

Valley Views



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Pastor Mike Hill

"Finding Hope" **In Difficult Times** **Even in the Darkest Moments**

Hope means, "to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment." The state of Hopelessness has been aptly described as a type of "Hell on Earth," filled with endless despondency and despair.

Today, more and more people are finding themselves alone and depressed, and few of us have not at one time, or another felt the sting of despondency and despair.

But Good news! Help is available, not the kind the world has, wherein it wishes for the best. It is one thing to wish, and quite another to have hope based on the promises of God.

God is Our Source

Paul wrote that when you place your trust in God, He will fill you with peace, joy, and assurance, (Rom 15:13).

Throughout the Bible, God proves His faithfulness to His people by leading them safely through or delivering them from all their predicaments and troubles. He will never leave or forsake His people; His plans are to prosper, not to harm them (Jer 29:11).

People and things will always let us down. In Psa 33:17, the horse, often used as a symbol of power, is declared a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength, it cannot save.

In Jer 17:5 God sternly warns against placing our dependency on man and calls it a curse.

God wants us to trust in Him. Psa 147:11 tells us that He is delighted when we put our trust in Him, and in Heb 10:23 we are told to rely on Him for He who promised it is faithful.

Finding Help

To reap the benefits of the Christian life and to have protection, guidance, freedom from depression, and advice from the Holy Spirit one must first be born again and become a Child of God.

The born again Child of God has the unique privilege of talking to and hearing from God, but this, the greatest resource available, is often neglected.

Christians should always pray! Even in the darkest moments when you don't feel His presence and think you will never smile again, pray anyway because He is there. He is listening and is an "ever-present help in time of trouble," (Psa 46:1).

"He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us," (2 Cor 1:10).

When we place our faith in God and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we then trust Him to take us to Heaven. If we can trust Him with our eternity, surely we can trust Him for our earthly/daily cares.

Jesus said that as God clothes the grass of the field, so will He clothe us even more. He tells us not to worry about what we shall eat or drink or how we will be clothed. The "heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of all these things," (Matt 6:30-32).

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him," (1 Cor 2:9).

Hope in Difficult Times

Even if you reach what you consider to be your lowest point, God's Word says He will never leave or forsake you, (Matt 28:20).

He will give you peace and comfort even in the worst of circumstances, then lead you through, over or around the muck and mire of your situation, and again set your feet on solid ground.

Our God is the God of new beginnings, with Him, nothing is impossible. Whether you are very young or considered to be very old, trust in Him because with Him it is always just the beginning.

You may even find yourself in such a situation through divorce, death of a spouse, loss of health, finances, or whatever, that may force you to begin all over again, but is that so bad? Trusting God in difficult times forces us to seek His guidance, and to trust in Him.

Trusting God through these uncharted waters takes faith and courage, but is worth every effort. The path of His choosing is the only one that leads to true happiness,

Isn't this a wonderful promise "...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint," (Is 40:31).

Even in the Worst of Situations

A shining example of living with hope is Victor Frankel, a former prisoner in a Nazi prison camp.

"As a long-time prisoner in bestial concentration camps he [Viktor Frankel] found himself stripped to naked existence. His father, mother, brother, and his wife died in camps or were sent to gas ovens, so that, excepting for his sister, his entire family perished in these camps.

How could he - every possession lost, every value destroyed, suffering from hunger, cold and brutality, hourly expecting extermination - how could he find life worth preserving?"

In one of his darkest moments while digging in a cold icy trench, he writes:

"In a last violent protest against the hopelessness of imminent death, I sensed my spirit piercing through the enveloping gloom. I felt it transcend that hopeless, meaningless world, and from somewhere I heard a victorious 'Yes' in answer to my question of the existence of an ultimate purpose.

At that moment a light was lit in a distant farmhouse, which stood on the horizon as if painted there, in the midst of the miserable grey of a dawning morning in Bavaria. 'Et lux in tenebris lucent'--and the light shineth in the darkness."

From one of His Counseling Sessions

"This young woman knew that she would die in the next few days. But when I talked to her she was cheerful in spite of this knowledge. 'I am grateful that fate has hit me so hard,' she told me. 'In my former life I was spoiled and did not take spiritual accomplishments seriously.'

Pointing through the window of the hut, she said, 'This tree here is the only friend I have in my loneliness.' Through that window she could see just one branch of a chestnut tree, and on the branch were two blossoms. 'I often talk to this tree,' she said to me.

I was startled and didn't quite know how to take her words. Was she delirious? Did she have occasional hallucinations? Anxiously I asked her if the tree replied. 'Yes.' What did it say to her? She answered, 'It said to me, "I am here--I am here--I am life, eternal life."

Jesus is Our Solid Rock

Christians can find peace during times of crises and trials that often drive others to drink or suicide. This is the blessed comfort of the Holy Spirit, who indwells every born again Believer.

Through Him, even in the midst of terrible devastating and humiliating experiences, Christians can have the peace, joy, and hope that passes all understanding, (Phil 4:7).

Hope for Eternity

Jesus is our solid rock, and because of Him, death is not the end. Even when the angels carry us to our glorious home in Heaven, we can know that He is with us and that it is just the beginning.

Claim His Promises

God's promises are indeed a genuine source of hope that does not disappoint. It is in His promises you will find everlasting life and confident hope.

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes," in Christ, (2 Cor 1: 20).

"May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound *and* be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope." (Rom 15:13, Amp).

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God," (Psa 42:5).

By Samuel L Mills

BOARD OF CHILD CARE



January 28, 2022

Elimsport UMC
5 Gap Rd.
Allenwood, PA 17810

Dear Elimsport UMC:

Please accept our sincere thanks for your recent gifts totaling \$300. We are deeply grateful for your generosity designated for general purposes at Board of Child Care. There is an energy and momentum building across our organization, and it simply would not be possible without the support of generous donors like you!

Guided by our purpose of *enriching communities, one family at a time*, our programs offer individualized care plans for each of the youth we serve. We practice a team approach so that youth and their families are fully supported. Your donation directly impacts our ability to offer a high-impact, personalized treatment plan for each child.

We are so grateful to you for joining us on our incredible journey to revolutionize child welfare outcomes. As we continue to grow as an organization, you ensure our ability to magnify our impact. Your donation helps one more child, one more family, and one more community. Thank you for generously supporting our people, our programs, and – most importantly – the youth and families we serve. From the bottom of our hearts – THANK YOU!

Warmly,

Laurie Anne Spagnola, MSW
President and Chief Executive Officer
Board of Child Care

PS – We invite you to stay up to date on the latest news at Board of Child Care – check out our blog at www.boardofchildcare.org/blog. You can also follow our journey on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn!

Please consider this letter an official receipt for your contribution. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation. Our Federal Tax Identification Number is 52-1591554. Board of Child Care (BCC) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 170(b)(1)(iv) for both Federal and State tax purposes.

What to Give Up

A Lenten Reflection

During this Lenten Season possibly chose from this list of ideas. Perhaps one for all of Lent or a weekly commitment for your Lenten sacrifice.

Give up Worry ~ Trust in God

*Give Up Complaining ~ Focus on
Gratitude*

*Give Up Harsh Judgments ~ Think
Kind Thoughts*

Give Up Anger ~ Be More Patient

*Give Up Gloom ~ Seek Beauty
Around You*

*Give Up Discouragement ~ Be
Full of Hope*

Give Up Gossiping ~ Control Your Tongue

Give Up Bitterness ~ Turn to Forgiveness

Give Up Negativism ~ Be Positive

Give Up Giving Up ~ Hang in There!

Our Parish Lenten Mission will be a food drive for Footprints of Montgomery. You may bring donations to each church during Lent or drop off at Elimsport UMC Pavilion on April 3, 2022 from 1:00-4:00. Suggestions for this drive are personal care items. Some ideas may be bath soaps, toothpastes, toothbrushes, shampoo/hair products, dish detergent, laundry supplies, razors. They also always need canned goods such as canned and creamed corn, red beets, canned potatoes, canned vegetables, canned soups, and bottled juices not needing refrigeration. Of course any donations will be accepted, but remember to make sure it is unopened and not expired. Thank you for supporting this important ministry in our area!



As we approach the season of Lent, we are thinking about Easter and preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt. This year, it will be held on Saturday (4/16/22) at 10am. Should anyone want to donate money, candy or even volunteer time, feel free to contact Jenn Spring-

man. Thank you all in advance for your support.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your calls, prayers and cards after the passing of David's Father. It's nice to know that our church family cares.

The David Klopp Family



Various means to keep updated:

website: evpumc.org

Face book: Elimspport United Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimspport church

email Pastor Mike: hjebm@comcast.net

email church: elimspportumc@gmail.com

Call Pastor Mike: 570-547-1386

Text Pastor Mike: 570-974-8590 (please identify yourself when texting)

Be pro-active in getting the word out to others in the church.

Please be sure to check the church website evpumc.org and Elimspport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.



As we continue to experience inconsistent winter conditions on Sunday mornings, please be vigilant as you consider coming to church each Sunday morning. Any cancellations will be on our Face book page listed above, on the prayer chain, and hopefully on our website listed above. Please check there first. If you are unclear about church being open, feel free to call the parsonage at 570-547-1386. If you have any reservations about traveling on Sunday morning, please stay home. Our country roads in Elimspport are kept as safe as the township workers are able, but not always clear first thing Sunday morning.

Due to the constant changes in the covid mandates, we are making it a personal choice to wear masks or face coverings in the church building, but are suggesting that you wear one if you are unvaccinated or are vulnerable to contacting the virus. We are still suggesting that people practice social distancing each Sunday Morning and use common sense while greeting each other.

Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimspport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, April 12th from 2-7 at the church fellowship hall.



- 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.)

Acolyte Schedule:

- 03/06/22 Jackson & Mitchell
- 03/13/22 Mallorie & Samuel
- 03/20/22 Elizabeth & Jackson
- 03/27/22 Mitchell & Mallorie



Ash Wednesday Service at St. John's on March 2nd at 7:00.

Good Friday Service at Elimsport on April 15th at 7:00.

Easter Sunrise to be announced.

Easter Services at each church during normal worship time.

St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, March 10th at 7:00.



Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, March 14th at 6:30.



The confirmands would like to thank Christa for teaching them. She did a great job. They learned a lot and her time was greatly appreciated! God Bless!!



The confirmands and their families would like to invite their church family for light refreshments on Sunday, March 6 for a time of fellowship and to welcome them into membership. Congratulations to Mitchell Myers, Jackson Springman, Chloe Kennedy and Jillian Kennedy.



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.