

# Valley Views



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2023



Pastor Dave Shultz

In his book, *Free to Live*, John Eldredge writes about “the utter relief of holiness.” I have not really thought of holiness offering a sense of relief, but I am beginning to do so more and more. We usually think of holiness as something we are to be, something we strive for, work towards. Scripture tells us that God is holy and those who worship him must be holy. It seems to have an air of requirement and obligation.

In scripture, when people feared coming before the Lord, they did so because they feared the intense holiness of God that was described as a consuming fire, that convicted them of sin and unrighteousness. Yet, it was to this fire that God was purposely drawing them, so they could be free to live the life for which they were intended, a holy life. Holiness is really all about God’s pure love that defines all that God is and does.

To come then, into the holiness of God is ultimately about being unburdened from all that would keep us bound and be set free. Is this not the hope of the Christian life, that there is a way to be good again? John Eldredge writes, “The hope of Christianity is that we get to live life like Jesus. That beautiful goodness can be ours. He can heal what has gone wrong deep inside each of us. The way he does this is to give us his goodness; impart it to us, almost like a blood transfusion or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. We get to live his life—that is, live each day by the power of his life within us. That’s the hope: you get to live that life.”

To this I have to say, “wow.” We get to live the life of Jesus himself. How cool is that? That is the hope of the Christian life, whether we have realized it or not, it is ours in Jesus Christ. In the offering of Christ upon the cross, we have been sanctified and declared holy (Heb. 10:10). Now Jesus is engaging us in a process of actually making us holy. We call it discipleship. In it we learn what it means for his life to be lived out through as we learn from him and surrender our will to his.

It this seems new to you, think of it this way. If Jesus Christ lives in you, then his life power is present in you, enlivening you, and the love you share with others is merged with his, and he enables you to love beyond what you were capable of before he moved into your life. You have been given new life from above. 1 Peter 1:3 proclaims, “ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

A living hope? It is living because Christ is alive, and he dwells in each of us who have received him as Lord and Savior. Life is so much simpler with Jesus. We learn to love as he loved. By doing so “he makes us whole by making us holy and he makes us holy by making us whole.”

What an utter relief it is to know that you can stop struggling to be free from sin, because Jesus has already done it. Seek instead to walk on the journey of holiness, with Christ your life living in you and living through you.

Pastor Dave

### Acolyte Schedule

- 02/05/23 Elizabeth & Sam
- 02/12/23 Mitchell & Jack
- 02/19/23 Garrett & Sam
- 02/26/23 Elizabeth & Mitchell



There will be **no** Blood drive for February.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Texas Roadhouse Peanut Fund Raiser, whether you assisted in selling them, or just purchased some for yourself, it is greatly appreciated. A total of \$687.00 was raised and will assist with paying bills this winter.



Thanks again,

Deb Kennedy



**Various means to keep updated:**

website: evpumc.org

Face book: Elimspport United

Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimspport church

email Pastor Dave: dshultz@susumc.org

email church: elimspportumc@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 Elimspport United Methodist Parish face book for up to date church news.

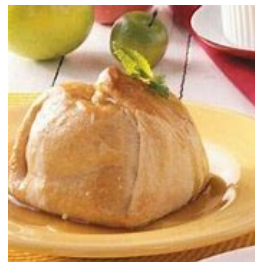
Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimspport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.



- Items for March’s newsletter are due February **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.)*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is an especially holy time, dedicated to personal renewal and repentance. A service will be held at St. John’s on Wednesday, Feb. 22nd at 7pm. There will be an opportunity to receive ashes as a sign of your dedication to keep a holy lent.



We will be having another apple dumpling sale on February 8th. Orders can be picked up between 1pm-3pm.

If you would like to donate supplies or help with making them call Gloria Burrows at 547-1598.

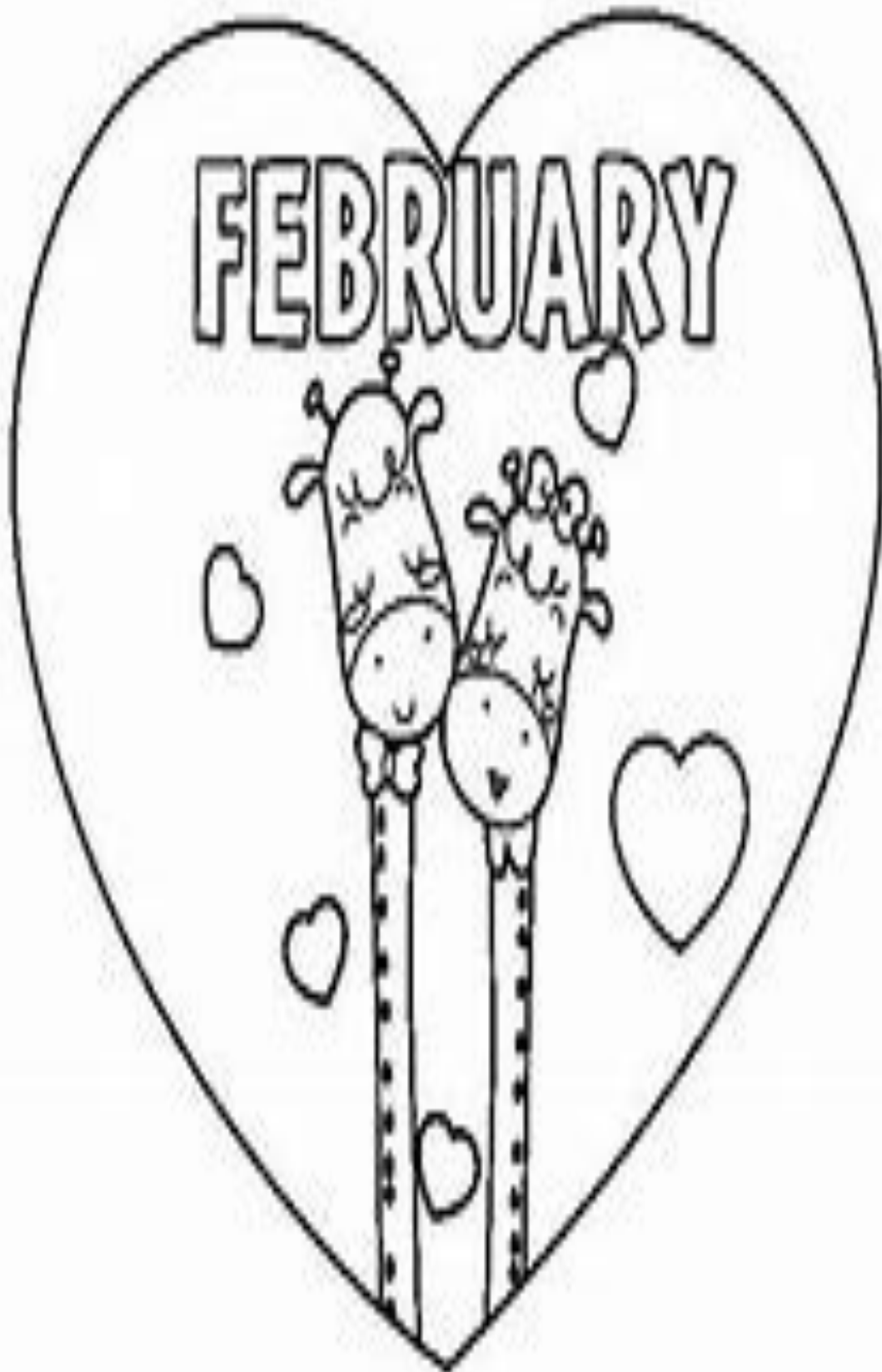
There will be sign up sheets at both churches. Thank you for your support!

Elimspport 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

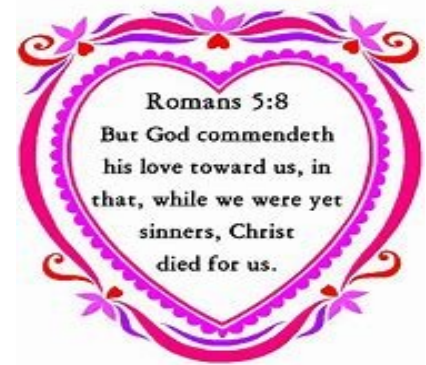
### **Parish Website:**

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

### **Parish email:**

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

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



### **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.