

# Valley Views



VOLUME 31, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2024



Pastor Dave Shultz

Welcome to Lent, I hope you have changed up your daily routine a bit for these six weeks. Perhaps you gave up something meaningful and used that time for prayer, devotional reading, and meditation. Maybe you added something like a Lenten devotional or a specific practice that helps you to reflect on the condition of your soul. We are invited to do this to have a season of preparation, so that we may enter into Holy week with a genuine attitude of repentance, mindful of our sin, and the extent of God's love for us revealed in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

We don't do this as some kind of religious obligation, but rather because we are hungry. Hungry for a deeper, more substantive relationship with God. Through these practices we learn to take serious our spiritual life. Through them we put into practice choosing to walk with Christ, learning to be his disciples, and allowing the Spirit to make us more like Jesus himself.

King David wrote of this yearning in his soul while he was in the wilderness. He begins Psalm 63 with these words:

O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

If we are honest, we too have a thirst and a hunger for God. We want to know that our lives have a purpose, that we are not alone, that we are loved, and that we are more than we may now know. In many ways Lent is an opportunity break the pattern of living on autopilot and do a reset. If we haven't made examining our souls and reviewing our spiritual lives a habit, it is then so easy to get caught up in the stuff of life and put our relationship with Jesus on the shelf. The biggest challenge for us then, is to see all this spiritual stuff as a real relationship and as we travel into Holy Week and Easter, we are offered a real opportunity to refocus our relationship with Christ.

This Lent I doubled down on my devotional life. I now begin my day with some affirmations of who I am in Christ. I listen to a devotional on my phone. Then I get out my journal and write down three things for which I am thankful from the past day. Then I will review yesterday and record where I felt the best version of me was on display, where I gave love, grace, or was genuinely caring. Or maybe it is simply what was going on in me, how I was feeling and even how I was talking with myself. Did I have a good attitude about me and what was going on with me and God that day?

Then I talk with God about all of it and see where the Spirit leads me. Something for which I am thankful is that the Spirit never guilts me, but at times I must have a time of confession, seeking to know the presence of the forgiveness of God. What the Spirit does in all this is to bring my hunger and thirst to the surface and invites me to drink of the water of life that flows from the throne of grace. This then leads me into prayer and praise, and I close with the Lord's prayer.

All this is made possible because of what Jesus did for us on the cross and in his resurrection from the grave. The days and weeks leading up to Easter present us with an opportunity once again to choose Christ by putting to death all that gets in the way of our following him and becoming like him. The Holy Spirit will aid us in this, but we must choose it and seek Christ.

Easter then is for us a day of victory, a day of personal resurrection from whatever tomb kept us, and we rise not alone, but with Christ, who then says to us, "This is the new life I promised to you, walk with me, and let me show you who to live in victory every day. Never look back! Keep focusing on me!"

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Dave

Here are some scriptures to help you focus your devotional life the remainder of the Lenten season.

Sunday, Mar. 3 – Exod. 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Sun., Mar. 10 – Num. 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

Sun., Mar. 17 – Jer. 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Sun., Mar. 24 – Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa. 50:4-9a; Phil. 2:5-11

Mon., Mar. 25 – Psalm 36:5-11; Isaiah 42:1-9; Heb. 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 26 – Psalm 71:1-14; Isaiah 49:1-7; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wed., Mar. 27 – Psalm 70; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Heb. 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thurs., Mar. 28 – Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Exodus 12:1-14; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Mar. 29 – Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Heb. 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Sat., Mar. 30 – Job 14:1-14; Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matt. 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Sun., Mar. 31 – Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-11; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

St. John's will have one more apple dumpling sale this winter. It will be March 13th and they can be picked up between 11AM-1PM. Apple dumplings are \$4.50. Anyone willing to help Gloria prepare them please let her know. Sign up sheets will be at the back of both churches. Thank you so much for your continued support!!!!



Good Friday Service at Elimsport UMC, 7pm, Friday, March 29

Easter Sunrise Service at St. John's UMC, 6:30am, Sunday, March 31

Also, a reminder that Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 10.



**Various means to keep updated:**

website: [evpumc.org](http://evpumc.org)

Face book: Elimsport United

Methodist Parish

Electronic sign at Elimsport church

email Pastor Dave: [dshultz@susumc.org](mailto:dshultz@susumc.org)

email church: [elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 April's newsletter are due March **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 Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 30th at 10 am at the ball-field.



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.

Sunday, March 10 is UMCOR Sunday, a special Sunday celebrated by the United Methodist Church to raise awareness and support for the ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This special offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.

UMCOR provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, basic necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees. UMCOR also works with annual conferences in the United States to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the US and its territories.

Last year, because of support on UMCOR Sunday, the United Methodist connection gave \$1.7 million. **100 percent** of this went towards supporting domestic and international disaster response, global migration, and relief supply ministries.



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Our churches, St. John's and Elimsport, will be collecting donations for nursing homes as our mission this Lenten season. We hope this will bring comfort, joy, and needed necessities to residents, especially those that have no visitors. Some ideas for donations are shampoo, soaps, lotions (It's suggested they be mild or a lighter fragrance), nail polish and/or remover, small ladies eye shadow makeup palettes, and fleece blankets (twin size). Arts and crafts supplies, coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, watercolor paints, washable tempera paints. Bibles, large print word search books, large print books (romance and mystery are popular), small white boards (8x11) and dry erase markers. Candy (individually wrapped smaller pieces) but not hard candy, Little Debbie cakes, small cans of soda, and small Bingo or game prizes. You may also give monetary donations to Christa or Sharon, and they will purchase items from the list. Please bring your donations to church during Lent and thank you for always thinking of others!

# 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

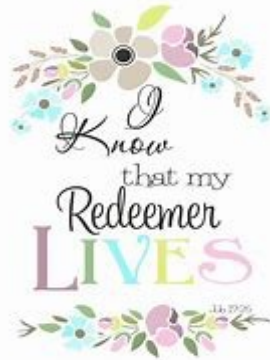
### Parish Website:

[www.evpumc.org](http://www.evpumc.org)

### Parish email:

[elimsportumc@gmail.com](mailto:elimsportumc@gmail.com)

[www.evpumc.org](http://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.