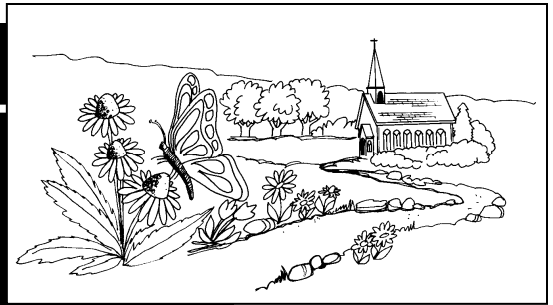


Valley Views



VOLUME 21, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2014

The Growing Season

By [Dave Barnhart](#)



Today, people eat locally for a variety of reasons: to support local growers, to choose healthier options, or to reduce their impact on the environment. These are all lifestyle choices, but it used to be simply the way things worked. People *had* to eat local, because there was no alternative! Now, eating locally takes effort.

It's getting easier to eat local food all the time. In my own city, we have several local farmers' markets, which means that we can meet the people who grow our food face-to-face. They often have good ideas for how to prepare the things they grow. More and more restaurants proudly advertise that they buy their food locally. Because the food doesn't have to travel as far, when we buy locally, we reduce our energy consumption. We can buy food in season, at its most flavorful. And we can support local businesses, which are often run by families who in turn give back to their local communities.

In Bible times, people's lives were intimately connected to the rhythms of planting and harvesting.

Jesus often used metaphors of plants and growing things (Matthew 13), and he often tells his disciples to "be fruitful." He tells his followers that they can judge a plant by its fruit: grapes are not gathered from thorns, nor figs from thistles (Matthew 7:16).

Jesus' words cause me to reflect on my own relationship with food and with spiritual disciplines.

In the spring, my attention often turns toward getting outside and getting my hands dirty in an effort to grow more of my own food. Several Saturdays ago, I joined the throngs at a local home improvement store who were drawn out of their homes by the warming weather. I loaded my car with bags of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Growing Season	1-3
Thank You	3
Annual Conference	4
Administrative Secretary	5
Kid's Spot	6
Future Events	8
June Calendar	

mulch and soil and a few more garden tools. My palate remembered the goodness of home-grown tomatoes. I could imagine the juicy ones that taste like liquid sunshine. My wife and I made plans to hit the farmers' market the next weekend. This summer, we resolved, we will eat better.

I did all this knowing, though, that my gardening and local-buying efforts are sporadic and half-hearted. It's easy to dream of being a master gardener when the spring sun is at an angle that makes being outside pleasant. But eventually the sun will be directly overhead in the summer, and the mosquitos [mosquitoes] will bite, and something will burrow into the stems of my cucumbers, shriveling them on the vine, and multiple weekend church events mean I won't go to the market or even see my garden until it is covered with weeds and the okra pods are a foot long and

tough as leather. This is when I throw in the towel and go to the grocery store and buy something shipped from California or Chile.

There are two lessons for spiritual life that I have learned from my own gardening efforts:

First, in my own spiritual life as in my gardening life, it's important to remember that **the real work is not completed in a single growing season, but over years of practice**—including multiple failures. This year we moved our raised beds, because we realized that last season, our sun exposure wasn't optimal. We let our compost cure longer before we mixed it in with our soil. We learned that some things just aren't worth the effort of growing this year, but maybe we'll try them again next year. The same sorts of things are true in my spiritual life: certain spiritual practices (like journaling) didn't really work for me until I was in a

different stage of life. Rather than beating myself up because I couldn't pray and journal regularly, I left it alone—and came back to it when I was ready. Learning to extend a measure of grace to myself about my discipline is, itself, a lesson in spiritual discipline.

Second, **it is a process made easier by a community of shared values**, of people who are also working at home-grown spirituality. We've learned a lot about gardening from people who have done it much longer than we have. We've also learned to appreciate different strategies for achieving the same results, like using worm bins to accelerate composting, or using beer to bait slugs. In the Christian faith, we have millennia-old traditions of spiritual practice from which to draw, but we also have living mentors and allies in the faith who can give advice, and who let us know it's all going to be

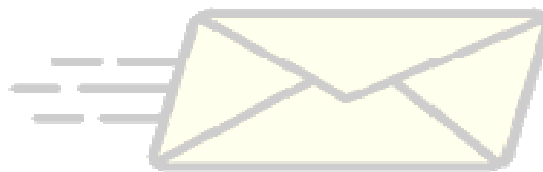
okay.

Whether you are just growing a bean in a cup on your windowsill, or whether you are a master gardener, remember that things grow naturally when they are given what they need. Be generous to yourself, and give yourself the space, the sunshine, and the soil you need to be fruitful.

Dave Barnhart is the pastor of [Saint Junia UMC](#) in Birmingham, Ala. He blogs at [DaveBarnhart.net](#).

Thank you to everyone who helped or donated to the Easter Egg Hunt this year.

Thanks Joyce



New Email

The office email address has been changed. Please send future correspondence to elimsportumc@gmail.com.



Annual Conference

Relax in your favorite chair with a snack and drink, and attend the 2014 Annual Conference with Pastor Mike and Kay - for free! The 2014 Susquehanna Annual Conference to be held June 12-14 will be broadcast live via susumc.org. Verify times at tiny-url.com/susumcAC2014.

Thursday, June 12

Laity Session: 9:30 am

Opening Celebration: 2:00 pm

First Plenary: 3:15 pm

Memorial service: 7:00 pm

Friday, June 13

Young Adult worship experience: 8:15 am

Second Plenary: 9:30 am

Third Plenary: 2:00 pm

Celebration of Ministry: 7:00 pm

Possible Fourth Plenary: 8:15 pm

Saturday, June 14

Bible Study: 8:15 am

Fourth Plenary: 9:15 am

Ordination Service: 1:30 pm

Administrative Secretary

Job Description

HOURS:

Exploratory position

Hours 10-20 per week. Definitely needed Monday A.M., Thursday P.M. or Friday A.M.

Salary dependent on experience

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must have computer experience with Microsoft Office and Publisher or other design software

Strong organizational skills

Have excellent command of English composition and punctuation

Needs Clearance

PURPOSE OF POSITION:

Pastoral administrative assistants help the head pastor of a church become more organized, taking administrative tasks off the pastor's hands so the pastor can focus more time on visiting the sick, sermon preparation, prayer and other pastoral duties.

JOB DUTIES TO INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Needs to attend Administrative Council two times a month: Elimsport & St. Johns

Ordering and maintenance of office supplies and equipment

Organization and maintenance of church calendar

Answering phone

Answering mail

Check email and respond

Coordinate scheduling for weddings and baptisms

Type, print, and fold weekly bulletins

Produce and mail newsletters

Keep accurate membership records

Prepare annual reports

Routine filing

Notify Pastor of member hospitalizations, deaths, etc.

Should always exhibit professionalism and confidentiality

Should possess strong administrative skills and the ability to work independently without supervision

Need resume ASAP

Training for position starts June 15, 2014

Contact Pastor Mike Hill



Word Find

Find the names of these trees in the puzzle.

Apple
Birch
Cedar
Cherry
Elm
Fig
Fir
Larch
Lemon
Maple
Mountain ash
Oak

Olive
Palm
Peach
Pear
Pine
Pomegranate
Sweet gum
Sycamore
Walnut
Willow
Yew

A	M					B	I	N	C		
E	D	L	J	O	E	R	A	E	P	F	
G	L	A	K	C	H	L	P	O	L	Z	
J	G	P	M	E	K	Q	M	N	L	R	W
M	O	S	I	N	P	D	P	E	O	Q	P
Q	M	R	F	I	R	A	G	R	S	T	L
U	T	O	B	S	V	R	U	T	C	L	Y
V	U	W	U	W	A	B	D	X	O	A	K
A	Y	V	N	B	Z	I	W	C	F	A	D
E	M	B	A	F	T	H	E	R	O	M	A
C	H	L	T	E	L	P	A	M	H	C	R
J	Y	E	W	K	W	E	W	I	L	J	H
O	L	Y	P	Z	A	N	Q	N	E	R	E
T	M	C	L	U	G	A	T	V	O	W	O
X	H	X	N	Y	G	S	Z	N	H	A	
B	I	P	C	U	J	D	H	Q	E	K	
F	L	M	G	T	Y						

Answer Key on the next page.

Psalm 1:3

See if you can learn this Bible verse by heart:

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

- Items for July's newsletter are due June 20th.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to Pastor Mike or Deb by Thursday **morning** each week.

(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)

June 1	6:30pm	Meeting at the church.
June 7	7-9pm	End of school celebration. Dance at the church. Adults contact Tweet if you would like to volunteer to chaperone.
June 14		No meeting.
June 22	6:30pm	Meeting at the church.
June 29	5:30pm	Meet at the church for litter pick up. Supper after. Site to be decided by youth fellowship.



Upcoming Dates To Remember:

Monday-Friday, June 23rd-27th at 9:00 am

Bible School at Elimsport

Friday, June 27th

Bible School Closing at Elimsport

Sunday, June 29th

Combined Services at Elimsport Pavilion

Sunday, December 14th

Bishop Jeremiah Parks/Meal

Elimsport Volunteers

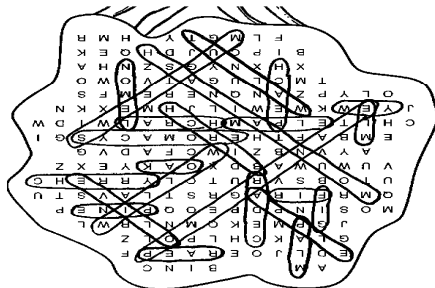
Greeters for June

June	1	Frank Vonedia
June	8	Carl & Janet Eiswerth
June	15	Penny De Remer
June	22	Gene Pauling & Audrey Reed
June	29	Jeremy & Joann Kennedy & family

Nursery for June

June	1	Penny Deremer
June	8	Jill Ulrich
June	15	Nikolina Cleaver
June	22	Carol Riddell
June	29	Hilda Sampsell

Answer:



**ELIMSPORT
VALLEY UNITED
METHODIST
PARISH**

Parish Office:

16145S. RT 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Office Phone:

(570) 547-1974

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

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.

Elimsport Valley U.M. Parish

16145 S RT. 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Non-profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #80

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VALLEY VIEWS



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 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.