

Valley Views



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JANUARY 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

A new year is here. Time to put up a new calendar. Time to remember the new date, 2024 when writing a check or signing a document. It is surprising how much with this attitude of newness, that our desire for other things to be new in our lives surfaces. It's strange how a new year makes us think like this, but it happens every year, at least it does for many.

Maybe I am just thinking how another year is past and gone and how a new one is beginning. Maybe there is some hidden power in putting up a new calendar that I have yet to discover, or maybe it is that deep desire within me not to settle for less than I know God created me to be.

I am not talking about developing some hidden talent, but rather developing the relationship with God that is available to all who desire it and seek it. This is not a relationship based on performance, such as doing things for God or for piety's sake. It is based on the things that are fundamental to any relationship, which are, putting the relationship first and being open to being known by the other person.

We are told that the greatest commandment is to "... love the Lord, your God, with all of your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This was actually a revolutionary thing when God gave it to Moses, and it still remains the driving force behind any true relationship with God.

It is revolutionary because it makes a relationship with God one that is above all else, intimate, and personal. This makes no sense to the average person, largely because is hard to evaluate and objectify. Much of religion then was based on sacrifices or doing religious things. It was based on satisfying religious obligations and in spite of all that Jesus did to disrupt that, we have not dared to allow ourselves it to move much beyond it. Much of our religious life is still based on performance.

Jesus revealed to us that God works for our transformation, so that he may dwell within us. Yet we must be receptive and desirous of this so much so, that the Apostle Paul calls us to be engaged in a process of coming to know this God who loves us and who wants to be known by us intimately. Paul calls it putting off the old man and putting on the new. This intimate knowledge of God is important because it brings life, healing, and the restoration of our souls, when we know that we are loved deeply, completely forgiven and set free to live in that freedom.

That is why the foundation of our life with God is not duty, but desire. So much of what is offered in our life together as followers of Christ, is designed to come to know and fall in love with the God who knows us and who has fashioned all things to draw us closer to him. Things such as: worship, fellowship, prayer and fasting, reading scripture, practicing deeds of mercy and compassion, practicing solitude, putting aside time for meditation and study, learning to praise and give thanks, plus many, many others. They are all designed to help us come to know the depth and wonder of God, to be surprised by his love and have his grace wash over us.

It's here in the depth of this relationship that you are encouraged to allow the things that God has brought to your attention to remain. Have a conversation with God about them. Allow God to teach you about yourself as you learn about the nature and character of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Know that there is no condemnation here, only grace to transform, and renew.

Here we are back at the idea of newness. We can change calendars and change behaviors, but we cannot change our nature. Only God can do that, but we have to desire what He offers and to do that, we have to immerse ourselves in his way, by choosing daily his way over our own and thereby come to truly know the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Blessings to you in 2024,

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.

If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Church News

- 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.)

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



PPRC Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22nd at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church.

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



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.

Pastor Dave would like to start a class studying The Chosen season 3 on Tuesday evenings, starting January 23 at 6:30pm. Our morning group has been study Season 3, and it is the best yet. We are really getting into the nitty gritty of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The Chosen is proving to be a tremendous resource for persons who truly want to grow in their relationship with Jesus and who are willing to be shaped by their encounter with scripture. The Chosen Study doesn't just teach scripture, it invites each one to let the Word of God in and speak to you about the new thing God is doing and wants to do in each of us. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the rear of the Sanctuary. Please sign up and indicate if you want the Pastor to purchase a book for you. They will cost you almost \$17 on Amazon.

Pastor Dave and Jean would like to thank the Elimsport church and all those who gave us gifts this Christmas. We heartily express our thanks and appreciate your thinking of us. We desire for God's presence and blessing to be strongly upon all of you as we move into a new year.



Starting January 1, 2024, Elimsport UMC is asking for volunteers for shoveling and salting the sidewalks. We need three people or families to volunteer for either January, February, or March. You may get lucky and not even have to shovel or salt the sidewalks for your month! It all depends on the weather! If interested please contact Tom Taylor or Frank Cleaver.

Elimsport UMC is looking for an outdoor custodian! If you are interested please see Tom Taylor or Frank Cleaver.

St Johns will be having an apple dumpling sale on Wednesday, January 10th. Apple dumplings are \$4.50 and there will be sign up sheets at both churches. Anyone that wants to help, let Gloria know. Apple dumplings can be picked up between 1-3 pm January 10th. Thank you for your support!!!



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.