

# Valley Views



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*Pastor Mike Hill*

Most will agree that the foggy days we've been experiencing are somewhat depressing. I heard someone asking the other day, "where is the sun?" At night time it becomes very dangerous driving in the foggy conditions because it becomes difficult to see ahead. For a little while we can rely on our memory of the road to guide us as to where we are at, but after a while of driving in the fog, we can even become somewhat disoriented and can no longer figure out where we are.

Seeing what's ahead is important in driving as well as in life. However, the surprises in life seem to disorient us and cause us to become confused. We get depressed because life doesn't often turn out to be the way we think it should be. Things happen that we didn't see coming.

I have had to change my driving habits at times while traveling in the fog, especially at night. I find it helps to slow down and only focus on what is directly in front of me rather than trying to see too far ahead. I have even had to slow down and drive with my door open, looking down at the painted lines on the road in order to have something to follow in the fog.

Maybe we can learn from this. I believe we are simply going too fast in life. We easily get caught up in thinking about the future and get blindsided by unfortunate events in life. Rather, we should change our ways and slow down a little and just take each day as it comes, focusing on the here and now. Jesus said in Matthew 6, "Do not worry about tomorrow, tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

The only way to be sure we are safe when driving in the fog is to slow down and focus. This is true of life. Taking each day as it comes is spending each day focused on the here and now and all that God has for us each day. How many blessings have we missed because our minds have been in a fog, thinking about something in the future that we have no control over? In the New Year, let's slow down a little and keep our minds about us, spending our days being thankful for all God has done for us and for his protection along the road of life. And as we travel that road, we will see that trusting God, who can see the road ahead, is the best way to travel.

Happy New Year

Pastor Mike



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To: Members and Friends, St. John's Methodist Church:

On behalf of the Recipients, Volunteers and Board of Directors at the Son Light House, "Thank You" for the generous donation of "clothing" that we received on December 17, 2015.

Your thoughtful support in helping our ongoing mission at the Son Light House is truly appreciated.

The month of November, 740 households received food and clothing or 1,985 individuals, 682 youth, 963 adults, 340 senior 60+ and 20 new households are registered in November at Son Light House.

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



Gratefully and with God's Blessing.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Ken & Delores Frey

Directors of Son Light House

Dear Supporters of Sojourner Truth Ministries:

Greeting and Blessings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus! We had another wonderful year serving the Lord and we could not have done it without your generosity. In our effort to advance our mission of being faithful disciplines of Jesus Christ, we are asking for your support once again.

Our continued growth has given us the ability to be more than a soup kitchen and to help the homeless in our area; we provide snacks to neighborhood children on their way to school so they will not go hungry and we help the people of the Williamsport area by providing clothes and access to other resources that are available through our community partners. In addition, we also provide something that is not as an easily quantifiable physical resource—we provide love, dignity and respect for often over-looked members of our community.

In a world where caring for people is a matter of production, we choose to take a different, kinder approach. We offer a greeting with a kind word and often times a hug, we serve people at their tables rather than a rigid buffet line, we take the time to learn their names and their stories, and we work hard to make sure everyone feels loved. Ultimately Sojourner Truth Ministries is about changing lives and meeting the physical needs of those that God sends to us.

With your generous donation we can continue to change the lives of people who are marginalized by society and make sure they know how loved, valued and important they are to our community. Your donation will change lives, bring dignity, build character, and ultimately bring the love of Christ to so many lives.

Yours in Faith,

The Sojourner Truth Ministries Board of Directors

P.S. As always, we know that you will keep us in your prayers. Thank you again for taking the time consider our needs in ministry, and God Bless.

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*



Dear Pastor Hill and Friends:

This is to gratefully acknowledge your Christmas donation of wish list items and \$60 cash. Your thoughtfulness means so much and we want you to know of our sincere gratitude.

For many of the boys and girls in our care, this will be the first time they have experienced the holidays in a loving home, surrounded by caring people. Your gift will help us provide the children with a wonderful Christmas experience, safe housing, food and help us meet our operating costs.



Sincerely,  
Daniel J. Brannen

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot express my thanks for all the love I've been shown through this journey. For all the cards, flowers, gifts, words of comfort; for all the food and especially for the prayers. Thank you all so much.



God Bless,

Michele Drick

Youth Fellowship Happenings

January 8 Winter Jam @ State College

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!**





The Christian Crusaders will meet for a sauerkraut dinner on Friday, January 22nd at 6:00 pm in the church social hall. Please bring your own table service.



Council Of Ministries will be meeting at the Elimsport Church January 21st at 6:30.

Bible Study will resume Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 pm at the Elimsport Church. All are welcome to attend.



## Elimsport Volunteers

- Items for February's newsletter are due January 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.)

### Greeters for January

January 3 Deanna Drick  
 January 10 Jeremy & Joann Kennedy & Family  
 January 17 Robin & Taryn Myers & Family  
 January 24 Deb Salvatori  
 January 31 Anderson Family





# Kid's Corner

## JANUARY



January days bring snowmen and sleds.



# **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.