

Valley Views



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 9

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Pastor Mike Hill

One of the most controversial issues of our day which seems to be consuming the work of the church more than any other issue is the issue of human sexuality. As pop-culture invades the traditional beliefs of the church, so do the conflicts involving sexual issues. These issues come, primarily, from a change in beliefs about marriage and its definition. Traditionally, marriage was considered a union of one man and one woman. In the church this was taught using scriptural backup such as the Genesis story of Adam and Eve being brought together, joined together, and becoming one in the eyes of God. As time went on and God gave laws to his people, it was forbidden in the Levitical laws, as we find in Leviticus 18:22, for two men or two women to be joined together. In the New Testament, Paul makes reference in chapter one of Romans to God's wrath being poured out on society due to humankind's abandonment of God's laws. Paul, in Romans 1:26-27, refers to homosexuality as shameful, unnatural, and indecent, therefore, the church adopted the belief that it was wrong. Finally, Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 6:9 that homosexual offenders would not inherit the kingdom of God. And so goes the church, until now.

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New teaching in our postmodern culture says that we are to be a society of love. This is grace without law which leads to license. In other words, grace without law says “anything goes.” The rationale in our “new” thinking is that if we all just love one another, as Jesus said we should, we will be a better society. Jesus clearly taught that we are to love one another and not judge each other. This has become the “free pass” for pop-culture, which concentrates on love at the expense of morality. True, the Bible teaches that we should love each other and only when we do will our society be better for all people, but the tension comes when we turn the page and ask, “what about the laws of morality?” The church finds itself in a conflict between law and love; rules and grace, and the conflict will not be settled soon. For some, the answer is relative.

As a solution, many have adopted the doctrine of moral relativity, which believes that one does whatever (they) feel is the right and moral thing to do. And again, a conflict erupts between what you feel is moral and what I feel is moral. While it is possible to make a case for both sides on human sexuality using the Bible, one must resist making the Bible say what we want it to say at the expense of other human beings. The church sings the old hymns, *Grace Greater Than All Our Sin*, and *Amazing Grace*, but yet stands in judgment of many today who challenge the traditional views regarding human sexuality. If Jesus’ sacrifice was good enough to save a wretch like me, who has sinned and continues to sin, then shouldn’t I be able to understand that we are all lost and like sheep, we go astray? Maybe a simpler solution for the church in this contemporary conflict is to join hands with all people and together ask God to show us the way. If the church would spend its energy discerning God’s will for all of us who have gone astray, and continue to go astray, maybe we would hear him more clearly. Maybe the church should spend more time praying than cursing and demeaning others who, in its judgment, are not right. Maybe the church could use Isaiah’s prayer, “O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (64:8)

May our desire be as Isaiah’s was, “Oh, that you (LORD) would rend the heavens and come down.” (64:1)

Let us be in fervent prayer about the issues of our day.

Pastor Mike





The Youth will be having a Fundraiser at Wendy's in Muncy on the following day:

December 13th

Time is 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Come and help support our Youth!



JOB DESCRIPTION:

YOUTH COORDINATOR OF ELIMSPORT VALLEY PARISH, MARCH 17, 2016

The Director of Youth/Children ministries of the Elimsport Valley Parish is an extension of the pastor in providing leadership within the parish.

Qualifications:

The Director of Youth ministries must possess exceptional communication and interpersonal skills, be able to work with the pastor and other staff or volunteers within the parish. This person should have the gifts and graces to minister to children and youth. They must maintain a high regard for the mission of the church and Christian discipleship.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Coordinate the youth ministry (grades 6 – 12) of the Parish.

Plan, organize and lead a youth program.

Organize field trips and service projects with the youth.

Be available to youth in a nurturing and supportive role.

Plan, organize, and lead an annual Youth Sunday worship service.

Publicize the programs.

Appropriate Act clearances would need to be obtained.

Salary per year: \$3,388.

Active member of either church and present in weekly worship service and fellowship events

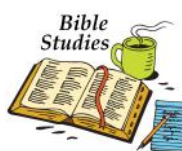




- Blood Drives: All 2-7 pm
- Tues., October 11th, 2016 @ Elimsport UMC



The Annual Fall Festival will be Saturday, September 17th at the Elimsport Church. Parade starts at 11 am. Hope to see you there.



Parish Bible Study begins on Tuesday September 6th at 6:30 at the Elimsport church. We are continuing our study in Isaiah. All are welcome!

Christian Crusaders class will meet Friday, September 23rd at Elimsport church at 6:00 pm.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all your support throughout the years. Also, thank you for all the well-wishes and the generous gift when I graduated. Your support means a lot.



Jake Chamberlin



We are starting another Confirmation Class this fall for youth wanting to join the church. Anyone ages 13 to 18 can attend. We will be meeting on various Sunday evenings as we go along. Times and dates to be announced soon.

Elimsport Volunteers

Greeters for September

September 4 Jennifer Springman & Family
 September 11 Gene Pauling & Audrey Reed
 September 18 Deanna Drick
 September 25 Chris & Jill Ulrich & Family



- Items for October's newsletter are due September 20th.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by Thursday morning each week.
(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)



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.