

Valley Views



VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

What do you think of when you hear the word Lent? Maybe it conjures up images of giving up chocolate or other small indulgences, or of seeking to spend more time in prayer and scripture reading in the weeks leading up to Easter. Perhaps images come to mind of people with crosses on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. Maybe you think of Jesus in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, or of the events of Holy Week and of the Passion of Christ as he willingly went to the cross to suffer for us as our Lord and Savior.

The word Lent comes from a German word meaning “lengthening,” referring to the days growing longer in the spring when Lent traditionally occurs in the northern hemisphere. Lent developed out of periods of prayer and fasting by new converts in the early church in preparation for baptism. Some form of this was the practice for everybody as a feature of the Christian liturgy and spirituality by the fourth century.

It was based on Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness and is celebrated as 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days. This year, Lent begins on February 14th and will conclude on Saturday, March 30, the day before Easter.

I encourage you to try something this year to make this a holy season for you. Allow it to be a time to make space for a deeper spiritual focus. If you have done this before you are probably well acquainted with this. Still others of you may never knew what to do or maybe this in your first time considering it. Whatever your situation, I want to give you some resources for the six weeks of Lent. Its purpose is to use it to contemplate life and faith, your sin, your need for Jesus to die for you, and even your own mortality. I know the younger you are the more difficult some of this is, but if you open yourself up to the movement of the Holy Spirit, God will lead you in the direction you need to go.

I have included here a scripture to get you started as well as a Psalm and a New Testament reading to meditate upon each week. March's newsletter will provide readings for the remainder of Lent and Holy Week. I pray they are helpful. You may want to read through each week's scripture slowly each day and allow the Spirit to draw you to a word, a phrase, or an image to carry with you each day.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Joel says in chapter 2, verses 12 & 13,

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 – Psalm 51:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Sunday, Feb. 18 – Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22

Sunday, Feb. 25 – Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25

Sunday, Mar. 3 – Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Blessings,

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: 570-547-1162
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 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.)

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



Lenten Study – The UM churches in the Milton cluster, will be hosting a Lenten Study

at Bethany UMC, 107 S. Front St., Milton. We will be doing Max Lucado's book, *He Chose The Nails*. It will be held Monday mornings at 10am, starting, February 19. Let Pastor Dave know if you are interested so that we can plan accordingly.

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.



A Turkey Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 24th. The proceeds for this dinner go toward the Parsonage Fund. We are in the planning stages and are offering everyone the opportunity to use their gifts to help out. If you are able help by donating toward the dinner, please check out the signup sheet in the back of the church, and/or if you are able to help the night of the dinner, any and all help would be greatly appreciated. Please see any of the folks involved with the planning if you have questions or can help with set-up and/or clean-up. "Teamwork makes the Dream Work" and our Parish is a great team!

Elimsport United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your donation to the Montgomery Christmas Committee. This year we provided 200 families with a food box and with the help of Toys for Tots, we gave 349 children a gift. This would not be possible without your donation. Again, Thank you for supporting the Montgomery Christmas Committee.



Virginia Hill

St. John's will be having another apple dumpling sale on Wednesday, February 14th. A perfect time to order one for your sweetheart for Valentine's day. Orders can be picked up between 11am-2pm. Apple dumplings are \$4.50 and there are sign up sheets at both churches. Anyone willing to help Feb 13th or 14th please let Gloria Burrows know. Thanks for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated! We are hoping to do one more sale in March if we are able to get apples.



An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at the Elimsport church on Wednesday, February 14th at 11am.



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

as I have
loved YOU.
LOVE one
another
John 13:34

LOVE
is patient
LOVE
is kind

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.