

Valley Views



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2022



Pastor Dave Shultz

Greetings everyone,

It has been a busy summer for Jean and me, we moved into the parsonage in Elimsport in early June. We left two days later to go to Europe to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany and to tour around to some other areas in Austria and the Czech Republic. Then in July we spent a week with some of my family at the cabin along Penns Creek. Then I went to California for five days to finish up a program I have been taking for the past 18 months. This has been one of the busiest years of my life and it still isn't over, there is still more travel planned for the fall; one educational, the other pleasure. More about that later.

Besides moving to a new community and meeting new people, one of the highlights of this year has been the program I have been associated with since January of 2020. It is called the School of Kingdom Living. It is a new creation of Dallas Willard Ministries. You can check it out at www.dwillard.org. The intention is to help us to live more deeply and intentionally in the kingdom of God. If you click on the "School" tab and watch the video, you might even see yours truly. I do invite you to explore the site. You can also watch teachings by Dallas Willard there and on YouTube. This will give you a feel for some of the books I had to read and some of the stuff with which I wrestled. One warning, he is deep, but very good. He will make you think and then you will have to do something with your new understanding.

One of the things you will hear in the video is Rev. Dr. Keith Matthews say, "We have more in mind that just getting you to heaven, we want to get heaven into you." That is a very revealing statement about nature of what God wants for all of us. It also describes the direction of my own spiritual journey over the last 20 years or so. What was so amazing about it for me, is that I didn't realize at the time that this is what God was doing. I just knew I was getting to know God more and with his presence came joy, came peace, came love, and a new way of relating to God and others around me.

One of Jesus' main teaching themes was the kingdom of God/heaven. We see it all over the gospels. He was always finding something in everyday life to compare to the Kingdom. Such as in Matthew 13:44-46 (NRSV)

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

What is the person's reaction to each discovery? Joy, excitement, and a drive to possess it. This passage shows us the unsurpassed value of the kingdom and how we should not allow anything to get in the way of making it ours. But we miss something critical if that is all we see. Remember, most of Jesus' listeners would have been poor. They would not have been able to scrape together the necessary funds. But in God's economy they can. It got their imagination flowing. They began to wonder, "Is what Jesus is talking about really available to me?" Jesus' answer would have been yes, and it still is. He is telling us that each of us already has what we need to acquire what we truly seek.

You might say, "Well, I want Jesus." That's a good starting place, but remember people came to see and hear Jesus because he had something for them. He offered them the kingdom of God/heaven in the here and now. In response to a question by the Pharisees, Jesus tells us in Luke 17:21 that, "...the kingdom of God is among you." Some translations say "near," others say, "already among you." So, what is the intended response? Joy, excitement and a desire to have it.

My spiritual journey has become one where I am learning to live each day in the kingdom of heaven, by endeavoring to put on the character of Christ, and to live that out in every facet of my life, no matter where my journey takes me. This is the journey to which Christ invites us. If you truly do go after it, you will discover that the authority and presence of God goes with you, and you will be secure in it, for nothing can shake God's kingdom.

Grace and peace be upon you,



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: 570-547-1386
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 September's newsletter are due August **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:

8/07/22	Elizabeth & Garrett
8/14/22	Mallorie & Mitchell
8/21/22	Garrett & Jackson
8/28/22	Mitchell & Elizabeth



Thank you very much for the generous graduation gift. It will be put to good use a towards college. I really appreciate it. Thank you for your support!

Allyia Kennedy



Please join us to help celebrate Tom and Bonnie Cromley's 50th anniversary Open House on August 20, 2022 from 1-4 pm at the Hakes pavilion.

A big thank you to everyone that helped teach, donate, decorate and volunteered their time with VBS this year. It is always a huge success!!!! The kids had a blast learning how to Celebrate God's Greatness!!

Also, A big shout out to Christa and Sharon for all their hard work decorating!! It always looks great!!!! They are very talented and awesome team!! I couldn't have done this great community outreach without all of you!!

So again....THANK YOU SO MUCH EVERYONE!!!!



God's Blessings Always,

Taryn



St. John's,

Thank you for the graduation card and gift. I appreciate it and will put it to good use.

Thanks,

Stanley Showers

PPRC Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30 at the Elimsport Church. PPRC Committee members

are Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy and Charlie Ulrich.



I am a
Child
of God
John 1:12

Hello
August

I AM
fearfully
AND
wonderfully
MADE.
PSALM 139:14



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) 547-1386

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.