

Valley Views



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JANUARY 2019



Pastor Mike Hill

New Year's Resolutions

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are stupid enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by star thistle without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness. Call it stupidity.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan, the old saw goes, then we plan to fail. If you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during from one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.





Son Light House

130 Carpenter Street

Muncy, Pa 17756

570-546-3585

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

November 26, 2018

To: Members and Friends, Elmsport United Methodist Church:

*On behalf of the Recipients, Volunteers and Board of Directors at the Son Light House,
"Thank You" for your monetary donation of \$300.00 received on November 23, 2018.*

*This donation will be used to help pay for our purchase of Chickens for Christmas
distribution at the Son Light House. We are truly thankful for your generous and
thoughtful support this year.*

*The month of November, 2018, 341- Households or 870-- Individuals, 271- Youth, 399-
Adults, 200-Seniors, were able to receive Food and Clothing. (10) 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 Grey
Ken and Delores Grey
Directors, Son Light House
Muncy, Pa 17756



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Medical Center
1111 East End Boulevard
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

October 22, 2018

In Reply Refer To: 693/001/135

Elimsport United Methodist Church
16145 S. Route 44 Highway
Allenwood, PA 17810

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Veterans and staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your donation of the homemade quilts, afghans and pillows.

The quilts will help make our Veterans' stay with us more comfortable. We are very thankful to our donors who enable us to provide these niceties to our Veterans.

Please don't hesitate to call us for a list of items needed by our Veterans. Also, please call (570) 821-7237 before dropping off any donation to ensure that there is a staff member here to assist you, and that our Veterans are currently in need of the items.

Again, thank you for your continued support of America's Heroes

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Debra M. Schlosser", is positioned above the typed name.

Debra M. Schlosser
Chief, Voluntary Service

In accordance with VHA Directive 4721, we are required to state "The Department of Veterans Affairs did not provide you, the donor, any goods or services in consideration in whole or part for your contribution."

Dear Elimsport UMC & St.
John's UMC,

Thank you
so much for your abundance of
food and the 10 bushels of
apples you gave to the Mont-
gomery Food Bank. Your do-
nations were very much appreciated.
Thank you for caring for the needy people
of the Montgomery Area. God Bless.



Thanks again,
Footprints of Montgomery

Church Family,

Thank you for all
your prayers, cards and visits
when Bill was in 5 West Rehab
and the nursing home. And to the
sewing group, for the beautiful
blanket.

The Kennedy Family

Thanks

Thank you for the bag of snacks you
sent. The snacks really came in handy
after long days and working on finals.
I'm glad you thought of me.

Kyle Becher



Thank you so much for the care
package! Thank you for all the
prayers & support! I really ap-
preciate it.

Jenna R. Lutz



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the goodie
bags. It helped a lot for finals. Thanks
for thinking of us!

Megan & Jake Chamberlin

THANKS



Parish Bible Study will be starting up on Tuesday, January 8th at 6:00 at the Elimsport church. All are welcome.



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



This is a reminder for the Christian Crusader class: Please be sure to check the mailbox in the back of the church.



Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for January

January 6	Chris & Jill Ulrich
January 13	Robin & Taryn Myers & Family
January 20	Deanna Drick
January 27	Retta Moore



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

Acolyte Schedule

January

- 1/6 Jackson and Mitchell
- 1/13 Samuel and Elizabeth
- 1/20 Mallorie and Garrett
- 1/27 Jackson and Samuel

February

- 2/3 Elizabeth and Garrett
- 2/10 Samuel and Mallorie
- 2/17 Mitchell and Jackson
- 2/24 Garrett and Samuel



Attention fitness enthusiasts! All who are interested in free workouts can show up on Tuesdays and Thursdays (except when the FH is already booked) from 6:30-7:30 starting on November 8th. We will have a variety of workout DVD's we'll be showing on the TV in the fellowship hall. You may want to bring a mat and/or towel for floor work. We can develop a schedule of the type of workouts for each date as we become more organized. Any questions can be directed to Sharon Heintzelman or Christa McCormick.



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

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com

www.evpumc.org



The Lord will guide you always;
He will satisfy all your needs.

Isaiah 58:11

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.