

Valley Views



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2023



Pastor Dave Shultz

A new year always seems for me to be a call to look once again at the direction of my life, especially my spiritual life. Something I look at is my prayer life. I ask myself, how am I growing and what are my prayers revealing about my relationship with God. Something which I have found to be a real blessing are prayers that others have written as part of their own spiritual journey. A book of prayers that I have found to be very insightful is, *Prayers from the Heart*, by Richard J. Foster. Here are a few prayers that I invite you to sit with, allowing the words resonate in your soul.

Spirit of the Living God, be the Gardener of my soul.
For so long I have been waiting, silent and still—
experiencing a winter of the soul. But now in the strong
name of Jesus Christ, I dare to ask:
Clear away the dead growth of the past,
Break up the hard clods of custom and routine,
Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,
Bury deep in my soul the implanted Word,
Cultivate and water and tend my heart,
Until new life buds and opens and flowers.

O Lord, my God. Form me more fully into your likeness.
Use the circumstances and interactions of this day to form your will in me.
From the frustrations of this day form peace.
From the joys of this day form strength.
From the struggles of this day form courage.
From the beauties of this day form love.

In the name of Jesus Christ who is all peace and strength and courage and I love. Amen.

Somehow, Jesus, I like praying with a cup of coffee in my hands.

I guess the warmth of the cup settles me and speaks of the warmth of your love.

I hold the cup against my cheek and listen, hushed and still.

I blow on the coffee and drink. O Spirit of God, blow across my little life and let me drink in your great Life. Amen.

Each of these prayers speak to me of my great need for the God's nurturing presence to accompany me throughout my day, and often to nudge me to seek his kingdom and not my own. I am often astounded by the distractions of life and how prayers such as these awaken my soul to the depth of my humanness and to the richness of God's love and of his commitment to me.

I invite you to take one of these prayers or find another, or even write one of your own and then pray it every day for a week or month. Meditate on it. Use it to measure what is going on in you and how you are sensing the movement of God in your life. Use it to let God open your eyes to things he wants to reveal to you. If you have a breakthrough of some sort, share it with someone. It may be just what they need.

Blessings to all in the new year,

Pastor Dave



Various means to keep updated:

website: evpumc.org
Face book: Elimsport United Methodist Parish
Electronic sign at Elimsport church
email Pastor Dave: dshultz@susumc.org
email church: elimsportumc@gmail.com
Call Pastor Dave: 570-547-1162
Text Pastor Dave: 570-439-0004 (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.

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



- Items for February’s newsletter are due January **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.)

Pastor Dave and Jean would like to thank all of you for your Christmas gifts and greetings to us. We sincerely appreciate your love and generosity. Your love makes us feel welcome. We pray for God’s blessing to be upon you all in 2023.



PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, January 24th, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church.

PPRC Committee members are Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Gary Taylor.



Elimsport Ad Council meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30.



St. John’s Ad Council meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30.

We will be having another apple dumpling sale January 11th. Anyone willing to help with ingredient donations or making them please contact Gloria Burrows 570-547-1598. We will have sign up sheets at the back of both churches. Apple dumplings can be picked up after 2pm. Thanks to each of you that have made the apple dumplings sales a success. We will have one more sale in February if we can get the apples.



Thanks to all who sponsored a child, provided a gift from the tree, donated money, or prayed for these families in need! It took an enormous amount of love and support from everyone to ensure that 17 children we don't personally know received gifts that will brighten their day. Each child received a huge garbage bag full of wrapped gifts for them to open Christmas morning. Thanks to all for going all in on this mission!

Sharon and Deanna

To the St. John's Congregation,

Thank you very much for the lovely Christmas card and the Sunoco gift card. It is a blessing to be a part of this wonderful church family.



Joanne De Land



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, January 31st from 2-7 at the fellowship hall.

Acolyte Schedule

01/01/23 Jack & Mitchell
01/08/23 Sam & Jack
01/15/23 Garrett & Elizabeth
01/22/23 Mitchell & Sam
01/29/23 Jack & Garrett
02/05/23 Elizabeth & Sam
02/12/23 Mitchell & Jack
02/19/23 Garrett & Sam
02/26/23 Elizabeth & Mitchell



Thank you very much for the finals bag! It was very generous and kind of all of you and greatly appreciated!

Allyia Kennedy

Thank you so very much for the bag of goodies! It is very nice for you all to bless me with these snacks and candy to get me through finals. Thank you again for showing your support!



THANK YOU

Morgan Tupper



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) 547-1162

Pastor Dave's Cell:

(570) 439-0004

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.