transforming this world with His healing love, one precious heart at a time.



February 21, 2020

Elimsport  
16145 S Hwy 44  
Allenwood, PA 17810

*"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, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you"*  
**Matthew (28:19-20)**

Dear Friends in Mission,

**Thank you!**

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries missionaries to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries around the world.

Nearly 400 United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

On behalf of the people who are recipients of the love of God through the direct ministry of a Global Missions missionary – *Thank You!*

Grace and Peace,

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

**Supporting**  
James Keech

**Gift Amount**  
\$ 83.33

Date Received 02-13-20

Account #17960

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution.



March 13, 2020

Elimsport  
16145 S Hwy 44  
Allenwood, PA 17810

*"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs."* Part IV Sec.1.1.20 Book of Discipline

Dear Friends in Mission,

**Thank you!**

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries to fulfill the mission of the Church through evangelism and church growth.

And through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries.

United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

Thank you for actively partnering with Global Ministries as we move forward in establishing over four hundred new congregations and faith communities in nations around the world. I ask that you pray that others will participate in this exciting movement of the Spirit through evangelism and church growth.

Grace and Peace,

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

Supporting	Gift Amount
Red Bird Mission	\$1,000.00
James Keech	\$ 83.33
<b>Total Gift Amount</b>	<b>\$1,083.33</b>

Date Received 03-06-20

Account #17960

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution.

458 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 / +1.404.460.7575 / [umcmmission.org](http://umcmmission.org)

Acolyte Schedule:

To Be Announced



**Please note that all dates and times are pending due to the uncertain times. Stay home, take care of your families and stay healthy!**



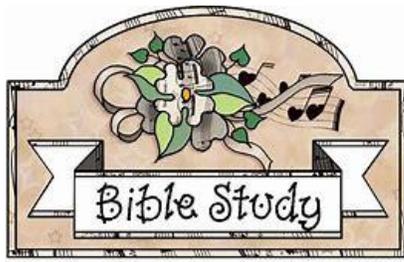
Community Breakfast is held Wednesday mornings from 7:00 - 9:00 am at the Elimsport Church.



Please be sure to check the church website [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org) and

Elimsport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

Weather permitting, Parish Bible Study is on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 at the Elimsport church. We are continuing in the Book of Psalms.



## Elimsport Volunteers

### Greeters for April

To Be Announced



- Items for May's newsletter are due April **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday morning** each week.

*(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)*

We are forming a confirmation class for any youth 12 - 18 yrs. old who has turned 12 or older in 2019. This class we be choosing a mentor to journey with them through the confirmation journey. The journey will begin and we will be presenting the students and their mentors on Palm Sunday, April 5th during worship at each church. Confirmation Sunday will tentatively be Sunday, November 22nd. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Mike.



Anyone who would feel led to be a confirmation mentor to one of our confirmands, please let Pastor Mike or Christa McCormick know.



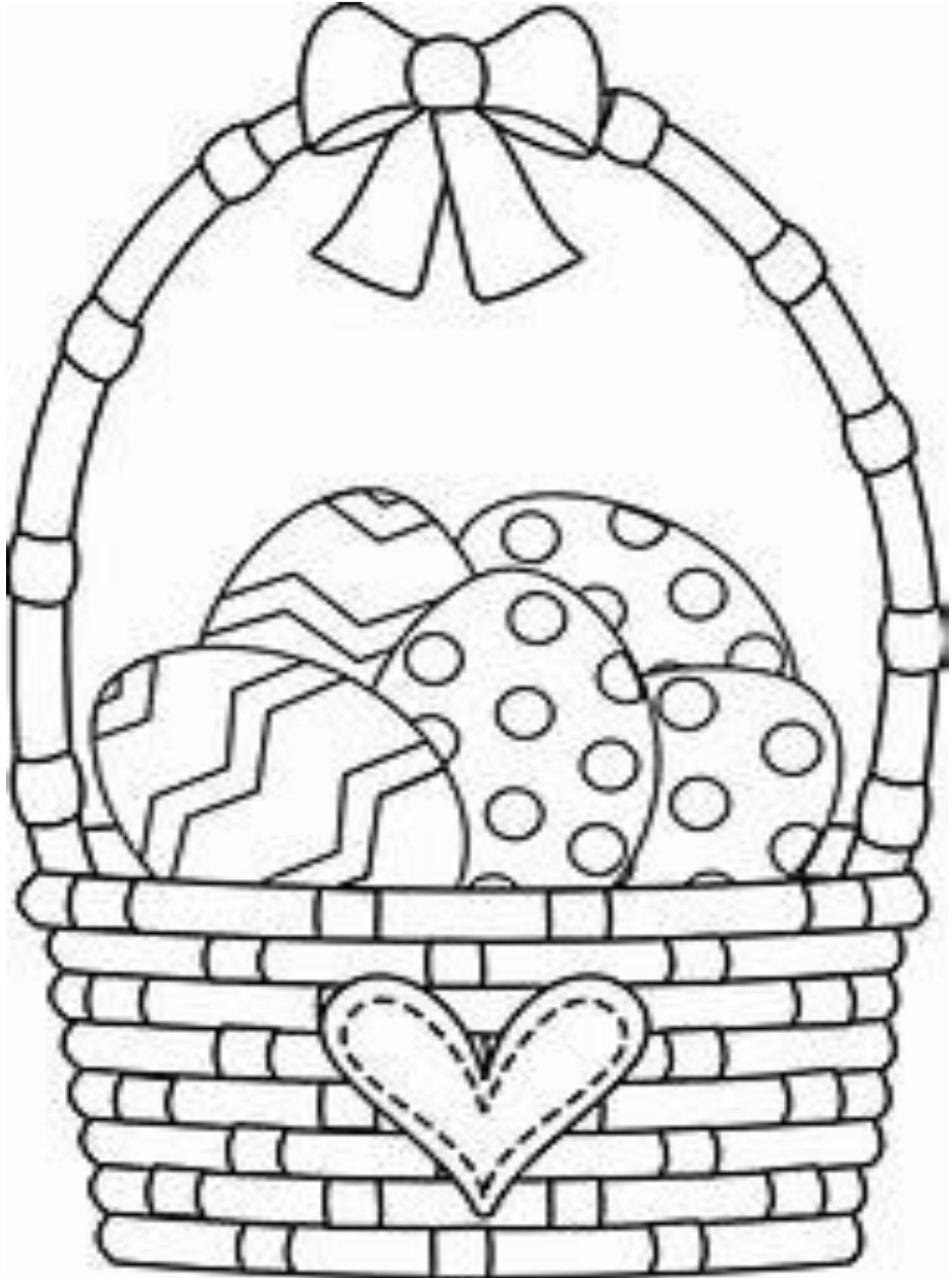
There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, April 14th from 2-7 at the church fellowship hall.



As the season of lent is approaching, so is the preparation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year, the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 11th at 10am on the church softball field. If anybody would like to donate their time stuffing eggs, we will be doing this after church. We will gladly accept monetary donations or even candy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jenn Springman at (570) 412-6141 or [jenntay76@hotmail.com](mailto:jenntay76@hotmail.com) Thank you in advance!



# Kid's Corner



# **ELIMSPORT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST PARISH**

## **Worship Schedule:**

### **Elimsport UMC**

Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:30 am

### **St. John's UMC**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 am

### **Parish Youth Group**

Check weekly Bulletin for current schedule and events  
(at Elimsport)

### **Parish Bible Study**

Varies according to the season.

### **Parish Office:**

16145S. RT 44 HWY  
Allenwood, PA 17810

### **Parsonage Phone:**

(570) 547-1386

### **Pastor Mike's Cell:**

(570) 974-8590

### **Parish Website:**

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)

### **Parish email:**

[elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@gmail.com)

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)



### **Our Mission Statement at Elimsport UMC**



We gather together as a community of Christian believers to worship, fellowship, and to learn more about God. By the unity of the Spirit and the support of each other, we are able to reach out to the community and the world.

### **Our Mission Statement at St. John's UMC**



The purpose of St. John's is to both evangelize and nurture. We are called to show God's love in our world by giving aid and by spreading the Good News of Christ. We in turn provide an atmosphere for nurturing where Biblical truths are shared enabling people to become spiritually enriched. By providing this, people will learn and through learning, become more effective witnesses.