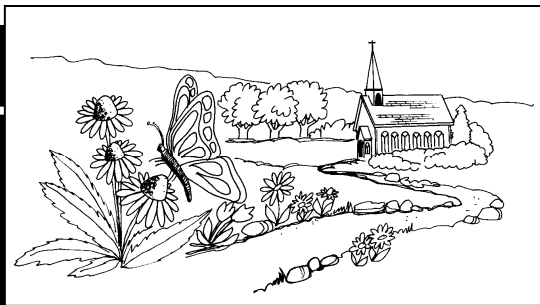


Valley Views



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2014

As we are now well into the new year, our agendas are well underway for 2014. During the course of the year we find specific prayer concerns. I ran across this blog earlier in January and wanted to share it with you and ask that you pray for your pastor often during the year. I did not write the article, but I highly agree with Nicholas Batzig regarding the need for prayer for your pastor. Please take these as seriously as I do as we work together in ministry to please God in all we do in 2014.

Thank You
Pastor Mike

5 Ways to Pray for Your Pastor in 2014

from *Nicholas Batzig*



As a pastor, I sometimes mistakenly think that those most in need of my prayers in the church are those who have the most noticeable spiritual or physical weaknesses. I would imagine that, if we are honest with ourselves, we have all thought or said at some time or another something along the lines of, "So and so is really going to need a lot of prayer." On the one hand, it is entirely right that we acknowledge that our brothers and sisters who have more noticeable weaknesses have a great need for our prayers; On the other hand, however, those to whom God has given the most gifts and graces are also greatly in need of our prayers. Contrary to what some might suppose, ministers of the Gospel desperately need the prayers of the saints.

Pastors need the saints' prayers because they are ever the object of the flaming arrows of the evil one. In addition, the world is eager to run them over at any opportunity. As one of my seminary professors so illustratively put it, "Ministers have a bull's eye on their back and footprints up their chest." Sadly, this is even a reality for pastors within the context of the local church.

With so much opposition and difficulty within and without, pastors constantly need the people of God to be praying for them. The shepherd needs the prayers of the sheep as much as they need his prayers. He also is one of Christ's sheep, and is susceptible to the same weaknesses. While there are many

things one could pray for pastors, here are five straightforward Scriptural categories:

1. Pray for their spiritual protection from the world, the flesh and the Devil.

Whether it was Moses' sinful anger leading to his striking of the rock ([Num. 20:7-12](#)), David's adultery and murder (2 Sam. 11), or Simon Peter's denial of the Lord ([Matt. 26:69-75](#)) and practical denial of justification by faith alone ([Gal. 2:11-21](#)), ministers are faced with the reality of the weakness of the flesh, the assaults of the world and the rage of the devil. There have been a plethora of ministers who have fallen into sinful practices in the history of the church and so brought disgrace to the name of Christ. Since Satan has ministers of the gospel (and their families) locked in his sight—and since God's honor is at stake in a heightened sense with any public ministry of the word, members of the church should pray that their pastor and their pastor's family would not fall prey to the world, the flesh, or the Devil.

2. Pray for their deliverance from the physical attacks of the world and the Devil.

While under prison guard in Rome, the apostle Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to pray for his release when he wrote, "I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" ([Phil. 1:19](#)). (See also [2 Cor. 1:9-11](#)). When Herod imprisoned Simon Peter we learn that "constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church" ([Acts 12:5](#)). After an exodus-like deliverance from prison, Luke tells us that Peter showed up at the home where the disciples were continuing to pray for his deliverance. This is yet another example of the minister being delivered from harm due, in part, to the prayers of the saints.

3. Pray for doors to be opened to them for the spread of the gospel.

In his letter to the Colossians Paul asked the church to be praying "that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains" ([Col. 4:3](#)). The success of the spread of the gospel is dependant in part on the prayers of the people of God. In this way, the church shares in the gospel ministry with the pastor. Though he is not the only one in

the body who is called to spread the word, he has a unique calling to "do the work of an evangelist." The saints help him fulfill this work by praying that the Lord would open doors "for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ."

4. Pray that they might have boldness and power to preach the gospel.

In addition to praying for open doors for the ministry of the word, the people of God should pray that ministers would have Spirit-wrought boldness. When writing to the church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul asked them to pray for him "that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" ([Eph. 6:19](#)). There is a well-known story of several college students going to visit the Metropolitan Tabernacle in order to hear Charles Spurgeon preach. As the story goes, Spurgeon met them at the door and offered to show them around. At one point he asked if they wanted to see the church's heater plant (boiler room). He took them downstairs where they saw hundreds of people praying for God's blessings on the service and on Spurgeon's preaching. The gathering of the people of God to pray for the ministry of the word is what he called "the heating plant!" Believers can help ministers by praying that they would be given boldness and power in preaching the gospel.

5. Pray that they might have a spirit of wisdom and understanding.

One of the most pressing needs for a minister of the gospel is that he would be given the necessary wisdom to counsel, to know when to confront, to mediate and to discern the particular pastoral needs of a congregation. This is an all-encompassing and a recurring need. The minister is daily faced with particular challenges for which he desperately needs the wisdom of Christ. It is said of Jesus that "the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, and of counsel and might" was upon Him ([Is. 11:2](#)). The servants of Christ need that same Spirit. Much harm is done to the church as a whole if the minister does not proceed with the wisdom commensurate to the challenges with which he is faced. Those who benefit from this wisdom can help the minister by calling down this divine blessing from heaven upon him.

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the college care package. I greatly appreciate you thinking of me during finals.

Thanks again,
Travis Kennedy



I would like to thank you all for the college care package. It really helped me to get through finals week and finish out the semester. Thanks again for the support you have given to me over the years!

Jonathan Rhone

Church family,

I would like to thank you for my care package.

It really makes me happy knowing you're all there for me.

Sincerely,
Megan Drick

Dear St. John's U.M.C.S.S.,

Thank you very much for your monthly donation for the year of 2013. They were very much appreciated. Thank you for caring for the needy people of the Montgomery area.

Thanks again,
Footprints of Montgomery

Dear Elimsport United Methodist Church,

Thank you so very much for your donation of \$300 to the Montgomery foodbank. It is very much appreciated. Thank you for caring about the needy people of the Montgomery area.

Thanks again,
Footprints of Montgomery

Dear Congregation,

I wanted to take a minute to express my gratitude for the Starbucks gift card. This will be very helpful as I attempt to stay awake during my late night writing sessions. I am completing my PhD program part-time as I work and am raising a child. Therefore, a lot of my work is done at night! I have just completed my first semester of my second year and have earned an overall 4.0GPA. My goal is to complete my dissertation on underserved college students. My commitment to social justice through equal access to education stems from my upbringing in the Methodist church. Again, thank you for your generosity. It was so thoughtful of you to remember me!

Sincerely,
Danelle Bower

Dear Elimsport Church family,

Thanks so much for the Christmas gift bag of goodies that Hilda delivered. I really do appreciate your thinking of me.

God Bless!
LeRoy Frontz



**Bonnie and Patti
during the
entertainment at
St. John's
Christmas Party.**



Dear Friends of the Food Bank:

Thanks to you, individuals and families struggling with hunger in our communities will have a more joyous holiday season this year. With your gift of \$300.00 you have made it possible for neighbors in need to have a wonderful holiday meal, and you have provided them with care and hope.

Each day we are amazed at the generosity of our community and donors like you. Your gifts enable the Williamsport Branch of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to provide nutritious, well-balanced meals to families during this holiday season and throughout the year. With need at an all-time high, the support of our community is critical for us to continue serving the thousands of people needing food assistance each week.

Thank you for helping to ensure that all Central Pennsylvanians have a place at the dinner table. If you would like more information on additional ways to support the Williamsport Branch of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank or would like to tour the Food Bank, please contact me directly at 5710.321.8023.

We appreciate your commitment to make a difference in our community.

Sincerely,

Jamie Caputo

Branch Director



Elimsport United Methodist Church Congregation,

Thank you for your Christmas gift in the amount of \$100.00. Your thoughtfulness means so much and we want you to know of our sincere gratitude.

It was kind of you to think of the children at this special time of year. For some of the boys and girls in our care, this may have been the first time in their young lives they have experienced Christmas in a loving home, surrounded by caring people. You have helped in such a wonderful way and contributed to their happiness through your kindness. We appreciate your generosity. *Thanks to everyone! Dave*

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Rev. David L. Reed, D.Ed.

President/CEO

Kathy J. Eppley, CFRE

Vice President/Chief Development Officer



St. John's United Methodist Church Congregation,

This is to gratefully acknowledge your recent gift of \$200.00. Your thoughtfulness and generosity give all of us encouragement in providing care for the youngsters entrusted to our care.

Thank you for giving these children a chance to improve their personal lives, to find encouragement, and to be enabled to reach their potential as human beings. Each of them has special gifts with which God has blessed them. You are enabling them to discover their special gifts and to share them with others.

Someday, many of these youngsters will reward us with their intellect, kindness and leadership.

Sincerely,

Rev. David L. Reed, D.Ed.

President/CEO

Kathy J. Eppley, CFRE

Vice President/Chief Development Officer

Favorite Scriptures

If you have any favorite scriptures you would like to learn about or any that you have questions about, please write them down and give them to Pastor Mike as he will be preaching on these in 2014.

**Blood Drive**

Our next blood drive is coming up quickly on Wednesday, February 5 from 2-7 p.m. All donations of blood are desperately needed.

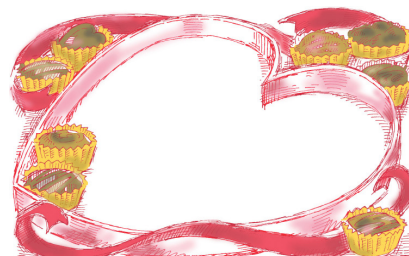
Tired of Winter? Lonely or nothing to do? Don't want to make your coffee before going to work?

Come have a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate with us. Bring a friend along, you will have a lot of good conversations and laughs with your friends and neighbors.

Where: Elimsport Church Fellowship Hall

When: Starting in February, every Wednesday morning

Time: Anytime between 7:00 and 10:00 am



Everyone is Welcome! We Look Forward to Seeing You!

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
FEBRUARY 2014**

| | | |
|-------------|--------|---|
| February 2 | 6:30pm | Souper Bowl Sunday. Youth will take up collections at each church for Sonlight House and Footprints during the morning services. Meet at the church. Youth Sunday rehearsal. <i>Soup orders due!</i> |
| February 9 | 8:30am | Meet at Elimsport for Youth Sunday, then to St John's for Youth Sunday. Pizza at OIP after the services. |
| February 15 | 7:00am | Meet at the church to make soup. \$5 quart. Vegetable Beef, Chicken Corn, Ham & Bean, Chili. |



Apple dumplings will be made Wednesday, Feb. 19th., the last until fall.

- Items for March's newsletter are due February 20th.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to Pastor Mike or Deb by Thursday **morning** each week.

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

Greeters for February

| | | |
|------|----|-----------------------------------|
| Feb. | 2 | Ray Gulliver |
| Feb. | 9 | Bob & Hilda Sampsell |
| Feb. | 16 | Mary Moore & Penny Becher |
| Feb. | 23 | Jim and Sandy Chamberlin & family |

John Crossword

Jesus said:

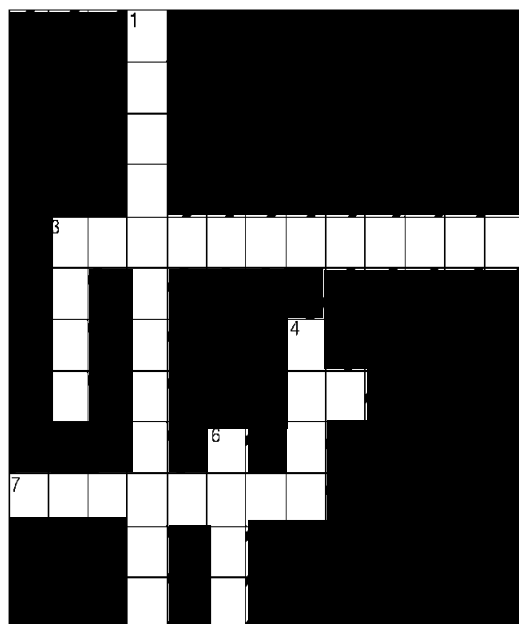
John 10:9 "I am the ⁴ _____."

John 11:11 "I am the ¹_____."

John 11:25 "I am the
 3 _____
 and the 6 _____."

John 14:6 "I am the ⁵_____ and the ²_____
and the ⁶_____."

John 15:1 "I am the _____."



Fill in the crossword with the words from the above blanks.

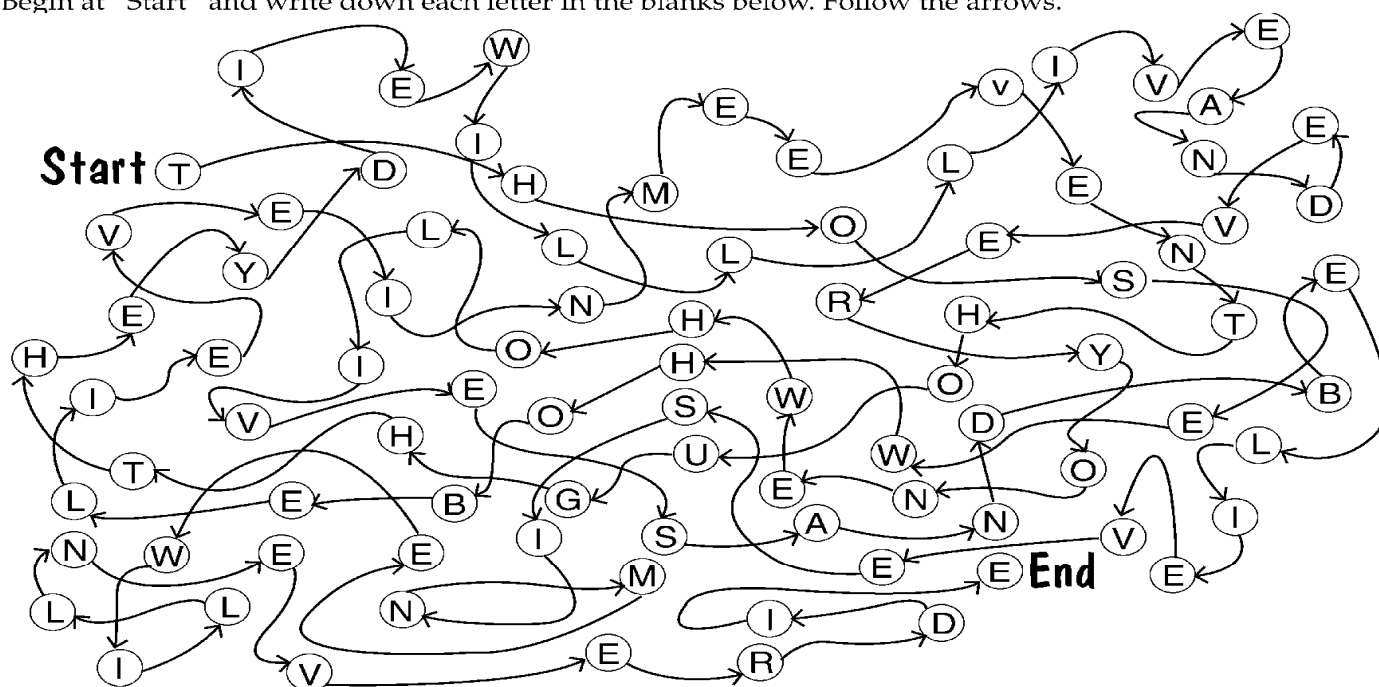


Kids Spot



John 11:25b, 26a

Begin at "Start" and write down each letter in the blanks below. Follow the arrows.



Answer: "Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

ANSWER:

Valentine's Day Quiz

- 1) When did the day originate?
- 2) What Catholic priest is associated with this day?
- 3) What happened that he was martyred?
- 4) Who received the first Valentine?
- 5) How is Roman Emperor Claudius II connected to Valentine's day?
- 6) When was the oldest Valentine still in existence written?
- 7) In the 1840's Esther A. Howland was given the title _____.
- 8) According to the American Greeting Card company, Valentine's Day is the second largest card selling holiday, coming right behind _____.

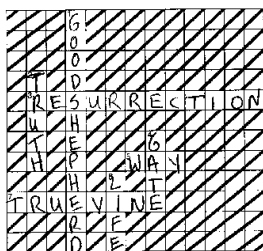
Visit:

<http://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day>

for the correct answers.



Puzzle Answers



The "Love" File

After eighteen months in the ministry, a pastor went to his filing cabinet to pull out the "Love" file. He discovered he didn't have one. Impossible! It must be misfiled. He searched among Faith and Fasting, between Healing and Heaven. Perhaps it was sandwiched between Christology and Christian Ed. After all, these have to do with Love, don't they? But it wasn't there, nor was it found after Money or ahead of Missions.

When he stopped to reflect, the Holy Spirit solved the mystery. The Love file was scattered. Parts of it were found under Patience, Kindness, Humility, Trust, Hope, Loyalty, and Perseverance. But the pastor found the greatest part of the Love file, squarely-centered and deeply seated in Forgiveness.

Making the Grand Gesture

Just before Valentine's Day, I joined another man standing at the rack of cards. We flipped cards open, commenting caustically about the sappy verses inside.

Suddenly he found one. "It's right, you know," he said, looking at the words. "We men are not good at the little things. We think the occasional grand gesture is enough to prove our love."

I bought the same card.

And then, as I was signing it for Joan, a penny dropped.

All through my childhood, I read books about men making these grand gestures. Horatio and his buddies stood at the bridge, fending off the enemies of ancient Rome. Sidney Carton took his friend's place at the guillotine during the French Revolution, saying, "It is a far, far better thing I do than I have ever done."

And, of course, there's Jesus.

For a grand gesture, it's hard to beat the crucifixion. Jesus himself emphasized the supreme sacrifice: "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

I wonder if the emphasis given to this one act derives from the predominantly male leadership of the Christian church for the last 20 centuries. Because the grand gesture is a very masculine way of showing love. It's no coincidence, I'm sure, that the message of the crucifixion - and all the guilt that goes along with it - continues to be most strongly promoted in churches that cling to male leadership.

I asked a female minister how often she had preached about the crucifixion as the atonement for our sins.

"“Never!” she exploded.

I've heard quite a few sermons by women over the years. None of them ever glorified the crucifixion either. If anything, they chose to focus on the little things in Jesus' life. A touch in a crowd. A hand that helped a little girl rise. A kind word for a widow. An act of compassion for a troubled father.

To these women, the grand gesture was meaningless - unless it was backed up by the smaller acts that give it credibility.

- Jim Taylor

**ELIMSPORT
VALLEY UNITED
METHODIST
PARISH**

Parish Office:

16145S. RT 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Office Phone:

547-1974

Parsonage Phone:

547-1386

Pastor Mike's Cell:

974-8590

Parish Website:

www.evpumc.org

Parish email:

elimsportumc@windstream.net

www.evpumc.org

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.

VALLEY VIEWS



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 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.

Elimsport Valley U.M. Parish

16145 S RT. 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

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