

# Valley Views



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Pastor Mike Hill

Watch out for that ice!

One of the most treacherous situations during winter is icy conditions. We can be going along and before we know it, we are slip sliding away. Often times those conditions cause a fall that can injure us in many ways, or cause an accident costing us dearly. The best we can do is take our time and proceed cautiously. In fact, it helps to have someone to hold on to or all-wheel drive in times like these. These aids give us stability and confidence.

Various conditions can affect our spiritual journeys also. One of the most treacherous situations we often find ourselves in is spiritual complacency. This takes place when one stops going to church, reading God's word, spending time in prayer, and neglecting to take time to listen to God's voice. When this happens, we find ourselves "backsliding." This is a condition that can injure us spiritually and even hurt us in ways we never expect and cost us dearly. The result is usually an accident known as sin. Let's face it, we've all been through these times of sliding around spiritually. Our enemy is always trying to get us to slip up and often times he is successful. We backslide and sin against God. Sometimes it only lasts a little bit and we regain our spiritual balance and other times we spin out of control for a period of time.

When we find ourselves in these "icy conditions" the best we can do is to be cautious and turn to hold on to the Lord, our ever present help in times of trouble and cling tightly to His Word, standing firm on His promises and grace. Psalm 18:2 tells us, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (NIV) In the Psalm 73, Asaph declares, "But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold." He then goes on to say, "You hold me by my right hand, you guide me with your counsel." (NIV) The Lord was like all wheel drive to Asaph and gave him stability when he almost fell into distress.

Dr. James Montgomery Boice, pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pa. once said that when Christians sin, they don't fall out of grace they actually fall into it. What he meant is, when we backslide and fall, God's arms are reaching out to catch us, not retracting from us. That's Grace at its finest. May almighty God give you stability and confidence when you backslide, that you may know He forgives all who reach out to him, and that includes you and I!

Blessings during Lent,

Pastor Mike



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Dear Fellow Believers:

Praise the Lord and Greetings! We would like to say a thank you for your generosity in giving to Sojourner Truth Ministries. You have truly been a blessing, it is only through your financial support and prayers that we are able to continue to do what we do to be the hands and feet of Jesus that He called us to be. We pray that God continues to bless you and your loved ones throughout the upcoming year.



In His Loving Service,

Pastor Velinda Smith



The average number of households coming each month to the Son Light House in 2015 was 593 representing 1499 average monthly recipients. This was the highest monthly average for individuals and the second largest monthly average for households since 2008 when economic conditions took a dramatic downturn nationally. A total of 149 new households came to Son Light House last year for assistance. This was an increase of new households of 17% compared with the previous year. Thanksgiving had 14 more recipient households than last year and Christmas had 22 more. Thanks to the generosity of many donations of meat and money, SLH was able to meet the combined expense of \$14,927.86 for the purchase of turkeys. Many families benefited from the generosity. **Raise the Region 2016 - Support Son Light House** On Wednesday, March 9th at 6 pm through 11:59 pm on Thursday, March 10th, you are encouraged to visit [www.raisetheregion.org](http://www.raisetheregion.org) - an initiative of the First Community Foundation - and select Son Light House as your choice to support. Your gift will be stretched by a generous contribution from Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. All gifts are tax deductible and will help make Son Light House's mission possible.

### The United Methodist Church General Conference 2016 - 24 Hour Prayer Vigil Set

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On May 10 - 20, 2016, 864 delegates from all around the world will gather in Portland, Oregon for General Conference 2016. Held every four years, with the guidance of God's Spirit, the future direction of our United Methodist Church is crafted and held up before the whole church for our life together. This conference gathering will be both a challenge and an opportunity for the delegates representing our United Methodist Conferences to act as the church's top legislative body. All delegates are elected by their annual conferences to serve. Half of the delegates are lay and half are clergy. In the course of these 11 days, the delegates will prayerfully church's set the official position and church policies regarding such important issues as mission, vision, discipleship, structure, spiritual formation, human sexuality, war, peace and set the General Church funding for ministry plan for the next four years.



On December 2, 2015, our Council of Bishops encouraged each of our 131 Conferences to hold a **24 hour prayer vigil**. In so doing one conference will be continually praying for our delegates, bishops and leadership for the 131 days leading up to General conference!

Our **Susquehanna Conference 24 Hour Prayer Vigil** is set for **March 4th, from 12:00 am through 11:59 pm**. We are asking pastors and local church leaders to organize a vigil in their congregation or charge and join our other 900+ local churches in prayer for that 24 hour period. Each church or charge can develop their own plan which will fit their needs. *The important thing is that we all covenant together to do our part of this important prayer vigil!*

A special prayer vigil web page will be added to our conference web site at [susumc.org/gcprayervigil](http://susumc.org/gcprayervigil). There you will find a listing of our delegates so that you might include their names in your prayers. You will also find resources to help you plan your church-wide experience. Prayers, service ideas, and other suggestions appear for your possible use or create your own special way to be a part of this critically important time of prayer.

Thanks in advance for taking responsibility to make this happen in your church or charge. Prayer really does make a difference, especially when we do it together as the whole body of Christ! After all, we are "Better Together!"

Grace & Peace!

Rev. Mike Bella Director of Connectional Ministries



Dear St. John's UMC Sunday School,

Thank you very much for your monthly gifts for the year of 2015. Your gifts were very much appreciated. Thank you for caring for the needy people of the Montgomery area. May the Lord's blessings be upon you.



Thanks again,  
Footprints of Montgomery



Words cannot express the feelings in our hearts. Thank you to Pastor Mike and our church families at Elimsport and St. John's for being with us during this difficult year in the loss of our Daughter, Granddaughter, Niece and Cousin, Dionna. Your thoughts, visits, prayers, food, monetary gifts and words of sympathy will always be remembered.

The Family of Dionna Satteson

Dear Pastor Mike and Elimsport Valley Church Members,

Thanks for all the prayers and concerns for me during my recent fall. It was a pleasant stay of 5 weeks at the Williamsport Home Rehab Center. It's been a miracle that I have had no pain from my broken back since the first week of admittance.

A special thank you to Pastor Mike for his visits during the busy time during the Christmas activities. Also, thank you for the lovely Christmas cards from the youth group. I enjoyed Hilda's visit with a "goodie bag" from our church.

God has been so good to Dick and me. We praise Him every day.

Fondly with Love,

Eleanor M. Taylor



We, The Apple Dumpling Gang, Praise God for our Parish and friends who have been supporting us. God has worked in many ways, giving us the satisfaction of being able to help the congregation maintain upkeep of the building. The blessing of fellowship is priceless.

In October 2015, we donated 1 twin quilt, 1 baby quilt, 2 afghans, 2 baby afghans and some used afghans and blankets to Liberty house at the YWCA. Also, we donated 3 pet pillows to the SPCA. In January 2016, we donated 7 pet pillows to the SPCA. Thank You.

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

You are our hero...yes, you. You are one of those special people who doesn't just feel sorry for hungry people - you do something about it. Your compassionate giving makes Central Pennsylvania a better place every day. You are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in need and your gift of \$300 helps to provide not only food, but quality offerings like fresh fruits and vegetables, fluid milk and center of plate protein. It's about wellness, not just fullness. That's why you're a hero. When hope is offered, we catch sight of the future and realize we're not alone on our journey. You're providing that gift of hope to so many who desperately need it. For that, we cannot thank you enough.



Appreciatively,

Eric Orndorff



**Youth Fellowship Happenings**

March 6th No meeting

March 13th Meeting at the church at 6:30 pm

March 20th Egg Hunt at Tweet's 2:00 pm

March 27th Sunrise Service at 6:00 am then breakfast at Perkins

**Please see any member of the Youth Group to purchase a 2016 calendar.**



**Cost is \$7.00. This is a great way to help support our Youth.**

The Youth will be having Fundraisers at Wendy's in Muncy on the following dates:

March 15th

June 21st

September 20th

December 13th



All times are 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Come and help support our Youth!

Call or email Tweet with any questions.



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 26th at 10 am on the softball field. If anyone would like to give a donation or volunteer, please feel free to contact Jenn Springman at (570) 412-6141.

### Lenten Services:

**Tuesday, March 1st @ St. John's 7 pm**

**Tuesdays, March 8th & 15th**

**@ Elimsport 7 pm**

**Seder Meal Thursday, March 24th**

**@ Elimsport 6 pm**

**Good Friday Service March 25th**

**@ Elimsport 7 pm**

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service**

**@ Lutz's pond 6 am**

**Regular Easter Services at each church on Easter Sunday**

There will be a Good 'n Plenty Supper at Muncy First UMC 602 S. Market St., Muncy. It will be held Wednesday, March 2nd. Take out is available from 4-6 pm, dine in is from 4:30-6:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$9.00. Family style menu includes: roasted turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, coleslaw, rolls, dessert & beverage.



St. John's will be having a fund raising event at "Repeats Used Clothing" located in the TJ Max Plaza. The event will run from Monday, 03/21/16, through Saturday, 04/02/16. The store hours are 11:00 – 5:30 on Monday through Friday; 11:00 – 4:00 on Saturday. Even if you do not typically shop at second hand clothing stores, please take a few minutes to stop in and look around. They have some nice items for great prices. Because we are raising funds for the church, they have agreed to run the fund raiser for 2 weeks (it's normally 1 week) and provide us with 20% (it's normally 10%) of our profits. There will be cards on the back table at both churches, or you can contact Deb Kennedy (570-547-2467 or 570-777-5517). Take extras and pass them out to your family and friends. Just present the card when you check out and 20% of your purchase (excluding jewelry & accessories) will be given to the church at the end of the event. If you forget to pick up a card, or forget to take it with you, simply let them know when you check out that your purchase is part of the fund raiser for St. John's United Methodist Church.

Thank you for your support and Happy Shopping!!



**SALE** There will be a Consignment, Soup & Bake Sale at the Huntersville UMC. This is to benefit the church. It will be held Saturday, March 19th from 9 am till 4 pm. Items to be sold include: men's, women's & children's clothing, shoes, toys, baby items, household items and much more. Huntersville UMC is located at 5263 Rabbittown Road in Muncy. Call (570) 435-0508 for more information.

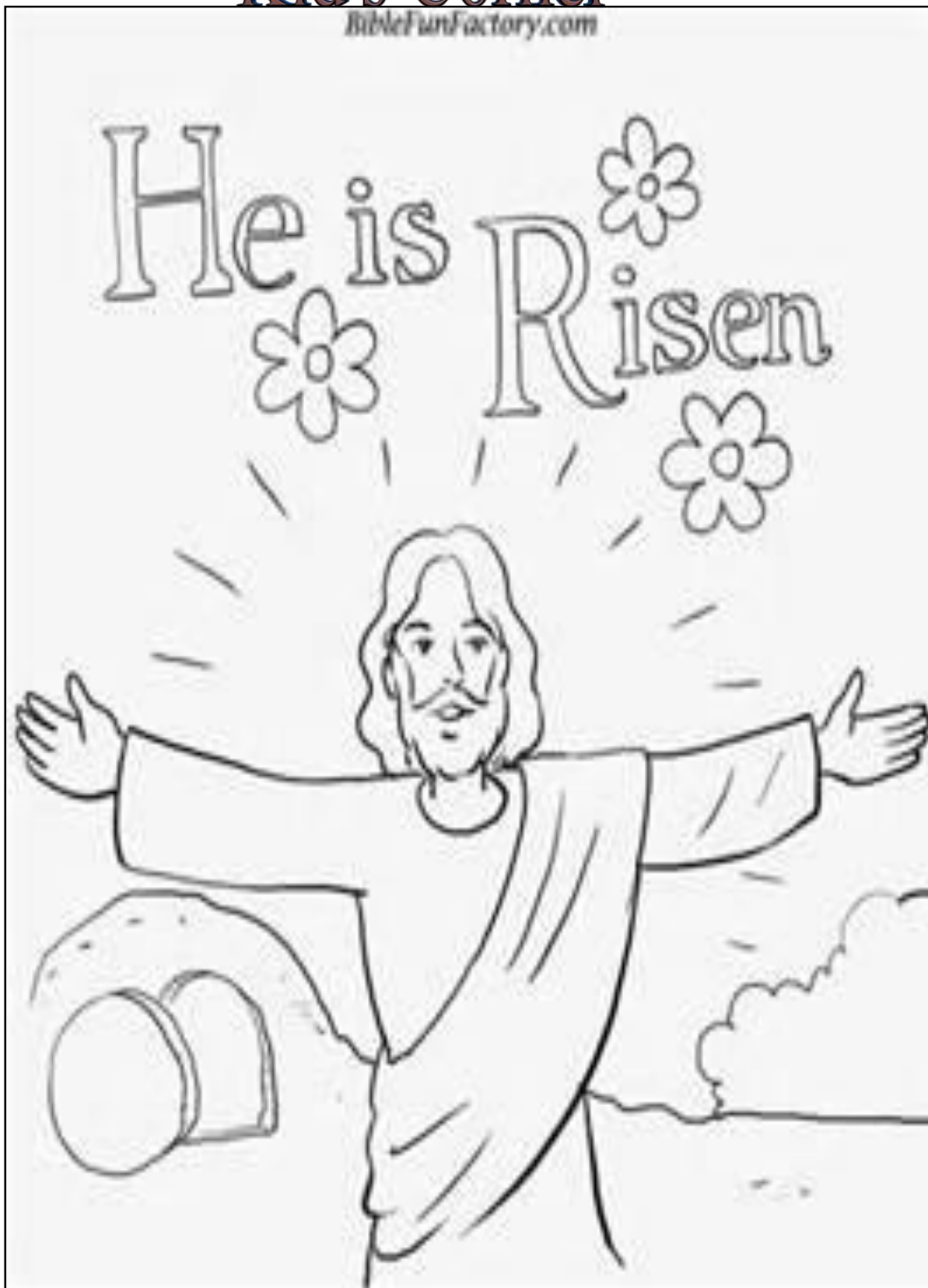
## Elimsport Volunteers

- Items for April's newsletter are due March 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.)*

- ### Greeters for March
- |          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| March 6  | Bob & Hilda Sampsell       |
| March 13 | Cathy Hill & Betty Farley  |
| March 20 | Sue Smith & Guy Maustellar |
| March 27 | Janet Esworth              |



BibleFunFactory.com



# **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:**

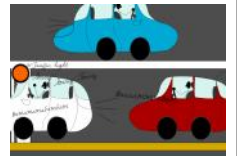
[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)

### **Parish email:**

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

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

The scheduling of the church sidewalk and parking lot project is progressing. The concrete work is scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd week of May and the paving work is scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week of May. Your continued prayerful consideration of this project and your continued contributing toward this project is requested.



### **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.**