

Valley Views



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AUGUST 2023



Pastor Dave Shultz

Ever since the creation of the United Methodist Church in May of 1968, through the joining of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church, our church has taken a great deal of pride in being known as a “Big-Tent” church. This means that we have room for a wide range of people coming from varying backgrounds, life-experiences, and cultures. This includes a range of approaches to faith and understanding of the Bible, and yet, we affirm that while we have many differences, we join together around our common faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and we seek to impact the world around us in mission and in service. Hence the mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and by exemplifying Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God’s reign and realm in the world.

Each year, our Annual Conference, which defines the geographical area that is central and northeastern Pennsylvania meets to conduct business, affirm our continuing ministries, celebrate what God is doing in our midst, and to look forward to addressing the needs of our communities with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. It truly is a blessing to celebrate what God is doing in our various churches through persons committed to being the hands and feet of Christ.

One of the necessary and more contentious parts of Annual Conference can be the resolutions that are brought to the floor by individuals, groups of individuals or by churches. Something that people do not always understand is that the votes on resolutions at an Annual Conference do not set policy for the whole United Methodist Church. That can only be done at General Conference, which will meet in April of 2024 in Charlotte, NC. Sometimes resolutions are presented to affirm our views on particular matters of faith, and society. This year, as every year, there were resolutions to mark the third Sunday in May as Mental Health Awareness Month, marked with a special offering and the first week of October to be celebrated as Mental Illness Awareness Week, and for the second Sunday in October to be Disability Awareness Sunday.

Sometimes resolutions challenge us to uphold our Christian values such as with Resolution #6 Choosing Love Over Division. This resolution affirmed that we resolve to aspire to be an annual conference that celebrates our unity in our shared United Methodist doctrines, shared lives together as a conference, and our shared approach to faith rooted deeply in our Evangelical, United Brethren, and Methodist heritage; that we aspire amid conflict over issues related to human sexuality, to be a conference that works towards unity in love as a witness to our faith in Jesus and for the sake of the church; and that we aspire to see disagreement as an opportunity to grow in our capacity to love and love the world a glimpse of God's Reign.

Resolution #7 called on the Susquehanna Annual Conference to renew its belief in the essential convictions based on "Scripture, the Bible, and the Word of God," and its belief that Scriptures "must be interpreted in light of other Old and New Testaments scripture since it is inspired." One amendment was made that recognized the role of tradition, experience, and reason. A second amendment added statements that celebrated and renewed our belief in the primacy of Scripture expressed in the Articles of Faith, Confession of Faith found within the Book of Discipline.

Sometimes a resolution will seek to petition the State Government to on legislative matters, such as with Resolution #11 which called for an end to Conversion Therapy which uses violent and harmful methods to seek to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attraction of persons towards others of the same gender. Often, persons are coerced to undergoing this therapy and many have to live with lasting detrimental effects. It does not respect the dignity and worth of the individuals it seeks to help and rarely does is it beneficial in any way. This has already been made illegal in several other states.

To read all of the resolutions in full, go to the Conference Website at sumc.org/annual-conference/ and read the Susquehanna Daily Links listed on the left side of the page. There you can read a synopsis of the sermons from the Bishops and others at the worship services. You will also be able to read the highlights from the Bible Study that was shared over three days by the Rev. Dr. Lew Parks, plus the other business and celebrations that filled our time together.

To be sure, this way of doing business and finding our way through the issues of the day is a messy process. Sometimes I wish there would be more time for honest discussion, instead of short speeches for or against. I don't agree with everything, sometimes I even feel like the most important part was not addressed. But at the end of the day, each of us are still called to be in ministry to our communities. Each

of us are called to witness to our faith as we seek to be engaged in ministries of mercy and compassionate service, ministries that build relationships and that make a difference in people's lives, and ministries that seek to shine the light of Christ into the darkness that dominates so many lives.

Doing ministry isn't always simple and sweet, like doing a VBS program. It can be very messy and painful when we engage in the nitty gritty of people's lives. Part of it being messy is when we disagree and struggle with what grace and compassion looks like when we seek to speak God's word into the pain and confusion in which many wrestle daily. Will we err? Most certainly. Will we get things wrong? You bet. But let us all err on the side of grace and compassion, knowing that God never gives up leading us and drawing us towards himself.

We must remember that the Apostle Paul speaks to us all when he gives us this direction in Colossians 3:12-14, Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Some years back I ran into my former pastor. We had a short conversation at a meeting we were attending, and he said what gives him great comfort is that he is reminded that God has got us, regardless. So, I pray you will draw assurance and strength knowing that God has got you and me. God has the whole world in his hands and God has got the church too. Let's pray for God to be alive and working through it all, and through each of us.





All games begin at 6:30. All are welcome. Anyone interested in playing should contact Chris Ulrich (570) 220-3960 or Tweet Flick (570) 220-2032.

August 1st

Nippenose vs. Antes Fort

Oval vs. Elimsport

Nippenose—bye

A Chicken BBQ dinner is scheduled for Saturday, 8/19/2023. The cost of the dinner is \$12.00 and will include a half chicken, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, roll, drink, and dessert. A sign-up sheet will be available in each church from Sunday, 7/23 thru 8/13 for those who would like to donate toward the dinner to help defray costs. The proceeds from this meal will go to the Parsonage Fund.



A contract has been signed and delivered to ALL Excavating and Paving to complete the repairs on the Parsonage driveway. The cost is \$4500 and 50% is due 5 days before the start of the project; the start date is unknown at this time. The Parsonage Fund does have sufficient funds to cover the down payment, however fund-raisers are ongoing and individual giving is still needed to bolster the fund to pay the remaining balance and to cover projects that have been identified on the Parsonage property to be dealt with in the near future.

Thanks to Jeff Heintzelman for taking care of getting bids and being the lead on this project. and to all who have contributed to and helped to raise funds to get this project completed.



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.



We had a wonderful Vacation Bible school again this year! A big thank you to everyone who helped decorate, undecorate, teach , donate, serve dinner and all who volunteered their time! The kids had a great time Shining Jesus' Light!!! They sang, enjoyed making crafts, doing experiments and listening to the word of God each night. Everyone 's help was greatly appreciated!!

This community outreach is a team effort and couldn't have been done without each one of you!!! Thank you all again for helping Shine Jesus' Light!!!

God Bless,

Taryn

We will have a Council of Ministries meeting on August 22nd @ 6:30 in the Elimsport social hall.

The Elimsport Trustees will meet on August 21st at 6:30.

Create in me a clean
heart, *O God;*
and *renew a right spirit*
within me.

Psalm 51:10

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.



PPRC Committee Meeting Scheduled for Tuesday, August 8th, 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.

- Items for September’s newsletter are due August 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.



There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, August 1st from 2-7 in the fellowship hall.



St. John’s is in need of an outside custodian. Please contact Steve Burrows at 570-337-8520 for details.



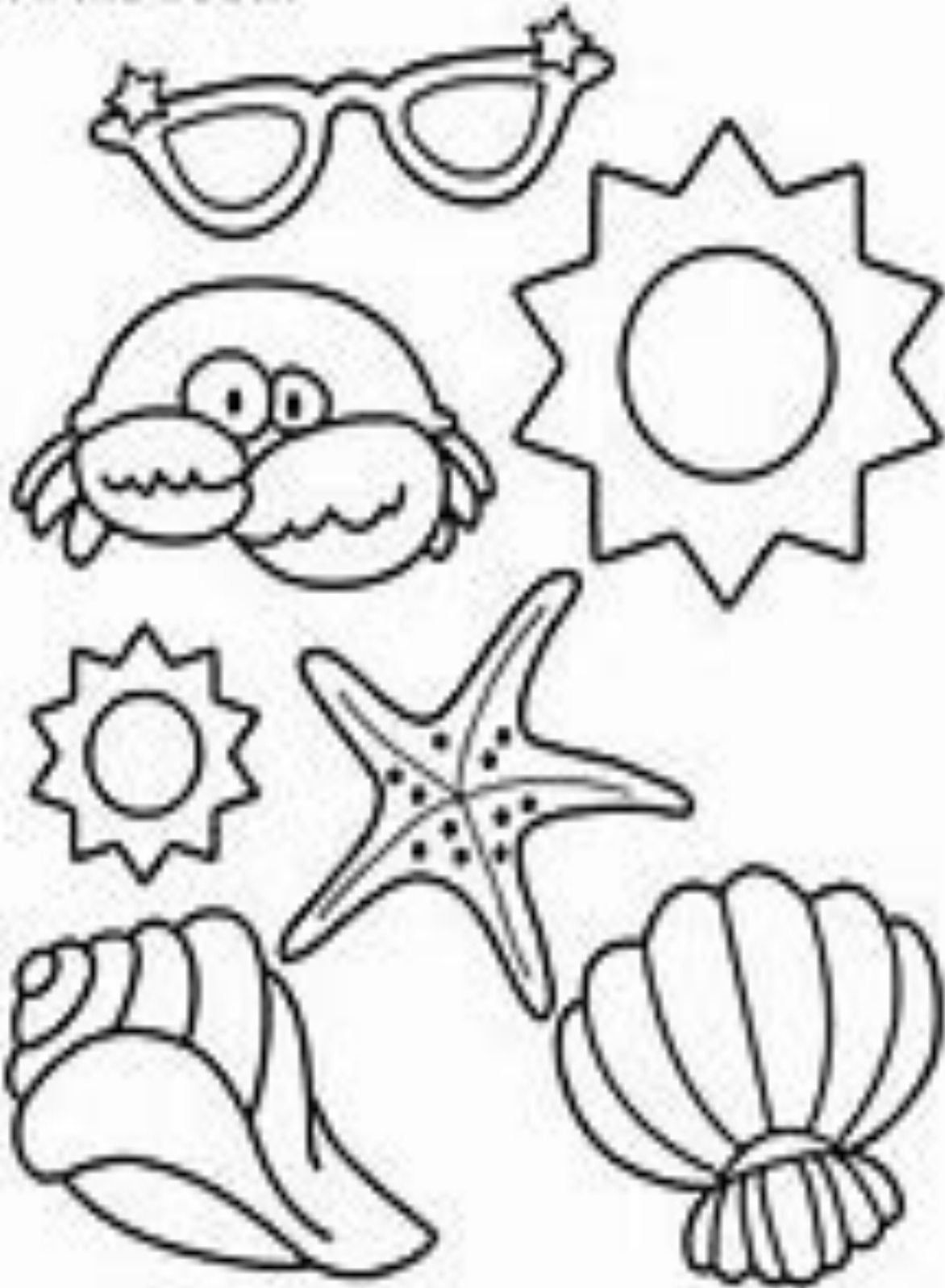
Elimsport Ad Council meets the second Monday of the month at 6:30.



St. John’s Ad Council meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30.

Kid's Corner

At the Beach



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.