

# Valley Views



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Pastor Dave Shultz

What do you use for a devotional? There are a lot available, and I hope you are using something. I have used many different ones over the years, and the one I use regularly encourages prayer as a part of the daily exercise. I like that because it gives me a direction to pray that I may not have gone to on my own. It invites me to see that my relationship with God impacts more than just me, that I am a part of the whole community of God and prayer is a key component of it.

Recently, my devotional began a two-week series of reflecting on the eighteenth-century Moravian community in Hernhut, Germany. They are described as an unlikely group of Christian refugees who would establish a village and launch an unbroken night and day prayer watch that lasted a century and propelled missionaries around the globe. They didn't do it at first. They were given refuge on an estate in Germany, but for 5 years they bickered and argued until one day they gathered in the church and repented before the Lord. It was written by the owner of the estate that: *"The Saviour permitted to come upon us a Spirit of whom we had hitherto not had any experience or knowledge. Hitherto we had been the leaders and helpers. Now the Holy Spirit Himself took full control of everything and everybody."*

Just two weeks after this event that was described as the "Moravian Pentecost," a group of 24 men and 24 women entered into a solemn commitment to cover every hour of the day and night in continuous prayer. The amazing thing about this is that this community would go on to pray continuously for 100 years. This prayer initiative was in part inspired by this scripture:

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Give Aaron and his sons the following instructions regarding the burnt offering. The burnt offering must be left on top of the altar until the next morning, and the fire on the altar must be kept burning all night. In the morning, after the priest on duty has put on his official linen clothing and linen undergarments, he must clean out the ashes of the burnt offering and put them beside the altar. Then he must take off these garments, change back into his regular clothes, and*

*carry the ashes outside the camp to a place that is ceremonially clean.*

*Meanwhile, the fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must never go out. Each morning the priest will add fresh wood to the fire and arrange the burnt offering on it. He will then burn the fat of the peace offerings on it. Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out (Leviticus 6:8–13 NLT).*

Historian A.G. Spangenberg wrote: They prayed for individual souls, for pilgrims and missionaries in the Lord's service. They cried out to God for their nation, for its leaders and teachers. Finally, they lifted up the whole of Christendom and all mankind so that this institution of round-the-clock prayer would allow there to be no silence before the Lord day and night.

Everything in this community had begun to be shaped by prayer. Everything! They took the words of Leviticus 6:13 to heart, *Remember, the fire must be kept burning on the altar at all times. It must never go out.* Do you feel we need the fire of God to be burning strongly within us, not just here and there, but in all of us? I love it how they described the Holy Spirit as taking full control of everyone and everything. That may sound scary and weird, and it may make you more than a little uncomfortable imagining it, but are we not made for this kind of relationship? Have we become so accustomed to life on the fringes of the kingdom, that we fear what it may be like to step into the fullness and wonder of God fully alive in us? It seems so.

So how might we respond to this? Would you like to learn how to pray or simply to learn more about prayer? There are many ways, and it may surprise you, it did me. Would you be willing to join with others for prayer? I have been thinking about having a study on prayer and even prayer services that would alternate between each church. I would like to see what this may look like and how willing all of you are to come together for it.

We are all concerned for our world, our communities, even our families and I have been hearing of area churches who have had small groups come together for prayer who are seeing some wonderful things happen. Every great revival began with prayer, with people seeking God's presence to be stronger and for God's will to be done in us and among us. Often God can do little because His people are not praying, not seeking, and not willing. There is much that is up to us.

So, I urge you to pray for this. Lift this up before the Lord, seek His guidance and for His power to spur His people to seek Him and to come together and pray.

*Blessings,*

*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 October's newsletter are due September **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.



Council of Ministries will meet on September 8th at 3:30 in the Elimsport church. Anyone is welcome to come and help our missions



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, September 24th from 2:30-7 at the Fellowship hall.



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.

# THE CHOSEN

We will be meeting for the Chosen Study on Tuesday evening at 6:30pm and Wednesday morning in the upstairs meeting room at 9am. All are welcome.

We are doing the sausage stand at the Elimsport Fall Festival again this year and are looking for donations of sliced onions. We need 6 - 1 gallon bags (filled), and they can be frozen. If you can donate any amount, please let someone from the Social Committee know ASAP so that we don't end up with an over abundance of them. The deadline for donations is next Sunday, 9/7. Thanks so much for your help!



September 22nd, the first day of Autumn. What better way to usher it in, than to worship and fellowship afterwards with your church family? St. John's Autumn pot luck dinner after worship on Sunday, September 22nd. We hope to see you.

PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Monday, September 30th, at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church. PPRC Committee members are: Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.



# Kid's Corner

Autumn



# 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

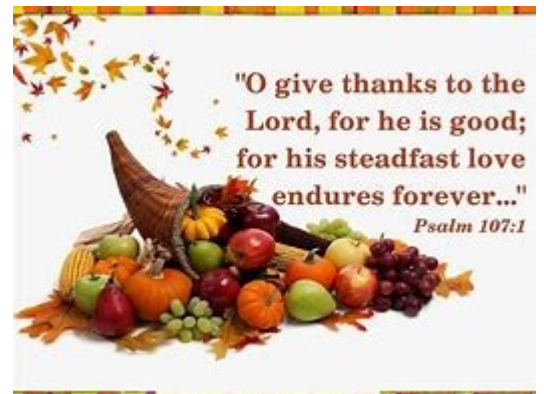
### Parish Website:

[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.