

# Valley Views



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DECEMBER 2020



*Pastor Mike Hill*

## The Christmas Star

Isaac's head began to nod. His hand slowed down scratching the dog's head. It was hard for a boy of ten to stay awake all night in the field. The dog licked his face. "What? Oh, good boy," Isaac said. He rubbed his eyes and stretched. The sky was clear and full of stars. Isaac was glad his father thought he was old enough to help with their flocks of sheep.



Isaac's father and his uncle soon came by to check on him. The three of them sat to share a loaf of bread and some cheese. Suddenly a bright light washed over the shepherds from above. They were scared. They looked up to see a host of beautiful angels. One of the angels spoke to them. "Do not be afraid," the angel said. "I bring you good news of great joy! Today a savior is born in Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord. Go to the city. You will find the baby lying in a manger. Follow the brightest star."

Hundreds of angels appeared and sang praises to God. As suddenly as they appeared, the angels returned to heaven. Only one bright, shining star over Bethlehem was left in the sky. The shepherds were amazed. "We must go to the city and find this savior," said Isaac's father. "We must hurry!" said Isaac.

The shepherds began to round up their flocks and herd them toward home. Once the sheep were penned up, Isaac and his father and uncle walked quickly to Bethlehem, where the star was shining down on the stable behind the inn. There they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the stable.

Jesus was bundled in clean cloths and sleeping in a feeding manger full of fresh hay. The light from the star shone back from the baby's face. The shepherds fell to their knees.

Isaac knelt by the manger and said a prayer, thanking God for giving a savior to the world. Isaac's father thanked Mary and Joseph for letting them see the baby. When the shepherds left, they told everyone they saw about the miracles they witnessed that night.

The star shone over Bethlehem day and night. One night a large caravan made its way past the shepherd's field. Isaac went to the edge of the field and called out to the men. "Did you see the one they call Jesus?" he asked. "We did!" the men replied.

These men were not like any men Isaac had ever seen. They were the three Wise Men. "We saw the star from our lands very far away. We have traveled a long time to see this child called the Savior. The kings from our countries sent precious gifts to give to him."

Isaac said to the Wise Men, "You did not come by my fields when you came to Bethlehem." "You are right," said the tallest man. "We asked King Herod where to find this savior." "The king did not know," continued the man, "but he told us to find out so he might worship him also."

"We followed the star to the house where young Jesus was staying," said the shortest man. "We gave our gifts of gold and frankincense, to scent the air, and myrrh, a costly oil."

"Then we were warned in our dreams by an angel not to return to Herod but to go home another way," said the oldest man. "So that is what we have done. And now we have met you, my young friend." "I am Isaac," said the young shepherd. "I'm telling everyone about God's glorious star lighting the way to the King of Kings."

TO OUR PARISH:

Thanks to all who have volunteered to sponsor an individual child from the Giving Tree. Also, thanks and appreciation go out to those who are providing financial assistance and those who are supplying additional gifts from the tree tags.

If you aren't able to get a tag from the trees in either church, the age and gender of the children are listed below. Please feel free to get any age-appropriate gift for any of the children, just be sure to include a note of the age/gender the gift is meant for! **ALL donations must be received by December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Elimsport:

Male, Age 17

Female, Age 15

Male, Age 13

Male, Age 11

Male, Age 3

Male, Age 9

Female, Age 4



St. John's:

Female, Age 10

Male, Age 7

Male, Age 8

Female, Age 11

Female, Age 13

Female, Age 8

Female, Age 12

ELIMSPORT UM HANGING OF THE GREENS  
2020:

The annual Hanging of the Greens service is scheduled for Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00AM. We will not be assigning "jobs" for you to do this year, instead the decorations (with instructions) will be laid out for you to choose what you want to do. Please pick an item on your way to your pew and then follow the directions on the slip of paper included.

Sadly, we will not be singing our favorite Christmas hymns but we will have special music to accompany the adorning of our church as we prepare for the birth of our Savior.

We also, will not be gathering for fellowship time following the service however everyone will be leaving with a tasty treat and meaningful memento.

Please come and join us for this different, but still special, service as we continue to celebrate the Advent season.



The 2021 St. Johns offering envelopes are in the back of the church. If you're not currently attending church in person, you may pick them up anytime, or contact Deb Kennedy (570-777-5517) and she will deliver them to you if needed. If there is anyone who doesn't currently have envelopes and would like them, also let Deb know.



Dear Church Family,

I am blessed to have you thinking of me! I truly appreciate the big bag of treats, and I always look forward to it. I hope to see you all very soon!

Stay safe

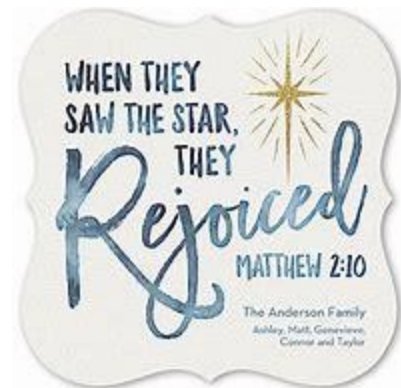
Yours,

Ben Klopp



Dear Elimsport Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the wonderful care package! It made my day to receive it. During a time in the semester when I'm very worn, it feels so nice to be reminded that I'm loved. I appreciate all who helped to make the package. Thank you again!



Merry Christmas!

Emma Klopp



Thank you to Pastor Michael Hill for his support during this difficult time and for the beautiful funeral service for my husband Walter DeLand. Thank you also for the cards and condolences from the St. John's congregation.

Sincerely,  
Joanne DeLand

*Thanks*

Thank you so very much for your donation to the Montgomery Food Bank. Your gift was very much appreciated. Thank you for caring for the needy people of the Montgomery area. Thank you so very much for all the boxes of food, all the apples and your gift of money for \$410. Thank you for all you do for us.

Thanks again,



Footprints of Montgomery

Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, December 14th at 6:30.



St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, December 10th at 7.



We are looking for someone to be our Annual Conference delegate for



2021. This involves going to Hershey for up to three days on June 3-5 and attending the daily worship, meetings, and voting on various issues. We stay at the Hershey convention center. Expenses are paid by our parish. This is a very interesting experience and not like the conferences in the old days. Please contact Pastor Mike if interested.

We are looking for someone to be a Vacation Bible School coordinator with the coordinator from Elimsport church. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested.



**Various means to keep updated:**

website: [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org)  
Face book: Elimspport United Methodist Parish  
Electronic sign at Elimspport church  
email Pastor Mike: [hjebm@comcast.net](mailto:hjebm@comcast.net)  
email church: [elimspportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimspportumc@gmail.com)  
Call Pastor Mike: 570-547-1386  
Text Pastor Mike: 570-974-8590 (please identify yourself when texting)

Be pro-active in getting the word out to others in the church.

**Acolyte Schedule:**

12/6 Elizabeth & Mitchell  
12/13 Garrett & Samuel  
12/20 Jackson & Mallorie  
12/27 Brock & Mitchell



- 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.)*

Community breakfast is on Wednesday mornings from 7-9 in the church Fellowship Hall.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely floral arrangement for Harry's services. Your thoughtfulness was truly comforting.

Carol Riddell and family



Please be sure to check the church website [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org) and Elimspport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

**Church News**

There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, December 1st from 2-7 at the Elimspport fellowship hall.



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# Kid's Corner

**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.

### 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)



★  
For  
God  
so loved  
the world  
that he gave  
his only Son  
that whoever believes  
in him should not perish  
but have eternal life  
John  
3:16

### 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.