

Valley Views



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Pastor Dave Shultz

As a result of the recent General Conference, much discussion has arisen about the nature of the United Methodist Church and what the Church believes, especially in regard to human sexuality. I share many of the same concerns as all of you, perhaps even more so. I have been a part of the UM Church ever since the EUB Church I grew up in, joined with the Methodist Church in 1968 to become the United Methodist Church.

The merger came about because of common theological roots, that being the teachings of John Wesley. That movement originally came to America through lay preachers and swept across the country. They went from town to town setting up little societies and classes that would meet weekly. They would meet to worship, but more importantly they met to aid one another in their Christian Walk of faith. They would challenge one another to be faithful to their commitment to follow Christ through love of God and service to one another. They would help one another to live out the Way of Christ and to put on the character of Christ, and therefore, realize a transformed life.

And it worked. It worked for them because they were diligent in following Christ and in practicing love of one another. All of this was a response to the decay that was prevalent in society, and while the church had sought to hold up Christ as the way, it really didn't offer anything that grounded them in a relationship with God, other than being a part of the church. This is where what John Wesley and the others who joined him made a marked difference. The Methodist movement stressed a life that rose above what was commonly practiced and passed as Christianity. It challenged people to be more than nominal Christians, and to live a disciplined life and to practice a holiness that was based on scripture and lived out both personally and socially.

The Methodist movement was formed to stimulate renewal in the church, and it brought about a revival that swept the land. Which tells me the people were hungry for spiritual things and relationship with God. My feeling is that people are hungry for renewal and a movement of God today as well. An opinion though,

that is prevalent in society today is that the church is not relevant to their lives; the church lifts up a high ideal, but the average person knows very few if any Christians that actually live it, and that stings.

As the church, we know what we don't believe in and but I'm not so sure we know what we do believe in. And if the church doesn't really know what it believes, then how we do live out our faith? If someone brings up spiritual matters in a group conversation, they often get flat out rejected. Why are Christians so fearful of talking about things that affect their spiritual life? Could it be they were never taught anything simple enough to remember and to apply? Could it be that church didn't care that much to stress strategies that would help to discipline us spiritually and form us as persons in the likeness of Christ? Could it be that we have taken the easy way out and said, that if you just say you believe in Jesus that you are good to go?

But go where? All we have to do is to look around us and we see the answer. John Wesley believed in some things that lifted the Methodist movement above what was being pushed as Christian spirituality then. I can't list them all here, but he talks about it in a publication called, *The Character of a Methodist*. I urge you to find it online. But here are a few: He believed in the primacy of scripture. He said, "I allow no other rule, whether of faith or practice, than the Holy Scriptures." He also believed that to be Wesleyan meant to be consciously and proudly a part of the broad ancient tradition of the Christian faith. He affirmed the cardinal doctrine of justification by grace through faith. He recognized the grace of God as "transforming," as well as pardoning. This lies at the heart of John Wesley's thought, and it is the "transforming" grace which, through the work of the Holy Spirit, enables us to conform ever more to the image of Jesus Christ. While there are many more, I share this last one defining characteristic of a Wesleyan Christian, that it requires a commitment to discipleship and accountability. Specifically, it requires of us a commitment to the importance of structured Christian discipleship.

I pray that as you read this you are intrigued enough to desire more information on what it means to be a Wesleyan Christian, born out of the Methodist movement. I urge you to know what it is we believe and stress as primary for faith and life in Jesus Christ. To aid you in this, we will be doing a worship series, starting on June 2nd on John Wesley's Three Simple Rules, which he gave to each of the societies and classes that were formed as a result of the preaching of the Methodist brethren. They were, "Do No Harm," "Do Good," and "Stay in Love with God."

They indeed were three simple rules, and they greatly impacted those who took them seriously. It may be time for us to reexamine them and our own spiritual lives.

Blessings,
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 June's newsletter are due May **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.



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.

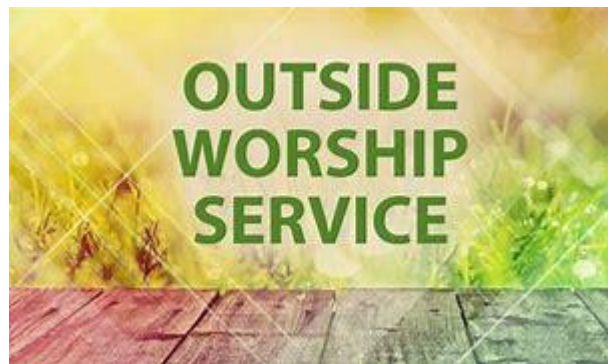
It's that time of year again for VBS 2024! Yay! This year's theme is Scuba! Let's help our kids dive deep into an amazing under sea adventure full of fun, music, crafts, and imagination! At Scuba, kids will explore what it means to have a friendship that will last forever....a FRIENDSHIP with GOD!!! 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!!!



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.

Summer is almost here. Time to think of cool salads to ward off hunger on a hot day. Fix your favorite salad and share. June 9th, 2024, St. John's basement after worship.



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



St. John's will be selling Mr. Sticky's sticky buns, or a card good for one sticky bun. Price is \$4. Orders and money are due by June 16th and sticky buns will be available for pickup at St. John's on June 26th before noon. Order forms are in the back of each church.

There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, June 4th from 2-7 in the fellowship hall.



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

Summer
is here!

This is the day the
LORD has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24



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.