

Valley Views



VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2019



Pastor Mike Hill



Spring—A Fresh Start!

After what is often a cold winter, February eventually gives way to March. Snow begins to melt. The ground thaws. March turns into April, and flowers start to bloom. Trees bud. A crisp freshness fills the air, a smell that makes it easy to walk to the store instead of driving. Birds chirp. You feel a sense of newness of life. Everything comes to life again.

Spring has sprung!

There is seemingly no better time than the energizing season of spring. As the days become longer, any melancholic or lethargic feelings you felt during winter melt away with the snow, ice and slush. It is a time of transition, of looking forward to summer. And although this season of regeneration may be incredibly refreshing after a long winter, do you fully appreciate spring—and use the time to recharge?

A TIME OF RENEWAL

As God's creation roars back to life after dormancy, spring is a great opportunity to enjoy nature's beauty. During this time of year, as the weather warms up, many enjoy taking hikes or walks.

You can do the same. Do not simply sit inside and enjoy the weather from a window. Prepare for an active summer, especially if you will be attending Ambassador Youth Camp this year. Use the warmer weather to go for a jog or a long walk.

Also, take time to reflect on God's handiwork. Drink in the sunshine and breathe in the fresh air as you begin to plan how you will spend the summer months. Enjoy the flowers of all sizes, shapes, colors and fragrant scents. There is much about God's creation that can be enjoyed and explored during the spring.

But have you considered there is more to this time of year than the beautiful weather?

NEW BEGINNINGS

In addition to enjoying the outdoors, spring can be a time to prioritize. Spring is naturally when one should think about starting anew.

First, consider these examples of what occurs in this season and how it affects us.

Think about the term "spring cleaning." Many use this time to vigorously clean their houses, cars, work areas, etc. There is even an aspect of spring cleaning involved in God's Holy Days. In preparation for the Days of Unleavened Bread, God commands us to remove leaven (which represents sin) from our belongings and living areas—a physical exercise that pictures removing sin from our lives.

High school and college graduations are held in the spring, with commencement not representing the *end* of college, but the *beginning* of a career. Notice the definition of *commencement*: "the time at which something is supposed to begin...the act of starting something." Graduation ceremonies signify a student starting the next chapter in his or her life.

And often spring can be a time when "love is in the air." This is a point when many begin to think about courtship and marriage. Some couples choose spring-time to say their vows and celebrate the beginning of a new life together.

This season invigorates us to undertake projects, become more organized, renew a flagging exercise routine, or better manage our health. We feel energized after being cooped up all winter. After this "cabin fever," many *spring* into action.

It is no coincidence that we feel enlivened during this time of year. Remember, God created seasons; they were designed with a purpose in mind. In fact, God's

sacred calendar actually begins the new year in the spring, not in the middle of winter, like the common Gregorian calendar. There is a reason for this, and there is more to spring than budding flowers or taking on new goals.

RECOMMITTING ONESELF

Just as the earth comes alive again after a cold, winter hibernation, God gives Christians a chance to start anew. During the spring Holy Days, Christians recommit themselves to God's way of life. God masterfully laid out the Spring Holy Day season to give His people a new start at building character and overcoming sin.

Every Passover season, baptized members recommit themselves to living God's Way after much serious self-examination. Yearly partaking of the Passover wine and bread (symbolic of Jesus Christ's blood and body) represents Christ's blood washing away a Christian's sins. Those called out of this world are forgiven and it is this grace that should motivate them to do better the next year.

But even though you cannot yet partake of the Passover symbols, you can still use this Holy Day season to renew your commitment to God's Way. Diligently examine yourself and how you measured up in the past year with the standard a Christian should strive for. Remind yourself during this time that the Church is not just for your parents—it is for you as well! Meditate on the truth and why you were born. Realize that if you take an active role in pursuing God's truth, you will reap countless blessings that could lead to eternal life in God's kingdom.

Unlike youth in the world, you have been given an awesome privilege as one sanctified—set apart—now and able to freely seek God. The spring season can be a time to dwell on the many blessings you have received.

This year, use the springtime wisely to reflect on God's purpose for you. Take time to set short-, medium- and long-term goals at work, in the Church, at school, with relationships and other interests. Make a list of all you desire to accomplish in the spring and summer. Maybe start a few new hobbies.

The next time you pass a budding cherry blossom, or see that first red-breasted robin, consider the many wonderful aspects of how God designed spring—and give our Creator thanks!

(written by The Church Of Christ)



Our mission project for Lent is again going to be for the United Methodist home. They would like gift cards and there is also a need for new twin size comforters (solid colors). They have teens ages 14-17 right now and have around 30 teens. If you would like to help with this mission, pick an ornament off of the tree at either church and get the item that is listed. The mission will start March 3rd. Bring in the item/gift card

sometime during Lent. There will also be a list of the stores that they need gift cards to in the bulletin. See Christa McCormick or Sharon Heintzelman if you have any questions. Thank you for your help with this mission!

It's that VBS time of year again! Get ready to get down on the farm! Prepare yourself for a little barnyard adventure as we take a look at Farm Fresh FAITH through the eyes of our barnyard friends. With these new friends from the farm, we will embark on a journey through the life of Joseph and find out that God is ALWAYS faithful and WORTHY of our Trust!!!! It will be held Sunday, July 7th through Thursday, July 11th from 6:00 - 8:30pm. Dinner will also be provided. Carnival and Closing program will be Friday, July 12th at 6pm. If you are interested in helping or donating please contact one of our barnyard friends, Andrea Hetner, Taryn Myers or our very own Farmer Mike!! (AKA- Pastor Mike) Hope see you there!!!



There will be a vbs meeting on Sunday, March 24th at 3pm. All teachers and anyone interested in helping should plan to attend.

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Time for all of the Easter Bunny helpers to begin preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt. We plan to be doing this during the season of Lent. Monetary donations, candy or your time will be gladly accepted. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Jenn Springman at (570)412-6141 or jenntay76@hotmail.com



The Easter Egg Hunt will be April 20, 2019 at 10am on the church softball field. Thank you in advance for all of your support!!!

Church Volunteers



Attention all volunteers working with the age group 1-17!! The Elimsport Parish needs you to complete an online Safe Sanctuary Training for the safety of our children. The United Methodist Church has asked all volunteers to complete this course every five years to go with the clearances you already have on file. The course will take about an hour, and you will need internet access, a laptop or computer, and an available

printer. If you do not have access to any or all, Christa McCormick will meet you at the Elimsport Church to assist you in completing your clearances. If you choose to complete on your own go to <https://susumc.org/safe-sanctuaries/> and print your certificate. There will be an instructional packet at each church to ease you in completing your training. If you have already completed Mandated Reporter Training for your work, please print your certificate that includes the date of certification. Please return all certificates to Christa McCormick or Pastor Mike. Thank you for all you do for our children!!!

The Elimsport Parish will have a Spring gathering of food and fellowship on March 17th at 4:00 at the Elimsport Social Hall. Food and drink will be provided so, all we'll need is you! Please join your church family and celebrate together.



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



Parish Bible Study is on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 at the Elimsport church. All are welcome.



Thanks to all for all calls, cards & prayers during my absence.

Thanks,
Rhetta



- 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.)

Just a reminder: Everyone is to check the mailbox in the back of the church.



Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for March

March 3	Sandy Chamberlain
March 10	Ruth Taylor
March 17	Katy Ulrich & Family
March 24	Tom & Donna Taylor
March 31	David & Jackie Klopp & Family

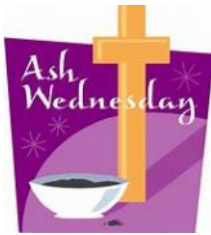


Acolyte Schedule

3/3 Mallorie & Jackson
3/10 Garrett & Elizabeth
3/17 Mitchell & Samuel
3/24 Jackson & Garrett
3/31 Samuel & Elizabeth



Ash Wednesday Service is coming up on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 at St. John's church. There will be the imposition of ashes during this service.



Dear Elimsport Church Family,

Thanks you so much for giving me the scholarship. It has helped me & I appreciate it so much. I love everyone who is apart of our churches & really appreciate the support that everyone ha given me.



Thank you,
Jenna Lutz

Dear Gloria & St. John's

Thank you for the gift of encouragement & support of our ministries! I just heard from a sojourner who was homeless for a time & has moved back to her community. She said "I know the real reason I went to Williamsport was to meet you & get right with Jesus. I've found a church & am doing well." PRAISE! Thank You-



Love,

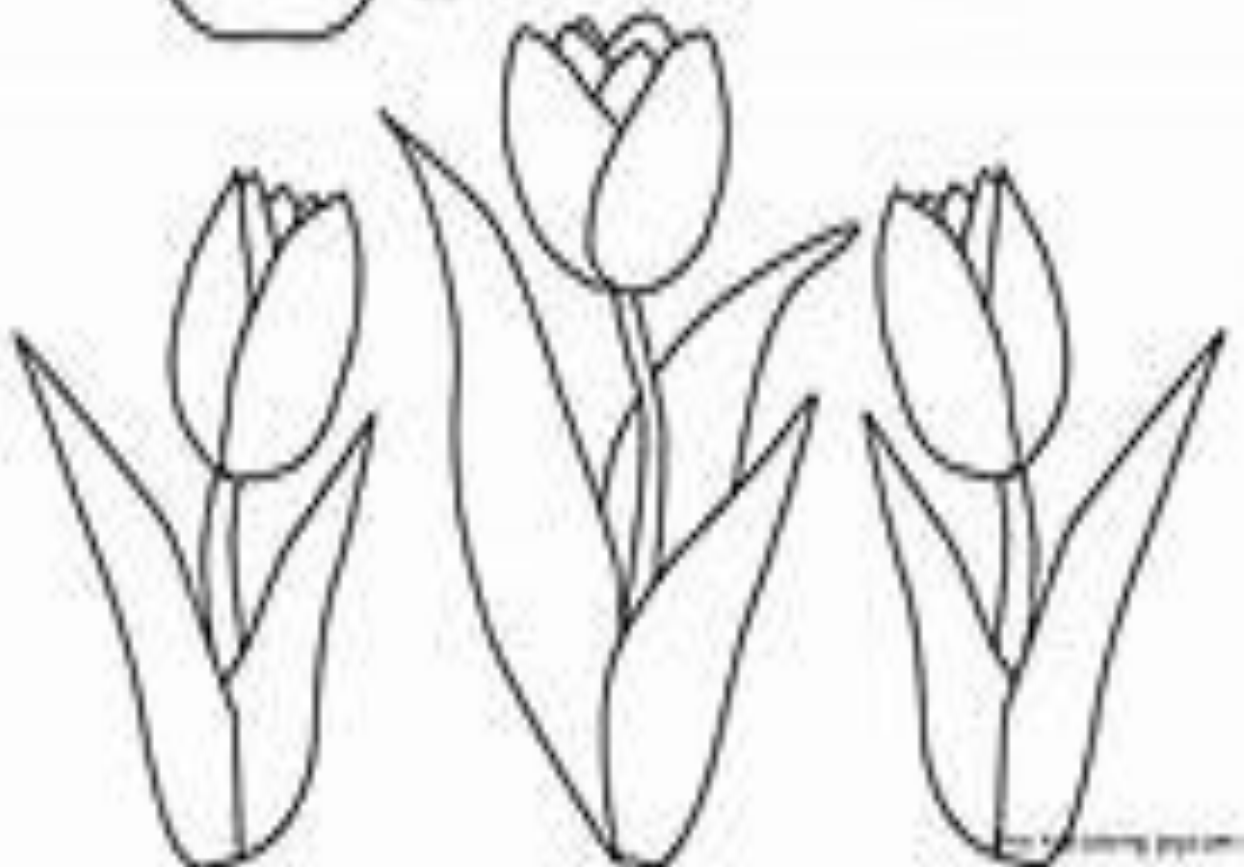
Angeline Labadie

Pastor Mike will be in Ohio for continuing education March 8th & 9th.



Kid's Corner

Welcome
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



But the wisdom that is
from above is first pure,
then peaceable,
gentle,
and easy to be
intreated,
full of mercy and good
fruits,
without partiality,
and without hypocrisy.
-James 3:17

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.