

Valley Views



VOLUME 24, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2017



Pastor Mike Hill

Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Romans 5:20

Someone might ask if God can teach his people by sin. He might, and does (Romans 8:28). All things do work, but all things do not work alike. Sin works for good, but it is absolute omnipotence, by pure prerogative, for sin is properly the devil's work, and by natural tendency leads to destruction. Give no thanks to the sin itself that any good comes from it; God beats Satan with his own weapons. But affliction is a calamity of God's making (Amos 3:6), and God teaches his children through it. He tempers the nature of affliction to promote his own gracious designs in the children of promise. There is no intrinsic value in affliction itself, but only as it is used by divine omnipotence for saving ends. It is like a saw to cut. The instrument can do nothing alone, but is a tool in the hand of the workman. In God's word there is a more direct instruction for the children of God than in the rod, yet in chastisement the heart is put into a better disposition to be responsible to divine teaching. Grace applies its truth forcibly by an appropriate set of circumstances. Correction takes down the pride of man's heart. Pride raises objections against the word, and disputes with the commands when it should obey them.

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God comes with his instruments of affliction, and tears down the mountain of pride. The heart of pride speaks loudly in the wicked, but also whispers audibly even in the godly, until correction drives it out. Affliction is God's forge to soften the iron heart. It is impossible to form iron while it is cold, but make it red hot, and you can stamp upon it any impression you please. The heart is hard and its natural resistance is much increased by prosperity. God softens hearts with the showers of adversity and makes us more attentive unto him and less influenced by the noise of the world.

Thomas Case, *Select Works, A Treatise of Afflictions*, pp. 105-108



Warming of the Tree: The guidance counselor at Montgomery gave us names of 17 kids that need help during this holiday season. We will be buying them toys, and clothes including coats and gloves. Starting on November 26th we will have ornaments on the trees at both churches of items that these kids need or want. Please take an ornament and buy the gift and when you bring it back to the church tape the ornament on the package so we know which kid it is for. We will be delivering the gifts to the school the week of December 17th, so please try to have the gifts to the church by December 10th so we have time to wrap the gifts.

On December 3rd, we will be decorating the Elimsport church for Christmas with our annual Hanging of the Greens program during the regular church service. After the service, we will have a fellowship time in the social hall. Please bring a treat for the table (finger food only....cookies, candies, crackers, etc.) and plan to attend the worship service and the fellowship time afterwards.



December 3rd during the morning worship, we will have the Hanging of the Greens service at St. John's. Please plan to attend this beautiful service as we decorate the church for the Christmas season. We would love to have the kids come and help decorate!

The Christian Crusader Class will have a Christmas Party on Friday, December 15th at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It will be hosted by Harry & Carol Riddell. Meat will be provided. Please bring a dish and something you treasure to share with the class.



December 10th at 10:30am at St. John's during morning worship, we will have our Christmas play put on by our youth. Please come and support our kids and teens as they tell the Christmas story. Please bring some cookies to share for after the service.

December 17th at 9am is our parish/combined service at Elmsport church as Nick Biddle will be here to share his music during the Christmas season. There will be no Sunday School at St. John's.



Our second warming of the tree is the Montgomery Christmas Committee. The Christmas committee supplies needy families with a Christmas meal and also buy toys for the children. Our parish can bring toys to put under the tree at either church and they will match the toy with the appropriate child. They need toys for newborn up to 13 years of age. If the toy needs batteries please provide them. If you would like to donate canned goods you can also put them under the tree at either church. Last year there were 227 families who received boxes and 297 children

who received toys. If you know of anyone to be put on the list please give their name to Nancy Gruver 570-547-6777. Please see the full letter in the newsletter from Nancy Gruver for more details.



† SON LIGHT HOUSE **REFLECTIONS**

Son Light House – 130 Carpenter Street, Muncy, PA 17756 – Phone: 546-3585 November 2017

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.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1). Mercy is a primary virtue that calls upon us to extend compassion, love, and support to all especially those in need.

Households and Individuals Served

	Households	Individuals	New Hlds.
June	454	1,042	3
July	384	851	9
Aug	455	1,075	7
Sept	473	1,211	13
Oct	499	1,219	20

Son Light House – for All Ages

	Children	Adults	Seniors
June	280	467	295
July	208	365	278
Aug	306	473	296
Sept	360	544	307
Oct	881	535	303

Celebrating 35 Years of Serving Those in Need –

Son Light House opened in 1982. Thanks to Grace Thomas and other faith-filled persons who made the creation of Son Light House possible. Thanks also to all those who have continued to answer the call through the years to serve those experiencing need in our communities!

Thanksgiving and Christmas Donations – Son Light House will be accepting turkeys for Thanksgiving and roasting chickens for Christmas distributions. Donations of these items can be made every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday between 7:00 am – 10:00 am. Thanks for your generosity.

CROP Walk Benefited Son Light House – The annual CROP Walk held in October 2016 and sponsored by the United Churches of Lycoming County benefited Son Light House by \$321.88. Thanks to all who participated and donated to CROP Walk.

Help Needed – Help is needed to handle boxes for truck delivery of food from the Central PA Food Bank. Help is also needed with handling boxes for the bi-weekly pulling of food for distribution. Boxes can weigh between 30-40 lbs. Each task lasts about one hour in the morning. If available, please call Ken Frey at 546-3585.

Touch-A-Heart at Christmas – The locally supported Touch-A-Heart program will continue to supply Christmas gifts for children up to age 17. Registration is already underway.

“Thank You” to These Recent Supporters

Individuals and Families who have recently supported Son Light House include: LizAnn Barlett, Kermit and Maryann Breon, Candace Buck, Lena Carichner, Rev. Mike and Sally Gardy, Ken and Tolanda Geromi, Cleason and Joanne Hall, Phil and Donna Hartranft, Paul and Iva Heise, Ed and Sylvia Herman, Jeff and Helen Hiserman and family, Darlene James, Gene and Carol McCarty, John, and Pat Merrifield, John and Barb Miller, Jim and Betsy Mothersbaugh, David Moyer, Anita Nagpal, Arlene Opp, Dennis and Patricia Ringling, Rosemary Rohrbach, Paul Rovinski, Sandra Schreiber, Paul and

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Donna Shaner, Rev. Max and Diann Walters, Richard and Jill Warg, Pete and Delores Wolfe.

Churches and Church Organizations for their recent support: Bethany United Methodist Church (UMC), Hughesville; Christ UMC, Hughesville; Church of the Resurrection, Muncy; Clarkstown UMC; Ecroyd Missionary Circle, Muncy; Elmsport UMC; Faith Church of Lairdsville; First UMC, Muncy; Franklin Fairview UMC, Unityville; Hughesville Baptist Church; Lungerville Christian Church, Unityville; Messiah Lutheran Church, Clarkstown; Mill Creek UMC, Montoursville; Moreland Baptist Church, Muncy; New Life Church, Pennsdale; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Montoursville; Pennsdale Trinity UMC; Picture Rocks UMC; Pleasant View Wesleyan Church, Muncy; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Muncy; St. James Episcopal Church, Exchange and Muncy; St. James Lutheran Church, Muncy; St. Marks Church, Lairdsville; CROP Walk – United Churches of Lycoming County, Williamsport.

Community Businesses and Organizations that recently made generous donations of money, food, or services include: Bon Ton, Lycoming Mall; Dandy Mini Marts, Inc., Athens; Epsilon Eta Chapter – Delta Sigma Phi, Muncy; Jersey Shore State Bank; Lycoming County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees; Muncy Bank and Trust; Muncy Public Library; Muncy Senior Citizens; Perceptor Delta Lambda, Montoursville; Sunset Ice Cream and Hoagies, Muncy; Weis Markets, Muncy.

Schools and Youth Groups for their recent support: Myers Elementary School, Muncy; Susquehanna Council – Bald Eagle District Boy Scouts of America – Cub Scout Day Camp, Williamsport.

Son Light House Hours of Operation:

Donations:

Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 7:00 am – 10:00 am

Food, clean, usable, seasonable clothing, toys, and furniture may be donated only at this time.

Distributions:

Every other week on Wednesday from 9:00 am – noon and Thursday 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Distribution Dates:

November 1+-2+, 15*-16* - *Thanksgiving

December 6+-7+, 20*-21* - *Christmas

January 10+-11+, 24-25

February 7+-8+, 21-22

+ Senior Boxes for eligible seniors

How Can I/We Help?

Prayers, volunteers, money, and food donations

– **especially cereal** -- are always needed. For more information or to get involved, contact

Son Light House by calling Ken and Delores Frey at 546-3585.

Merry Christmas



PeGratten.com pspaddictsrus.com SDU

Thanks

Thank you for my care package filled with goodies! It's comforting to know that my church family thinks about me even when I am not there. Thank you again!
Amy Drick

Don't Forget! There will be a Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 5th from 2 – 7 pm at the Fellowship Hall at the Elmsport Church.



Thank you for the amazing college care package that I received! It's great to know that so many people in the churches care about me. Thanks for your prayers as I continue my college journey.



Thanks again,
Benjamin Klopp

Thanks to all who donated to the Montgomery Food pantry. We will be taking a truck load of items to them! What an amazing parish we have!



Thank you We would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls concerning Larry while he was in the Williamsport Hospital and then doing physical therapy at Muncy Valley Skilled Nursing. He is doing well at home. We are truly blessed with having our church family to keep him in their prayers.

Thank you,
Larry & Sandy Foresman & Family

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



Elmsport Volunteers

Greeters for December

December 3	Mary Moore
December 10	Guy Mausteller & Sue Smith
December 17	Janet Eiswerth
December 24	Tweet Flick
December 31	Joann Stainbrook



- Items for January's newsletter are due December **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.)

MONTGOMERY CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

November 6, 2017

Dear Friends, Businesses and Organizations:

It is once again that time of year when we make an appeal for the less fortunate in our community at Christmas time. As of this time I have had several families contact me and **usually those calls don't come in until closer to Thanksgiving. Last year there were 227 families who received boxes and 297 children who received toys. Without your generous support this would not be possible. The food bill was \$7,251.97, approximately \$1,500.00 more than 2015 and we were able to pay this bill with your donations. Because of the increase in need at this time of the year not only in Montgomery, but this has affected the other areas of the county. Our funds are low and your help is greatly needed for this service. Without your help this program cannot exist.**

We distributed canned goods to each family and with the money we supply a Christmas Dinner for each family, which consists of Turkey/Ham, potatoes, vegetable, stuffing, **cranberry sauce, apples, bread, celery and margarine, cookies and Christmas hard candy. This year any kind of help you could give would be greatly appreciated. Even if your organization or business could give new canned goods to help fill the boxes.**

We greatly appreciate the toys that are given for the boys and girls. We have had to get **help from Toys for Tots (The Marine Corp League) for toys. All of the toys collected in Montgomery stay in the Montgomery School District. We ask if you donate toys that if they require a battery that you also provide what is required. It is so good to see the faces on the families who receive these gifts of food and toys. Some of the businesses have contacted me and observed how these boxes are prepared. We welcome you to give me a call and come to see this project. The boxes will be passed out on Saturday December 23rd this year with the help of the fire companies, EMA and some local citizens. Your check can be sent to:**

Nancy Gruver
Attn: Christmas Committee
553 School House Rd
Montgomery, Pa 17752

We ask that your check be made out to Montgomery Christmas Committee.

If you have any questions or you have anyone to put on the list please don't hesitate to call me at 547-6777 . .

We do distribute to Montgomery Borough, Clinton Township, Brady Township and Washington Township.

Once again, THANK YOU for your support and bless you all for your support.

Sincerely,



Nancy J. Gruver, Montgomery Christmas Committee



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

a ministry of united churches of lycoming co.
320 Park Ave. Williamsport, PA 17703 570-322-6538

mail: P.O. Box 2184

fax: 570-322-1968

shepherdofthestreetss@verizon.net

November, 2017

This is the season of harvest and of thanksgiving for God's gracious provision for our earthly journey. Taking pause in the world to recount His blessings gifted to us begins a season of heightened awareness of who we are and how God has graced us.

Thus, we begin with the acclamation of thanksgiving that forms a choir of sacrificial homage and adoration that accounts for the **Love** that God gifts us with His own Spirit. This renewal of love is brought to a crescendo that celebrates the Voice that created all things being gifted so that we might be able to harvest them for the good of all.

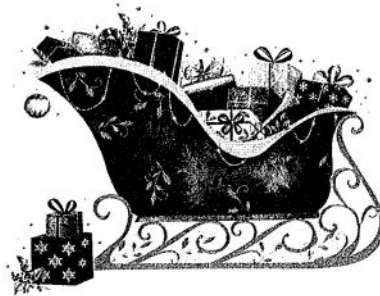
Soon comes the greatest gift of all...His only begotten Son to redeem us. From a virgin girl to the poorest of the poor abiding in fields of darkness, the love-song sweeps its carol. The handmaid of the Lord rejoiced in the gift of God, her Savior. I wonder what tone her words must have taken with God's Son becoming flesh in her womb. It was truly a song of thanksgiving marking the gifts of Grace and Truth, the Paschal Sacrifice of divine affection.

Gifting others as God has gifted us is the outworking of God's love, measured by **joy** and **hope**. Gifts of hope are given daily by Shepherd of the Streets as a joyful testimony of God's **love** which is measured by **mercy**. Our counseling is grounded in the Gift of God's love, measured by the Word made flesh, the Way of truth and life.

Let us keep the true meaning of thanksgiving and the supreme gift of God from fading as we celebrate this season. Join us in the litany of mercy throughout these days by gifting the poor with offerings to healing and health. Your gifts to allay the fears of those who come to us are measured by **grace**. Come, let us adore Him in the presence of His favorites, the poor among us.

In thanksgiving and peace, sincerely,
J. Morris Smith, Shepherd of the Streets,
Nancy Long and the Volunteers at SOS





Son Light House
130 Carpenter Street
Muncy, Pa 17756
570-546-3585

Elimsport United Methodist Church
5 Gap Road
Allenwood, Pa 17810

November 22, 2017

To: Members and Friends, Elimsport United Methodist Church:

On behalf of the Recipients, Volunteers and Board of Directors at the Son Light House, "Thank You" for your generous monetary donation of \$300.00 we received on November 20, 2017.

This donation will be used to purchase Chickens to be distributed for Christmas at the Son Light House. We are truly thankful for your generous and thoughtful support.

The month of November, 598 Households or 1,486 Individuals, 461- Youth, 699- Adults, 326-Seniors received Food and Clothing. There were (16) New Households registered in November at the Son Light House.

Son Light House depends on the Community and local support with both Non-Perishable Food and Monetary donations, not to forget our Volunteers making it possible to provide this service to the many families in need during the year.

Gratefully with God's Blessing,

Ken & Delores Frey
Ken and Delores Frey
Directors, Son Light House
Muncy, Pa 17756

Kid's Corner



We celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

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

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com

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.