

Valley Views



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MAY 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

What is your approach to dealing with all of life's stuff? In Psalm 13, the writer deals with feeling forgotten by God, as if God is hiding his face from him. The Psalm actually begins with the writer telling God this, He says, *O Lord, How long...?* Have you ever done that, let God know how you feel? There is nothing wrong with it. It's in the Bible after all.

When we get down to verse five, there seems to be a transition away from his troubles and fears to something else. Even though he still feels surrounded by this troubles, he gets caught up in something greater and he writes,

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. - Psalm 13:5

Growth in our spiritual life is involves seeing that our lives are about more than us and our troubles. It takes a courageous and committed person to search through all the stuff of our days, to seek out God's presence, and his love.

I want to share with you something that was my devotional few weeks back. It came from the late Henri Nouwen, who blest the world with his writings and his ministry. He wrote:

The spiritual life is not giving up something. It is first of all following the One. It is not first of all letting go of all fears. It is first of all being led to love. If we keep the Lord, his Kingdom, his Word, and his Gospel in our mind, if this becomes our inner space, we will know what to do because we have that world around us. We are in the House of the Lord. We are there with God and somehow we are in the right space to make decisions because our eyes are focused. We know the beauty of God and we want to be there.

Has this ever been part of your approach? If not, how do you feel about it? Does it make more sense than anything else you have tried or thought about? Most people I talk to are of the feeling that growing spiritually has to do with learning stuff about the Bible, as if God rewards us for having more Bible knowledge.

Maybe this helps with appreciating 1 John 4:8 which tells us that God is love. So then knowing God is to know love and to be caught up in the love that is God. Love isn't something about God, it is God's very essence and in Jesus Christ, you and I are being led to it.

But we get distracted by many things. Perhaps though if we started our day seeking to be refreshed in the love of God, our daily stuff would not have as much power over us. We would be walking in God's presence and as Henri said, we *know the beauty of God and we want to be there.*

It is so simple that we take little notice of it. But maybe that is its beauty and strength, it is simple enough for anyone who is courageous enough and willing to risk experiencing the depth of God's love for them. It is a love that heals and sets us free from all that weighs us down. I think that is a big part of why Psalm 13:5 says, *my heart rejoices at your salvation.* After all, we experience salvation as healing for our soul.

Take time to sit with Jesus and imagine him looking at you and loving you. Don't say anything for a long time, just sit with him and let yourself react. You can also start making a list of all the scriptures that mention love and meditate on them.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Pastor Dave

Faith
makes things possible ... not easy

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 June's newsletter are due **May 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.



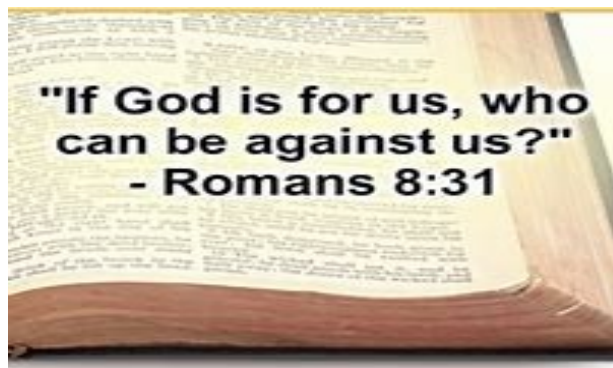
Hooray!! Vacation Bible School!!! It's that time of year again! Our theme this year is called True North- trusting Jesus in a wild world. Let's take our kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where the Northern Lights shine over mountains, rivers and glaciers. Guiding them toward Jesus, True

North will teach us that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. Jesus is our True North! VBS will be Sunday, June 22nd through Thursday, June 26th from 6-8:30pm. Dinner will also be provided at 5:30pm. Friday, June 27th 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!!

Mission Central is collecting items for Activity Kits. These can be used by children in a variety of situations. The items will be collected and brought to Annual Conference at the end of May. Our district is being asked to collect one of the items needed for the kits, Spiral Bound Notebooks (single subject). If you wish to help with this project, please place the notebooks in the box at the rear of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your participation. To learn more about Mission Central you can find out more information online at MissionCentral.org.



PPRC Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19th, at 6:30pm at the Elmsport Church. PPRC Committee members are: Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.





UNITED METHODISTS

OF SUSQUEHANNA & UPPER NEW YORK



Lent 2025

Dear partners in mission and ministry,

Grace and peace in Christ, be with you.

As we journey through Holy Week toward the joy of Easter, I extend heartfelt thanks to your congregation for fulfilling 100% of your Shares of Ministry for 2024. Your remarkable generosity and sacrificial giving reflects your faithfulness to Christ's mission, bringing hope and transformation far beyond the Susquehanna Conference.

Through your stewardship, pastors and lay leaders are being equipped with resources and training, enabling more faithful and fruitful ministry. Your generosity enables ministries and initiative that allow individuals and entire communities to thrive. Together, we are changing lives and sharing the saving grace of Jesus Christ with the world.

I give thanks to God for you, your ministry, and your partnership. May this Holy Week remind us of Christ's love and sacrifice, and may the empty tomb fill us with Easter joy as we proclaim: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed!

Please share this letter with your congregations and ministry teams.

With gratitude,



Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez
Susquehanna & Upper New York Area
The United Methodist Church

We are in need of "Indoor Snowballs" for an activity during VBS. If you would be willing to lend me yours, I will be sure to get them back to you after VBS is over. Contact Deanna Drick 470-419-1730) if you are able to help me out. Thanks!



If anyone has artificial Christmas trees we could borrow for VBS, purely for decorative purposes, the trees must be 7' or shorter. Please contact Deanna Drick. Thank you!

An AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Training will be at the Elimsport Church on Thursday, May 15 at 6:30pm. To attend, sign up on the sign-up sheet at the rear of the Sanctuary.



St. John's is having a pulled pork dinner fundraiser on May 17th from 4-6pm. Recommended donation is \$11.00. Take-out only. Please see any St. John's member for tickets. Thank you!



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.