

# Valley Views



VOLUME 31, NUMBER 7

JULY 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

What does your spiritual routine look like? I imagine many of you use some kind of devotional on a regular basis and that you participate in weekly worship. Sometimes the idea of a routine can get boring, but there is nothing wrong if it is serving you well. A routine is really nothing more than a pattern for living life. The hard thing is when you determine that your routine isn't serving you well, or that you have taken in some new habits and a new pattern for your life has developed.

We all follow some kind of pattern for our lives, even if the pattern is to go like crazy all day, go to bed, get up, and do it all over again. That's a pattern. It's a pattern for burn out and lots of other things. The really hard part we face is when we feel a need to change our pattern because we are not satisfied with something in our lives.

That something can be many things and what I have learned is that a spiritual component often lies at the core. When the spiritual part is disquieted or not sufficiently nourished, it shows up in many parts of our souls (physical, mental, and emotional), which is why it is of critical importance to us to pay attention to our soul. We do that first by acknowledging we are feeling something, we then talk to God about it, and let God lead us. Don't expect God to kiss it and make it better. No, what you are dealing with is a growing place where you are invited see and

experience God in a new and expanded way, to perhaps to make a change to your how you are doing life and living out the gift God has given you. So how do you add God to your routine, how do you adapt your pattern for living to give a relationship with God a more prominent place?

One such way is study. Now, I know the idea of study may cause some people to run screaming into the night out of fear it may make their heads hurt. But all it really is, is an opportunity to think a little more deeply on God and to learn where you may have gone off track in your understanding.

I and many others have been enjoying the Chosen series study for this purpose. We are now poised to enter season four. It is available and I have seen the first couple of episodes, and it is by far the most powerful yet. It displays faith in Jesus not as some simple thing, but as something with which you have to wrestle as you break old patterns of thinking

and responding to life's challenges. It is amazing to watch the disciples in this series stick with Jesus even though many of the things didn't make sense to them and ran contrary to what they thought. What is amazing is how they believed in him even though they didn't understand him fully. Isn't that where we are? The disciples knew there was more, and they kept pushing forward, and we must do the same, in whatever manner God calls us. Because of this series, I see the disciples more as real people, not just names in a book.

I would like to start season four on Tuesday evening, Aug. 23 at 6:30pm and Wednesday morning at 9:00am, Aug. 24 at the Elimsport Church. If you are interested let Pastor Dave know. Some are interested in starting a new group with season one, if that is you, let Pastor Dave know, and we can figure out time and location. It doesn't have to be at the church, it can be in our homes where we may be more comfortable.

Another series is a book entitled, *The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knew*. This is something I wish every, and I mean every Christian, new or old would do. You don't even have to be a Christian, even if you just want to know more about the God Jesus taught about, this is an excellent opportunity. The author James Bryan Smith, does each chapter in a very easy, readable format where he presents a topic, such as, God is holy, God is good, God is love, etc. But he does it in a way that breaks down many of our misguided and unhealthy narratives we have about who God is, he then shares with us what Jesus said. The most powerful part is at the end of each chapter he gives a soul training exercise and invites you to practice it for a week. It may be something as simple as giving yourself permission to sleep in someday and not feel compelled to get up. Many people love this one. There are others such as making a list of things for which you are grateful, observe nature for an hour, do some secret blessing for another, and many, many others. The hope is that maybe one or more of them will stick with you.

His second book in the series is *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ*, where he addresses a lot of the sins that challenge all of us and helps us to look at overcoming them in a healthy way. These two books are perfect books for a small group of persons to get together and form a fellowship getting to know each other, by exploring God's word together and being there for each other in prayer and mission. I really love these books and am eager to get a group together. You can check the resources out online by doing a simple search online.

Breaking old patterns and establishing new ones is powerful medicine. I have been learning this in my own life recently and I realize its power to bring change in me and the first and most important step is to take the steps necessary to bring it about. Don't just say you have to think about it, make the call, contact someone, schedule it. Nothing is going to happen until you do. Every change in our lives starts with some kind of movement and this includes spiritual change

as well.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Dave

## Various means to keep updated:

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

Face book: Elimsport United

Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimsport church

email Pastor Dave: [dshultz@susumc.org](mailto:dshultz@susumc.org)

email church: [elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 August's newsletter are due July **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.



### **Church Softball schedule:**

**July 2**-No games, off for holiday week

#### July 9

Elimsport UMC-VBS using field-bye

#### July 16

Elimsport UMC vs Antes Fort (Elim)

#### July 23

Elimsport UMC vs. Trinity (Avis)

Elimsport Baptist vs. Oval (Elimsport)

#### July 30

Antes Fort vs Elimsport Baptist (Elimsport)

Elimsport UMC vs Nippenose (Rauchtown)

#### Aug 6

Elimsport Baptist vs. Elimsport UMC (Elimsport)

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.

It's that time of year again for VBS 2024! Yay! This year's theme is Scuba! Let's help our kids dive deep into an amazing under sea adventure full of fun, music, crafts, and imagination! At Scuba, kids will explore what it means to have a friendship that will last forever....a FRIENDSHIP with GOD!!! VBS will be held Sunday, July 7th through Thursday, July 11th from 6-8:30pm. Dinner will be provided each evening. Friday, July 12th will be our closing program and carnival at 6pm. All children preschool thru 7th grade are welcome! If you are interested in helping or donating to this community outreach program please contact Taryn Myers, Christa McCormick, or Sharon Heintzelman. Let's plan to dive into wonderful FRIENDSHIP with GOD. Our first meeting will be Sunday, April 14th at 3pm, here at ElimSPORT. Let's plan to dive deep into this exciting ocean adventure!!!



July 14th, 2024, Let's be creative. St. John's will be hosting a Red, White, or Blue Potluck meal after worship service.

### Joint Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, July 7 at 9am  
ElimSPORT Picnic Pavilion  
Provided will be:

Donuts & Cookies  
Coffee & Hot water for Tea

Seating will be available at the Picnic tables  
You also may want to bring a lawn chair.  
Please come with a desire to worship and celebrate together as the body of Christ gathered together.



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

### Parish email:

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

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