

# Valley Views



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APRIL 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

In his book, *Free to Live*, John Eldredge writes about “the utter relief of holiness.” I have not really thought of holiness offering a sense of relief, but I am beginning to do so more and more. We usually think of holiness as something we are to be, something we strive for, work towards. Scripture tells us that God is holy and those who worship him must be holy. It seems to have an air of requirement and obligation. And yet, it is God who makes us holy (Leviticus 21:8; Exodus 19:6), and we participate in this by choosing it daily (1 Peter 1:15-16).

In scripture, when people feared coming before the Lord (Ex. 19-20), they did so because they feared the intense holiness of God that was described as a consuming fire (Heb. 12:28-29), that convicted them of sin and unrighteousness. Yet, it was to this fire that God was purposely drawing them, so they could be free to live the life for which they were intended, a holy life. Holiness is really all about God’s pure love that defines all that God is and does.

To come then, into the holiness of God is ultimately about being unburdened from all that would keep us bound and be set free. Is this not the hope of the Christian life, that there is a way to be good again? John Eldredge writes, *“The hope of Christianity is that we get to live life like Jesus. That beautiful goodness can be ours. He can heal what has gone wrong deep inside each of us. The way he does this is to give us his goodness; impart it to us, almost like a blood transfusion or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. We get to live his life—that is, live each day by the power of his life within us. That’s the hope: you get to live that life.”*

To this I have to say, “wow!” We get to live the life of Jesus himself! How cool is that? Yet, that is the hope of the Christian life, whether we have realized it or not, it is ours in Jesus Christ. In the offering of Christ upon the cross, we have been sanctified or declared holy (Heb. 10:10). Now Jesus is engaging us in a process of literally making us holy (Heb. 10:14). We call it discipleship. In it we learn what it means for his life to be lived out through as we learn from him and surrender our will to his.

1 Peter 1:3 proclaims, “ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*”

A living hope? It is living because Christ is alive, and he dwells in each of us who have received him as Lord and Savior. Life is so much simpler with Jesus. We learn to love as he loved. By doing so “*he makes us whole by making us holy and he makes us holy by making us whole.*”

What an utter relief it is to know that you can stop struggling to be free from sin, because Jesus has already done it. Seek instead to walk on the journey of holiness, with Christ your life living in you and living through you.

Have a blessed Easter Season,

Pastor Dave

Elimsport Valley UMC Parish

BBQ Chicken Dinner includes half chicken, Macaroni and cheese, Bake Beans, roll, & dessert

Saturday, April 20, 2024

4:00PM-6:30P Eat-in or Take-out

\$12 - ages 11 and up

\$6 - ages 4-10

Free for ages 3 and under

\*Purchasing a ticket will guarantee availability of a meal. Tickets may be purchased from any member of Elimsport or St. John’s UM Churches. **Only a limited number of extra meals will be ordered.**

A sign up sheet was placed in the back of each church for donations for the Chicken BBQ fundraising dinner on April 20th. The deadline for signup is Sunday, April 7th. We encourage those who would like to order a meal to purchase their tickets by April 7th as well. We will need to have our order ready for the gentleman doing the chicken by April 9th. Please know that we are ordering a small number of additional chicken halves and cannot guarantee chicken to be available unless you have a ticket. Thanks to all who help in any way in sharing their gifts to make this dinner a success!

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!!!



There will be a Blood drive on Tuesday, April 9th at the fellowship hall.

Come one, come all to a St. John's brunch, April 28th after church. There will be bacon and scrambled eggs on the menu. Please bring a casserole, fruit, baked goods or a drink, AND your appetite. There is a sign up sheet at St. John's. All are invited. Our soup gathering was small, but there was great food and fellowship.



**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](http://evpumc.org) and Elimsport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

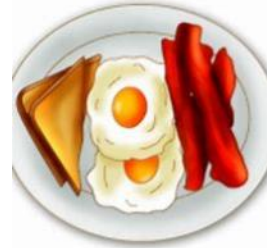
If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

# Church News

- Items for May's newsletter are due April **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.



PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church.

PPRC Committee members are Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.

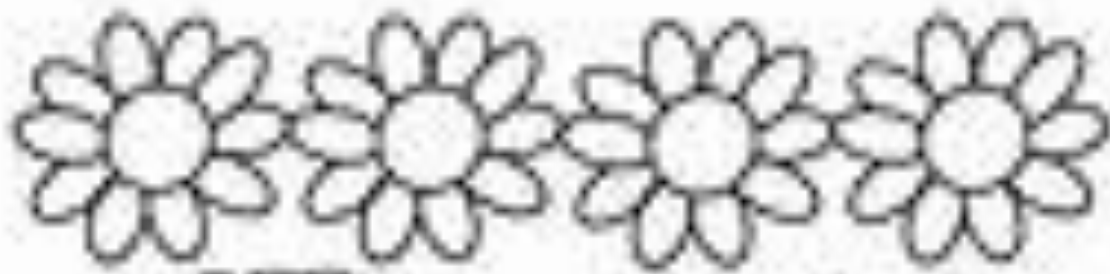


Elimsport Ad Council meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30.



St. John's Ad Council meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30.

# Kid's Corner



APRIL

SHOWERS

BRING MAY

FLOWERS!



# 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.