

Valley Views



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Pastor Dave Shultz

Committing oneself to being a disciple of Jesus Christ is one of the great blessings of the Christian life and yet so many seem to view it with apprehension. In one of my final words of wisdom, I want to share with you a few things about being a disciple or as I prefer to say, an apprentice of Jesus Christ.

We who are believers in Jesus and his teachings like to call ourselves Christian, but that was not a word that the early church used much, at least not at the beginning. The word Christian is only found in the New Testament three times and it actually started out as a derogatory term making fun of believers, which literally means “little Christ.” Believers would eventually wear it as a badge of honor.

The term they regularly used to refer to themselves was “disciple,” which is found 263 times in the New Testament, and literally means learner, student, or apprentice. One would be considered a disciple on day one upon deciding to join the fellowship and follow the teachings of Jesus. It was only later, after many years of following, learning, growing and serving that one would even dare to be considered a Christian.

Now, this is foreign to us because we have flipped this process on its head, as a result the faith of many modern-day believers has lost a lot of its power and purpose. What this means for us is that the outcomes of Christianity changes because the process only truly starts with being a disciple and you only become a Christian when you begin to resemble Christ. If one never sees themselves as a disciple/apprentice, then they never grow in a way that Christ never forms in them to any extent. Notice what the apostle Paul says in Galatians 4:19: *My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...* That was and is still the intention of God for every believer. Our part is to participate by learning and applying the way of Christ.

Being a disciple is a great blessing because it first, it connects us to other believers who welcome, support, grow, and love us in the name of Jesus and doing so they make real the love of God. Second, through it we get to spend time with Jesus and learn from him. This truly is a personal relationship where Jesus shows up, and we need to see it like that. He is gentle and kind. He knows where we are in our level of understanding and that this is new and unlike anything for which we have been prepared. That's why Jesus would teach about the kingdom of God turns upside down what we expect. God is always doing a new thing.

Lastly, being a disciple becomes for us an opportunity to give our own expression of God's love, and this can take many forms. Some are very passionate. Some work behind the scenes, some work with children, others in worship, administration, pastors and teachers. Some will lead small groups, while others will mentor new believers. All of us are involved in some way in growing, loving and supporting one another.

Some will visit the sick, the shut-ins and elderly. Some will volunteer in ministries of mercy and compassion, such as a food bank, taking persons to appointments, or caring for daily needs. Some in evangelism, some as missionaries. Some with VBS and other ministries organized by the church. Others will help with items around the house and yard, and so on. The ways people serve as disciples or apprentices of Jesus are endless. We just let the love of God flow through us; we let God direct us and give us the courage to say yes. It truly is a blessing because through it we get to love others and reveal Christ.

There are two questions that every church needs to answer:

- 1) How will you initiate people into Christ? and,
- 2) How will you help them become like Jesus?

C.S. Lewis once said, "The church exists for nothing else but to draw people to Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the churches, pastors, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose."

May you know God's grace alive and active in your life. May you know that God is always for you and may your relationship with God blossom and grow as you explore the life of a disciple.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



Hooray!! Vacation Bible School!!! It's that time of year again! Our theme this year is called Rainforest Falls- Exploring the Nature of God! Let's take our kids on the ultimate Rainforest adventure where beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys-our kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. Let's discover who God is and how to stay rooted in His love!! VBS will be Monday, June 21st through Thursday, June 25th from 6-8:30pm. Dinner will also be provided and starting at 5:30pm. Friday, June

26th will be our closing program and carnival at 6pm. Ages preschool through entering 7th grade. Anyone interested in helping or if you have any questions please contact, Christa McCormick, Sharon Heintzelman or Taryn Myers. We are looking forward to spreading Jesus's love throughout our community!!

Charlie and Pat Ulrich thanks everyone for coming to their 75th anniversary open house on Sunday. We appreciate all of you making our day so special!



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

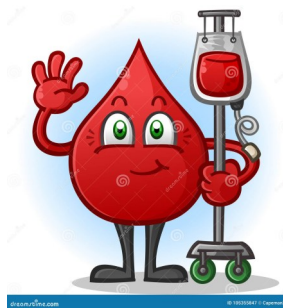
- Items for July's newsletter are due June **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday morning** each week.

(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.



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.



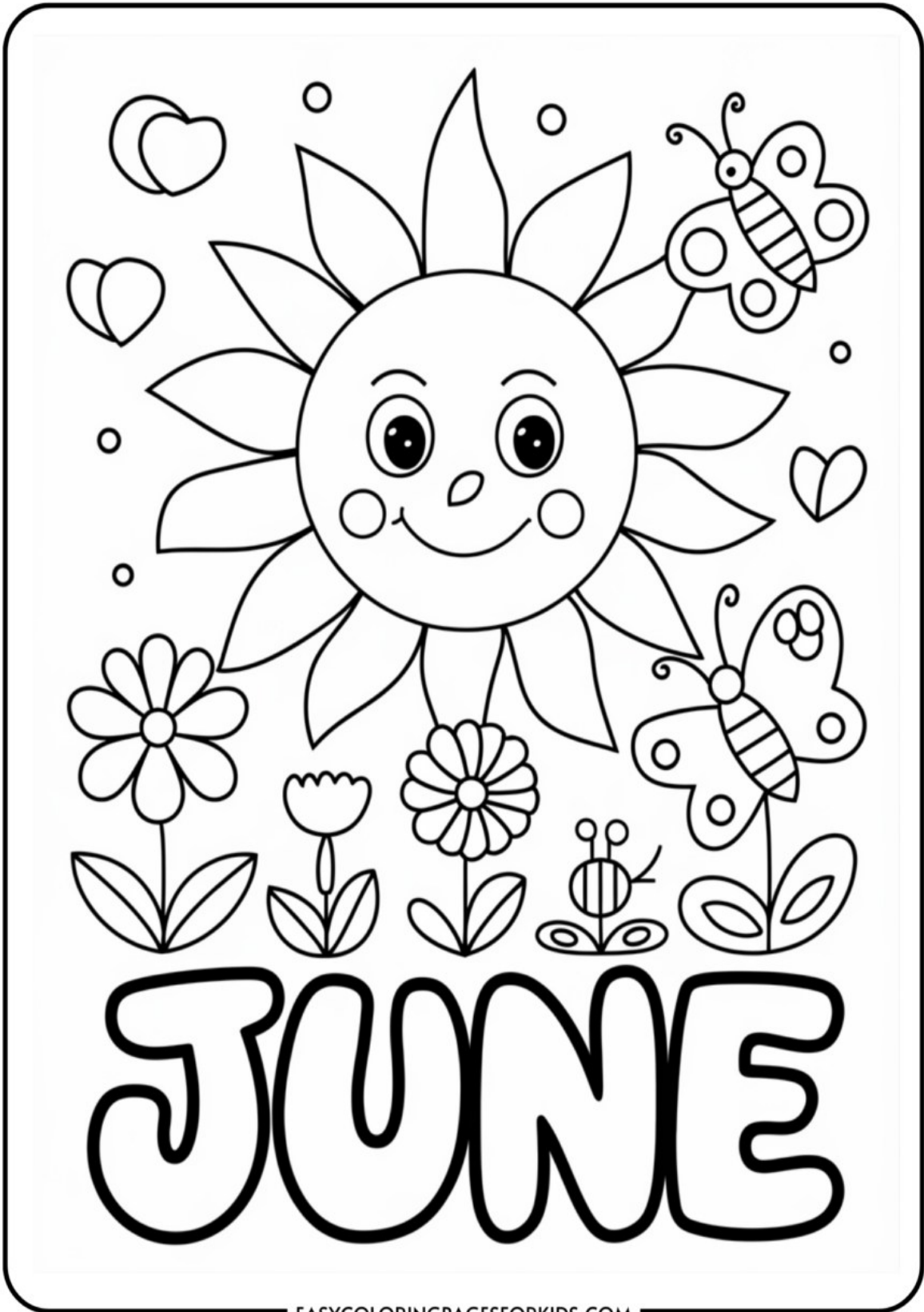
There will be a blood mobile on Tuesday, June 2nd from 1-6 in the fellowship hall.

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



AS A FATHER
HAS COMPASSION
ON HIS CHILDREN,
SO THE LORD
HAS COMPASSION
ON THOSE WHO
FEAR HIM.

PSALM 103:13

CrossCards

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.