

# Valley Views



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*Pastor Mike Hill*

These Thanksgiving poems remind us that no matter what our circumstances, we can always find reasons to be grateful and give thanks. Through sickness and health, good times and hard times, God is our faithful protector. His love is the energy of our lives. Feel free to share these Thanksgiving poems and prayers with family and friends this holiday.

## **Thanksgiving Prayer**

Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day  
We bow our hearts to You and pray.

We give You thanks for all You've done  
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son.

For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
For joy and health, friends and family,

For daily provision, Your mercy, and care  
These are the blessings You graciously share.

So today we offer this response of praise  
With a promise to follow You all of our days.

—Mary Fairchild



## **A Thanksgiving Day Prayer**

Lord, so oftentimes, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray  
We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing  
We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold  
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for  
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head  
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know  
Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure  
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace  
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided  
And bless each and every person invited  
Amen!

—Scott Wesemann

## **Thank You, Lord, for Everything**

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the breath to say  
Thank you for another day

Thank you for the eyes to see the world of beauty surrounding me  
Thank you for the ears to hear your message of hope loud and clear

Thank you for the hands to serve and far more blessings than I deserve  
Thank you for the legs to run the race of life until it's won

Thank you for the voice to sing  
Thank you, Lord, for everything

Amen

—Submitted by Keith



## **Today and Every Day**

Lord, too often our prayers  
Are filled with impatience over what we want  
Instead of gratitude for what we already have.

Remind us today and in the coming year  
What is truly important.

Remind us to give thanks for family and friends.  
Remind us to be grateful for the work you have given us.  
Remind us to appreciate our many material blessings.

Most of all, remind us today and every day  
To give thanks for your precious Son Jesus,  
And the sacrifice he made for us  
To give us eternal life with You in heaven.

Amen.

—Jack Zavada

## **Thank You for Their Life**

Lord, this year there's an empty chair at the table.  
But instead of feeling sad, we give You thanks for (his, her) life.

(Name) helped make us who we are today.  
(His, her) love and wisdom got us through every crisis, large and small.

And we give thanks for the laughter. Lots of laughter.

Lord, You blessed us with (his, her) presence here on earth,  
But through Your Son Jesus, we will all be able to enjoy (name)  
In heaven with You forever.

Thank You for this priceless gift.

Amen.

—Jack Zavada



## Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food,  
For love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

## We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.  
Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!  
We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!  
Amen

—Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn  
(A translation by Theodore Baker: 1851–1934)



## Annual Conference 2020

Susquehanna United Methodist Annual Conference convened virtual online at 9:00 am sharp Saturday, October 3rd, one hundred sixteen (116) years to the day, October 3rd, from the first (1st) Annual Conference. Participants grew from five (5) people then, to eight hundred seventy (870) registered voters in 2020.

Bishop Jeremiah Park's short message encouraged us to invest in uncharted waters and to look for new ways to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Bishop Park stated John Wesley broke all kinds of barriers. He was a pioneer for spreading the gospel. Today's world crisis turns into God's opportunity for God's future. In God's eyes there is no color, race or nation. God still has plans and works for all of us. We are to push past our differences and come together. "Better together, One is ministry to all the World".

In 2020

Gone were fifteen hundred (1500) people singing praises to our Lord and Savior. Gone were messages from God's Word. Gone was the fellowship of Christian friends. Gone were the gourmet meals. Gone was time away from our busy schedules. Gone were the long lines outside restrooms. At the 10 minute break Bishop Parks guaranteed "no crowded restrooms".

We got right down to the business of reports, recommendations and resolutions. It was recommended no salary increase for pastors for 2021. Although we were encouraged to give them cost of living increase.

The 2021 budget is \$1,002,170 less than the 2020 budget.

All 870 registered voters were given personal ID for voting. In all one hundred thirty eight (138) were taken electronically. Much, much slower to get results than by show of hands.

Vote taken at 4:02 pm to close conference.

Submitted 10/18/2020 by Kay E. Showers



Our  
yearly  
Church  
Confer-  
ence is

Sunday, November 1st at 1:30 at the Watsontown United Methodist Church. Anyone who is a church member of either of our churches in the parish is welcome to attend. We need at least one or two people from each church to attend. Church conference will last approximately 1 to 1 1/2 hrs.

We are looking  
for someone to  
be our Annual  
Conference dele-



gate for 2021. This involves going to Hershey for up to three days on June 3-5 and attending the daily worship, meetings, and voting on various issues. We stay at the Hershey convention center. Expenses are paid by our parish. This is a very interesting experience and not like the conferences in the old days. Please contact Pastor Mike if interested.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE 2020

We are going to make a change in the way we handle this mission for the Christmas of 2020. For this year, we are looking for individuals, families, or groups to volunteer to purchase all of the items on the list for a child. The list will include some clothing items, a coat, and toys/gifts that are requested by the child. The items will still be returned to the church UNWRAPPED.



The tree in each church will still have tags available with supplemental ideas/items for those who would rather contribute on a smaller scale. Some examples are: games, books, or puzzles. If you are unable to shop or don't have the opportunity, you can give a monetary do-nation.

More specific information will be coming soon, however we would like those volunteer individuals, families, or groups as soon as possible and no later than November 1st so that we know how many children our churches can provide gifts for. Deanna Drick (570-419-1730) or Sharon Heintzelman (570-971-3564) are the contact persons on this project.

Acolyte Schedule:

11/1/20 Brock & Mallorie  
11/8/20 Jackson & Elizabeth  
11/15/20 Garrett & Mitchell  
11/22/20 Samuel & Mallorie  
11/29/20 Jackson & Brock



Community breakfast is on Wednesday mornings from 7-9 in the church Fellowship Hall. Masks required.



Donna Taylor will be taking orders for poinsettias. Last day for orders will be Nov. 22nd. You may choose from red, white or pink.



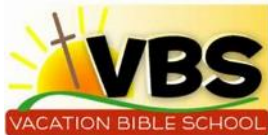
There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, December 1st from 2-7 at the Elimsport fellowship hall.



THANKS

Pastor Mike & EUMC Parish,  
I would like to thank Pastor Mike for his visits while I was in the hospital and later when I got home. Also, I thank everyone that sent cards, phone calls and all other acts of kindness. It means a lot to have such a caring parish.

Thanks again,  
Keith



We are looking for someone to be a Vacation Bible School coordinator with the coordinator from Elimsport church. Please let Pastor Mike know if you are interested.



Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, November 9th at 6:30.

St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, November 12th at 7.



**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](http://evpumc.org) and Elimspport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.



Calling all college kids: Please let Christa McCormick 570-337-4519 or Sharon Heintzelman 570-971-3564 know of any college kids in the parish so they can get a college care package.



Pastor Mike has addresses for those in nursing homes and others recovering at home from surgeries:



Eleanor Taylor

Eleanor Hanley

JoAnn DeLand in the loss of her husband Walt

Remembering those who have gone before us:

From Elimspport: Tenner Moore Jr. Bob Kahley, Deborah Showers, Gene Pauling, J. Larry Foresman, Jane Russell, Alice Edinger, Harry Riddell

From St. John's Marie Kennedy, Walt DeLand

- Items for December's newsletter are due November **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.)*

It was amazing to see how much food we got from the parish for Footprints of Montgomery food pantry. We are so blessed to have a parish that gives even in these uncertain times that we live in. They were so happy with all the items! Thanks again!





# 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](http://www.evpumc.org)

### **Parish email:**

[elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@gmail.com)

[www.evpumc.org](http://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.