

Valley Views



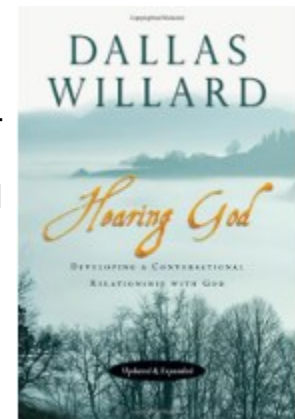
VOLUME 33, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2026



Pastor Dave Shultz

This month I am sharing with you a newsletter from Jan Johnson. I have known Jan for many years beginning when I enrolled in an 18-month cohort with 25 others, called the Apprentice Experience. It met in Wichita, Kansas and in Sierra Madre, California. Later I would be enrolled in another similar program called The School of Kingdom Living in which Jan was also a teacher. On her website, JanJohnson.org, are many resources, one of which was a monthly newsletter entitled, Wisbits. The following is the newsletter from February 2021, entitled, A Conversational Life with God. It lists a book which I highly recommend. I chose this one because you frequently hear me mention “doing life with God.” A big part of this is developing some kind of a conversational life with God. Here is what Jan writes about this.



“Hearing God is a daring idea, some would say—presumptuous and even dangerous. But what if we are made for it? What if the human system simply will not function properly without it? There are good reasons to think it will not. The fine texture as well as the grand movements of life show our need to hear God. Isn’t it more presumptuous and dangerous, in fact, to undertake human existence without hearing God?” (Hearing God, p. 11).

People speak of “having a personal relationship with Jesus,” but even some of those people hesitate to speak of hearing god. Perhaps they met someone who said, “God told me . . .” followed by something ridiculous. That occurs because there is so little thoughtful teaching and guidance about how hearing God actually happens in real life.

One of my favorite books, Hearing God by Dallas Willard addresses this. I’ve just read it again in a book club and even though I’d edited the book itself, edited a devotional book from HG, Hearing God thru the Year, participated in Dallas

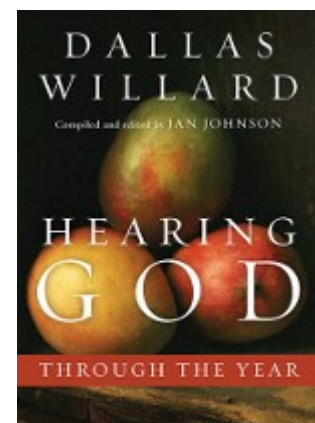
Willard Ministries' latest offering, a 24 day app devotional from the book, and most recently completed a 6 session Bible study based on Bible passages and ideas from the book, I learned so much. In these last weeks of reading, responding to God, examining the accompanying Bible passages, and hearing insights from my companions, I sensed God speaking to me over and over.

The big-picture takeaways from this book are these two ideas, which I was already immersed in, but which I will be diving into more deeply for the rest of my life.

God has created us for intimate friendship with himself—both now and forever (p. 12). Jesus told the disciples that he regarded them as “friends”—no longer as servants. That phrase, “I call you friend,” is the intense, joyful invitation of Jesus to all of us. (Exodus 29:43-46; 33:11, Psalm 23, Isaiah 41:8, John 15:14; Hebrews 13:5-6). Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the relationship between God and people is more like a friendship or family tie than merely God taking care of our needs and then leaving us to ourselves. God isn't a robot nor are we; we work together for the common good of this world that God so loves. It's an adventure! Much more interesting than the best movie!

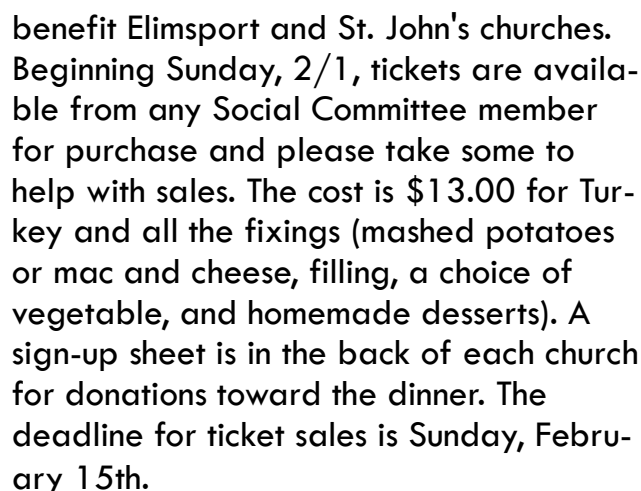
People are meant to live in an ongoing conversation with God, speaking and being spoken to (p. 21). We weren't meant to go it alone. Jesus is “God with us”—Emmanuel here and now in ordinary, everyday life. Prayer is talking with God about what you and God are doing together—doing small tasks, building relationships, creating beauty, watching God transform us into the kind of person we most desire to be.

Where to start? I've been teased about giving the same answer to every question. Here it is: Ask Jesus.” Uh . . . yes. Truly, ask Jesus what your next step is in friendship with him, in ongoing conversation with God. Then as you go about your day, notice any idea that comes to you that doesn't sound like you, but may perhaps be God. Then try it out. See what happens!





A Parish-wide Turkey Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026 from the hours of 4:00PM-6:30PM to



A graphic illustration featuring a bowl of dark ash, a green palm frond, and the text 'Ash Wednesday' in a stylized font, with a large black cross above the word 'Ash'.



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 9:00 am. Please note time change.**



Community Breakfast

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.



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

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com

www.evpumc.org

whatever you do
work at it with all your
as working for the Lord,
not for men.

COLOSSIANS 3:23

**TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH ALL
YOUR** ♥
{proverbs 3:5}

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.