

Valley Views



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MARCH 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

A song written in 1984 by the late singer and songwriter Keith Green is one that I have long enjoyed and used for prayer and worship. It is entitled, "Create In Me A Clean Heart" and it begins with these words:

*Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me*

*Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me*

It continues on repeating the same phrase over and over, until it becomes a song of prayer. The words are taken directly from Psalm 51:10–12, which reads in the New Revised Standard Version:

*10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

You might want to read the entirety of Psalm 51, which is a psalm of David, a prayer for cleansing and pardon. This psalm is traditionally read on Ash Wednesday, which is on March 5 this year. Sometimes folks wonder, why Ash Wednesday and Lent, why this call for repentance and forgiveness each year.

It is because of who we are as people. The Bible is filled with the people of God losing sight of and forgetting their first love, see Rev. 2:4. It's not that people quit believing in Jesus, but that Jesus is no longer held as one whom they love and so his ways are not honored, and the things of God are pushed to the side.

When happens our lives suffer, just as it did for David. Once he had a close relationship with God, where he trusted God and it was counted to him as righteousness (Romans 4), but he stepped off that path and needed to return seeking, grace, forgiveness, a clean conscious, and the heart of God. Hear what David says in verses 51:1–3 in the NRSV:

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*
- 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*

The challenge for us is to be awake and aware of the condition of our soul. We can not relax and say, "I'm saved, why do I need to think about this?" David was forgiven too, his faith as counted to his as righteousness, and yet his choices filled his soul with shame and guilt. It came to him as a wet blanket that he could not shed. He needed a deep awareness of his sin before cleansing and restoration could occur. A simple "I'm sorry, please forgive me" wouldn't cut it. He needed to spend time seeking the holy presence of God.

Lent is a time of seeking, to come along side God, to be in his presence, and there to experience his holiness, and to know forgiveness and healing for our souls. You and I were made for this relationship, it is our life, not just when we die, but now and every day. We need to know this and know it well.

There is a special Lenten resource for you to use. It is called the Sanctuary for Lent and copies are on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary. I invite you to take one for your family to use daily in your journey with your brethren into the heart of God.

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

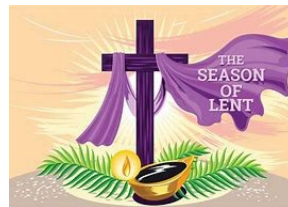
- Items for April's newsletter are due March **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday morning** each week.

*(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.

Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, March 5 at 7pm at St. John's. Ashes will be offered for those who wish them.



Lenten devotions are available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. They are entitled, The Sanctuary for Lent. They are there for your family to use during Lent which starts this Wednesday.



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.



Please join us for a fellowship dinner following worship at St. Johns on Sunday, March 16th. Our luncheon will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. You are invited to bring something green or Irish or that goes along with the St. Patrick's Day theme. If you cannot bring a dish to share, you are still welcome to join together with one another. There is always more than enough food, so let's strengthen our fellowship and celebrate what we have together as the church of Jesus Christ.

St. John's is having a chicken bar-b-que meal 3/29/2025 from 4-6 pm. Cost is \$12.00. You can get your tickets from any St. John's member. Take-out only. Thank you for your support!



Kid's Corner

HAPPY



ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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

March



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.