

# Valley Views



VOLUME 27, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2020



*Pastor Mike Hill*

## Reflections of Autumn (and its Lone Appearance in the Bible)

Dr. David Jeremiah

My childhood autumns in Ohio hold precious memories—the fall revival at church, unpacking warmer clothing, hot cocoa, harvest moons, fires in the hearth, a well-stocked pantry, and best of all—FOOTBALL! I loved it.

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come.

When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

"Autumn" only occurs once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, false teachers are compared to "autumn trees without fruit," implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the "autumn of life?"

### **The Unchanging Nature of God**

The seasons come and go, so focus on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psalm 90:1-2).

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

And personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work.

But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. Remember this verse from “Abide with Me”?

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; Earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

--Henry F. Lyte

J. I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

### **The Divine Foresight of God**

We’ve all suffered setbacks along the way. But God promised, “I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten. . . . You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God” (Joel 2:25-26). His divine forethought knew it all in advance, and He can be trusted with what has happened to us in years past.

Our omniscient Savior knows the end from the beginning, and He will bless whatever is yielded to Him. Focus on His foreknowledge, providence, and sovereignty.

### **The Wonderful Blessings of God**

The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God’s wonderful blessings—family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life’s autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before.

### **A Renewed Commitment to God**

Autumn is a good time to focus on your commitment to God. Some of the saddest words in the Bible are in Jeremiah 8:20, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” If you’ve never made a commitment to Jesus Christ, do it now, while there is still time.

If you are a follower of Christ, remember to remain close to Him during the shifting seasons of life.

During autumn, we all know that winter lies ahead, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

The Elimsport United Methodist Parish will be holding a food drive for Footprints of Montgomery on October 25th, 2020. We will be accepting donations for drop off at the Elimsport UMC pavilion from 12:00-3:00 on 10/25/2020, or you may bring donations with you to the worship services in October at St. John's and Elimsport.

Donation ideas and needs suggestions for food are:

Thanksgiving sides, such as canned vegetables, potatoes, gravy, applesauce, cranberry sauce, boxed stuffing, (something like Stove Top) and mashed potatoes.  
Canned tomato, chicken noodle, broth, and cream soups

Packets of rice( something like Uncle Ben's) or noodle mixes

Canned chicken or tuna

Pasta

Other ideas: soap, (bar and liquid), toothpaste, lotion, shampoo, and conditioner.  
Also any paper products, such as toilet paper, tissues, napkins, and paper towels.

These are just ideas since we are always asked what Footprints needs for donations. All donations will be gladly accepted. Thank you, and if there are any questions see Christa or Sharon.



Next Sunday, October 4th, we will be returning to our sanctuaries for worship. Please be wise when considering your attendance. As the number in attendance will be monitored, we will be practicing strict guidelines in regards to social distancing, singing, and wearing face coverings. Face coverings are required and we will have hand sanitizer available. Also, the pews will be marked according to appropriate seating distances. If you are not feeling well or have been around someone who has not been feeling well, please abstain from attending. Also, consider if you have health issues, or if you are in the vulnerable age group when deciding to attend. We want to be safe and offer a safe environment for all people present.



God  makes everything  
beautiful  
in its time. -Ecclesiastes 3:11  
Happy Fall!  
hotglitters.net

**Various means to keep updated:**

website: [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org)  
Face book: Elimsport United Methodist Parish  
Electronic sign at Elimsport church  
email Pastor Mike: [hjebm@comcast.net](mailto:hjebm@comcast.net)  
email church: [elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@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 Elimsport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.



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



St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, October 8th at 7.



Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, October 12th at 6:30.

- 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.)*



# 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.