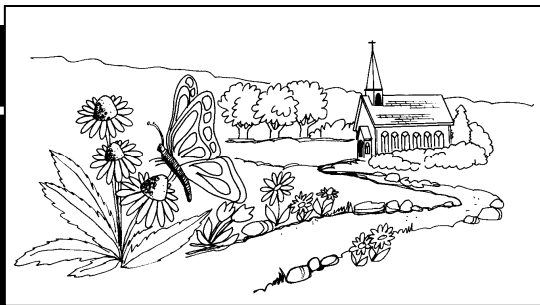


Valley Views



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2014

One thing we must remember is that as a church, we are a family. I have never seen a family that is not dysfunctional, including the church. I'm not sure where we get the definition of a dysfunctional family, but I do know that the church family must have a place in our regular prayer time if we are to be functional in doing God's work in the world today. I ran across this article recently and thought it would be a good thing to share. I have to say, Mr. Raymond saved the most important thing for last in this article; Unity. This is what Christ prayed for in the Garden of Gethsemane just hours before he was crucified so it must be an important part of his will for his family the church.

Pastor Mike



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5 Ways to Pray for Your Church Family in 2014

from [Erik Raymond](#) Jan 22, 2014



As we turn our calendars to a new year, we instinctively make plans to give attention to what matters. As Christians, we know that when we think about our priorities, prayer is right at the top of the list. I was reading through Nick Batzig's helpful post on [how to pray for our pastors](#) and thought about how we could pray for our churches. Here are 5 ways that we can be praying for our own church family and other churches as well.

1. Pray for a Hunger for the Bible.

If the goal of the church is Christlikeness, then the diet for the church must be the Bible.

After all, it is the Bible that God uses to make the child of God more like the Son of God ([John 17:17](#)). Therefore, we can pray that the church would be filled with people who hunger for hearing from God in their private devotions, public gatherings, and conversations with other believers. Imagine the impact of a church full of people who wake up eager to come and hear the Word preached on Sunday morning. Imagine a church that longs to open the Bible each morning to discover anew the truth of God's character and conquests. Imagine hearts so overflowing with the Bible that their text messages, conversations, and meditations just drip with the Scriptures. Everything pivots on what we do with the Bible. Our Father, give our church—give me—an abiding delight in your Word. Cause me always to hunger for the truth while being ever satisfied with the truth. Lord, make our church a Bible-saturated church.

2. Pray for Thankfulness.

A thankful church should not be taken for granted, and an unthankful church should not be left alone. The Apostle Paul identifies being unthankful as a

footprint of unbelief ([Rom. 1:21](#)) while noting thankfulness as a mark of a believer ([Col. 3:15–17](#)). One way we can be praying for our churches is to plead with God that we would be thankful.

But thankful for what? And thankful to whom?

The Apostle shows us that the thankfulness we are after is God-centered and gospel-wrought. In other words, we want to see churches enveloped by a real joy in God because of what He has done for us in Christ. You see this in Colossians 1 as Paul, himself in prison, prays for a church full of people whom he has never met—that they would understand the greatness of God and joyfully respond to the gospel with thanksgiving to God ([Col. 1:9–14](#)).

God, make us to be a church that is thankful to You and for You. May Your worth and work captivate our hearts, minds, and wills so that circumstances are transcended by the fact that You are for us in Christ.

3. Pray for Gospel Growth.

The gospel is intended to advance. Jesus commissioned His disciples as missionaries ([Matt. 28:19–21](#)) and churches have been advancing the gospel ever since. This cannot happen, however, with churches full of people unmoved by the gospel. The truth of the gospel must get down deep into the marrow of our beings, our very souls. It is a truth that must color every thought, action, and reaction. As we grow in our understanding of the gospel (and its implications), we find ourselves growing in our knowledge and application of the Bible.

We become mature. Now, please understand—there is a difference between knowing about the Bible and gospel growth. The Pharisees knew a lot about the written Word but they rejected the incarnate Word. You have to do more than graduate with a degree in Bible Trivia. To grow in the gospel is to have one's identity, mission, security, and hopes all built on what Christ has done. A church that is growing in the gospel is filled with people who are joyfully loving, serving, and sacrificing for one another as they demonstrate the gospel. They are also tactfully, winsomely, and zealously declaring the gospel to each other and the world around them.

God, strengthen us in the gospel. Draw us deeply into the glory of Christ. Make us more and more impressed with Him this very day. Cause us to grow in the gospel and walk in a manner worthy of it.

4. Pray for Holiness.

The Apostle Peter exhorts us to be holy because God Himself is holy ([1 Peter 1:15–16](#)). Before the church is anything else, she is set apart to holiness. Therefore, one of the prevailing burdens for us in prayer is to walk in holiness that corresponds to the reality of being positionally set apart by God. This is a challenge because we live in the midst of a world that is not holy. It does not regard holiness as a virtue. It, quite frankly, mocks holiness. As a result, we need to

continually pray for our church family that we would be a holy people. The Bible tells us to pursue, or strive, after holiness with an intense effort ([Heb. 12:14](#)). This unwavering burden to reflect the divine character to one another and to the world around us must be an ongoing prayer.

Our holy God, make us to prize and pursue Your holiness. Strengthen our burden, commitment, and endurance to strive daily after holiness in our lives.

5. Pray for Unity.

The gospel brings people together. What's more, it brings sinful people with various backgrounds (geographic, ethnic, economic, etc.) together. The gospel takes selfish people and causes them to love one another. However, we know from reading the New Testament and from experience that selfishness constantly attempts to overthrow unity. How do we combat this? We are told to preserve unity ([Eph. 4:2](#)) by walking in a manner that is worthy of the gospel. This is a humble, gentle, enduring, and loving walk. It tends toward preserving unity rather than fracturing it. As long as selfishness exists, we must find ourselves praying for unity. We get there by asking for believers to walk this gospel walk, leaving footprints of humility.

Father, You are one God in three persons. There is such a loving, happy unity in the Trinity. Make this church—make me—to feel this happiness. Cause us to be united in and through the Trinity so that we might be united together, as a church, in love

Church Directories

We will be printing and handing out updated printed directories of church members and friends. Anyone wanting their email address or their cell phone number listed in the directories, please give them to Pastor Mike.

Church Treasurer Needed

St. John's is currently seeking someone to fill the position of Church Treasurer beginning March 1. This is a voluntary position and Becky has offered to help anyone with questions regarding to the position and all it includes. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested.



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.

VBS News

Ahoy matey! Grab your flip flops, sunscreen, and snorkel and mark your calendars for June 23, 2014-June 27, 2014 from 9-11:30 a.m.! It's time to set sail for an amazing adventure with God on SonTreasure Island. This year at VBS we will dig deep into the sand to find the best treasure of all—God's unconditional love! As we explore, we will be learning how God's love is giving, kind, caring, forgiving, and forever! We are looking for sailors and swabbies to join our castaway crew. We are also looking for some courageous mateys ages 3 through those entering 7th grade willing to set sail with us to SonTreasure Island for an adventure of a lifetime. Please help us discover and teach about the most precious and lasting treasure of all—God's love! If interested, please contact Captains: Shayna Heintzelman and Taryn Myers, or First Mate: Pastor Mike.



Donations

Donations were given to Shepherds of the Street and Son Light House as follows:

<u>Shepherds of the Street:</u>	<u>Son Light House</u>
5 hats	13 hats
10 coats	9 pr. gloves
3pr. gloves	15 jackets
2 pr. sleepers	20 sweaters
1 lined shirt jacket	21 scarves
	1 coat
	2 bathrobes
	3 snowpants
	2 vests
	4 scarf sets
	1 socks

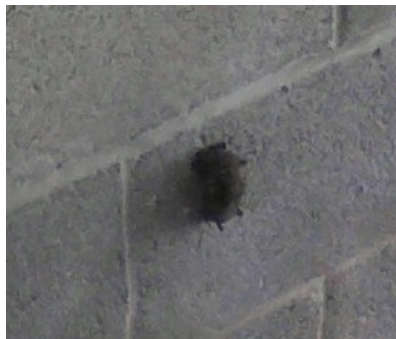
Apple Dumpling Gang: 25 boxes of cereal to the Son Light House.



Quilt Day Excitement

We say anyone is welcome to visit us for fellowship during quilting.

Although we thought [everyone] would enter by the door, not drop in through the ceiling!



Bat "Guest" Trapped



Bat "Guest" Released

We would like to thank our church family from both churches for their continued prayers and cards sent during Carl's illness. We also thank the church for everything they have done for us. Carl still has a long road ahead of him, but he is doing some what better.

Thanks again.

Carl and Janet Eiswerth



A very special thank you...
 ... for being so very thoughtful!
Thank you very much for the college care package.
 Luke Miller

Elimsport UMC Benevolence Fund,
 Thank you for your help in making a difference for the cause of Christ. We greatly appreciate your gift and covet your prayers.

Sojourner Truth Ministries Inc.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the American Rescue Workers, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$300.00 received on December 16, 2013.

Since its inception in 1884, the American Rescue Workers is motivated by the love of God and a practical concern for the needs of humanity. Our goal is to preach the Gospel and undertake the Spiritual uplifting and the providing of material aid to those in need in our community. This is only possible because of thoughtful contributions from people like you.

Once again, thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely,

Colonel Sam Astin

Commanding Officer



Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift received on 12/31/13 of \$250.00 to the General Board of global Ministries through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that 100 percent of your contribution will support the missionary community in hour of James Keech Advance #10841Z. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodist to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

United Methodist missionaries serve in more than 60 countries around the world. With your gift and prayers, you have initiated a partnership with missionaries planting churches and developing congregations, providing health care in remote areas, and working in sustainable agriculture and community development. Your gift allows Global Ministries missionaries to be The United Methodist Church's embodiment of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work.

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 212-870-3611. Information on Advance projects and missionaries can be accessed online at wwqw.uncmission.org. We also invite you to sign up on our website to receive our electronic newsletter, *ConnectNMission*. This monthly publication will keep you informed about Global Ministries' work.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernades

General Treasurer

General Board of Global Ministries

Shawn Bakker

Deputy General Secretary

Communication and Development

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

On behalf of the recipients, volunteers and board of Directors at the Son Light House, "Thank You" for the donation of cereal we received February 17, 2014. This contribution will be distributed in March at the Son Light House.

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

The month of January 2014, 579 households received food and clothing or 1,448 individuals, 446 youth, 710 adults, 292 senior 60+, and 9 new households 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,
Ken and Delores Frey, Directors
Son Light House

*God Bless Your Generosity!
Your Gift Provides Light
To Those In Crisis.*



Dear Friends at Elimsport U.M. Church,

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 shine brightly in all you say and do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

J. Morris Smith, Th.D.

Thank you for your generosity. May the Lord richly bless you for graciously reaching out to others in need.

Karen Nelson, Volunteer



Youth Fellowship Progressive Hoagie

Anyone who would like to sign up to provide an ingredient for the youth fellowship's progressive hoagie on March 30th please contact Tweet know by March 16th. You can sign up for:

- rolls
- ham/turkey
- cheese
- lettuce/tomatoes
- mayo/oil/peppers/onions
- chips
- Soda

The youth visit your home and share scriptures and songs in return for the hoagie ingredient. We appreciate your support.





Upcoming Dates To Remember:

Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 pm
 Ash Wednesday Service at St. John's
 Tuesdays, March 11,18 & 25 at 7:00 pm
 Lenten Service at St. John's
 Sunday, March 24th at 4:00 pm
 Parish Game Day
 Tuesdays, April 1 & 8 at 7:00 pm
 Lenten Service at Elimspport
 Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm
 Sader Meal at Elimspport
 Friday, April 18th at 7:00 pm
 Good Friday Service at Elimspport
 Sunday, April 20th at 6:00 am
 Sunrise Service at Elimspport Pavilion
 Monday-Friday, June 23rd-27th at 9:00 am
 Bible School at Elimspport
 Friday, June 27th
 Bible School Closing at Elimspport
 Sunday, June 29th
 Combined Services at Elimspport Pavilion
 Sunday, December 14th
 Bishop Jeremiah Parks/Meal

Tired of the snow? Cabin fever? Too cold?

Come join us for Parish Game Day on Sunday, March 23, 4:00-? Bring finger food to share, a favorite game, a friend and come prepared to have a good time. Save the Date! Hope to see you there!

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: Elimspport 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!

Quilts for the Homeless



Quilt making for the homeless continues on Wednesdays, 9:00 to 3:00. Please bring a bag lunch. All are welcome.



Youth Fellowship Happenings

March 2	6:30pm	Meeting at the church.
March 9	6:30pm	Nooma Lesson on the bus to Weaver's for ice cream.
March 16	6:30pm	Meeting at the church.
March 23		No meeting.
March 30	4:30pm	Meet at the church for progressive hoagie.

Call or email Tweet with any questions.

Elimspport Greeters for March

March 2	Alice Eddinger
March 9	Cathy Hill/Betty Farley
March 16	Bob & Rinee Kahley
March 23	Frank Cleaver
March 30	Retta Moore

- Items for April's newsletter are due March 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.)

**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

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.

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.

Elimsport Valley U.M. Parish

16145 S RT. 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

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