

Valley Views



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Pastor Dave Shultz

*Christmas, Christmas time is here. Time for toys and time for cheer.
We've been good, but we can't last. Hurry Christmas, hurry fast.*

What song first comes to mind when you think of Christmas? Is it this one by Alvin and the Chipmunks or some other song? Hopefully, it is one that is much more substantial. I say this because our music says a lot about us, about our faith, what we value, and ultimately about what it is in which we place our hope.

Maybe that is why Advent is by far the most favorite of all the Christian seasons for me. I enjoy preaching and talking about the message of Advent even more so than Christmas. The message of Advent is contained in the names of the candles we light: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. These are the promises of Emmanuel, God with us. He is one who is coming and who has come in Jesus, and we celebrate in Christmas, but first we focus on who he is, the miracle of his coming and of his significance to us and do this we must.

The song *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* been a go to song that speaks this to us:

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

Nowhere is there mention of toys and cheer, but rather of the deep desire and joy of every longing heart, of him as the strength and consolation, the hope of all the earth. We long for him to be born in us and to reign in us, and lastly to raise us to His glorious throne. There is a lot more going on here than simple believing, there is something deeper, powerful, and further reaching that invites us to give ourselves to it.

When was the last time you saw anything like that on a Christmas card. Why not? We make our greetings generic, because not everyone believes. That's what we tell ourselves. But if they never hear it, then, guess what? They never hear it. Let the significance of that statement sink in a little before you move on. If they never hear it from us, can we say that we really believe it? Examining your Christmas music favorites may supply the answer for you.

Don't skip over the Advent music this year in a mad rush to Christmas. Sit with the music, hear it's message, and ponder its significance to your life right now. What is your real source of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love? Know that it is not in things, or in nostalgia, or in Christmas traditions, it only be in Jesus Christ and in him alone. In him, God came to us as one of us, to do life with us, so that we could become like him, know him and enjoy him for all eternity. He truly is the joy of heaven to earth come down and he invites you to receive him and let him grow in you.



*Blessings to you and Merry Christmas,
Pastor Dave*



We will again be buying items for Christmas for families in need from the Montgomery School District. At this time we have been given 19 kids for our parish to buy for. If you would like to sponsor a child please let Deanna Drick or Sharon Heintzelman know. If you sponsor a child we would like you to buy them a coat, a few clothes and a few toys. We will also have items on the Christmas tree to help out with other items for the families. You can also give a monetary donation

and we will do the shopping for you. Please help if you can with this important mission.

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 January's newsletter are due December **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.



ElimSPORT UMC has received a grant of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). A training session will be on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please use the sign-up sheet on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary to let us know who all is interested in receiving training.

The EUMC Choir still has nuts available to purchase. They make great Christmas gifts. See Bonnie after Sunday church services.

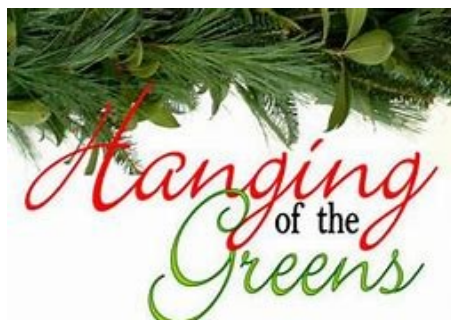


ElimSPORT Ad Council meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30.



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

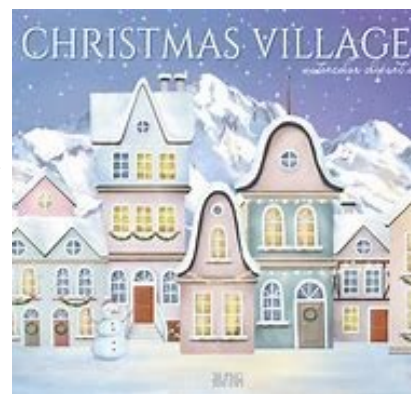
Elimsport UMC Hanging of the Greens service is Sunday, 12/8, during the 9:00am worship service. All are welcome! There will be a time of fellowship in the Social Hall following the program. Please bring a festive snack to share. Drinks will be provided.



We will be decorating God's places of worship for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 8th. Join in the worship service, "Hanging of the Greens". Then, stay at St. John's for soup and sandwiches. There is a sign up sheet on table in back of sanctu-

Hanging of the Greens ary.

The Christmas Village will be held on December 14th from 11:00-4:00. There will be sign up sheets for volunteers and cookie donations in the back of each church. If you have never been it's a great time to visit, bring children for free fun activities, and enjoy yourselves!



Thank you so much for the thoughtfulness within my college care package. Your kindness is greatly appreciated! I will get wonderful use of the snacks during my finals coming up. I feel so blessed to have a church family such as this! Thank you again!



Love, Mallorie

Kid's Corner

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS!**



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.