

Valley Views



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 7

JULY 2018



Pastor Mike Hill

4 Reasons for Christians to Celebrate Independence Day

By: Dr. Dillon Burroughs

July 4th marks the birthday of the United States. Many commemorate the occasion with fireworks, cookouts, or displaying an American flag. But are there any biblical reasons Christians can find to celebrate Independence Day? Scripture offers at least four clear reasons.

1. Gratitude for Religious Freedom

First, America offers significant religious freedom for Christians (and others) to freely worship. *The United States continues to operate as one of the nations offering the most religious freedom worldwide.*

Did you know that more than one-fourth of the nations in the world (53) include some form of legal restrictions or prohibition toward Christian activities? In many places across the globe, you can lose your job, be arrested, or even find yourself sentenced to death for following Christ. Yet in our nation, we can attend the church of our choice, openly read the Bible on our own or with others, and openly pray to God.

Despite ongoing legal challenges to certain Christian activities in America, the nation still enjoys great religious freedom. This is certainly something to celebrate.

2. Appreciation for Those Who Defend Our Freedom

Second, Christians can thank God for those who serve and have given their lives to defend our freedom. This includes past military veterans, current military personnel, as well as honoring their family members.

We often forget our freedom of religion and other freedoms can only continue if our armed forces protect our nation and national interests. While this does not mean we have to agree with every military decision or conflict, we can be thankful for all those who serve and their families.

3. Thanksgiving for the Opportunity to Participate in Government

Third, we can thank God for the opportunity to participate in the democratic process of our nation. While politics is often viewed negatively, governing leaders are ordained by God (Romans 13) and are to receive honor from those who follow Christ.

Further, our nation offers the ability to participate through voting, advocating for issues important to our values, and even options to run for political office. Contrast this situation with the tyrannical Emperor Nero who led the Roman Empire during the New Testament period and you'll quickly appreciate the opportunity to have a voice within the political process.

4. Thankfulness for Peace with Family, Neighbors, and Friends

Fourth, we can express appreciation for a nation at peace. If you lived in Syria today, your home and community would live under the threat of civil war. In many parts of Sudan, you would live in fear of your town being attack by rebels. If you were a Christian living in Iraq, you may be forced to flee for your safety.

Despite significant violence within the United States, the nation remains free of war within its own borders. Most of us take this peace for granted, yet millions world-wide long for a single night of rest without fear of attack in their communities. We can at least take a moment to thank God for the peace He has provided for our family, our community, and nation. As Jeremiah 29:7 teaches, we can seek the good of the city where we live and work to impact those around us with the love of Christ.



Re-creation is joining us on Sunday, July 29th at 9AM for our outside parish church service. Re-creation is a singing group that is known as American's Ambassadors to hospitalized veterans. They do 320 shows annually in order to fund tours to the VA medical centers and state veterans homes in all 50 states! They will be singing favorite hymns that we all know and love, children's songs and dramatic works. Come and join us and invite some friends along for this wonderful service! It will be held at the pavilion (if it rains we will be inside church) so you can bring a lawn chair, but there will also be chairs available. Stay for some fellowship time afterward. It's so exciting for us to be the first to see the new group RC 44! There will be a love offering taken to help with their amazing mission.



The Elimsport Church is in need of an Outdoor Custodian. They will be responsible for mowing, weeding, etc. If interested, please contact Tom Taylor at (570) 547-1849.



Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for July

July 1	Janet Eiswerth
July 8	Sandy Foresman
July 15	Bob & Rene Kahley
July 22	Jane Riebsome
July 29	Audrey Reed



- Items for August's newsletter are due July **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.)

Calling all Superheroes interested in exploring epic adventures to discover their strength in God!!! VBS 2018 will be Sunday, July 29th thru Thursday, August 2nd from 6 to 8:30pm. Dinner will also be provided again this year. Closing Program and Carnival Friday, August 3rd at 6pm. Our Little Heroes will explore God's mission for their lives, encounter adventures alongside biblical heroes, as well discovering their own unique power and strength from God! Any questions please contact, Captain Church (AKA) Pastor Mike or Wonder Women Taryn Myers and Andrea Hetner. Let us all Discover our Strength in God!

VBS

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



We are excited to have Kingdom Kidz puppets join us for Bible school. They will be here on July 31st at 6:30 pm. Please spread the word about VBS and the puppets. The Kingdom Kidz puppets always have a fantastic show and we might even be able to find some superheroes that night! This will be an exciting week!



We will have a sign up sheet at both churches to help with items we need for VBS and also to sign up for food for after the closing program. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this important mission please give to Taryn Myers or Andrea Hetner or any of the wonderful volunteers we have helping at VBS. Anyone that would like to help at the VBS carnival on August 3rd please see Christa McCormick or Sharon Heintzelman. Thank you so much for your help and please pray for the volunteers and all the amazing kids we will see that week!

**SIGN
UP!**

Shepherd of the Streets

320 Park Ave. P.O. 2184 Williamsport, PA 17703

570-322-6538 fax 570-322-1968 shepherdofthestreetss@verizon.net

Memories cast shadows, the past echoes, the present beckons.

In my 20's I walked the barrios of San Antonio and listened to hungry babies crying in the night as they rolled in their sweat from the insufferable heat, and I saw that those who suffer most from poverty are innocent of it.

In my 30's I walked the halls where the mentally ill were warehoused as hopeless, and I saw that those who suffer most from lack of care and concern are innocent of it.

In my 40's I walked amid the hovels of untouchables in India who are forced to live in squalor apart from all others because of their birth, and witnessed the poor lay dying in the streets of Calcutta or their bodies floating dead in the Ganges, and I laid hands on fevered infants and leprous adults, and I saw that those who most suffer from cast and class are innocent of it.

In my 50's I walked in a squalid underground cardboard refuge in Malaysia, and saw that those who most suffer from religious persecution are innocent of it.

In my 60's I walked the dusty trails of an indigenous tribe in Mexico forced to live in the high Sierra Madre's where the soil is volcanic and a small stream is the only water source and the infant mortality rate was 60% by age 2, and I saw that those who are most affected by ethnicity are innocent of it.

In my 70's I have walked among the poor, the ostracized, the disfranchised, the sick and the dying in Williamsport and have seen that those most affected by injustice are innocent of it.

As I stand on the threshold of my 80th year, these images still haunt me, still echo in my mind, still beckon me to serve the Shepherd as He has called...to find the green pastures, to lead beside quiet waters, to guide in paths of righteousness, to prepare a table in the presence of the enemy, to anoint the sick with the oil of gladness.

Thank you for your past support, for with it we make a very real difference in the lives of those whose medically related issues are addressed constantly at SOS. Any health or medical issue is a reminder of the mortality that every human must face, and every day it is our joy to address their fears and their faith. Thank you for your supporting this healing ministry.

Most sincerely yours,



J. Morris Smith, Th.D.
Shepherd of the Streets

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SON
LIGHT HOUSE
REFLECTIONS

Son Light House – 130 Carpenter Street, Muncy, PA 17756 – Phone: 546-3585

June 2018

Son Light House, established in 1982, is a non-profit, ecumenical, and community-supported resource that distributes food, clothing, and limited furniture to individuals and families in need and that qualify on family income guidelines set up by state and federal policies. Son Light House serves individuals and families in eastern Lycoming County. Son Light House is an equal opportunity provider.

And who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:29) Jesus tells the person who asks what must one do to inherit eternal life that one is to love God and neighbor. A second question “*And who is my neighbor?*” results in the parable of the Good Samaritan. At **Son Light House** many “neighbors,” fitting many descriptions, from newborns to elderly, come from every community in eastern Lycoming County. They may be suddenly unemployed or living in long-term poverty. We are called to be Good Samaritans – treating immediate needs and also to be the innkeeper in the parable who takes on a commitment without a known end.

Households and Individuals Served

	Households	Individuals	New Hlds.
Feb	431	971	5
Mar	505	1,156	1
Apr	456	994	6
May	443	962	10

Son Light House – for All Ages

	Children	Adults	Seniors
Feb	244	456	271
Mar	327	517	312
Apr	257	480	257
May	248	416	298

Raise the Region Campaign – Son Light House participated in the Raise the Region Campaign initiated by the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania and supported by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. SLH raised \$3,135. Thanks to all who contributed!

CROP Walk Nets Funds for Son Light House – The 2017 CROP Walk, sponsored by the United Churches of Lycoming County netted \$707.68 for Son Light House.

Cub and Boy Scouts Food Drives – Area scouts demonstrated their commitment to people in need by collecting food for Son Light House. The effort by the scouts and their leaders was very successful. Thanks to all in the community who supported this collection in Hughesville and Muncy.

U.S. Postal Service Employees Food Drive

Once again the U.S. Postal Service employees of Hughesville, Montoursville, and Muncy conducted a very successful Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 9. Thanks also to the many community residents who participated in supporting this annual drive.

Recent Action and Summer Plans

Son Light House recently installed a new sign for the building. Come by and see the inviting sign. In addition, this summer the parking lot paving will be sealed, shrubs will be updated, and awnings over the front and back doors will be replaced.

“Thank You” to These Recent Supporters

Individuals and Families who have recently supported Son Light House include: Dick and Alice Arthur, LizAnn Barlett, Ira and Loretta Mae Bieber, Kermit and Maryann Breon, Don and Amy Burgett, Joseph and Marian Deitrick, Rev. Mike and Sally Gardy, Elaine Hacker, Phil and Donna Hartranft, Paul and Iva Heise, Ed and Sylvia Herman, Jeff and Helen

Hiserman, Gene and Carol McCarty, Barbara Merk, Jim and Betsy Mothersbaugh, David Moyer, Bob and Sara Nuccio, Arlene Opp, Bob and Carol Perry, Mona Pettenger, Dennis and Patricia Ringling, Paul Rovinski, Jackie Sheets, David and Roschele Snyder, Phil and Betty Jo Soohy, David Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Wolf.

Churches and Church Organizations for their recent support: The Beacon of the United Methodist Church (UMC), Hughesville; Church of the Resurrection, Muncy; Clarkstown UMC; Ecroyd Missionary Circle, Muncy; Elimsport UMC; First UMC, Muncy; Hughesville Baptist Church; Kedron UMC, Muncy Valley; Lungerville Christian Church, Unityville; Messiah Lutheran Church, Clarkstown; Mill Creek UMC, Montoursville; Moreland Baptist Church, Muncy; Muncy Baptist Church; New Life Church, Pennsdale; Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Montoursville; Pennsdale Trinity UMC; Picture Rocks Baptist Church; Picture Rocks UMC; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Muncy; St. John Lutheran Church, Montgomery; St. Marks Church, Lairdsville; Trinity Lutheran Church, Hughesville.

Community Businesses and Organizations that recently made generous donations of money, food, or services include: American Legion Post #35, Hughesville; Construction Specialties, Muncy; Koppers, Inc., Montgomery; Lime Bluff Wind Wizards; Muncy Area Lions Club; Murray Motors, Muncy; Spring Window Fashions, Montgomery; Turbotville Area Lions Club; VFW – Edward J. Smith Post 3428, Muncy.

Schools and Youth Groups for their recent support: Backwood 4-H Club, Muncy; Cub Scout Pack #24 and Boy Scout Pack #25, Muncy; Boy Scout Troop #26, Hughesville; Cub Scout Pack #80, Hughesville; East Lycoming School District, Hughesville; George A Ferrell Elementary Scholl, Picture Rocks; Muncy Jr./Sr. High School; Myers Elementary School, Muncy; Renn School, Lairdsville.

Son Light House Hours of Operation:

Donations:

Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 7:00 – 10:00 am
Food, clean, usable, seasonable clothing, toys, and furniture may be donated only at this time.

Distributions:

Every other week on Wednesday from 9:00 am – noon and Thursday 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Distribution Dates:

June 6+-7+, 20-21
July 11+-12+, 25-26
August 8+-9+, 22-23
September 5+-6+, 19-20
October 3+-4+, 17-18, 31+
November 1+, 14*-15* * Thanksgiving
+ Senior Boxes – for eligible seniors

How Can I/We Help?

Prayers, volunteers, money, and food donations – **especially cereal** -- are always needed. For more information or to get involved, contact **Son Light House** by calling Ken and Delores Frey at 546-3585.

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St. John's Methodist Church
715 Pike's Peak Rd
Allenwood PA 17810

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Son Light House
130 Carpenter Street
Muncy, PA 17756

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER

2018

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC. 501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797
 Email: sojournertruthministries@gmail.com website: www.stmwilliamsport.org

**I feel safe in the midst of my
 enemies, for the truth is
 all powerful and will prevail.**

Sojourner Truth

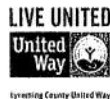
AZ QUOTES

Inside This Issue

Introducing New Director
 Meet and Greet
 Focus: Clothes Closet
 Raise the Region report
 Etc.

Vision Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian mission. **Mission Statement** Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are supported by these foundations:



We are blessed of God for the turn-around of our finances and the many who have answered the call to Saturday meals. Our church giving is "up" and **RAISE THE REGION** received \$20,688 for Sojourner Truth Ministries. PTL for y'all!!!

With all the craziness about gender and personal pronouns, here's another category: "I'm writing my book in fifth person, so every sentence starts out with: 'I heard from this guy who told somebody ...'"
 - Demetri Martin
 Thankfully God writes in first person!

Rev. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz, Director

Angelique has been on the board for several years. She comes to Sojourner Truth Ministries from Stroudsburg Wesleyan Church, where she has been the Missions Pastor. With a heavy focus on human trafficking, she has a heart for those who are marginalized and often overlooked by others, and has been called a "voice for the voiceless". She has a strong vision for what STM could be as a vital part of the community, and looks forward to seeing it become more focused, reaching out to even more people of all ages. The last several years have taught her unashamed transparency, loving and journeying with people from all walks of life, and that the grace we receive through faith in Jesus poured out to others is a powerful, wonderful, and messy thing. Angelique has three terrific, adult kids and a supportive husband. She can often be found traveling and exploring new cultures and communities. Hobbies are seasonal, except for spending time with friends and family. Other than Jesus, family and friends, cycling and fair trade chocolate are two of her favorite things.

Angelique began on May 7th

The Board will host a **MEET AND GREET** to welcome our new director, Angelique.
 Date: **June 7**. Time: **5 p.m.** Dave Miele of Hillside Catering will cater the event with great food!

IF YOU NO LONGER WANT THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE LET US KNOW: 570-323-1797

We are looking for a volunteer with a van to pick up the VFW food donation on the third Thursday of each month around noon - 1 o'clock. You can contact Summer Love at: slove4stm@gmail.com or phone 570-560-9725 who will answer all questions and inquiries.

FEATURING "FROM OUR HANDS TO YOURS" CLOTHES CLOSET

This ministry of STM is overseen by **PASTOR CHRISTINE CARROLL**, who faithfully distributes needed items during the hours of 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. M,T,W,F. As an example of what this ministry accomplishes---- during the month of April: 66 people received 716 articles of clothing, bedding- 9, electric appliances - 3, personal care items - 205.

The closet also shares excess with other ministries. This month 37 cases of crock shoes (1,404!) were sent to Friends Can Make It Happen, Inc. in Freeland, PA. Last month 25 cases of adult pull-ups were donated to Leighton Place in Williamsport. Unused items go to American Rescue Workers.

The Clothes Closet needs volunteers to switch from winter to summer clothing. Also week-day volunteers for normal daily activities.

Ponderism: I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes!

NETWORKING IS CONSTANTLY OCCURING

RIVER VALLEY HEALTH AND DENTAL set up a booth with information and gave a brief talk about it's offerings at noon one day last month. Other organizations do the same from time to time. We appreciate their interest in the Sojourner's welfare!

AND: A thank you from "Friends Can Make It Happen" to the STM Clothes Closet:

Hi Pastor Christine! I would like to thank you for the shoe donation that I received from you. Your ministry is such a huge blessing to many, including the children of Africa. Angela McNally, CEO Friends Can Make It Happen Inc., Freeland

"I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't and die to find out there is." - a reminder from Pastor Carroll

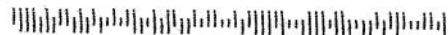
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MARCIA RHONE
ST JOHN'S UMC MISSION CHAIR
1110 RIDGE RD
MONTGOMERY PA 17752-8774

177528774 R002



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.