

Valley Views



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2025



Pastor Dave Shultz

As I sit down to write this, I am preparing to head to Penn State Hershey Medical Center Neurology to spend most of the day being evaluated by their team to determine if I do indeed have ALS. After receiving the news a few months ago, all sorts of thoughts have gone through my head. I have dealt with an array of emotions and have sought to ground myself in God through prayer and praise. I have found that this is the best place to work out what I am feeling, and it helps me to arrive at a place where I can rest in God's presence. I am also finding that it is a place that I need to go to again and again for rest, for strength, and for perspective.

Part of the perspective comes from the scripture verse for my daily devotion on August 15, which was from Malachi 2:15 "Has not the one God made you?" The devotional reading then came from the writings of the late Henri Nouwen, a Dutch Priest and author. Henri writes:

Life, as many of us know, can actually become more difficult – more painful – when we choose to follow Jesus. Yet at the same time we gain a certain strength because we no longer live our life or our agony alone. We no longer live our struggle in isolation. We no longer live our pains as if nobody cares. Indeed, following Jesus means walking in his path, taking steps behind the One who shows us the way in our dark, broken, painful world.

Following Jesus means to live our life in companionship with the One who understands us fully.... Following Jesus means a life in communion, with a guide.

I like this a lot! So much so that I am going to type it up and frame it so that others can read it. What I really drew from this is that there is a reality that we miss unless we go looking for it. The reality is that we do have a companion in this life, and that people of faith are never, ever alone. That is unfortunately, one of the great secrets of the Christian life. I wish it were not so hidden, but it is.

We talk about people being alone when they die or when they are going through difficult times. But the reality is for those who have learned to seek for and strive after the Kingdom of God, they are anything but alone. They have discovered that Jesus Christ lives in them, delights in them, and they dwell securely in God's unshakeable kingdom. He is as close to them as the very air they breathe.

I realize that may sound like a bunch of religious speak to those uninitiated to the spiritual realities all around us, but how else do we speak of the abundant presence and availability of God for those who love him and seek him? Henri was right, *Following Jesus means to live our life in companionship with the One who understands us fully.... Following Jesus means a life in communion, with a guide.*

The issue for most of us is that we don't go looking for a guide unless we are in something over our head and we need a companion to lead us through. Often it seems our image of God is more like that of Superman whom we hope would swoop in to rescue us from the clutches of the evil powers. But scripture invites us to take up a much different image of God, being the Almighty One, walks with us and talks with us on our journey. He makes the way for us and in faith we allow him to take the lead, and we follow.

It is something we learn along the way, if we engage ourselves in learning to live in companionship with Jesus. Can you make that adjustment? I know it has taken me a while to do so and I still find I have more to go, and my present journey is inviting me to go deeper. Perhaps we can pray for each other.

Pastor Dave



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 prayer service on Sunday evening, September 7th at 7pm at the Elimsport church.

Please be in prayer for this service that we may join together in a special time of prayer for our churches, our community, and our world. This will be a special time of seeking God and being in prayer before him. Colossians 4:2 tells us, "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart (NLT)."



SAVE THE DATE - 9/20/2025

Annual Elimsport Fall Festival



To raise much needed funds, Elimsport UMC will be selling hot and mild sausage sandwiches at the Elimsport Fall Festival.

An announcement will be made when the sign up sheet is available for volunteers to serve during the festival and clean-up after. Any questions, contact Deanna or Christa.



St. John's will be having a soup sale at the fall festival on September 20th

There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, September 23rd from 2-7 in the Elimsport UMC fellowship hall.



St. John's will be having a Chicken Bar-b-que on October 4th from 4-6pm. There will



also be macaroni and cheese, baked beans and a dessert. You can get your tickets from any member. Take out only. Suggested donation is \$12.00. Thank you!



PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Monday, September 15th, at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church.

PPRC Committee members are: Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.

We are currently doing a study of season 5 of The Chosen on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Elimsport Fellowship Hall. This is a discussion only. The Chosen can be viewed on Amazon Prime or on the DVD that is available to borrow. On Wednesday morning at 9am in the upstairs meeting room, we are watching the episode, followed by discussion.



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 October's newsletter are due September **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. Please note time change.

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*



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



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.