

Valley Views



VOLUME 26, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2019



Pastor Mike Hill

Letting Your Leaves Fall

by Rachel Wojo

Little yellow leaves from the front yard tree dance across the porch and driveway. As their bright green color fades, it seems they fall almost as quickly as they change. I love summer affectionately and part of me longs to whisper to the tree "Hold on a little longer. Come on; you got this. Think green!" But graciously the tree listens to its Maker rather than my foolish whispers. In order to flourish in the new season, the tree must let go of its decayed leaves. They have performed well for the term, but their time has drawn to a close.

Autumn is a wonderful time to observe nature. As I watch the swirling leaves stirred by the wind, I am reminded that they display an important lesson for all of us to follow suit in a way. Just as the trees don't stubbornly hold on to their dead leaves, so we shouldn't hold on to any unnecessary weight in our lives. When we long to enter a new season, the old can easily inhibit the new if we allow it. God's Word reminds us to:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:31,32 (NIV)

To get rid of negativity in our lives, we must first identify it. How can we do this?

» By reading God's Word.

» By allowing His Spirit to show us the necessary heart changes we need.

» By being willing to shun practices such as bitterness and anger.

» By asking God to help us let go of the guilt from the past.

Oh how the Lord longs to empower and strengthen us for the new season ahead! If we're not sure of the issues detaining a kind and compassionate spirit, He will show us when we ask. And if guilt from the past is preventing this beautiful new season, we have His promises like this one to remember:

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:18,19 (NIV)

What are you holding on to that is preventing a freshness to the season ahead? Could it be that the decayed leaves are piling up and your heart needs to discard them for good? If so, why not reach out to the Lord in prayer? He longs to hear from you. Ask Him to shine light on any thoughts, circumstances, habits or other "decayed leaves" you might be clinging to. As you watch the leaves fall this season, our prayer is that you are reminded to let go of anything that would hinder a fresh relationship with God.





The Quarterly Truth NEWSLETTER *Summer 2019*

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES, INC.

501 High Street Williamsport, PA 570-323-1797

Rev. C. Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz, Director

Website: stmwilliamsport.org

Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group? Invite me! I'd love to!

Vision Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian mission.

Mission Statement Sojourner Truth Ministries loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are supported by these foundations:



"It was so hot, I got a loaf of bread and before I got home, it was toast!"

We thank God for fans in our dining area. Some people come in to get out of the sun and heat because they do not have somewhere else to be. Some come avoiding the streets, an unhealthy atmosphere in the home, to stay away from bars, or worse. Of course, some people come in because they are known and welcomed. A kind word, encouragement, and a devotion before the hearty noon meal is just what many people need to get through another day. As I give thanks for simple things like working fans in the scorching July heat, I want to share some other things that have taken place at STM: We have some amazing volunteers, and without them, would not be able to minister the way we do. On a very hot day, our fridge broke down. Through a connection, another was promised within the hour. A group of youth from Faith Church in Montoursville came for a poverty workshop and to help with physical labor- what a positive experience! A group from United Way came and helped with physical labor, we had a health and resource fair, a group of high school campers came to do service work, volunteers have come each week to help with prep work and painting in the House next door (details in a separate article), dinner church continues to give both soul food and physical food for all who come on Saturdays, Transform Williamsport workers will be coming next week to cut branches and paint. It takes a community to keep this ministry going and thriving, and the community is stepping up! The support in so many ways is a testimony of how God is working here. Please, reach out to us, pay a visit, check our Facebook Page, Website, see what is going on firsthand.

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Saturday 8:00 am -- 1:00 pm

Sunday - Closed

Sojourner House Update!

Anticipating a communal, short-term (6 months) home for women coming out of a season of homelessness in our attached (former) parsonage is becoming more and more real. In the works for well over a year, we have planned and replanned, revised policies, are working diligently on fundraising (with a \$10,000 match for funds raised in July and August!). Yes, there are other local shelters for women, which are specific to domestic violence, just coming out of incarceration, substance abuse, people with children. This House is for those who have fallen through the cracks and may find themselves in compromising positions in order to have a place to lay their heads.



George adds his blessing to a wall prior to painting.

We hope to house up to 12 women (no children) and to give tools for not merely getting by but becoming stable and sustainable in the community. Please check our website for more information. Our advisory panel is made up of people who have been homeless at some point, recovery and mental health professionals, and concerned enthusiastic community members.

As the work progresses on the house, the panel pushes forward to address strategy. The physical work team welcomes newcomers (mostly Tuesday mornings) and is all volunteer except where we need insured tradespeople. This is saving us thousands of dollars! Make an appointment to come and see and write a blessing or Scripture on the walls before they are painted! Hear more of what we're up to and be a part of this something bigger!

Supplies we frequently use (and run out of)



Bleach
dish detergent
postage stamps
Thankyou cards /notes
sugar
powdered creamer
paper cups (no styrofoam please)
powdered drink mix
food service gloves
hand sanitizer
feminine hygiene supplies

Summer Scripture to encourage you - Isaiah 58:6-11

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I."

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a
sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring
whose waters never fail."



STM Welcomes New Volunteer Staff

Mary Beth



Hi, I'm Marybeth Croll, a new volunteer at STM. I was volunteering once a week, but now have added Tuesdays because I enjoy serving here so much. Let me tell you why. I came because Pastor Angelique had put a request for help on FaceBook. I was given the assignment to help with social service advocacy for the sojourners. In the beginning I was told to spend time in the downstairs area where people congregate for breakfast, lunch, or just a need for a place to go. This was to get to know these great people. I started out randomly introducing myself to the sojourners I learned to listen, which is sometimes all they wanted or needed. Soon I became familiar with the regulars... and for the first time in my life I found myself praying with people I had just met. It felt natural. I am learning so much about people living in poverty and in a season of homelessness.

Each time I went to STM by faith was getting stronger than ever; I was praying all the time. I found myself looking forward to being there- God was and is working in me. He is using my talent of listening with compassion and an open heart. My ability to help in different ways is being used for His works. I love my new STM family and I feel the love from them. It is said God has a plan for each and every one of us, you just have to open your listening heart. C.O.F.F.E.E. Christ Offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere

Donna



I came to know about Sojourner Truth Ministries in a very surprising and unexpected way. I like to call it "My Three I's" -- the Invitation to come and see, the Impact (and growth) that it has directly had on me, and the blessing of Involvement that STM continues to give me every time I walk through its doors.

-- **The INVITATION** Because our schedules had taken us in two different directions, we were happy when we had the opportunity to catch up and reconnect with each other. It didn't take long for Pastor Angelique to tell me all about Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport, and to extend an **INVITATION** to come and speak at an upcoming "Wednesday of Hope" lunch, which takes place at STM. I accepted her kind invitation. After I spoke to the group, I joined her for a tour of the facilities. Pastor Angelique talked about the wonderful programs that were taking place, and the important role that the STM volunteers play in driving the success of these various programs. As I was getting ready to leave, she extended another invitation for me to return some Saturday for the weekly Church service followed by lunch. Without hesitation, I also accepted this invitation. -- **The IMPACT** When Saturday arrived, I went back to Sojourner Truth Ministries to help the other volunteers wherever I was needed. At the conclusion of the service, we began the lunch distribution. I enjoyed talking with many of the patrons who I had previously met on Wednesday. I expected to see some familiar faces that day. However, what I didn't expect was the impression both of those days would have on me! I have done volunteer work before, but never has my volunteerism had such a profound **IMPACT** on my heart and soul as this ministry. When I left Sojourner that afternoon, I realized that I had just experienced something that I had never experienced before. Something was different. Something had changed. Something that I couldn't explain in my typical and analytical way -- because I couldn't put it into words! In closing, I am honored and humbled to be **INVOLVED** in a Ministry that has helped me realize how the "gift" of a simple smile and a listening ear can reach boundaries far beyond what you would ever expect. Blessings, Donna J. Miller

Laura



Our new Treasurer

Hello, my name is Laura and I am currently the Accounting Manager at North Central Sight Services. I am originally from Romania and have lived in the US for about 10 years. I am happily married and live with my husband and our three cats. I have always believed in being kind and grateful for what we have and working at NCSS has only heightened my desire to help in any way that I can. Orison Swett Marden once said "We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest." I was excited to see how much STM does for our community, and I am even more excited to be a part of it. I am hopeful that we can grow, together, so we can continue to do more for those who need our help.

SOJOURNER TRUTH MINISTRIES
501 HIGH STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
STM newsletter Winter, 2019

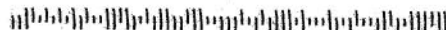
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Inside This Issue

- ✦ New Volunteer Staff & Treasurer
- ✦ Ministry Update
- ✦ Sojourner House Update
- ✦ Wanted: Administrative Staff
- ✦ Summer Scripture

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HELP WANTED:

VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF **TUESDAY Mornings 9-12**

Administrative duties include but are not limited to computer work such as reporting to various agencies), making phone calls, writing letters and emails and other weekly office tasks needed to help this growing ministry.

Multitasking, confidentiality, ability to work independently and effectively communicate are all essential to this volunteer job. Please leave a message at 570-323-1797, or email letter of interest to Angelique4stm@gmail.com



Sponsorship for items needed for the House next door: Please check our website for updated details.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? 1st and 3rd WEDS, 9 am RSVP for volunteer orientation

THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO ARE GIVING TO SUPPORT OUR WORK!!

You may be loving people whom you have not even met yet...

****If you are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter, please leave a detailed message with your name, address and phone number call 570-323-1797, and we will remove you from this mailing list****

*****if you want to save paper and receive email newsletter please email your name and contact information asking for EMAIL NEWSLETTER to Angelique4stm@gmail.com *****

Want me to come and share about Sojourners to your church or group?

**Give me (Angelique) a call at 570-323-1797
or Stmwilliamsport.org or Angelique4STM@gmail.com**

Council of Ministry is meeting October 3rd at 6:30 at the Elimsport church. Please come and join us as we plan our parish events for October thru January. We would love to see you there! New ideas are appreciated.



Acolyte Schedule:

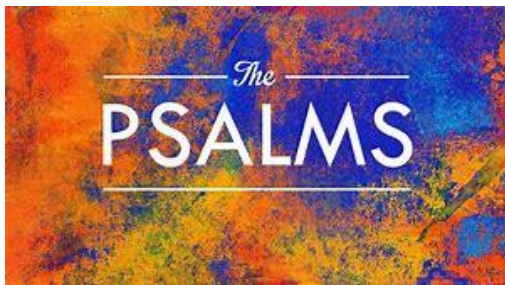
10/6/19 Mallorie & Mitchell
 10/13/19 Garrett & Elizabeth
 10/20/19 Jackson & Garrett
 10/27/19 Mitchell & Garrett



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



Parish Bible Study is on Tuesdays at 6:30. We are studying the book of Psalms. All are welcome.



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



We are still looking for anyone interested in serving as a Youth Fellowship leader.



Thank you for your donations to Footprints of Montgomery food pantry. They were so thankful for the donations! It is hard to keep the shelves stocked when they see 70-80 families a month. Again thank you for your help in this important mission!



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

After much consultation and discussion, we are trying to move forward to repair the basement walls at the parsonage. This involves intense labor and expense. If anyone wishes to donate funds to help with the cost of rebuilding the foundation walls there, please let Pastor Mike know or you can give with your regular offering by marking your envelope "parsonage foundation".



Elmsport Volunteers

Greeters for October

October 6	Sandy Foresman
October 13	Cathy Hill
October 20	Charlie & Pat Ulrich
October 27	Deanna Drick



World Communion Sunday is October 6th. We will be having communion at the rails at both churches.



Pastor Mike, church members & friends,

This is long overdue, but I want to thank all for the prayers and cards sent to me, also the visits. It seems I was having more downtime than up, but still kept trying to do better. Praying by the end of September, I'll be doing better and soon be home. Again thank you everyone for your prayers and blessings.

Eleanor Hanley



Thank you for the many get well cards that was sent to me while in the hospital and at Valley View. Also, the visit that I receive and the many prayers. Thank you for the gifts, the afghan, cookies and candy. Also, the meals that we receive. God bless all.

Kay Van Horn



There will be a blood drive on October 1st from 2-7 at the Elimsport UMC fellowship hall.



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



God is pure light,
undimmed by darkness
of any kind.

1 John 1:5

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.