

Valley Views



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

I am continually amazed at the different themes that are woven throughout scripture. For instance, the theme of food and feasting. It begins in Genesis with the creation of all kinds of plants and trees to provide fruit for food. God then provides food in the wilderness for the Israelites as they fled captivity in Egypt. Jesus himself told us to pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." Jesus shares with his disciples his deepest promise to us in the Last Supper and we continue that in our sharing of Holy Communion.

Sitting at a table with Christ reveals the depth of the personal nature of God. We see it again displayed in Revelation 3:20, where Jesus gives the church this promise: Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

This is a verse about fellowship and of intimacy with Jesus as we sit at a table and dine with him. Can you possibly imagine what that will be like? What will you talk about, what struggles will you share, what will you celebrate? The Bible then concludes with all who have trusted in Christ gathered together at the great Banquet Feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19. I invite you to sit and meditate on that for a bit. It is overwhelming.

I'm sure you can pull out other examples, there indeed are many, which is why these verses from our Lenten Devotional stuck with me. It is from Isaiah 55:1–3 and I have it printed here from the New Living Translation.

1 "Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money!

Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it's all free!

2 Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength?

Why pay for food that does you no good?

Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food.

3 "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you.

I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David.

What goes through your mind as you read this invitation? Notice there are no pre-conditions, no getting your life in order first, no theology tests, no quizzes on church doctrine, just the invitation to come eat, drink, and receive.

I am discovering that this is something that God keeps putting before me and it is on that I have needed to learn to sit with once again this Lent, which is why I am thankful for the devotional inviting me to spend time with this image.

Lent does invite us to sit still long enough to be mindful of the ways we are thirsty and hungry, not just physical, but also spiritual. So often people think that Lent is about inflicting suffering upon ourselves so that we can share more fully in Christ's sufferings. But if that is our main focus, how do we connect with the invitation to enter into the love of God revealed in Jesus? How do we really come before God with our lives wide open, inviting Jesus to come and to commune with us at that place in us where we are the most hungry and thirsty for His love?

The invitation here concludes with, "Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life." I find I am really drawn to the phrase, "and you will find life." Oh yes, I want that Jesus. I truly do. How about you? Do you want to find the life Jesus offers? He said that he came so that we may have life and have it in abundance (John 10:10). He is talking about experiencing this life now, which involves getting some of heaven into your daily experience of life.

Perhaps a good thing to seek as you sit with Jesus. This involves quieting our minds long enough, pushing aside all that would compete with the voice of God, and telling Jesus you love him and want to spend time with him.

Easter is just a few weeks away. I invite you to use this remaining time to come before Christ in a committed way. If you are not sure how to do that, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you, to help you to commune with Jesus who lives inside of you. You will often find him in the place where you are the most hungry and thirsty for his love and presence. This isn't complicated, just something different than most are used to, but not for the great people of faith throughout the ages, and also for a great many others of whom you and I are not aware.

May the remainder of your Lent be blessed and may you celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with a renewed passion.

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 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.)



Lenten devotions are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. They are entitled, The Sanctuary for Lent. They are there for your family to use during Lent.



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

There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, April 8th from 2-7 pm in the Elimsport 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.

Hooray!! Vacation Bible School!!! It's that time of year again! Our theme this year is called True North- trusting Jesus in a wild world. Let's take our kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where the Northern Lights shine over mountains, rivers and glaciers. Guiding them toward Jesus, True North will teach us that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. Jesus is our True North! VBS will be Sunday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 26th from 6-8:30pm. Dinner will also be provided at 5:30pm. Friday, June 27th will be our closing program and carnival at 6pm. Ages preschool through entering 7th grade. Anyone interested in helping or if you have any questions please contact, Christa McCormick, Sharon Heintzelman or Taryn Myers. We are looking forward to spreading Jesus's love throughout our community!!



Elimsport and St. John's will be collecting non-perishable food for The Footprints food pantry as our Spring mission. Please bring canned goods or hygiene products to the churches until April 6th, or to the pavilion on April 6th from 12:00-2:00. More specific information on needs will be coming soon, and thank you for always being so generous!!

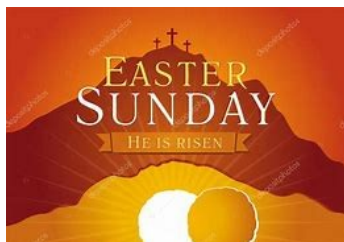


The Footprints Food Pantry has the following needs for our Lenten Mission. Pancake syrup, pancake mix, peanut butter & jelly. Chicken rice, chicken noodle, and vegetable soups. Chef Boyardee canned products or similar brands, canned fish, canned chicken, spaghetti sauce, noodles (any type), and mac and cheese (boxes). Please know these are only suggestions and anything will be greatly appreciated!! Thank you!!

Good Friday services will be at the Elimsport UMC at 7pm on Friday, April 18th.



PPRC Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19th, at 6:30pm at the Elmsport Church. PPRC Committee members are: Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.



Easter Sunrise service will be at St. John's UMC at 6:30am Easter morning.

Mission Central is collecting items for Activity Kits. These can be used by children in a variety of situations. The items will be collected and brought to Annual Conference at the end of May. Our district is being asked to collect one of the items needed for the kits, Spiral Bound Notebooks (single subject). If you wish to help with this project, please place the notebooks in the box at the rear of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your participation. To learn more about Mission Central you can find out more information online at MissionCentral.org.





Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.
501 High Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-323-1797

February 28, 2025

It's coming! YOU are invited to be a vital part of the **Raise the Region®** online giving fundraising effort for **Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.** The event begins at 6:00 pm on March 12th and lasts through March 13th at 11:59 pm. This is a 30-hour online fundraiser for nonprofits. We're asking you to choose **Sojourner Truth Ministries...** to join us in serving people who are food and/or financially insecure, or are living in difficult situations, including those who are homeless.

Your donation investment will make a difference!

We're so much more than a soup kitchen, though that is often the door which brings people in for assistance. Here are a few updates, thanks to people like you giving to STM.

- In 2024 we served 36,400 meals, including brown bag lunches. (that's more than 6,000 in 2023, and 15,000 more than 2022!)
- *"The blessings our After School Kids provide our volunteers gives us Holy Spirit shivers. A child comes in looking like they have lost their last friend and goes home smiling, God is good."* – Ms Pat
- *It's a beautiful thing when people we have helped/are helping turn around and help someone else.*
- several people who have been trained for positions onsite and have been able to obtain gainful employment as a result.

Through our integrated feeding program, we have helped to connect and collaborate with various services in the area, and much more- rehabs, counseling, mentoring, grief share, sobriety groups and support, Bible studies, community service hours, educational enhancement, emergency food, winter wear, hygiene supplies, fellowship, community, discussion groups, etc.

We cannot do all that we do without generous individuals like yourself to fund our services to people in need in this community. **Our goal for this spring is \$43,650**

Gifts may be made online, on our website (www.stmwilliamsport.org), through Raise the Region®, and checks are welcome.

Blessings!

Pastor Angelique Labadie-Cihanowyz
Executive Director



STM website



Paypal

UPCOMING EVENT: Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre! Thurs April 24, Friday, and Saturday, 6 pm @ St. Paul Calvary UMC 1427 Memorial Ave, Wmspt. Hillside catering. \$25/ticket, dessert theatre Sun April 27 2 pm cost \$12.50/ticket RSVP Faith Smith 570-419-3270

All gifts / contributions to Sojourner Truth House of Hope Ministries (EIN: 23-2125932), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, are tax-deductible.

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

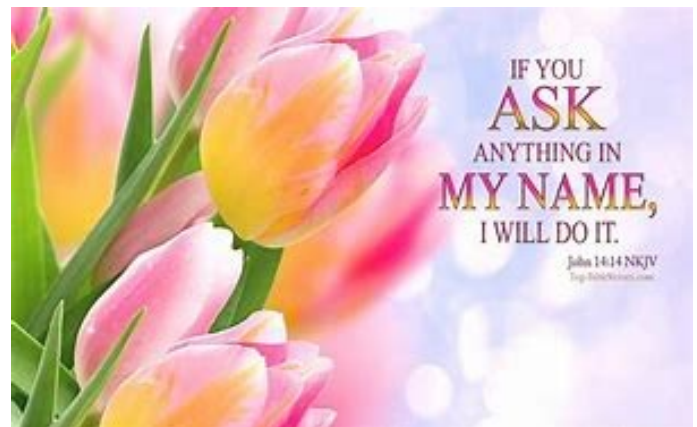
Parish Website:

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.