

# Valley Views



VOLUME 28, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2021



*Pastor Mike Hill*



## **The Innkeeper's Tale**

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

They think I'm some kind of cruel, heartless landlord. Someone must have told them that. But they're wrong, just plain wrong, and it's time to set the record straight, once and for all.

People say I'm an innkeeper. I suppose you'd call it an inn. To us it's just a big house. My grandfather, Joshua ben-Yahoudi, built it back when his trading business was at a peak. And he built it big enough to fit all fourteen kids.

Well, a few years ago, the missus and I were just rattling around in that big house--kids grown up and all--and we were thinking, maybe we could take in a few travelers. Rachel has always been mighty good in the kitchen, so we just let out word that we'd take people in, and they started to come. Every night we'd have a person or two, sometimes more. People would always come back when they came to town again, intent on another bowl of Rachel's lamb stew.

Then came that blankety-blank census the governor thought up. Taxation, pure and simple! People from all over the province flooded into town that week. Filled us clean up. Rachel and I slept in the main room where we always do, and we started putting guests in the other three rooms. They kept coming. Then we doubled up two or three families to a room. They kept coming. Finally, when we had filled the main room with four families plus Rachel and me, we started turning people away.

I must have gotten in and out of bed ten times that night, stumbling over bodies to get to the door. "No more room, sorry folks. No more room. Come back in the morning. We have a couple of families leaving then." They'd mutter something and head back to their party, and sleep somewhere next to a house under the shelter of a blanket. I just couldn't make any more room. That's the honest truth.

But I did make room for one more couple. Joseph was a burly man with big arms and strong hands, down from Nazareth, I think he said. He wouldn't take "no" for an answer. I would say, "No, I'm sorry," and he'd tell me about his "little Mary." Well, when I saw "little Mary" she wasn't very little. She was just about as pregnant as a woman can get, and awfully pale. While Joseph was pleading, I saw her grab her tummy in pain, and I knew I couldn't let her have that baby outside in the wind and sleet.

The barn. That would just have to do, I told myself, and led them and their donkey out back. Now it was pretty crowded, so I shooed several animals into the pen outside to make room in one dry corner. Joseph said, "We sure are grateful, sir." Then with a serious look, he asked me, "Do you know where I can find a midwife in these parts? We might need her tomorrow or the next day."

That man didn't know much about having babies, it was plain enough to see. I ran to Aunt Sarah's house and pounded on the door until her husband came. "One of the travelers is having a baby," I told him. "I'll wait while Aunt Sarah gets dressed." I stopped a moment to catch my breath. "And tell her to hurry."

By the time we got back to the barn, Joseph had "little Mary" settled on some soft, clean hay, wrapped up in a blanket, wiping the perspiration off her brow, and was speaking softly to her as she fought the waves of pain. Aunt Sarah sent me to get my Rachel, and then pushed Joseph and me out of the barn. "This ain't no place for men," she said.

We waited just outside in the shelter of the barn for hours, it seemed like. Well, all of a sudden, we hear a little cry. "You've got a baby boy," Aunt Sarah was saying as we peeped around the corner. She hands the young-un to Rachel, and she wraps it up in those swaddling bands she had saved. Cute little thing, I tell you.

Well, Joseph goes over to Mary and gives her a big hug, and a kiss on the cheek, and Rachel hands Mary the baby, and then comes over to me and takes my hand. "Remember when our Joshua was born?" she whispers.

The lantern was blowing almost out, the cattle were lowing softly, and baby Jesus was asleep in his mother's arms. That's how I left them as I walked Aunt Sarah home. Chilly wind, though the sleet had stopped.

By the time I got back, Rachel was in bed, and I was about ready to put out the light, step over sleeping bodies, and get under the warm covers, when I heard some murmuring out by the barn.

I'd better check, I told myself. When I peeped in, I saw shepherds. Raggedy, smelly old shepherds were kneeling down on the filthy barn floor as if they were praying. The oldest one was saying something to Joseph about angels and the Messiah. And the rest of them just knelt there with their heads bowed, some with tears running down their faces.

I coughed out loud, and Joseph looked up. I was almost ready to run those thieving shepherds off, when Joseph motioned to me with his hand. "It's okay," he whispered. "They've come to see the Christ-baby."

The Christ-baby? The Messiah? That was when I knelt, too. And watched, and prayed, and listened to the old shepherd recount his story of angels and heavenly glory, and the sign of a holy baby, wrapped in swaddling bands, to be found in a stable-manger.

My Lord, it was my stable where the Christ-baby was born. My manger he rested in. My straw, my lamp, my wife Rachel assisting at his birth.

The shepherds left after a while. Some of them leaned over and kissed the sleeping Christ-child before they departed. I know I did.

I'll always be glad I made room in the barn for that family-- that holy family. You see, I'm not some mean inn-keeper. I was there. I saw him. And, you know, years later that boy came back to Bethlehem, this time telling about the Kingdom of God. Oh, I believe in him, I tell you. I was there. And, mark my words, if you'd seen what I've seen, you'd be a believer, too.





**Son Light House**  
**130 Carpenter Street**  
**Muncy, Pa. 17756**

Elmsport United Methodist Church  
5 Gap Road  
Allenwood, Pa. 17810

November 17, 2021

To: Members and Friends, Elmsport United Methodist Church:


On behalf of the Recipients, Volunteers and Board of Directors "Thank You" for the generous monetary donation of \$300.00 received on November 15, 2021 for the Son Light House.

We are truly thankful for your thoughtful support. The Monetary donation will help with our operational expenses and purchase Turkeys for Thanksgiving at the Son Light House.

The month of October, 2021, 281-Households received food and clothing. There were, 626-Individuals, (185-Youth, 256-Adults, 185-Seniors.) There were 8 New Households registered in October.

Son Light House depends on the support of the local community, organizations and individuals for support with both non-perishable food and monetary donations, not to forget our volunteers making it possible to provide this service for the many families in need during the year.

With God's Blessing,

  
Ken and Delores Frey  
Directors, Son Light House

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# ELIMSPORT CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

**DECEMBER 11, 2021**

**AT THE ELIMSPORT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**PAVILLION 1:00-5:00**

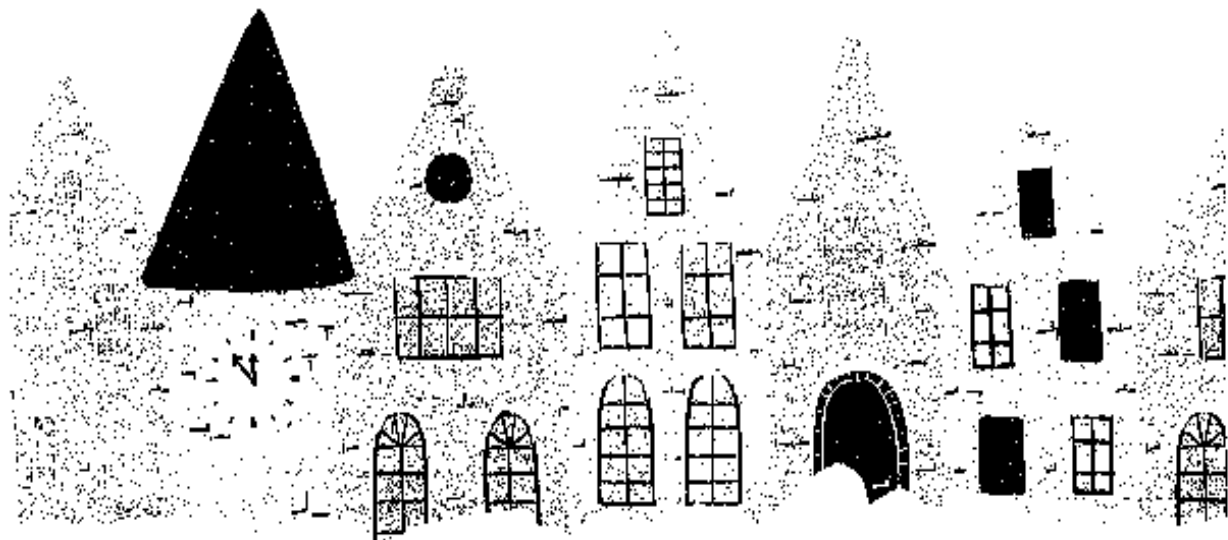
**Nativity at 2:00 and 4:00**

**Ugly Sweater Contest at 3:00**

**Lighting of the Christmas Tree at 4:30**

**FOOD, CRAFTS, MUSIC, & VENDORS**

**AN OUTDOOR EVENT WITH WEATHER DATE OF 12/18/2021**



Acolyte Schedule:

- 12/05/21 Garrett & Mallorie
- 12/12/21 Samuel & Mitchell
- 12/19/21 Jackson & Elizabeth
- 12/26/21 Garrett & Samuel



Due to the constant changes in the covid mandates, we are making it a personal choice to wear masks or face coverings in the church building, but are suggesting that you wear one if you are unvaccinated or are vulnerable to contacting the virus. We are still suggesting that people practice social distancing each Sunday Morning and use common sense while greeting each other.



## Church Committees

the pastor and employees of the parish.

We are still looking for 2 people to serve on the PPRC committee at St. John's. This committee meets 4 times a year and deals with the ministry of



Please send cards to Shirley. She's love to hear from you!

**Saturday, December 4th at 2:00 pm at St. Andrews church in Milton.**

Due to the pending lawsuit in relationship to the Boy Scouts of America, there is a District Wide church conference to deal with this issue in churches where the Boy Scouts are meeting or have met in the past. We will be casting a ballot on behalf of the church? We need one lay person from Elimsport church to attend.



Heritage Springs Memory Care  
 Attn: Shirley Bower Room 212  
 878 Old Cement Road  
 Muncy, PA. 17756



Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimsport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.



Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, December 13th 6:30.



St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, December 9th at 7:00.



The Hanging of the Greens service is scheduled for December 5th at 9AM. We will not be assigning "jobs" for you to do this year, instead the

Greens, the Candles, and the Bells will be laid out in room #2. We would like you to take the decoration of your choice to your pew before the service and the follow the instructions on the slip of paper. Please bring a treat to share for fellowship time following

Dear St. John's Friends, Thank you so very much for the gift card. I am grateful to be part of this wonderful congregation.

Blessings,

Joanne DeLand



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for thinking of me and making me this wonderful care package. Classes have been so crazy lately and getting my package put a huge smile on my face. I appreciate all of the thought and time that went into this gift. Thank you! Thank you!

and his name shall be called  
 Wonderful,  
 Counsellor,  
 The mighty God,  
 The everlasting Father,  
 The Prince of Peace.



Take care and God Bless!

Emma Klopp



**Various means to keep updated:**

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

Face book: Elimsport United Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimsport church

email Pastor Mike: [hjebm@comcast.net](mailto:hjebm@comcast.net)

email church: [elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@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.

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.



For unto you is  
born this day  
in the city of David a  
**Saviour**  
which is  
Christ the Lord.  
- Luke 2:11

[www.a-simple-christian.com](http://www.a-simple-christian.com)



- 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.)*

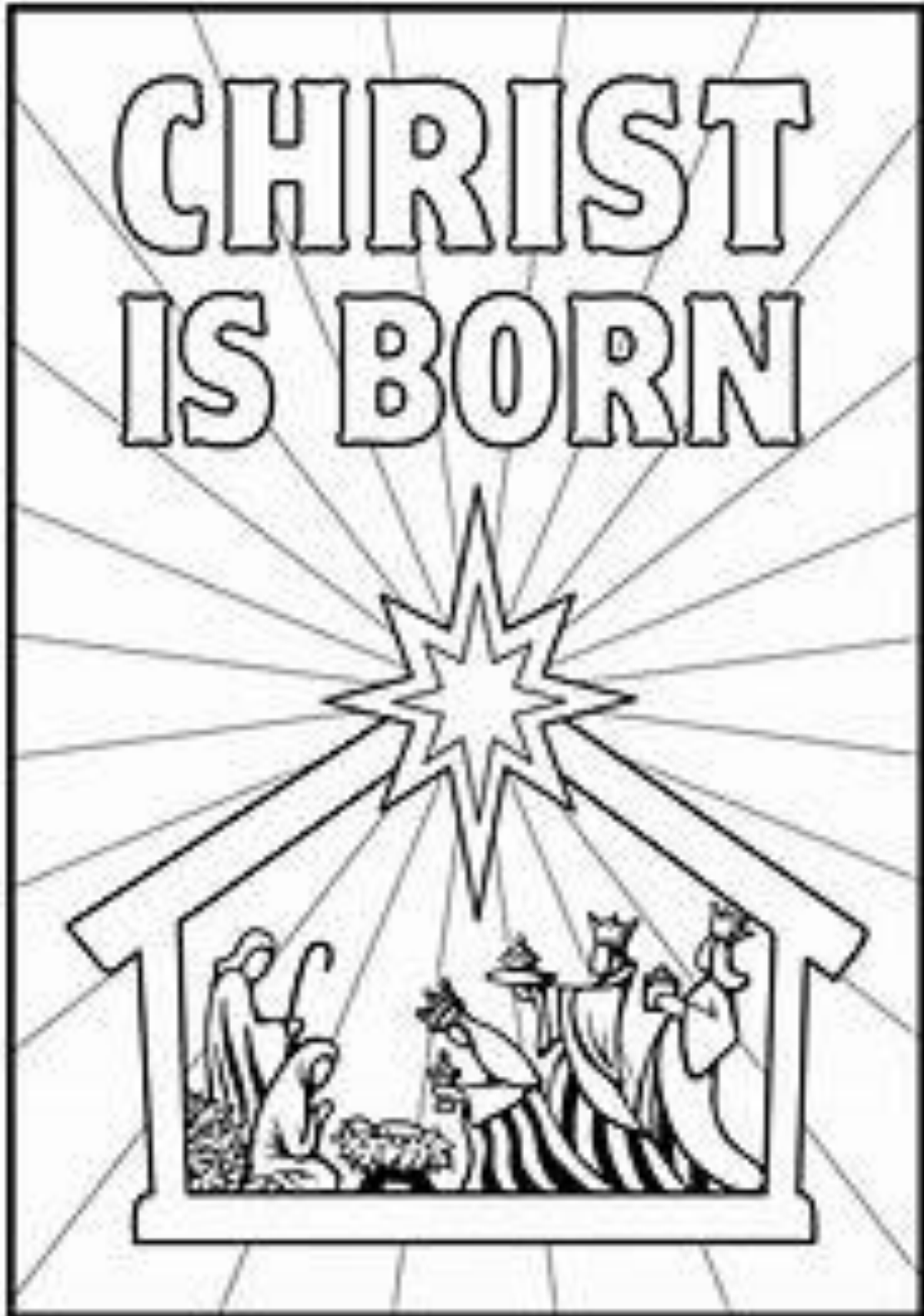


When they  
saw the star,  
they  
**Rejoiced**  
with exceeding  
great joy

MATTHEW 2:10



# 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

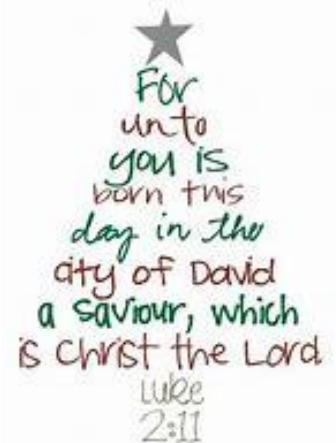
### Parish Website:

[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.