

Valley Views



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Pastor Dave Shultz

Have you ever been in a gathering where someone passes around a box of chocolates, but by the time you get to it, there isn't much from which to choose; others have chosen their favorites and what is left are the less desirable ones? In John 15:16 Jesus tells his disciples "You did not choose me but I chose you." What was so special and desirable about the disciples that Jesus would choose them over anyone else? We do not know, but maybe it was they had a desire for something more, or a longing for God, or to belong. Maybe he chose them because in some way, each of them was lost in the darkness of this world. But weren't we all?

If you have been watching the TV series, *The Chosen*, you will notice that the people who end up following Jesus are a lot like us. Each had varying degrees of faith and commitment to God and yet, each of them was caught up or you could say lost, in their own understanding of faith and how to live it. This I think is the genius of *The Chosen* series. It creates characters with a depth of life, so that you can read the scriptures and understand why the biblical characters behave in the way they do.

You can then begin to examine how you live and respond to life's circumstances in the way you do. This examination is a critical part of being a follower Jesus Christ and it is why Jesus has chosen you. He has chosen you for a purpose, a holy and sacred purpose. In 1 Peter 2:9–10, Peter makes this bold proclamation:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Paul writes this in Colossians 1:13–14, see if you notice any similarities.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Did you notice that in each verse, the idea of being called out or transferred? In both verses it tells us that we dwelt in darkness, and we were under its power and influence. But by the redeeming actions of Jesus Christ, we were rescued and experienced the mercy of God.

In 1 Peter 2:4–5, Peter plainly gives us this instruction, so that we don't fall back into the darkness from which we were rescued.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The invitation here is to come to Jesus, not just once and confess belief in him, but to come to him and stay with him, following him, learning, and fitting our lives to be like his. It involves walking in his light, choosing the way of his kingdom, and giving him authority over everything in your life. One of the key words here is "let." Peter tells us that each of us must let ourselves be built into a spiritual house. Meaning, the work in you is not finished, there is more to do.

Each of us are called to let a desire to grow into a spiritual house, a dwelling place for Christ to grow in us, all in response to his great love that was poured out upon us. This means letting the Holy Spirit work in us to grow us into persons who no longer follow the ways of the darkness from which we have been rescued. Can you identify those ways that continue to reign in you? Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit guide you and move you deeper into the wonderful light?

You have been chosen for this. Through Christ you have been transferred, and rescued from that which would consume you and swallow up your life in darkness and sin. Just as Jesus himself has chosen you, continue daily to choose him in all things. If you wish to watch the Chosen series for free by downloading the Angel TV app on your phone or go to it on your smart TV. You can also go to the Chosen website at <https://watch.thechosen.tv>.

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 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.)

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



Thank you, thank you, thank you!! Our parish gave 599.62 lbs. of food and \$377.00 to the Foot-prints Food Pantry!! Your gifts will help so many, and again thank you for always being so generous.



Food Collection

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.



We will be making up college care packages to help our college kids know that we are thinking of them. We don't want to miss anyone so please give Christa or Sharon names. Any monetary donations would be appreciated. College care packages will be ready for pick-up on November 18th at each church.

In November we will be decorating our trees at both churches with items that we need for our Montgomery families that could use some help this Christmas season. Just pick a tag off of the tree and shop for that item and bring it into the church unwrapped. If you would like to help out but you don't like to shop just give a monetary donation to Deana or Sharon and we will do the shopping. We would like all gifts to be brought into the churches by December 3rd. Thank you in advance for your help, our parish always does an awesome job!



There will be a Finance meeting at Elimsport UMC on November 6th at 10 am. This includes: Retta Moore, Frank Clever, Marti Anderson and Mary Moore.

The Elimsport Christmas Village will be held on December 9, 2023 outside at the Elimsport church. The schedule of events will be posted at each church, so mark your calendar! It will be like previous years, and a sign up sheet will be at each church in November. Any questions ask Christa McCormick. Don't miss this time of fellowship with your neighbors!



St. John's has a 6 - 7 foot artificial Christmas tree that's free to a good home. If interested, contact Becky Burrows.

St. John's will be having another apple dumpling sale on November 8th. Apple dumplings will be \$4.50. Pick up time will be from 1-3pm. Anybody that would like to help please talk to Gloria Burrows. We will be making them 11/7 and 11/8. There will be sign-up sheets at the back of both churches. Thanks for all 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.