

# Valley Views



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DECEMBER 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

Lights and Christmas just go together, don't they? From the smallest candle to the biggest Christmas display, lights make the season bright. We have such a wonderful fascination with using lights to celebrate the season of Christmas. Could it be that we just like lights, or is there more going on here and it really shows itself at Christmas?

Sounds about right to me, but what is it about lights? Well, maybe the words of St. John in 1:3-5 help us with that. John tells us, *"What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*

I like to think that our fascination with light at Christmas may be impacted by the reality that the light of Christ really does shine in the world. Whether we believe or not in the message of scripture, there is something about light shining in the darkness that captivates us. What really amazes me this Advent as I prepare to receive the coming of Christ, is that while we are looking at Christ as the light of all people, he is looking at us and calling us, "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). He is calling us, you and me, lights in the darkness.

He says this very early in Matthew and he is saying it to a people who while burdened with all of the demands and hardships of life, still are seekers after God. God is their light. It is then through faith that they are receiving the light of Jesus through their receiving his word. As they then believe that message, that God sees them, loves them and has come to them, they are empowered to live in the light of the Way of Christ and to shine that light to others. They shine it because they believe differently about themselves and therefore live differently, giving glory to God and love to a world in desperate need.

Yes, we are witnesses to the true light as we shine the light of Christ in our world. In us it shines to drive away darkness. In us it shines to light our path. In us it shines to testify to the one who is the source of light and life, Jesus Christ himself.

Those lights you see as you look at your Christmas Tree and the lights you admire as you drive through the neighborhood and observe the homes all lit up, proclaim the beauty of all those lives who have been ignited by the love of God through Christ our Lord. They stand for the countless lives who have been touched by the light and love of Christ.

This year as you look at the many lights, take a moment to focus on just one of those lights and imagine that it represents you. Imagine that it represents the light your life shines. Notice the area around it and see how it drives away darkness. Maybe you could light a candle and let it burn for the whole month of December. Take notice of it when you pray and give thanks that the light of Christ has come to you and dwells in you and in your home. Take a moment to realize the power your life and your faith has to bring hope, peace, joy and love to those around you.

As you look at the lights around you, be encouraged that the light of Christ seeks to illumine your paths and give light to all the ways you will go. Let this give you peace and purpose through this season and the new year.

Pastor Dave will be away from today, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 30 until Sunday afternoon Dec. 7. Rev. Brian Lucas of Milton will be available for emergencies. His cell phone number is (570) 351-1619.

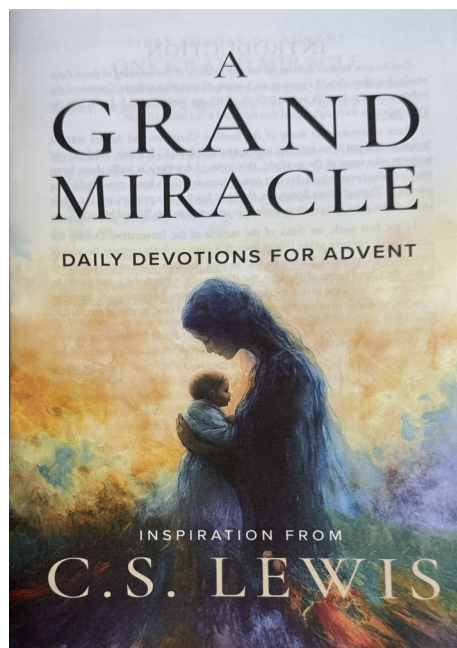
St. John's is having a luncheon after the hanging of the greens service on December 7th. Bring your favorite soup, sandwich or dessert to share. Even if you can't bring anything, come and fellowship with us.

Elimsport UMC's Hanging of the Greens will be scheduled for December 7th. We will be having refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the service and ask that you bring a snack to share. Thank you!

A Facebook page for our churches has been set up. It is called Elimsport Valley Parish. Use it for announcements and news of upcoming events and other information to edify our life together.



A devotional entitled “A Grand Miracle” is available for you to use as you prepare to observe the coming of God made flesh in Jesus. This is the most incredible event in all of human history, God choosing to become one of us and to do life with us. In Jesus, God now had a face, and in Jesus we received the last word in what God is like. We all need a help like this. Pick one up on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary and share it with your family.



Thank you everyone that donated for my college care package! I appreciate it very much, and will come in handy during finals!

Thanks again,

Jackson Springman

Holiday Gifts for our shut-in folks

Please help make this ministry possible with your donations. We will need:

- 1) volunteers to take the selected people their gift box
- 2) donations of food or money

Donations are needed by December 7th. There is a sign up sheet at each church. If we have missed anyone, please tell Jean Shultz. Thank you in advance.

Questions may be directed to Jean Shultz

### Various means to keep updated:

website: [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org)

Face book: Elimsport United

Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimsport church

email Pastor Dave: [dshultz@susumc.org](mailto:dshultz@susumc.org)

email church: [elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto: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.

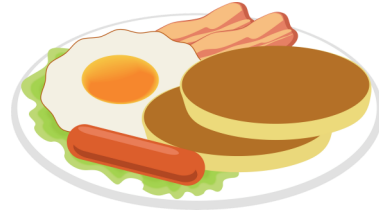
If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

## Church News

- Items for 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 9:00 am**. **Please note time change.**



The next blood drive will be on Tuesday, **January 27th** from 2-7 at 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.

# 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](http://www.evpumc.org)

### **Parish email:**

[elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@gmail.com)

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)

JOY  
to the  
world  
THE LORD IS  
come



### **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.