

Valley Views



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2018



Pastor Mike Hill

You've been there. Waiting, just waiting, to see the first robin, or the first bud, or the first hint of green. We know it's coming, but it's just out of reach. It's the hope that Spring will soon bring light rain showers, pink flowers, and the sound of buzzing bees.

And so we wait. We wait and hope for spring because there is nothing we can do to hurry it along. The coming of spring is out of our control. We jokingly look to a groundhog to tell us if spring is on its way, but we know it's really the God of the universe who brings each new season.

He brings newness after the gray of winter. **A new life.**

Spring is the perfect metaphor for the gospel. It is God's nature to make something new. Not only can we observe many attributes of God in the spring, but His gospel plan is plastered throughout creation.

God is Creative:

When was the last time you really took a good look at a daffodil? What about a praying mantis? Or a bluebird? God is so creative; and He isn't just creative in nature (Romans 1:20). **God is creative in story telling.** YOUR story. No one else has a testimony just like yours. God brings people to Himself in different ways. You are unique.

Who would have thought that through death would come life more abundantly? Through the blood and death of Jesus comes eternal life. How creative! The old is gone, a new life is beginning. Spring. **New life.**

God is Joyous:

Winter, while beautiful in its own way, can be dreary and cold. Still, and hard. After a long winter, when that first green leaf appears, joy explodes. All of a sudden you can see green in other places along with yellow, pink...and smiles. **People begin to smile more in spring**, have you noticed that?

Once a habitual life of sin is given over to the Lordship of Jesus, joy floods one's soul. It's indescribable! Believers in Jesus see the world differently and with more joy. The gospel transfers a soul from the dreariness of sin into the **newness of life** and brings unimaginable joy.

God is Faithful:

We know without a doubt that spring will arrive to the land around us. The seasons, after all, are cyclical. Just as we know the sun will rise and set each 24 hours, we know that every 3 months we will have a new season. **Spring will come.** The God who created all of these nature cycles is faithful to bring them about.

God is also faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But many times we seem to forget this. We try to fix our lives on our own and everything becomes out of sync and out of the cycle of life. Just as spring is "right around the corner," God is "right there" when we mess up. He is ready to give us a **new beginning** and another chance.

In winter, when looking at brown leaves on the ground one might wonder why they had to die. Why did a living thing fall to the ground only to turn into dust?

It had to. The leaf *had* to fall and die. If it didn't then the new leaves would not be able to sprout. In the same way, **we must die to ourselves.** If we don't, then the **new life** God wants for us will never grow. We will never be able to serve God as He desires if we aren't willing to surrender it all. The gospel equals making Jesus Lord of our lives.

And with the death of ourselves comes the spring of eternal life.



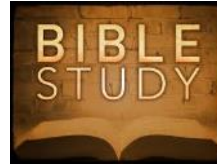
Community Breakfast is held Wednesday mornings from 7:00 - 9:00 am at the Elimsport Church.

Any adults interested in joining either churches, please let Pastor Mike know as we will be forming membership classes in February. These will be about 4-5 evening classes for those who are attending church but are not members.



The Easter Egg hunt will be on 3/31/18 at 10am, at the church softball field.

We will be having Communion in the pews on Sunday, March 4th at both churches.



Parish Bible Study is Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm at the Elimsport church. All are invited. We will be studying how we got our Bible and its origins.

Our parish mission project for Lent is the United Methodist Home.

The United Methodist Home would like gift cards to help get what the kids need and they also use it as rewards for positive behavior and teach life lessons about spending money. Each of our churches will have an Easter tree up with ornaments on it. On the ornaments there will be listed a gift card that they would like. Once you have the gift card bring it in and put it under tree. Thank you in advance for your help with this mission.



Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for March

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| March 4 | Frank Cleaver |
| March 11 | Sue Fisher |
| March 18 | Mike & Lori Lewis |
| March 25 | Joe & Lauren Bryson & Family |



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

Hi,

Since I've missed a month of church due to illness, I need to thank a lot of folks who came to my aid. Thanks to Elimsport and St. John's for having me in their thoughts. And thanks to Pastor Mike and Bishy for visiting me in the hospital. Thanks to those who sent ready made food to my house. And the one who went grocery shopping for me. And thanks to those who phoned to check on me. And to those who drove me to doctors appointments. And thanks to all those who sent me an ocean of cards. I love this community.



Joann Stainbrook

Calling all Superheros 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 Heros will explore God's mission for their lives, encounter adventures alongside biblical heros, as well discovering their own unique power and strength from God! Our first meeting will be Sunday, March 18th at 3pm. Any Superhero Leader already helping or interested in helping please plan to attend! 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!



SON LIGHT HOUSE **REFLECTIONS**

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

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever (Psalm 136:1). Thanks to all who help extend God's mercy to those in need.

Households and Individuals Served

| | Households | Individuals | New Hlds. |
|-----|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Nov | 598 | 1,486 | 16 |
| Dec | 662 | 1,723 | 15 |
| Jan | 526 | 1,267 | 11 |

Son Light House – for All Ages

| | Children | Adults | Seniors |
|-----|----------|--------|---------|
| Nov | 461 | 699 | 326 |
| Dec | 579 | 796 | 348 |
| Jan | 363 | 603 | 301 |

State Grant Money is depleted! – Son Light House relies heavily each year on State Grant Money which is used to make purchases of food at substantially reduced rates from the Central PA Food Bank. For the first time that annual allotment has been totally depleted and only half way through the fiscal year. Donations of cereal, non-perishable food, and money will thus be all the more important this year! Hams will be distributed at Easter as usual.

Monthly Average of Recipients in 2017

The average number of households coming each month to Son Light House in 2017 was 494 representing 1,168 average monthly recipients. Son Light House continues to be one of the largest food pantries in Lycoming County.

New Households in 2017

A total of 121 new households came to Son Light House last year for assistance. This figure matched the new

recipients for 2016. Individuals and families in need persist in our communities.

Raise the Region 2018 – Support Son Light House

On Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM through 11:59 PM on Thursday, March 15th you are encouraged to visit www.raisetheregion.org – an initiative of the First Community Foundation – and select **Son Light House** as your choice to support. Your gift will be stretched by a generous contribution from Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. All gifts are tax deductible and will help make Son Light House's mission possible.

Christmas – Many Helping Hands

Many contributed in various ways to the Christmas distribution of food and gifts to families and individuals. Among those helping were Meagan Murray and those supporting Meagan's Box; the volunteers and supporters of Touch a Heart; and Clara and Kent Bennett. The support received from many individuals, families, churches, as well as business and civic organizations was heartwarming. "Thank you" was the constant refrain from the recipients.

"Thank You" to These Recent Supporters

Individuals and Families who have recently supported Son Light House include: Richard and Alice Arthur, LizAnn Barlett, Oliver Barlett, Dean and Joy Barto, Bob and Maryann Bianchi, Maryann Breon, Don and Amy Burgett, Joseph and Marian Deitrick, Craig and Jodi Everett, Wilma Fish, Bob and Lana Forse, Dan and Amy Gardner. Rev. Mike and Sally Gardy, Kenneth and Tolanda Geromi, Nathan and Kathy Grenoble, Richard and Rose Marie Hafer, Cleason and Joanne Hall, Phil and Donna Hartranft, Lea Ann Hawk, David and Donna Heiney, Paul and Iva Heise, Polly Hess, Jeff and Helen Hiserman and family, Judith Hock, Oliver and Patricia Holmes, Mike and Patty Hughes, Terri Lambert, John and Luanne Libbey, Dan and Melinda Ludwig, Leslie Machuski, Joseph and Arlene Markley, Gene and Carol McCarty, John and Pat Merrifield, Robert Mertz, John and Barb Miller, Linda Miller, Jim and Betsy Mothersbaugh, David Moyer, Meagan Murray, Anita Nagpal, Mary Lou Nelson, Arlene Opp, Robert and Carol

Perry, Earl and Vonnie Poust, Paul Rovinski, Sandra Schreiber, Paul Shaner, Jacqueline Sheets, David and Roschele Snyder, Phillip and Betty Soohy, Rodney and Karen Spring, Harvey and Kathy Stauffer, David Stiger, Clara Wall, Pete and Delores Wolfe.

Churches and Church Organizations for their recent support: Beacon of the United Methodist Church (UMC), Hughesville; Church of the Resurrection, Muncy; Clarkstown UMC; Ecroyd Missionary Circle, Muncy; Elimsport UMC; First UMC, Muncy; Grace Presbyterian Church, Montgomery; Hughesville Baptist Church; Messiah-St. James Lutheran Parish, Muncy; Mill Creek UMC, Montoursville; Moreland Baptist Church, Muncy; Muncy Baptist Church; Muncy Ministerial Association; Muncy Presbyterian Church; New Life Church, Pennsdale; Pennsdale Trinity UMC; Picture Rocks Baptist Church; Picture Rocks UMC; Pleasant View Wesleyan Church, Muncy; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Muncy; St. James Episcopal Church, Exchange and Muncy; St. John Lutheran Church, Montgomery; St. Marks Church, Lairdsville; Trinity Assembly of God, Montoursville; Trinity Lutheran Church, Hughesville; Trinity UMC, Pennsdale.

Community Businesses and Organizations that recently made generous donations of money, food, or services include: 39 Plus Club, Hughesville; American Legion Post #35, Hughesville; American Legion Post #268, Muncy; Bon Ton Stores, Lycoming Mall; Construction Specialties, Muncy; Hughesville Rotary Club; Huntersville Senior Citizens; Kiwanis Club of Muncy Area; Koppers Inc., Montgomery; Muncy Garden Club; Muncy Valley Moose Family Center #866, Hughesville; Pinochle Club - Montoursville; Spring Window Fashions, Montgomery; State Correctional Institution - Muncy; Turbotville Area Lions Club; Weis Markets, Muncy; Weis Markets, Sunbury; Woodlands Bank, Pennsdale.

Schools and Youth Groups for their recent support: Ashkar Elementary School, Hughesville; East Lycoming School District, Hughesville; FBLA - Muncy Junior-Senior High School; Ferrell Elementary School, Picture Rocks; Pack 80, Cub Scouts, Hughesville; Renn Elementary School, Lairdsville; Ward Myers Elementary School, Muncy.

Son Light House Hours of Operation:

Donations:

Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday 7:00 am - 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:

February 7+-8+, 21-22

March 7+-8+, 21*-22* -- *Easter

April 4+-5+, 18-19

May 2+-3+, 16-17

June 6+-7+, 20-21

+ 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.

1781039361 ROOM

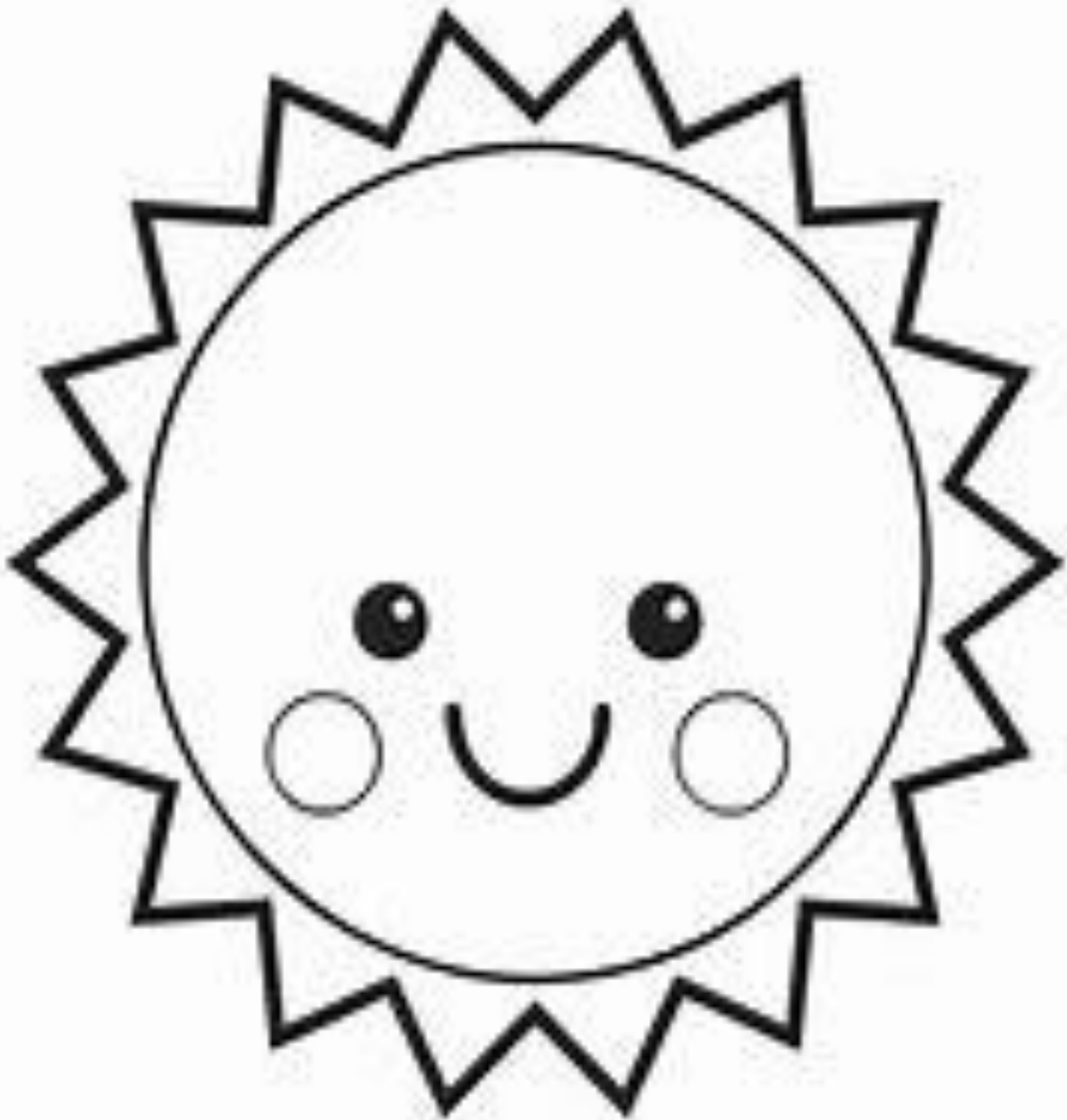
St. John's Methodist Church
715 Pikes Peak Rd
Allenwood PA 17810

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Son Light House
130 Carpenter Street
Muncy, PA 17756

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #162
Williamsport, PA

Kid's Corner



SPRING

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.