

Valley Views



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

How are you doing with your new year's resolutions? Maybe you have given up on those things a long time ago. There is something though, I hope you never given up on and that is Bible reading and study. These are a very important part of how we follow the closing direction of the Apostle Peter in 2 Peter 3:17-18 where he reminds us that our only protection against being drawn into the errors of the ways of this world, is to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For this, I want to offer you three possibilities, hopefully you will pick up on one. But know something first, these opportunities are for every day people just like you. Sometimes I feel that we think that this stuff is for people who are really smart and learned when it comes to the Bible. Nothing could be further from the truth. The real purpose of Bible reading and study is not to get information, rather it is for transformation, to encounter God in the passages and to come to truly know his love and acceptance. Along the way, our study helps to paint a fuller and more complete image of God that empowers us to daily do life with God.

The first opportunity is for a small group using the Book the Good and Beautiful God. Have you ever wanted to be free of the need to try harder in an effort to please God, or to overcome the feeling that God only blesses you when you are good, or that God is angry with you, or that a lack of knowledge or understanding is holding you back from getting closer to God? Then you are invited to be a part of a group that will come to know more fully our Good and Beautiful God and to fall love with the God Jesus knew.

We all have ideas that we tell ourselves about God and how God works in our lives. Some are true—but many are false. Author James Bryan Smith believes those thoughts determine not only who we are, but how we live. In fact, he declares, the most important thing about a person is what they think about God. Our path to spiritual transformation begins here.

Turning to the Gospels in our book, *The Good and Beautiful God*, Author Jim Smith invites us to put our ideas to the test to see if they match up with what Jesus himself reveals about God. Once we've discovered the truth in Scripture, Smith leads us through a process of spiritual formation that includes specific activities aimed at making these new narratives real in our body and soul as well as our mind.

At the end of each chapter, there is an opportunity for soul training, engaging in spiritual practices that reinforce the biblical messages on our mind and heart. The best way though, to make a complete and lasting change is to go through the material in community and to explore who God is together with fellow seekers. This is why we are offering an opportunity for a small group of people who want to grow spiritually in a way that makes a real difference.

If possible, we want to meet in people's homes for a more comfortable environment. This study will meet for 10 sessions and last for around 90 minutes each session. We wish to start this group as soon it can be organized, so if you feel led to find out more, see the pastor. Books are available if you wish to get a sneak peek. Also, know that once this groups starts, it will be a closed to new persons.

The second opportunity is using the book, *How to Pray: a Simple Guide for Normal People*, by Pete Greig. This is an eight-session course that uses the Lord's Prayer as a guide. It also uses video lessons found online at PrayerCourse.org. There you can also find a Toolshed that lists 30 different ways to pray. Listed there as well are two other courses, one on Unanswered Prayer or Prayer Course II, and the Lectio Course: Hearing God through the Bible.

Pete Greig is an incredible spirit-filled prayer warrior and has worked to start the first 24/7 prayer room in England. It is a now moment spreading around the world. You can learn more at PrayerCourse.org or www.24-7prayer.com. We will have this class at the Elimsport church and will begin when who all are interested is known.

The third opportunity will be *The Chosen*, Season 5, which is scheduled to be released into theatres starting on March 27. The date for the availability of the study books is not yet known. When they are available a study will be scheduled.

I am also personally studying a new book put together by the family of Dallas Willard from a series of lectures he gave. The book is entitled, *The Scandal of the Kingdom: How the parables of Jesus revolutionize life with God*. I have barely

gotten through the introduction and chapter one and already am feeling its impact on me and how I do life daily with God. Sometimes the smallest discoveries in scripture can open up a whole new way of knowing and enjoying God. If you see it this way and think this may be something you want to check out, let me know and I can tell you more about it.

For now, blessings to you and may you never stop seeking to know Him more.

Pastor Dave



Let all that you do
BE DONE IN
LOVE
1 corinthians 16:14

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.

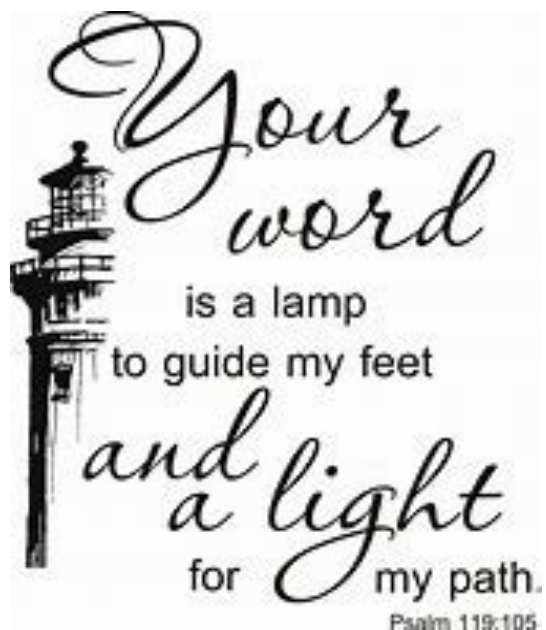
If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

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.



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.



December 11, 2024

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Elimsport

United Methodist Church

16145 S State Route 44

Allenwood, PA 17810-9421

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"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you"

Matthew (28:19-20)

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you!

Your financial support is enabling Global Ministries missionaries to fulfill the mission of the Church.

Through your financial support you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships in more than 60 countries around the world.

Over 200 United Methodist missionaries come from many places and backgrounds, witnessing and serving in dramatically different locales and cultures, engaging in a range of activities and professions as pastors, educators, congregational and leadership developers, regional coordinators for UMCOR, agriculturalists, health coordinators, and doctors.

On behalf of the people who are recipients of the love of God through the direct ministry of a Global Missions missionary – Thank You!

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

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



Love one
ANOTHER
as I have
LOVED
you
-JOHN 15:12

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.