

Valley Views



VOLUME 31, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

Greetings everyone,

I'm going to devote this time to share with all of you about our new District Superintendent, Daniel Wilt and our new Bishop Hector A. Burgos-Nunez. Included in this newsletter is a letter from our new District Superintendent. He wants to worship with every church in the District. As you may or may not know our district has grown, because the former Lewisburg District is no more, and it is being broken up and absorbed by three other districts. All of which means that there will be more churches in our district for the District Superintendent to oversee. Rev. Wilt previously served St. Paul's UMC in Lewisburg and has graciously agreed to be our new DS.

In an email he shared some information for all of us. He says: "I have a dog named Atticus. I love tea (specifically Earl Grey and Chai). I believe Winnie the Pooh and Lord of the Rings are some of the best reading you can get. I enjoy the beach and the woods. I love being an uncle that can have fun, cause havoc, and then return to a quiet house. If you see me driving, I am most likely attempting to sing along. I love music from every genre. My favorite book of the Bible is Job, and a guiding life verse comes from Lamentations 3:21-22. I particularly like it in the NLT translation. 'Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: the faithful love of the Lord never ends...'

My upbringing in the church had me go through Catholicism, being a Southern Baptist, dabbling in Lutheranism, attending a Pentecostal college, and finding a home in the United Methodist Church. The body of Christ is large, and my hope is that we will be working with the larger body of Christ to help bring the healing and wholeness of Jesus to our churches and communities! We are not alone in this work friends."

As for our new Bishop, there are gatherings planned around the Conference to meet and greet him. The gathering in our area will be on Wednesday, October 16 at the First UMC, 602 South Market Street in Muncy. A special time for laity is provided from 6:30 to 8:00pm. There will be time for people to get to know the Bishop, cards will be provided to write down questions. There will be a time of conversation with Bishop Burgos-Nunez, which will be followed by worship and communion. No registration is required.

I hope you may be able to attend.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

During September and October our Parish will once again be collecting for Footprints of Montgomery. You may bring your items to church any Sunday or bring to the Elimsport UMC pavilion on October 27th from 12:00-2:00. Some suggestions of need are; shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, disposable razors, deodorant, bath and bar soap, and hygiene products. They also need laundry and dish detergent, soups, canned vegetables (beets, carrots, creamed corn), spaghetti sauce, boxed filling and mashed potatoes. These are just suggestions and any donation is welcome!! Thank you for always being generous givers!! Any questions ask Christa or Sharon.



St. John's is having a chicken bar-b-que October 19th from 4-6pm. There will be sides and a dessert. Tickets can be purchased from any church member. The suggested donation is \$12.00. Take-out only. Thank you!

St. John's is selling Apple Dumplings. Place an order using the order form at the rear of the Sanctuary. Pick up is Wednesday afternoon, October 9th.



Please join us Sunday, October 27th after service for a pasta luncheon. You may bring hot, cold or dessert pasta. Other dessert items are welcome.



**Williamsport District
Susquehanna Conference
United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Daniel Wilt
Conference Superintendent
2420 Nottingham Road
Williamsport, PA. 17701**

Hello friends in the Williamsport District and beyond,

This has been a big year in our connection. We had a General Conference almost three months ago, an Annual Conference over a month ago, and a Jurisdictional Conference just a few weeks ago. The College of Bishops for the Northeast Jurisdiction put out a letter after the General Conference stating that we are “moving forward as a church that embraces theological diversity.” While there is beauty in that theological diversity, it does not come easily. Learning to do life together can be challenging at times, and we’ve experienced that a lot over the last few years.

In February 2019, there was a special General Conference to discuss the denomination’s stance on human sexuality, and at that gathering, the language of incompatibility was upheld. For those wanting a more inclusive church, there was pain, and some asked, “Is the United Methodist Church a place for me?” Some pastors left, some churches were divided, and we were in the newspapers for better or worse. Some people asked for space and time to gather and process with like-minded individuals. While that was happening, some also found comfort that the language was upheld.

In May 2024, the denomination met once again, and the restrictive language around human sexuality was removed. It allowed local areas to determine for themselves how they would navigate human sexuality. Churches and pastors were given space to pray and discern how they would live into their theological understanding in the context they serve. The bishops and cabinet are to help create space for this theological diversity.

Some celebrate what was done. Some may disagree with the decisions but are grateful that they can determine things for themselves and that space for them will be given. Some are now wrestling with whether there is a place for them in the United Methodist Church.

Romans 12:15 says, “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”

For those of you rejoicing, we find space to rejoice with you! Through prayer and study, you have come to a theological understanding, and for the first time in our denomination’s history, you have space to live into that understanding. If I can do anything to walk alongside you and to create space for you to process what this moment of celebration can be, please know I am here for you and rejoice with you in this season! You are not alone, and there is space for you to celebrate.

For those who are wrestling, you are seen and heard. You waited to see what would happen at General Conference, and with the removal of the language and the removal of disaffiliation, you feel betrayed, lied to, cast aside, and are asking is there space for you here. While I can share that people were operating out of their best understanding and that our Annual Conference sent a petition to the General Conference to allow for an exit plan to continue, that doesn't remove the sting at this time. While I can say boldly and confidently there is space for you in this place, I know many aren't able to hear those words right now. My heart breaks to see the pain that is being felt in our churches. If there is anything I can do to walk with you in this wrestling and weeping, please let me know. If you need space to gather, time with others to pray, or anything else I can offer, please know I am here to make sure there is space for you. You are not alone and those who wept in 2019 know all too well the space that is needed to process this.

Following the way of Christ is simply stated but difficult to live out. There was rejoicing and weeping in 2019 and now some who were weeping have found their joy and some who had comfort find themselves hurting now. May we remember one another in this season. Check in on one another and help to ensure that people feel they have a place here.

Friends, I have been praying every day for you all. As a conference, and especially in our district, my hope is that we are here for one another. As we close out our first month in this appointment as a district and superintendent, I am grateful for the worship, the VBSs, the ministries, the meetings, and the ways you continue to navigate how to bring the healing and wholeness of Jesus to a hurting world. As we continue into a tumultuous period in our country and world, may we model to those around us how we can hold different views on very important things and still care for one another in powerful ways.

Whether you are a lay person or clergy person, however I can be helpful, please reach out, even if it is just to sit with you in total silence. God told us the first thing that was not good was for us to be alone (Genesis 2:18). So, if you are weeping or if you are rejoicing, don't do it alone.

Peace,

Daniel Wilt

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.

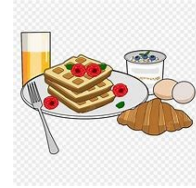
If you would like to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you, please let us know by putting your name and email address on the sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

Church News

- Items for November's newsletter are due October **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.



The Chosen Study on Tuesday evening at 6:15pm and Wednesday morning in the upstairs meeting room at 9am.

ElimSPORT United Methodist Church Choir Fall Nut Sale is in full swing. Nut Order Forms are located in the back of the church on the information table. Please have all orders and payment to Bonnie Foust by Sunday morning, October 13th. Any questions, please call Bonnie, 570-547-1915. Thank You!



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



**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.**
NAME THEM **ONE BY ONE.**
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT **GOD HAS DONE.**

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.