

Valley Views



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2022



Pastor Dave Shultz

Something I love about Pennsylvania is the change of the seasons. Something that goes along with that is my ability to enjoy the beauty and wonder of each season. Each season has its unique characteristic that makes it beautiful and something special. I guess though that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, which is why some travel south for the winter. We also have seasons in our lives, and some are more fun than others. What we may not realize is that we also have spiritual seasons; times when we are growing, enjoying the beauty and wonder of who we are in Christ, and times when that beauty and wonder seems hard to find. When you go through life doing the same thing day after day, you can get stuck in a rut, and you will stay in that rut unless you make a change. In other words, we have to stop doing the same thing day after day and expecting different results.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we need to understand that living the Christian life is not about believing certain things, allowing that belief and the certainty in them, to enable us to know God more, to learn to rest in His grace as His beloved children, and then to engage in an intentional process of spiritual growth that shapes us and fundamentally changes us. Now, that can sound rather daunting, I know. It was for me, but then I learned that it actually is simply a process of putting into practice things that train me and grow me spiritually. The Apostle Paul calls it training, as if for a race. In the study that we are finishing, *The Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg, there are 23 of us engaging in learning more about what this thing called spiritual growth is all about and how it is available to all of us, regardless of our level of education or understanding. Actually, I am very pleased because this tells me that 1/3 of our congregations are hungry enough to come check it out. I know that every time I look at this, I find something new and am challenged in a new way. It is always a blessing. John Ortberg describes this process of growing in this way: "The Christian gospel proclaims that God is in the business of transforming ordinary people like us so we can express his character and goodness in our whole being. In fact, the primary goal of spiritual life is authentic human transformation – real change in the essential nature of the person" (John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Leader's Guide, p.16). "This transformation of the human personality involves learning to think as Jesus would think, to feel what he'd feel,

to perceive what he'd perceive, and, therefore, to do what he would do. It happens whenever we become intensely serious about learning from Jesus how to arrange our lives" (John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted. Leader's Guide*, p.16). He goes on to say later that "Spiritual transformation is not a matter of trying harder, but of training wisely. Trying can only take us so far." What did you think of this? Is this new? There is no shame in admitting that we have been frustrated and worn out by all our trying. We all come to the spiritual journey at different places and at different times in our lives. We don't always really understand that faith in Jesus is not a once and done thing. Rather, it is the beginning of a long and wondrous relationship. It is one that invites us into a new life, a journey, filled with beauty, wonder, discovery, revelation, and knowledge of the nature of God. All this has a lasting effect on us. It changes us to be more like the one with whom we focus upon, Jesus. We are learning things like, slowing down and celebrating life; the power of prayer and confession; the value of meditating on scripture and seeking God's guidance; the beauty of Christian service and the freedom we have in Christ; and finally, what it means to have a well-ordered heart.



Is your life in a rut in which you are struggling to get free? Hey, we've all been there, and sought a change of season for our lives. If you are one of those persons and desires to know more, let me know. I would be more than happy to hear what has been going on with you and where you are stuck. God's promise to you is that He is always working for your good. Sometimes we simply need to stop and let God show us our next step. What is yours?

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



We will be making up app. 14 college care packages. If anyone would like to help with

food donations or money donations please see Christa or Sharon. College care packages will be available for pick-up on November 20th at the churches. Please keep our college kids in our prayers.

The Elimsport/St. John's Annual Charge Conference will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, December

3rd, 2022 at St. Andrews UMC, 103 Lower Market St., Milton, PA. It will be a Church Conference which means that all members in attendance have vote on all matters coming before us that day. Also, Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver will be presiding.



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 December’s newsletter are due November **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.)

Acolyte Schedule:

11/06/22 Garrett & Sam
11/13/22 Elizabeth & Jack
11/20/22 Mitchell & Garrett
11/27/22 Sam & Jack



There will be a blood drive in November. Time and date are to be announced.



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



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

Christmas Giving Tree

We will be getting names of students from Montgomery Elementary school to sponsor families/children in need of Christmas gifts again this year. We are looking for individuals or families to sponsor a child. Sponsors provide the clothing needs and a few toys for the child they are given. THE DEADLINE TO VOLUNTEER AS A SPONSOR IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th. The list of needs will be given to the sponsor (s) and additional items for each child will be placed on the Christmas tree. Each church will have a Christmas tree set up by Sunday, November 13th with tags that have ideas for volunteers to contribute. All gifts should be new and unwrapped and need to be returned as early as possible but NO LATER than Sunday, December 6th . If shopping isn't your favorite activity, donating money toward this mission is appreciated, as well.



To volunteer to sponsor a child or if you have questions about the tags from the Christmas tree, please contact Deanna Drick (570-419-1730) or Sharon Heintzman (570-971-3564).

St John's will be having another apple dumpling sale November 9th. Anyone willing to help with ingredient donations or making them please contact Gloria Burrows. We will have a sign up sheet at both churches. You can also call Gloria 570-547-1598 or Sharon 570-547-1714. Apple dumplings can be picked up after 2pm on November 9th. Get your order in early because we have a set number we will be making. Thanks for your help!



Elmsport Finance Committee will meet on Monday, November 7th, at 6:30. Includes the following people Frank Cleaver, Martha Anderson, Mary Moore and Retta Moore.





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



In every thing give
THANKS
1 Thessalonians 5:18

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.