

Valley Views



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Pastor Mike Hill

What Autumn Teaches Christians about Life, Death, and God



By Liz Kanoy

Autumn is my favorite season, though I don't think I'd want it to go on forever. There's something nostalgic about the scents of autumn, the foliage with rich changing colors, the foods and holidays, traditions like apple picking and leaf piles, and cooler weather after a hot summer. Joseph Rhea, director of ministries for Soma Church, has written an article for The Gospel Coalition reminding us of the promises of autumn, titled [Autumn: Dying Beautifully](#).

Rhea calls Christians to remember these 3 things about autumn:

1. Autumn Refreshes Us with New Wonder

Spring brings its own beauty to the world, and it's a relief to see green and new growth after a long, harsh winter. Then spring morphs into summer, and after a while green becomes the new normal. It's not necessarily that we get tired of green, but in a way we get used to it. Rhea explains,

"There's nothing wrong with the leaves. It's me: repetition inoculates me against wonder. Like G. K. Chesterton says, I don't have God's capacity to delight again and again at each new leaf. He keeps unfurling them—they even wave to get my attention!—but the eyes of my soul glaze over."

"In autumn, the creativity of God hollers. Look at these things! These paper-thin solar

cells that convert sunlight into acorns! They're everywhere, and they're made by a God who, as N. D. Wilson reminds us, doesn't know how to stop creating. Autumn reminds us that there's a world of wonder."

2. Autumn Reminds Us of the Promise of Glory

In our culture, we see glory in youth and newness. Aging is looked upon with a wary and skeptic eye. "We are *spring-and-summer*," people as Rhea comments. But we can learn from change; Rhea shares,

"My parents' leaves are starting to change. Their color is silver rather than red, but the glory is the same. They may not have quite the same speed on the Frisbee field. But they have wisdom and grace and decades of joy that shine in their faces. They're taking on the beauty of autumn, showing dimensions of glory that my green summer-self doesn't display."

3. Autumn Prepares Us for Winter's Coming

Inevitably, autumn's beauty and wonder fades into winter's chilled silence. Autumn doesn't stay; it fades and falls away just like the leaves on the trees. Rhea expounds, "*Autumn reminds us that our leaves too will die. The curse we inherited from our father-tree Adam means we have our seasons and then we go. Winter takes us all.*"

This is a sobering thought. Just like autumn, I will not last forever on this earth. Winter is a stark reminder that there is a price for the curse we were born under...but there is hope. Rhea tells us,

"Autumn can draw our attention to the one man who broke through winter into an unending summer. The one who spent three days brown and dead in the dirt and came back in an indestructible green. The one who wasn't just a leaf; he was a whole new tree."

"Winter comes to us all. But winter isn't the end for Christians, because our lives are joined to a tree that winter cannot touch. Death has no sting; winter has no bite. We will fall from the tree of Adam; but we will flower again in a spring of eternal, glorious growth."

It's this truth, according to Rhea, that "gives us the hope to die beautifully." When I die, I don't want to be clinging to the edges of this earth, begging for one more tainted day. I want to die with grace falling back into the arms of my Savior, knowing that His beauty is greater than anything I could compare on this earth.

"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. ...But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. "

"...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."



We are still looking for 2 people to serve on the PPRC committee at St. John's. This committee meets 4 times a year and deals with the ministry of the pastor and employees of the parish.



A former Pastor, James Sunderland had a stroke recently. He is now in rehab and would like to hear from anyone that remembers him from Elimsport. Please send notes, letters or cards to:

Rev. James Sunderland
1077 Cherry Street
Montoursville, PA.
17754



A huge thank you to everyone at St. John's Methodist Church who participated and attended the Celebration of Life for my mother Deanie Rhone on Saturday, September 18th. It was a joyous time of stories, laughter, a few tears, and warm fellowship. A special thanks to Pastor Mike for his support during the planning of this event. Thanks also to Nancy Shadle and Gloria Burrows for their help with set up, serving, and clean up. It was a perfect tribute to my dear mother.

Diane Rhone – daughter of
Deanie Rhone



Dear St. John Members,
I just want to thank everyone for all your prayers, concerns, cards, flowers and phone calls during Charlie's illness and passing. He's been struggling health-wise for a few years, so knowing now that he is at peace helps ease the pain.



Thank You,
Betty Mathias

We will be having communion at both churches on Sunday, October 3rd (World Communion Sunday).



Pastor Mike will be taking a six-week leave and will be unavailable from October 4th to November 15th. Pastor John Lee from the Lewisburg area will be filling in during that time. He will be leading worship, visiting sick in hospital, officiating funerals and giving pastoral care during that time. Any pastoral concerns or emergencies will need to be directed to him. You are also welcome to call PPRC chair Retta Moore at 570-547-1896 with any concerns during that time. Pastor Lee's contact information is:

Pastor John E. Lee
 148 Jean Blvd.
 Lewisburg, Pa. 17837
 570-523-0592



Christmas Giving Tree

We will be getting names of students from Montgomery Elementary school to sponsor families/children in need for Christmas gifts again this year. We are looking for individuals or families to provide the clothing needs and a few toys for one child. THE DEADLINE TO VOLUNTEER IS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th. The list of needs should be available for volunteers by the beginning of November. The Christmas tree with tags for additional gifts will be set up by Sunday, November 7th.



All gifts should be new and unwrapped and need to be returned NO LATER than Sunday, December 5th.

To volunteer to sponsor a child or if you have questions about the tags from the Christmas tree please contact Deanna Drick (570-419-1730) or Sharon Heintzelman (570-971-3564) by Sunday, 10/17/21.

Elimsport Administrative Council will meet Monday, October 11th 6:30.



St. John's Administrative Council will meet Thursday, October 14th at 7:00.

Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimsport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.



Various means to keep updated:

website: evpumc.org

Face book: Elimsport United Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimsport church

email Pastor Mike: hjebm@comcast.net

email church: 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 and Elimsport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

Due to the constant changes in the covid mandates, we are making it a personal choice to wear masks or face coverings in the church building, but are suggesting that you wear one if you are unvaccinated or are vulnerable to contacting the virus. We are still suggesting that people practice social distancing each Sunday Morning and use common sense while greeting each other.

- 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.)



The Elimsport Parish will be collecting non perishable food for Footprints of Montgomery from October 3rd through October 24th. You may bring donations each Sunday to St. John's or Elimsport, or bring to the pavilion on October 24th from 12:00-3:00pm. Thank you for always helping others in need in our community! Any questions see Christa or Sharon.



We will also be collecting donations for college care bags. You may give donated snacks or money to Christa or Sharon.

Also if you have the name of a college student from our Parish, please notify Sharon or Christa. We have a list, but it always helps to hear from you!

The Parish is planning on attempting a Christmas Village this year. Please get your thinking caps on and check the bulletin for an upcoming meeting date! This will be a new adventure with an outside nativity, caroling, of course food, and any other ideas!



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

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.