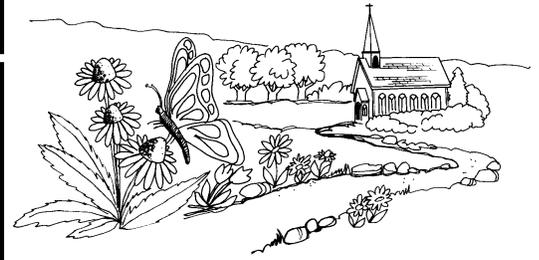
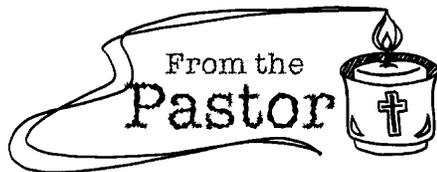


Valley Views



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3

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Pastor Dave Shultz

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus," 1 Timothy 2:5. In commenting on this verse John Wesley wrote in his notes:

"We could not rejoice that there is a God, were there not a Mediator also; one who stands between God and men, to reconcile man to God, and to transact the whole affair of our salvation."

On February 18, we entered the season of Lent, and our journey will culminate in Easter on April 5, yet its focus is on the cross, where we are called to a time of introspection, penance, and honesty.

I like what Dr. Ryan Danker; director of the John Wesley Institute writes. He says:

"It was Christ's work on the cross that ultimately put on full display his role as mediator. As fully human, Christ represents us, all that we bring. As fully God, he is able to accomplish what none of us ever could. We might spend the rest of our lives mining the depth of meaning attached to the cross, for it is on the cross that humanity's sin, its brokenness, and its depravity met the self-offering love of God himself."

"It is also on the cross, that we can see just how corrupt humanity has become and yet at the same time just how far divine intervention is willing to go to save us. The seriousness of sin and the unlimited love of God met there."

You might want to spend a little time with this and think on the lengths God has gone to save you and of God's unwavering willingness to do so. Yes, each of us is all a part of corrupt humanity. I witness it all the time, and all too often people who think of themselves as good persons who love God and want to serve him, and yet, treat one another in such a way that you would never know that. When I am around this, I think, *"Thank you Jesus for the cross, and how you made it so that we could die with you there."*

The cross of Jesus did a lot more than we often realize, he made it possible that we could die there too, that we could die to self and to the world. Paul tells us this in *Romans 6:6–8*, *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.* (See also, *Colossians 3:3*).

In Lent, this death, our death to sin is our focus. This is why we do Lent every year. As Dr. Danker wrote, “The seriousness of sin and the unlimited love of God met there.” Lent calls us to take our sin serious, because unless we do, we cannot begin to truly receive the unlimited love of God that each of us need to know freedom from sin and to daily to do life as new creations. We might believe that Jesus died for us and he did, but what death to our own self have we allowed ourselves to die? There will be many of these deaths. I think that is why Jesus tells us, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me” (*Luke 9:23*).

Ask God to bring to the surface what in you must die. Ask what is getting in the way of your living as his new creation. Review your day, your week, or even the past month. Where have you withheld love or grace? Where have you pushed for your own way? As a result, have you not respected or loved another, and where have you not received or welcomed the love and grace of another?

Those are just a few. Ask for guidance in understanding the situation better, ask forgiveness and repent. Then pray and meditate on how to respond differently. Practice it in your mind and pray that you may respond in a Christ-like way.

The cross changes everything, even you. The joy and celebration of Easter then, is the rejoicing that happens when you realize that a resurrection and a transformation of self has occurred. Not only do we die with Christ, we are also raised with him. As Paul writes in *Colossians 3:1*, *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above. Give it a try and see what happens.*

Blessings,
Pastor Dave



Your generous donation touched lives you may never see, sharing love, joy & comfort to local children & families in need this past Christmas.

Thank You,

The Montgomery Christmas Committee

St. John's and Elimsport will once again be collecting items for two local nursing homes. This will be our Spring Mission and we will be accepting donations through March. Some ideas for donations:

1. Soaps, lotions, body wash, and shampoo (It's suggested they have a mild scent or fragrance free). Nail polish/ remover, eye shadow, or hair accessories.
2. Arts and Craft supplies such as crayons, colored pencils, coloring books, dry erase markers and erasers, watercolor paint sets, and glue/glue sticks.
3. Large print Bibles and books, easy crosswords, word finds, and puzzle books.
4. Games, cards, and 100 piece puzzles
5. Individually wrapped smaller pieces of candy in bags, Little Debbie cakes, small cans of soda, and small Bingo prizes.
6. Last year we had some donations of beautiful handmade walker bags, and they were a big hit!

Sharon and Christa will accept monetary donations to purchase items if that is more convenient for donating.

LUKE 9:23
Deny yourself
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS
follow Me

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 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 9:00 am**. Please

note time change.

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 VBS meeting on Sunday, March 1st at 3pm. Please mark your calendars to attend.



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



Happy
St. Patrick's Day

And we know that in all things God works for
the good of those who love him, who have
been called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

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.