

Valley Views



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 7

JULY 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

During our joint service a few weeks ago, I shared about a medical condition that I am facing. I want to take an opportunity here to share about my spiritual journey thus far. I hope this insight will be of some help to you as you face your own struggles, perhaps it will also be of assistance to you as you hold me up in prayer.

I shared that I asked the Lord for a word for me, and I felt directed to Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation." I knew that the word for salvation is the same word for healing. I lived with that for several days, hoping to glean more insight into what the Lord might be speaking to me. Reflecting on "the Lord is my light," I realized that many people in times of intense healing prayer prayed for the healing light of the Holy Spirit. So, I wondered about the pieces I felt were beginning to fall into place, but I wanted more.

Another piece was that I felt the Lord say to me that indeed he would see me through this, and that my part would be to do battle. My first thought was that battle meant prayer and it certainly is, but I would receive another word and that came when the words of a song by Michael W. Smith came to mind. It was the song *Surrounded* and the line in the song that stood out was "This how I fight my battles," by which he meant praise.

The scripture he references at the beginning of the song is Isaiah 61:3 where Isaiah is listing the blessing of God's salvation and one of the things the Lord gives is "the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

Someone who is not acquainted with the ways of the Lord will not understand this because will assume that heaviness, worry, uncertainty must be lifted before one feels any desire to praise God and to give thanks. But one who experienced with praise knows that it is through praise of who the Lord is that the heaviness of our souls is lifted. It is through praise that we discover that the phrase "God is greater" is more than a slogan, it is reality, a reality that we are invited to live by. I think

that is why the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 to “*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*”

There is another line in the song that I find very powerful. It goes, “I thought that I was surrounded, but I’m surrounded by you.” It is a reference to 2 Kings 6 where the King sends out an army to take Elisha into custody. When Elisha’s servant awakens in the morning he sees an army surrounding them, but Elisha sees something else, and he prays for his servant’s eyes to be opened. They are and he then is able to see a mighty host of heaven, surrounding those who had come against them.

What does all this mean? I do not yet know. As with any battle, physical or spiritual we have to let it all play out. One thing I do know is that my day is more and more being filled with praise. Some of it is music, and other times it is particular lines from songs that get stuck in my head. Other times it is just words of thanksgiving to God for his love, faithfulness, and goodness. It is amazing just how a spirit of praise really does cause a spirit of heaviness to evaporate. We really can do battle with praise.

It does more than just help with an attitude or state of mind. I tend to believe that it affects how our effectively our bodies operate. It can even cause our bodies to release chemicals that aid in healing. God has given us amazing bodies that can do amazing things. At times the stuff of our lives knocks us so off balance that only God can steady us. During those times if we really seek him and really listen we find that something has changed, our relationship with him has grown and we know more greatly the flow of grace and love from the throne of God.

Some of you reading this may know exactly what I am talking about, because you have been through times in which you have been tested and you have emerged changed, transformed, and you know joy where there was once pain and heaviness. God does not spare us the difficult things, instead he fashions them in a way that grace flows and he can be found if we are willing to reach out, take his hand, and walk with him. It’s impossible not to be affected when God is this close to us.

I am finding my spiritual attention being fine tuned to pick up on the slightest thing. Each time it is a blessing. Well, I hope I didn’t ramble too much here and that you can absorb some insight to aid you in your journey. Remember, great is God’s faithfulness to us. The real key to knowing it is that above all else to seek the Lord, just seek him. Praise him and let yourself be caught up in it.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Church League Softball—2025

All Games Begin at 6:30 (home team is listed last, home team provides the ball)

July 1-No games, off for holiday week

July 8

Elmsport Baptist vs Trinity (Avis)

Elmsport UMC vs Oval (Raughtown)

Nippenose-bye (VBS Week)

July 15

Trinity vs. Elmsport UMC (at Avis)

Nippenose vs. Oval (Raughtown)

Elmsport Baptist-bye

July 22

Elmsport UMC -bye (VBS week)

Elmsport Baptist vs. Nippenose (Raughtown)

Oval vs. Trinity (Avis)

July 29

Trinity vs. Oval (Avis)

Elmsport Baptist-bye

Elmsport UMC vs Nippenose (Raughtown)

Aug 5

Trinity vs. Nippenose (Avis)

Oval-bye

Elmsport Baptist vs. Elmsport UMC (Elmsport)



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 August's newsletter are due July **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.



There will be a blood drive on **Tuesday, June 3rd from 2-7** at the Elimsport fellowship hall.

The resealing of St. John's parking lots has been pushed back to July.



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.

We had a wonderful Vacation Bible school again this year! A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate, undecorate, teach, donate, serve dinner and all who volunteered their time! The kids had a great time discovering how Jesus is our Forever Faithful Friend. They sang, enjoyed making crafts, doing experiments and listening to the word of God each night. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated!! This community outreach is a team effort and couldn't have been done without each one of you!!! Thank you all again for helping!!!



God Bless,

Taryn

Dear Church Family,

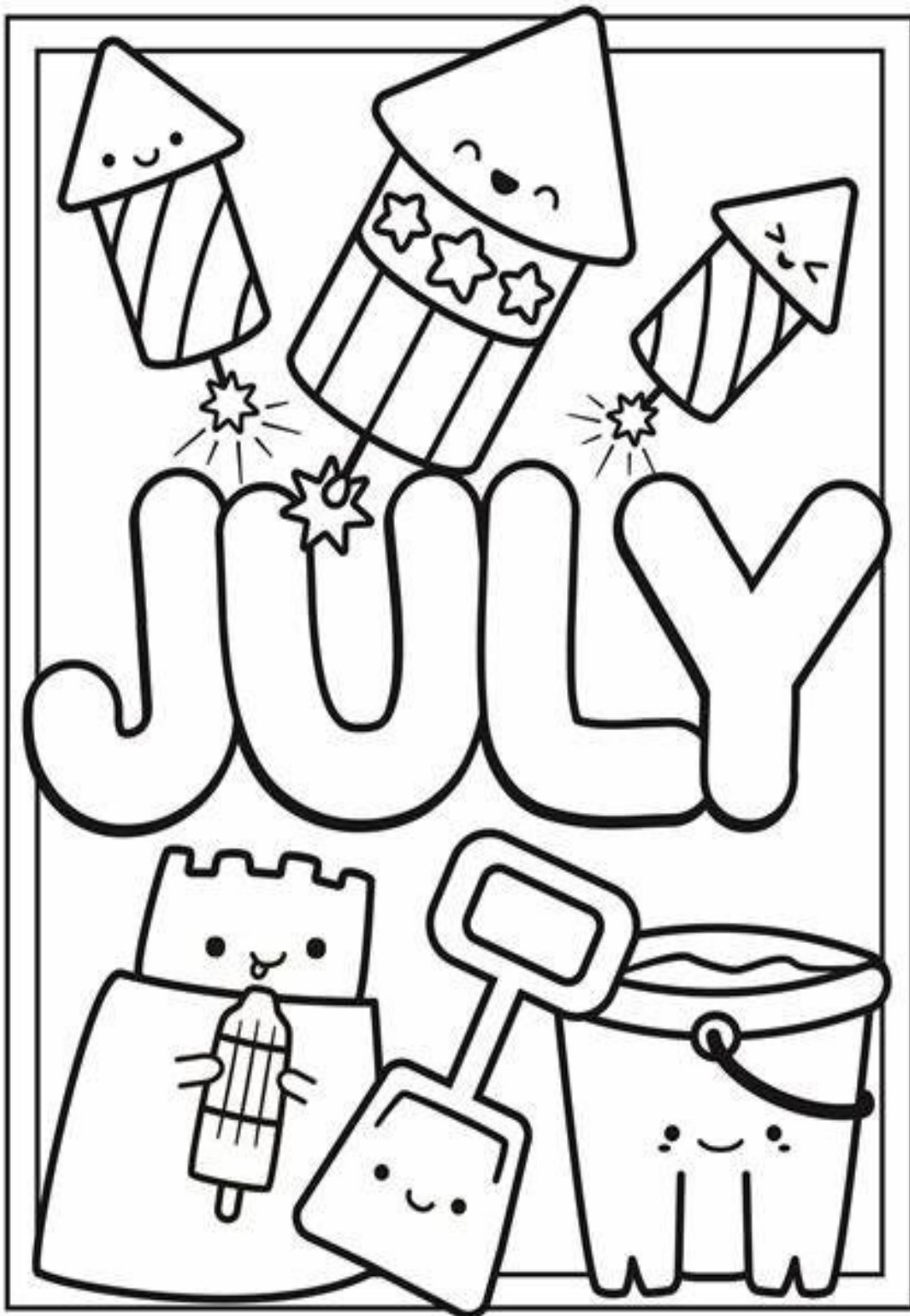
Thank you everyone for the graduation gifts! These gifts are truly appreciated, and are going to help me chase my dreams! I am truly blessed and couldn't be more grateful!

Sincerely,

Jackson Springman



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



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.