

Valley Views



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2020



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.





December 17, 2019

Elimsport
United Methodist Church
16145 S Hwy 44
Allenwood, PA 17810

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you"
Matthew (28:19-20)

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries missionaries to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries around the world.

Nearly 400 United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

On behalf of the people who are recipients of the love of God through the direct ministry of a Global Missions missionary – *Thank You!*

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Kemper".

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roland Fernandes".

Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer



December 17, 2019

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United Methodist Church
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Allenwood, PA 17810

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Grace and Peace,

Thomas G. Kemper, General Secretary

Roland Fernandes, COO and General Treasurer

Supporting
James Keech

Gift Amount
\$ 83.33

Date Received 12-04-19

Account #17960

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution.

Shepherd of the Streets

P.O. Box 2184, Williamsport, PA 17703

Phone: 570-322-6538

Fax: 570-322-1968

God Bless Your Generosity!

Your Gift Provides Light To Those In Crisis.

Check Number: 1524

Amount Donated: \$300⁰⁰

Date of Donation: 11-20-19

Dear Elmsport UMC

Your recent donation to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is deeply appreciated.

Your gift of love is the spark needed for the candle to burn brighter in the hearts of those walking a difficult road.

May the Lord bless you abundantly, and shine brightly in all you say and do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



J. Morris Smith, Th.D.

Heavenly host said,
"May peace be given to those
He is pleased with on earth!!"
Luke 2:14b



December 11, 2019

Pastor Michael Hill
Elimsport United Methodist Church
16145 S State Route 44
Allenwood, PA 17810-9421

Dear Pastor Hill and Friends:

"Being on Social Security, you don't have enough money to live on. The food at the Food Bank helps all year round - especially during the holidays. It is very helpful." ~ Don M.

This holiday season, we are blessed to have you as a partner in our mission of **fighting hunger, improving lives and strengthening communities.**

We are so thankful for friends like you who are making a difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity, including individuals like Don. Don regularly receives food from one of our partner agencies, which he says helps him all year long. He currently lives in government housing after an accident left him homeless with mounting medical bills. He relies on his local food pantry to fill his shelves and describes the food he receives as simply, "very helpful."

Without the Food Bank and its partners, Don would not have a holiday meal. Your generosity has made this meal possible, and it has made the holidays brighter for thousands of others who find themselves in similar situations.

Your generous gift of \$300.00 will enable us to provide nutritious holiday meals to hungry children, seniors, families and veterans in our neighborhoods.

We are grateful and blessed by your support. On behalf of everyone at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, we wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy new year.

Yours in Service,

Joe Arthur
Executive Director

*Pastor Hill & Friends,
Thank You so much for all
of your wonderful support.*

No goods or services were provided in consideration of your contribution to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank.

www.centralpafoodbank.org

3908 Corey Road **Harrisburg**, PA 17109-5929 Phone: (717) 564.1700 Fax: (717) 561.4636
3301 Wahoo Drive **Williamsport**, PA 17701-9205 Phone: (570) 321.8023 Fax: (570) 321.8024

The official registration and financial information of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Brian Peddle
General

William Bamford
Territorial Commander



Larry Ashcraft
Divisional Commander

Donald and Paula Spencer, Majors
Corps Commanding Officers

THE SALVATION ARMY
"Founded in 1865 by William and Catherine Booth"

Williamsport Citadel Corps
457 Market Street, PO Box 1296
Williamsport, PA 17701

December 4, 2019

Elimsport United Methodist Church
16145 PA 44
Allenwood, PA 17810

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of a strong history and even stronger mission as indicated by your recent gift. The work of The Salvation Army in Williamsport today is the culmination of more than 127 years with the same mission "...to meet human needs in His name without discrimination." You can rest assured that we will be *doing the most good*, as our current motto states, with the treasure you have entrusted to us.

The Salvation Army is dependent upon caring people like you to support us in our effort to meet the needs of our struggling brothers and sisters, as well as support the many outreach programs we offer to the people of Lycoming County.

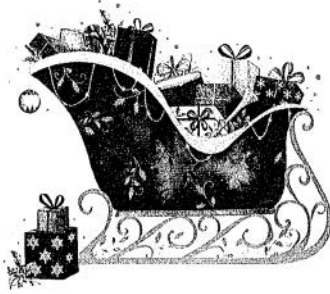
Please use this letter for tax purposes along with your records of your donation of \$300.00 dated 11/20/2019 as a charitable contribution.

The Salvation Army is tax exempt under Section 501 c (3) of the IRS Code; is published in the IRS Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170 c of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended; and this institution has full-time paid professional management. The Salvation Army received your donation and has not provided goods or services to you in return.

Sincerely,


Donald Spencer, Major
Commanding Officer

www.salvationarmywilliamsport.org
Telephone (570) 326-9187
FAX (570) 321-9987



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

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

November 26, 2019

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, 2019 for the Son Light House.

We are truly thankful for your generous and thoughtful support. This donation will help purchase Turkeys for our Christmas distribution December 18 and 19 at the Son Light House.

The month of November, 2019- 536 Households or 1,363 Individuals, -415- Youth, 647-Adults, 301-Seniors were able to receive food and clothing. There were (19) New Households registered in November, 2019 at the Son light House.

Son Light House depends on the support of the local community's various organizations for their 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.

*Gratefully with God's Blessing,
Ken & Delores Frey
Ken and Delores Frey
Directors, Son Light House*



United Methodist
HOME for CHILDREN
A Board of Child Care program
5120 Simpson Ferry Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3627

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16145 S State Route 44
Allenwood PA 17810-9421



Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of happiness and excitement and it's the same at the United Methodist Home for Children (UMHC), a Board of Child Care program. The kids and staff look forward to the holiday season, being out of school, and enjoying local trips and celebrations together.

This year, as you count your many blessings, please remember the special work that happens at UMHC with a kind donation.

The programs at BCC's Mechanicsburg campus offer an extensive range of services to meet the unique and often complex needs of those we serve. Our staff provide healing and recovery utilizing therapeutic interventions that are trauma informed. As a team they bring our purpose statement – enriching communities, one family at a time – to life, and we could not be prouder of both the efforts of the staff and the kids.

Your generosity ensures a brighter holiday now as well as support throughout the coming New Year. Many of the programmatic, off-site experiences and facility improvements UMHC undertakes are made entirely possible through the encouragement and support of the community and individuals just like you.

On behalf of the youth and their families who benefit most from your kind gift, we thank you.

Enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Warmly,

Laurie Anne Spagnola, MSW
President & CEO

Jeffrey A. Glass, MSW, LSW
Director of PA Programs





Sojourner Truth Ministries
501 High Street, Williamsport, PA. 17701

November 20, 2019

Dear Friends and Partners,

Eva (*name used with permission*) is a neighbor with 10 year old Carter, a teen, and adult children who've returned home, and a grandbaby on the way. She works to stretch her funds for the family to get by. Most days, she comes for lunch and brings home leftovers to the family. She's been active in a women's study and grown spiritually, and Carter is the most popular person at Dinner Church- coming early and eagerly helping virtually every group who comes to serve. The family has benefitted from the After School Kids program, Dinner Church, the clothes closet, women's small group, and daily meals. They are part of who we are, and a wonderful example of why we do what we do.

Your past support has made this possible. We thank you for being in ministry with us to provide breakfast and lunch 6 days a week, take-home food, clothing, social service advocacy, spiritual care, networking, After School Kids, and the new table worship on Saturdays (Dinner Church) – all bathed in Christ's love and transforming power.

You can find us on the "web" at <http://stmwilliamsport.org>, talk to us at 570-323-1797 or email us at angelique4stm@gmail.com

Yours in Jesus' name,

C. Angelique Labadie, Director

P.S. With our culture becoming more and more trapped in homelessness, addiction, violence and abuse we address mental and physical needs with our Lord's spiritual empowerment and the material resources you provide through your giving and volunteering. Come join our growing, and rewarding ministry for Christ and humanity!

St. John's is in need of a pianist in 2020 and possibly the future. If anyone is interested or if you know of someone who might be interested, please let Pastor Mike know.



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

Thank you for the care package for finals. It was greatly appreciated.

Trevor Kennedy



Parish Bible Study is on recess until Tuesday, January 7th. We'll pick up then in the book of Psalms.



A big thank you to our parish for the wonderful gifts each of you have donated to make Christmas special for 16 kids of the Mont-gomery school district. We also had some elves in our parish that gave money donations which was so appreciated! Please keep these families in your prayers and thanks again for helping with this important mission!



Elimsport United Methodist Church,
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 your \$300.00 gift to the Montgomery Food Bank.



Thanks again,

Footprints of Montgomery

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the college care package! I am blessed to know that I have caring and supportive church family.

Amy Drick



Thank you so much for the care pack-age! I really appreciate it ! I hope everyone is doing well & that Elimsport church has a wonderful & safe Thanksgiving & Christmas!



Jenna Lutz



Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for January

January 5	Tom & Donna Taylor
January 12	Jane Riebsome
January 19	David & Jackie Klopp & Family
January 26	Joann Stainbrook



- 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.)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for thinking about me during this time of the semester. The gift bag of goodies came at the perfect time for finals and for my stress eating. I was even able to share a few snacks with some friends to fuel our late night studies. I think about you all a lot and I miss getting to see you at church. I hope as is well, and you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I hope to see everyone again soon.

Sincerely,
Jason Hill



Dear members of Elimsport UMC,

Your recent contribution to Sojourner Truth Ministries is a vital part of our outreach to people in need of material and spiritual help. Gob Bless You!

Sincerely,

Sojourner Truth Ministries



Elimsport and St. John's Churches,

Thank you so much for the wonderful college care package. All of the snacks and yummy treats were perfect to munch on during study sessions and in between classes. I'm so grateful for all of your love and support throughout my educational journey and especially during my last semester!



Love,
Ellen Hill

Dear Pastor Mike & St. John's Church,
Thank you for the care package you sent as I greatly appreciate it & it will help for finals. Thank you for being a supportive church family. Thank you and God Bless,

Dan Beckley



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



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.