

Valley Views



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

Greetings,

I would like to continue with what I was sharing with you last month. I was talking about doing battle against illness or any of life's struggles using praise and prayer. I was using my battle with ALS as an example. What I hoped to communicate is that a large part of our approach needs to be spiritual, because it is our spirituality that lies at the core of everything about us. The late teacher and pastor Dallas Willard speaks of this when he declared, *"You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God's great kingdom."*

*You have made us
for yourself,
and our heart is restless
until it rests in you.*

St. Augustine, *Confessions*

From My File of Favorite Quotes

James E. Laurence
mypastoralponderings.com

I can't get enough of that statement. Every once and a while Dallas would bring this truth into a teaching he was giving and by doing so, reconnect us to a biblical truth that each of us is created in the image of God. We were made to enjoy an eternal connection with God, draw life from God, and find our purpose and meaning in God. It is of this that St. Augustine wrote many centuries earlier, *"You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."*

That is another one that sticks with me. Now don't try to pick these statements apart too much or try to figure out what they all mean. For now, just take them as they are. Simply sit and soak in them for a while and know that you were made for something more glorious, more incredible, and more intimate than any of us can possibly imagine. I find that I need statements like these to revive my imagination, lest I get sucked into and overwhelmed with the concerns and needs of the day. I need ways to think bigger thoughts and imagine the beauty and wonder of God. I was made for this and so were you.

Scripture in many places actually direct us to do this. In Colossians 3:1–3 Paul tells us, “Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

It's hard not to set our minds on earthly things, after all we deal with the stuff of our lives every day. Yet what Paul is revealing to us is how we can keep from carrying the baggage of these encounters around with us everywhere we go and be set free from its power. We have all tried to let go of stuff, anger, rage, malice, worry, fear, temptations, etc., and try as hard as we will, we have a deal of difficulty shaking it. Yet as people who have been raised with Christ, we now have a power the world does not have. We can set our hearts and minds on things above. This redirects us so that we can set focus on things that are higher, things that are our destiny as residents of God's great kingdom and we can then start living it now. As we do, we live it in the midst of all the earthly stuff, with a perspective and a mindset that has been changed. We now live as people who are actually living out of the presence and authority of God's great kingdom. We do it as residents of a reality where we know we are secure, with our God who cannot be shaken.

Now, I know that is a bit deep, but don't run away from it screaming in fear. Sit with it. I think sometimes that we don't dwell on stuff like that as we should. We don't let our imaginations capture our thoughts and our wonderings. Instead, we get caught up in all of the twisted stuff that ensnares us and weighs us down with earthly emotions and desires. I don't have to know what all these scriptures and famous quotes mean, that is the Holy Spirit's job. I just need to sit with them, pray, and let the Holy Spirit guide me. Then to check with Jesus to see if my thoughts are in tune with his, and to go with them where I am being led.

I would much rather get caught up in thoughts and ponderings about the wonder and nature of God and of his great love for all of us, than to be lamenting over health stuff or whatever else needs attention. To be sure there is enough of that, but I can't stay there in that place. My attention must give way to a higher reality whose presence and power provides life, and strength, and rest, from the pains and uncertainties with which we all struggle.

We do have an eternal destiny as an unceasing spiritual being in God's great kingdom and we are invited to tap into that reality right now and draw life and perspective from it. Our small imaginations come up with things like going to a

better place or even going to heaven. Those are all way too small, and they totally miss the mark of what is in store for us in Christ Jesus. Colossians 3:3 which I shared earlier tells us that as ones who have been raised with Christ, our lives are hidden with Christ in God. They are hidden from our view right now because we could not handle the beauty, the wonder, the love, and glory of who we will become when we see Christ face to face. All that we have been preparing for in this life will be brought to completion in God's time.

That is why all that we do now is so important. Our earthly struggles are daily reminders of our need to seek and trust God, and to lift up our praise.

Until next time, blessings,
Pastor Dave

St. John's will be having a picnic on Sunday, August 24th following worship at Charles and Suzette Ulrich's at 15321 S. Rt. 44. Bring a dish to share if you are able. All are welcome. We will be having worship there at 10:30 instead of the church. So, come for worship and stay for food and fellowship.



Church League Softball - 2025

All Games Begin at 6:30 (home team is listed last, home team provides the ball)



Aug 5

Trinity vs. Nippenose (Avis)

Oval-bye

Elimsport Baptist vs. Elimsport UMC (Elimsport)



SAVE THE DATE - 9/20/2025

Annual Elimsport Fall Festival

To raise much needed funds, Elimsport UM will be selling hot and mild sausage sandwiches at the Elimsport Fall Festival.

An announcement will be made when the sign up sheet is available for volunteers to serve during the festival and clean-up after. Any questions, contact Deanna or Christa.

We will begin the Chosen Season 5 study on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30pm in the Elimsport Fellowship Hall for discussion only of the episode. You will be responsible for viewing it yourself. It can be seen with Amazon Prime or by watching the DVD that is available from the Pastor. On Wednesday, August 13 at 9am, we will be watching the episode and then have a discussion. We will in the upstairs meeting room at Elimsport. Please use the sign-up sheet to let us know who all is coming and if you need a book. We will be meeting each week on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday, except for the week of Bloodmobile.



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.

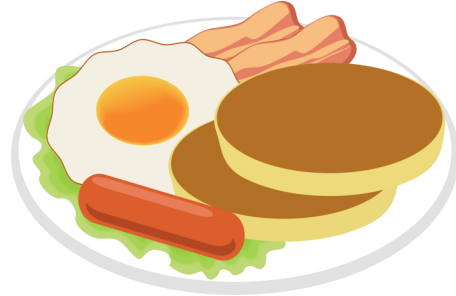
If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Church
News

- Items for 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.)

Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimsport church is Wednesday mornings, from **7:30 am to 9:00 am. Please note time change.**

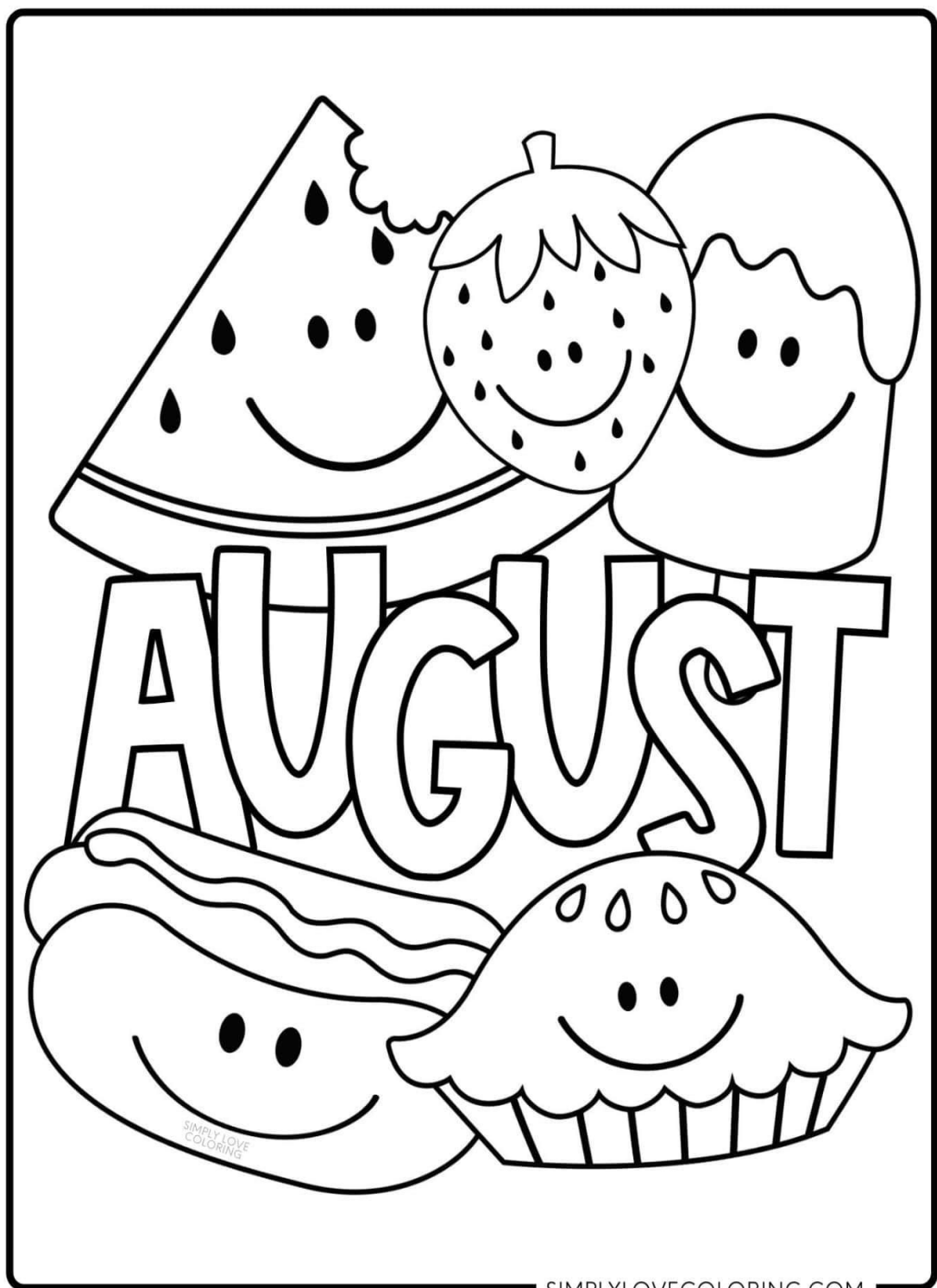


Elimsport Ad Council
meets the second
Monday of the
month at 6:30.



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

Kid's Corner



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.