

Valley Views



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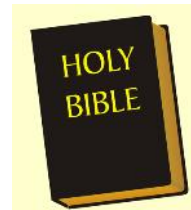


Pastor Mike Hill

Here it comes, the annual bombardment of papers and flyers telling us about the good sales taking place during the holiday season. These flyers are supposed to prompt us to act, making our holiday purchases with the understanding that we will benefit from our actions. The flyers seem to start coming earlier each year.

I want to remind each of us that we have a special flyer with the good news of something that will benefit us beyond just the Christmas season. This flyer I'm talking about is the Bible. In the Bible there is Good News about an event so amazing that all who participate in the event will benefit for eternity. That event, of course is the birth of Jesus the Messiah. Like the flyers we receive, the angels came to the shepherds and told them they had good news of great joy, something was taking place that would benefit all people. Some people ignore the flyers just like some ignore the Good News of Jesus Christ and as a result, they don't receive the benefits.

I'm not crazy about all the black Friday stuff and cyber Monday hype, even though you might get better deals, but I am crazy about the fact that one flyer remains long after the glitter of Christmas and its deals fade away. That flyer is the Bible and it reminds us all year long about saving. I'm talking about saving our souls. I'd say it is a good deal that all we have to do is believe in Jesus and receive him as our Savior to be saved. We don't have to wait in line. We don't have to go on a particular day. We don't have to take a rain check. Jesus saves each and every day and our divine flyer, the Bible reminds us of that. The grace we receive from God through Jesus is not cheap, it cost Jesus his life, but we benefit from accepting Jesus as the real thing and celebrate his birth which made it possible for us to be saved.



Merry Christmas
Pastor Mike



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Son Light House Reflections

Son Light House, established in 1982, is a non-profit, ecumenical, and community-supported resource that distributes food, clothing, and limited furniture to individuals and families in need and that qualify on family income guidelines set up by state and federal policies. Son Light House serves individuals and families in eastern Lycoming County. Son Light House is an equal opportunity provider.

High Number of New Households for September: Twenty three households came to Son Light House in September for their first time. These households included 36 children, 33 adults, and 3 seniors. Thanks to everyone's support, Son Light House was able to respond to their needs.

Parking Lot Repaired: A long needed major maintenance expense for the resurfacing of the parking lot was completed this September. Son Light House is challenged by more than meeting the need of providing food for recipients.

Central PA Food Bank Provides Fresh Produce in Season: Son Light House has been able to provide some fresh produce this summer thanks to a new initiative of the Central PA Food Bank located in Williamsport. The fresh produce is a welcome addition to the normal food available from the Food Bank.

Touch-A-Heart at Christmas: The locally supported Touch-A-Heart program will continue to supply clothing and other items. Registration is already underway.

CROP Walk Benefited Son Light House: The annual CROP Walk held in October 2014 and sponsored by the United Churches of Lycoming County benefited Son Light House by \$1,253.26. Thanks to all who participated and donated to CROP Walk.

Refunding of Child Nutrition Legislation Awaits Congressional Approval: Refunding of essential child nutrition programs such as school free and reduced lunches, and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) were set to expire on September 30th. Congress extended current funding in the short term until full consideration of these and other important child nutritional programs can be considered.

Candle Fire Safety

From 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 10,630 home structure fires that were started by candles. These fires caused 115 deaths, 903 injuries, and \$418 million in direct property damage. Candles caused 4% of reported home fires, 5% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 6% of the direct property damage from home fires during this period.



Facts and Figures

During the 5 year period of 2007-2011:

- Roughly one-third (36%) of home fires started in bedrooms. These fires caused 39% of the associated deaths and 45% of the associated injuries.
- On average, 29 home candle fires were reported per day.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 11% of the home candle fires and 37% of the associated deaths.
- More than half (56%) of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.

Portable Fireplaces

There is nothing like sitting by an open fire on a cold night. Indoor and outdoor portable ethanol burning fireplaces have become ore popular in recent years. While these products provide ambiance and a little warmth, keep in mind the fuel, device and open flames can be dangerous. **Ethanol Fuel Smarts:** Store ethanol fuel in a closed container, away from the fireplace and out of reach of children. It may not be easy to see the ethanol fuel flame. Always close the lid or use a snuffer to be sure the flame is extinguished before refueling into a cooled fireplace. Use only fuel made especially for the fireplace. Clean up any fuel spillage and be sure all liquid has evaporated before lighting the fireplace. Light the fireplace with a utility lighter or a long match. Be sure the fireplace is on a sturdy surface. Never try to move the lit fireplace or one that is still hot. Allow the fireplace to cool down for at least 15 minutes before refueling. Extinguish the flame when you leave the room, your home or go to sleep.

Ben Simcox is serving our country in the Navy and is currently stationed in Bahrain. St. John's is putting an ongoing box in the back of the church for items to show Ben that we are thinking of him. Bahrain weather is very hot, so no easily perishable items or chocolate. Continue to write Ben at:

*Benjamin Simcox
PSC 851 Box 70088
FPO AE 09834*



Thanks to everyone for the cards, prayers and food provided, and all the thoughtfulness during our time of grief. Mom loved you all and so do we!

The Family of Marge P. Fry

Dear St. John's Church Family,

Thank You so much for the thoughtful college care package! It is hard to believe that I am just two more semesters shy of graduating from Simmons College with my Masters of Science in Nursing to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. I am so thankful for the thoughts and prayers, they truly are much appreciated.

Thank you again,

Rebecca Rhone



Youth Fellowship Happenings

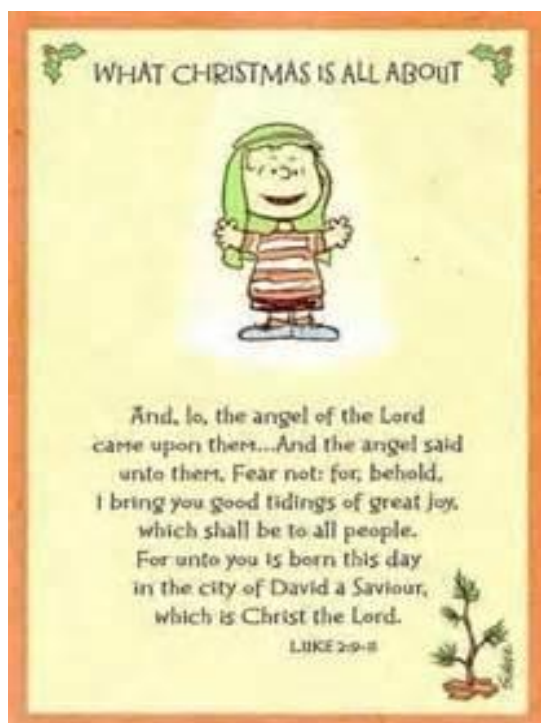
December 6th meet at the church at 1 pm for Toys for Tots

Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

Call or email Tweet with any questions.



Please see any member of the Youth Group to purchase a 2016 calendar. Cost is \$7.00. This is a great way to help support our Youth!





December 1st - St. John's will have their Christmas Party at 6:30 pm.

December 6th - There will be the Hanging of the Greens at both Elimsport and St. John's Churches during the morning services.



December 13th - St. John's will have their annual Christmas play during the morning worship service. **This is also the last day for the warming of the tree.**

December 20th - Elimsport Church will be having their Christmas Pageant during the morning service.

December 22nd - There will be a fundraiser for the Youth Fellowship at Wendy's in Muncy from 5 pm to 8 pm.

December 24th - Christmas Eve Services: St. John's at 6:30 pm and Elimsport at 8:00 pm.



The Christian Crusaders class will meet Friday, December 11th at 6:00 pm in the church social hall.



There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, December 8th at 2:00-7:00 pm at the Elimsport Social Hall.

**Help
save
lives**



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

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

Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for December

December 6	Ray Gulliver
December 13	Sandy Chamberlin
December 20	Chris & Jill Ulrich & Family
December 27	Joann Stainbrook



Christian Christmas

Match these clues from the Bible and Jesus' birth to the answers.

Joy To The World!

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| ___ Third gift presented by Magi | A. Jesus |
| ___ King at the time Jesus was born | B. Incense |
| ___ Jesus found lying in this | C. Magi |
| ___ Town Jesus was born in | D. Joseph |
| ___ This has a pleasant scent when burned | E. Myrrh |
| ___ "_____ on Earth" | F. Bethlehem |
| ___ "O Come All Ye _____" | G. Angel |
| ___ This means "God with us" | H. Faithful |
| ___ Where Holy Family fled to after Jesus birth | I. Gold |
| ___ Precious metal given as a gift to Jesus | J. Mary |
| ___ Mary with child through the _____ | K. Dream |
| ___ He is the reason for the season! | L. Peace |
| ___ Visitors saw the star from the _____ | M. Nativity |
| ___ Human father of Jesus | N. Herod |
| ___ An angel appeared to Joseph in a _____ | O. Egypt |
| ___ Visual representation of the birth of Jesus | P. Manger |
| ___ Jesus' mother | Q. Holy Spirit |
| ___ Another name for the three Kings | R. Immanuel |
| ___ Announced His birth to the shepherds | S. East |



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MERRY
christmas

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.

www.evpumc.org

Parish Office:

16145S. RT 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Parsonage Phone:

(570) 547-1386

Pastor Mike's Cell:

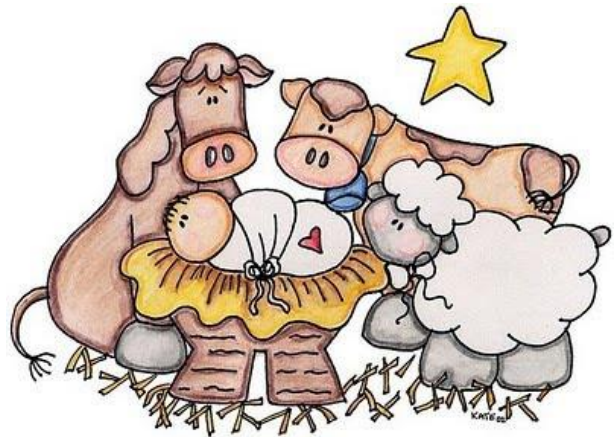
(570) 974-8590

Parish Website:

www.evpumc.org

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com



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.