

Valley Views



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DECEMBER 2022



Pastor Dave Shultz

Welcome to Advent, one of my most favorite times of the year. It is also one of the craziest because of how busy it is and how much is packed into the weeks preceding Christmas. But I like it for a reason most probably do not appreciate, which is the message of Advent. The word “Advent” comes from a Latin word meaning “arrival” or “coming.”

It marks the beginning of the Christian year, announcing the coming of the King of Kings and Prince of Peace. It is both a joy-filled time of celebration of the anticipation of the arrival of our Savior as an infant child, and also a time of spiritual preparation involving repentance, meditation and penance. You wouldn't be able to discern this from the observances in which most of us engage; a season of parties, Christmas cookies, family gatherings, holiday cheer, and gifts. Oh, and don't forget the music, got to have the music. I must admit I do enjoy the popular Christmas songs, but they would not hold any joy for me without the power and significance found in many of our Christmas hymns.

Some time ago, I read an Advent devotional called, “The Gospel of Advent.” The title may sound a bit strange since when we think of the Gospel, we think of Easter, the cross and being set free from sin, but really the Good News of Jesus Christ is much bigger than that. It starts with God deciding to become like us, to do life with us, to teach us face to face what God is like, establishing the kingdom of heaven on earth, setting us free from sin and death through his sacrifice on the cross, and sealing it with his resurrection from the grave. Yet all this started in a manger so long ago.

It was something so worth singing about that the heavenly host could not keep it in. They had to proclaim it and proclaim it they did. Their song opened the barrier between heaven and earth and the shepherds were witness to it.

Charles Wesley wrote about it when he penned his timeless hymn, “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.” As you read it, see if you can sense the wonder of the gospel message that the angels proclaimed.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

The line in the final verse, "born that we no more may die," connects together everything God has been doing throughout all of human history. He lays his glory by so that he might impart his life to us, an eternal life that was lost because of sin. If you have opened up your life to Jesus Christ and allowed room in your heart and mind for him, then the life of Christ is in you. This is why Advent is so powerful for me; the message is so profound and incredible that no earthly celebration can do it justice.

Blessings to you in this wondrous season,

Pastor Dave



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.



Wednesday morning breakfast at the Elimsport church is Wednesday mornings, from 7:30 am to 9:30 am.

- Items for January’s newsletter are due December **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.)

The Elimsport/St. John’s Annual Charge Conference will be held at 10:30am on Saturday, December 3rd, 2022 at St. Andrews UMC, 103 Lower Market St., Milton, PA. It will be a Church Conference which means that all members in attendance have vote on all matters coming before us that day. Also, Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver will be presiding.



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



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

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful care package. Every year the packages come when students need them the most and I couldn't appreciate it more. The treats brought a smile to my face and I can't wait to enjoy them as I prep for finals. Thanks again!



Emma Klopp



Thank you so much for the college care package. You all are such a blessing, and I appreciate your love! The snacks will be perfect for all of the studying ahead of me with finals approaching. I am grateful for a great church family!

Love,

Mallorie

We will be having another apple dumpling sale December 14th. Anyone willing to help with ingredient donations or making them please contact Gloria Burrows 570-547-1598. We will have sign up sheets at the back of both churches. Apple dumplings can be picked up after 2pm. Thanks to each of you that have made the apple dumplings sales a success.



St. John's is going to have a lunch after the hanging of the greens service on December 4th. Please bring a dish to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church to sign up if you know what you are going to bring so there isn't too many duplicates. If you don't have time to make anything please stay and enjoy the meal and fellowship.

We will be having the Christmas Village this year on December 10, 2022 at the Elimsport UMC pavilion from 12:00-5:00. Please consider donating cookies, candy, or your time for this event. Sign up sheets will be at both churches and if you missed it last year, it really is a community gathering at Christmas! We will have two nativity shows, crafts and games for children, an ugly sweater contest, some vendors, and finishing with the community tree lighting ceremony. If you have any questions contact Christa McCormick.



Gifts donated for the Giving Tree are due by Sunday, December 4th (not the 6th as has been printed in previous bulletin insets). We are sponsoring 17 children between our two churches again this year and appreciate any contribution (s) you

are able to make, whether it is a suggestion from a tag (s) on the tree or a monetary donation. These gifts go to children who otherwise may not experience one of the joys of the Christmas season. As coordinators of this mission, Sharon (570-971-3564) and Deanna (579-419-1730) can be contacted with questions or concerns.

Hanging of the Greens is December 4th during Worship service at Elimsport Church. We will be having fellowship time following the service. Please consider providing a snack for the treat table.



Kids 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

and his name shall be called
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.



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.