

Valley Views



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2023



Pastor Dave Shultz

Why Church? A lot of persons have asked that very question and even more so recently. With the COVID epidemic, many persons have spent the past three years at home on Sunday morning and more than a few have discovered that their lives are just fine without church. When asked when they will return, many ask why, what can I get at church that they can't get anywhere else? They might even say that they worship online with their family. Isn't that the same thing? How would you answer them?

Some have suggested that in trying to answer this, that we may be attempting to answer the wrong question. A recent article in the magazine *Christianity Today* addresses this. It says that often churches try to demonstrate why they matter by listing the fellowship and the good things they do for the community. But if the church exists to serve the community, they are doing a poor job. Many organizations such as the United Way do the same thing. So, why does church matter?

Which begs another question, is the church is redundant? In many instances, there is nothing you can get at church that you can't get someplace else. So, have we in the church lost something that makes us different, that makes us stand out, that makes us relevant? Here are a few quotes from the article that speak to this. The article is, *Why Church? Is the Wrong Question*, by Kirsten Sanders. *Christianity Today*, March 2023. pp. 66-71.

"What makes the church peculiar is its knowledge of itself as called by God to be his representative on the earth, to be marked by unwieldy and inconvenient practices like forgiveness, hospitality, humility, and repentance. It is marked in such a way by its common gathering, in baptism and Communion, remembering the Lord's death and proclaiming it until he comes."

"A peculiar church is one that realizes that its existence is to witness to another world, one where the Ascension is not a sorrow alone but an invitation to live into a new moment when the Son is indeed seated at the right hand of the Father. Its witness to another kingdom, a commonwealth in heaven (Phil. 3:20-21), is what justifies its existence."

What this is telling us is that a church is called to be is a community that has been reshaped by its worship, which bears witness to another world where the Lord is King. This is not something the world can know on its own. The church is persons who have been called out of the world and into a new reality. This is why worship is vital. It must be meaningful, alive, and relevant. But what is even more important is persons that have been transformed by their worship and by their life together with the other people of God who live daily by the grace and authority of the Kingdom of God.

The Christianity Today article adds this wisdom, *“When the church becomes preoccupied with defending itself to the world, it eventually becomes incoherent. The only way to be a church is to speak the peculiar language of peace, of forgiveness, of repentance and resurrection. When we do not do our job, the church becomes understandable to the world but loses its mission. It is no longer peculiar, even if it is now coherent to a culture that is anything but Christian. We need that friction, that impossible question of how church works, that puzzlement over what the church does, because what it does is often inconceivable to those outside it.”*

What is your response to this? I hope it has left you wanting to learn more. Reprints of the Christianity Today article are available for all who desire it. It is well worth reading through multiple times. The church is increasingly seen as irrelevant to the world around us. Meanwhile, we ask how do we get people to come to church? Perhaps that is the wrong question. Perhaps we should be asking how we can improve at being the peculiar people of God, how can we make church more relevant.

I leave you with one final quote. *“The church matters because only there is the truth about the world spoken—because only there is the Lord proclaimed as King.”*

Pastor Dave



REMINDER: Saturday, April 8th at 10am, Easter Egg Hunt on the softball field. (For kids up to and including sixth grade.) Please pray for nice weather.

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.



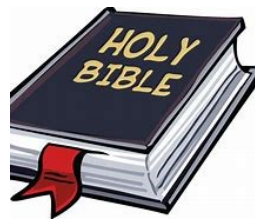
There will be a Blood drive on Tuesday, April 11th from 2-7 in the fellowship hall.



- Items for May's newsletter are due April 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 - We will be doing session 7 on Tuesday evening, at 6:30pm in the Elimsport Fellowship Hall and Wednesday morning at 9:00am in the upstairs meeting room. All are welcome to come.

Acolyte Schedule

- 04/02/23 Sam & Elizabeth
- 04/09/23 Jack & Garrett
- 04/16/23 Mitchell & Elizabeth
- 04/23/23 Sam & Jack
- 04/30/23 Mitchell & Garrett



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.

PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Elimsport Church. PPRC Committee members are Lauren Bryson, Christa McCormick, Retta Moore, Jeremy Kennedy, Gary Taylor, Fred Kennedy and Donna Satteson.



READY, SET, LAUNCH.... Vacation Bible school will be Sunday, July 9th through Thursday, July 13th. 6:00-8:30pm. Dinner provided. Closing Program and Carnival is Friday, July 15th at 6.

Calling all astronauts and space stars who are ready to blast off into space. Our theme this year is Stellar. At Stellar VBS kids will explore how Jesus shined hope, love, forgiveness, and joy into the world- and how we can do the same with his power! We will explore epic adventures that help kids grow in friendship with Jesus!! Please spread the word. Kids aged preschool through entering 7th grade. READY, SET, LAUNCH!!!

Any VBS questions contact Taryn Myers, Christa McCormick or Sharon Heintzelman

VBS Supplies

Imagination Station Leaders are gathering materials to make kaleidoscopes. We are in need of cardboard tubes, the size of paper towel rolls, and clear plastic lids or containers, like those used for fresh fruits and vegetables. We will be cutting out plastic circles the size of the paper towel rolls so, if you would like to do that task ahead of time, please feel free. Stay tuned for any other items we may need...Thank you from the Stellar VBS Imagination Station Crew

St John's and Elimsport churches are joining forces to raise funds that will go to the Parish Parsonage Fund. Many repairs have been made but more are still needed. A fundraising dinner is in the planning stages for Saturday, April 22. The meal will be served from 4:00pm-6:30pm and will be eat-in or take-out. The cost is \$12.00 - ages 11 and older; \$6.00 - ages 4-10; and free - ages 3 and under. The meal will consist of one entree, Turkey and Filling OR BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich; one side, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy OR Macaroni and Cheese; one vegetable, and Dessert (Pie or Cake). Beverages will be available for eat-in orders. Sign-up sheets for donations will be available in each church on Sunday, March 26 and April 2. Sharon Heintzelman and Deanna Drick can be contacted with any questions or concerns.





The Parsonage Committee has determined that the need for paving the driveway at the Parsonage is of the highest priority. Since the estimate for this project could potentially reach \$5000, we are making an appeal for funds for this project from friends and members of the Parish. Please give prayerful consideration to give toward this project.

Thank You,

The Parsonage Committee

A Good Friday service will be at the Elimsport Church at 7pm on Friday, April 7th.



Easter Sunrise service will be at St. John's Church, on Easter Sunday at 6:30am. Weather permitting the service will be outside, so dress accordingly and please bring your own chairs.



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

*it
is
finished.*
23411933

He
HAS
Risen!
MATTHEW 28:6

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.