



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**FEBRUARY 2019**

### **Pastor Brad's Message**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)*

**“Why do bad things happen to good people?”**

**OR**

**“Why does God let bad things happen to good people?”**

Have you ever been asked one or both of these questions before? Have you ever been the one asking? Or even asked yourself? I've been the asker and recipient several times over to both questions. Usually the question never leaves my mind, but there have been rare occasions when I have asked a family member, friend, or mentor. Do you know what the common thread is? What happens every time, regardless of who is involved or how, is an unsatisfying answer. I have honestly never heard someone give an answer to this issue that made me feel God's strength, love, control, and compassion equally and deeply across the board. You have to favor one side, God as strong and in control or God as loving and compassionate, in order to try and justify things.

Why do we want to know why? Is there comfort in the facts or details? Imagine if God somehow sat you down and somehow explained to you all the reasons and rationale for every tragedy and failure in your life. That would be the worst day of my life. There's no spreading it out or sugar-coating things to make it any better. Knowing the why of terrible things won't bring change or healing, so what's to be done with them?

I like how, far better than why. I know I am excellent at dwelling on the past, whether I somehow brought it on myself or something horrible just happened. What I need is a next step or two, to have God give me some kind of push to get myself going again. This doesn't excuse trials and tribulations or the long-term pain that they can bring.

In my mind, this illustrates the reality of life and how willing God is to be present with us right now, even when things are so bad that no one else is able to stand that close to us. It is important for us to acknowledge the burdens and scars we carry around with us from the world we live in. They happened, they've left their mark, but the good news is that they don't define us or our story. They certainly are a part of it, but they ultimately point to the redemptive work of God's grace and how needed it is in our life. It points to God's grace in our life so that, if we let it and answer the call, our lives can point to the presence of God in this world for others also. That is the ultimate how at work here and where our next steps from tragedy can lead.

As Christ reaches out to all of His children with His pierced hands, out of love, we can reach to those in need around us with hands and hearts that have weathered so much because of who God is and wants to be for us all. May we all strive to reach as far and wide as our savior who showed divine strength through human weakness and brought the joy of everlasting life from the depth of grief and loss.

Blessings, Pastor Brad

## **Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church**

This month the Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> through February 26<sup>th</sup> in St. Louis, Missouri. The General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, meaning that it is the body that can officially make decisions and speak for the denomination as a whole. Through this the General Conference is tasked with coming to a final decision regarding how our denomination is going to relate to LGBT+ persons through our doctrine and practice. The General Conference will be examining paragraphs in The Book of Discipline (the UMC's constitution) that currently prohibit practicing homosexual persons from being ordained, considered for ministry, prohibit UMC clergy from officiating same sex weddings, and prohibit same sex weddings from happening in United Methodist Churches.

After Coffee and Conversation this month, Coffee with the Pastor will not be happening as usual in Wesley Hall. At roughly 10:30 AM in the sanctuary we will have a final time of review, discussion, asking, and praying about the General Conference that will be happening that Friday. Anyone is invited to this time and all are encouraged to ask whatever questions they have. In an upcoming e-mail newsletter there will be more information from the conference and denomination about this special meeting, including instructions on how to watch it online for those who desire to do so.

The next regularly scheduled General Conference (it typically meets every four years) will be happening May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The next gathering of our Annual Conference, where the results of the General Conference will be dealt with locally, will be from May 30-June 1, 2019 up in Wilmington. Throughout this time and after if you have any questions or would like to talk to Pastor Brad about any part of this he is available by phone, e-mail, or in his office by appointment.

Blessings, Pastor Brad

## **February Worship Series "Be in God's Attitude" A Look at the Beatitudes**

Week 1 - 02/03 - The Kingdom is Yours'  
Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Matthew 5:3-4

Week 2 - 02/10 - Be Filled with Your Inheritance  
Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 and Matthew 5:5-6

Week 3 - 02/17 - See with Your Heart  
Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10 and Matthew 5:7-8

Week 4 - 02/24 - Working From (and toward)  
Righteousness  
Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 and Matthew 5:9-10

Week 5 - 03/03 - Measured by Your Light  
Readings: Exodus 34:29-35 and Matthew 5:11-12

### **Dover District Events**

For questions or comments, contact:  
Amy Willey Administrative Assistant  
(302) 526-2629

### **February 9 - Authentic Relationships Workshop**

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

(Registration opens at 8:00)

Seaford-Reliance Gethsemane UMC  
2701 Woodland Ferry Road, Seaford

### **February 23 - Lay Leadership Training**

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Avenue UMC, Milford

### **Our Financial Health: ...A Blessed 2018**

God truly blessed us in 2018. As of December 31, worship giving was \$167,028, more than \$11,000 over our budgeted estimate. Our Wesley Hall mortgage balance was \$70,188.35, compared to the balance on January 1, 2018 of \$117,099. This pay down was due in large part to special donations by members of \$23,696, and \$6,230 from the yard sale. The generosity of our church family is overwhelming, and our prayer is that God will continue to inspire us make good use of His gifts.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman



## Worship Service Cancellation

In the event of inclement weather, call church office (302) 539-9077 for voicemail message about worship service status.

## Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status

Balance on 12/31/2018.....	\$70,188.35
Special Donation by Members.....	\$ 720.00
Payment from Gen. and Mem. Fund...	\$ 11,000
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	<u>\$ 1,221.14</u>
Balance on 1/24/2019.....	\$57,247.21

We are thankful for the generosity of all of our church family who are going the extra mile to remove our indebtedness. Our plan is to reach mortgage payoff by January 2021. Given the present balance of \$57,247.21, and twenty-three month to get there, I am optimistic that we will reach that goal.

Rich Spina

## Trustees Report

Sanctuary Security: We are still in the process of determining how, and when, and where we should provide protection for persons who are within our facilities if an armed intruder attempts to enter and threaten their lives. We will engage local law enforcement to arrange for training for reaction to an armed intruder. Other initiatives may be considered in the future.

Audio System: Earlier this year, we acquired new microphones, which seem to be working quite well. We have received a proposal to accomplish improvements to other components of the audio system and are evaluating implementation.

Street Lights: We have received a proposal to add an additional street light to the parking lot, and will be awarding that contract in the next few weeks.

Sanctuary Projection System: we have received a proposal to replace the projection system in the sanctuary with a large-screen TV. We will be evaluating that proposal, and are arranging for a demonstration to ensure effectiveness.

Rich Spina, Chairman, Trustees

## Missions Update

Please prayerfully consider your missions giving, especially on Communion Sunday, so we can do more to care for our local needs. Ellen Hitchens

## United Methodist Women's Group Tuesday, February 5th @ 10:00 am

Our first meeting of the year will be on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am, please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the meeting. We will be discussing the upcoming years events and new mission projects. Dues are still \$15.00; please see Lois Lathbury, Treasurer before or after the meeting. Dues can be paid by cash or check written to Millville UMW. If you have never been to a UMW meeting and would like to see what we are all about, ladies please join us in fellowship and friendship. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680 or 443-668-8067.

## Cleaning Wesley Hall Chairs Thursday, February 7th @ 12:00 pm

On Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> the Wesley Hall chairs will be cleaned by Brasure's, we will prepare for their arrival right after the 9:00 Bible study. Please don't enter the hall until Friday noon. This will give the chairs time to dry and for us time to set the hall back up. Thank you, Donna Binaut

## Special Events

### Pot Luck Dinner

**Pot Luck on Sunday, February 3 at 4:30 PM.** Our main dish will be Italian Cuisine. Please bring your favorite side dish and a friend(s). Leave after you eat to watch the Super Bowl! Contact Elizabeth Skinner with any questions.

## A Choir Note

We welcome all who can sing to join our choir. We practice in Wesley Hall on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Sunday morning before church at 8:30 AM. Come one, come all – use your God-given talents to serve the Lord!  
Elizabeth Skinner

## Fit for Life

Each Tuesday at 9:00 AM join in the fun and get healthy at the same time, as Carol leads us in “gentle exercise.” Everyone is welcome!  
Carol Gorden, Instructor

## Aging Faithfully Cookie Bingo

There will be no cookie bingo in February and March. We will resume the second Tuesday in April – April 9<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you all then. Come and bring a friend for a lot of fun and laughter – and cookies!  
Contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284 with any questions. **Note:** If you have ideas for future programs for **Aging Faithfully**, and would like to help with planning events, contact Connie Warner at 539-7488

## Coffee and Conversation Sunday, February 17

Everyone is welcome to join in for a time of fellowship and refreshments, followed by a discussion of “The Way Forward.” This is a time for questions and answers led by Pastor Brad. This gathering will be held in place of Pastor’s Coffee/Bible Study.

**Note:** Coffee and Conversation is the third Sunday of each month. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table. There will be a place for 5 or 6 of us to put our name and what we’ll be bringing for the upcoming Coffee and Conversation Sunday. We’re only talking about 12 Sundays a year so maybe you’d like to sign up 3 or 4 times, or every month, or whatever would work for you. It really is a fun time to be together and share for just a little while! Please think about looking at the sheet this Sunday and signing up. Nancy Bowers

## Weekly Happenings at Millville

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Tuesday	Covenant Bible Study	11:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wednesday	Pastor’s Book Club	11:00 AM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
Thursday	Bible Study	9:00 AM
Thursday Eve	Pastor Brad’s Home:	
	Covenant Bible Study	7:00 PM
Saturday	Praise Service	6:00 PM
Sunday	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee/Bible Study w/Pastor Brad	10:30 AM

## Pastor Brad’s Office Schedule

<b>Monday</b>	<b>By Appointment</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 4:30 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 3:30 PM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 4:00 PM</b>

If you’d like to make an appointment, need a pastoral visit or help, or want to talk to him for any other reason, you can contact him by email, phone or text.

## ~ Monthly Meetings~

UMW	Tuesday, Feb. 5, 10:00 AM
Finance Comm.	No meeting in February
Trustees	Monday, Feb. 11, 7:00 PM
Admin. Council	Monday, Feb. 18, 7:00 PM
SPPRC	No meeting in February

## Small Groups -Weekly

**Coffee with Pastor Brad** - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. A time to study and discuss the primary Scripture reading and message from worship that day. If you have ever had any questions about Pastor Brad’s message or wanted to talk more about the reading of the day, this is your place to ask, share and grow. The third Sunday this month will be dedicated to discussing the possible changes facing the Methodist Church. Everyone is invited.

**Covenant Bible Study** - Our Tuesday Covenant Bible Study will continue with Unit 2 of the program. Anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

Our Thursday Covenant Bible Study will continue Unit 2 of the program. Anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

**Pastor's Book Club** – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. We will be studying “United Methodism in America: A Brief History” edited by John G. McEllhenney.

**Thursday Bible Study** – Meets at 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Donald Maeby

## **Missions**

### **Instructions to Donate to UMCOR:**

Make check payable to: Millville United Methodist Church and note UMCOR on memo line.

**NOTE: US Disaster Response**  
Advance # 901670

**NOTE: Relief for Refugees in Europe Disaster Response, International**  
Advance # 982450

### **Remember To Bring Donations For:** **Salem UMC Food Pantry**

#### **Lord Baltimore Elementary School** **Student Assistance Program**

**Items needed:** Backpack food items  
Weekend Snacks  
Kleenex tissues

**Needed all year:** Construction paper  
Glue Sticks  
#2 pencils

## **Ministries**

### **To activate the Prayer Chain**

Call Nancy Bowers at 1-410-598-5600  
or email [nanbowers4@comcast.net](mailto:nanbowers4@comcast.net)

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Pocket Prayer Shawl is meant to bring comfort, love, and knowing that prayers have been asked for whomever touches this tiny piece of yarn. It can be carried in a pocket, purse, or pinned to a loved ones pillow. The Pocket Prayer Shawl can be tucked into a card and mailed across country or across an ocean. Please include your prayers when giving it to someone.

We now have available, Pocket Prayer Shawls. They are located at the back of the church sanctuary in a small basket. The full size Prayer Shawls are still located in Wesley Hall, in the wooden chest. Bless someone today with your smile. Please contact Sharon Graham @ 537-0772 with any questions.

### **“Loving Care”**

If you need a helping hand, please contact Nancy Bowers 1-410-598-5600 or email [nanbowers4@comcast.net](mailto:nanbowers4@comcast.net)

### **Feed My Sheep - Soup Kitchen**

Thursday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Mariner's Bethel UMC

### **Volunteers for ACTS are needed!**

Fill out an Application at 34634 Atlantic Ave., Ocean View (Phone 539-3513).

### **Prayer at the Beach!** **Wednesday, 8:30 AM**

During the winter months, we will share a time of prayer, fellowship, and breakfast at the South Bethany Beach McDonalds on Rt 1.



## **Saturday Praise and Worship Service** **6:00 PM at Wesley Hall**

Every Saturday evening there is an informal fellowship here at Millville UMC. We open our service with singing - both hymns and praise music. Our service continues with a special time of sharing our joys and concerns, followed by prayer. Each week we are blessed with a message from the scriptures and from the heart by one of our speakers:

Week 1 – Janet Smith

Week 2 – Pastor Brad

Week 3 – Lori Ciccanti

Week 4 – Donald Maebly

Week 5 – As needed: Janet Smith  
Donald Maebly  
Lou Ciccanti

Following the service, we visit and enjoy coffee and dessert together. Join us and bring a friend!

### **Notes of Gratitude**

*A Special thank you to my Millville Church Family for the monetary gift at Christmas. It is with much appreciation and gratitude, and I thank you very much. I look forward to serving you in spirit and in song and may God Bless the musical Blessings we have here at Millville Church.*  
*Blessings, Barb*

*A heartfelt thank you to my MUMC Family for remembering me at Christmas. Your gift was deeply appreciated and I am grateful to be able to serve God and this congregation as we work together to further His work. I thank God for guiding me to Millville.*  
*In Christ's Love, Marilyn*

### **~Special Notes~**

**Happy Birthday Bob Chin** (February 23). Bob is a long-time member of our church family who was instrumental in getting the construction of Wesley Hall started.

#### **Elder Care/Companion**

Elder Care/Companion Care Available. If interested, please call Alice @ 845-596-6700.

Alice is a friend of Lois Lathbury. You may contact Lois with any questions. (Cell phone) 302-745-2111. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board.

### **February Note on the Yard Sale**

Hopefully, all the Christmas clutter has been organized and put away for another year. If there were decorations you have put aside to donate to the yard sale and/or bazaar, please pack them in a box or a tub and store them at home until spring. You will be able to bring them to the church garage as soon as I return in April. I'm hoping to bring a little organization to our collection of treasures. Please do not place items in the garage this winter. February is a great month for getting into your closets. Santa probably brought many of you a new necklace, earrings, or bracelets. Maybe he left a new purse, wallet, or scarf. Please think about donating any of those accessories you no longer use. In March there will be a box in the back of the church to collect jewelry. Please place each piece in a sandwich bag (keeps things from tangling). If it is broken, please slip a little note into the bag. We'll try to fix it, or sell it in with a big bag of beads. If anything is 14K gold please put a note into the bag. If you have just one gold earring or a broken chain, please donate them. Each year we have made over \$100 from bits and pieces of 14K jewelry. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE bring your jewelry donations asap! Jewelry takes little room to store and can be cleaned, mounted, and priced as it arrives well before we start filling the main room in July. Costume jewelry and accessories probably brings in close to \$1000. Last year we had approximately 450 pieces. Talk to your friends and relatives about costume jewelry. Everybody has it, everybody tires of it, everybody wants something different. Thanks for your help on this.

Kathy Cropper

### **Address Updates**

Kaylene Lasbury  
5 Maureen Street  
New Castle, DE 19720  
302 537-7717

Roger & Shirley Howard  
1262 Coburg Village Way  
Rexford, NY 12148

## CHURCH INFORMATION



**If you have questions regarding:**

- ~ Scheduling Requests for use of Wesley Hall~
- ~ Flowers on the Altar~
- ~ Prayer List Additions or Correction~

Please contact Marilyn Ferry (539-9598) or email [wingferry@aol.com](mailto:wingferry@aol.com)

### **Keeping Wesley Hall Clean**

After completion of any activities and events that take place in the Wesley Hall at which food has been served, please make sure that the Hall is left as you found it. Thank you for helping keep our Wesley Hall clean. Many hands make light work.

Donna Binaut

### **Church Supplies Needed**

We are currently in need of the following supplies for Wesley Hall:

- 4 gallon trash bags
- tri-fold paper towels

### **Fire Extinguisher Locations:**

#### **Sanctuary**

- \*Immediately inside the front entrance
- \*Inside the entrance to the choir room/lavatory area.

#### **Wesley Hall**

- \*Immediately inside office entrance
- \*Immediately inside Main Hall entrance
- \*Conference Room front porch entrance

## **Defibrillator Locations:**

### **Sanctuary**

**In the Choir Room at the entrance to the Sanctuary**

### **Wesley Hall**

**In the Main Hall at the handicapped ramp entrance**

Millville United Methodist Church  
36405 Club House Road  
Millville, DE 19967

Church Phone (302) 539-9077

Pastor Brad Schutt (302) 249-2337

Church e-mail:

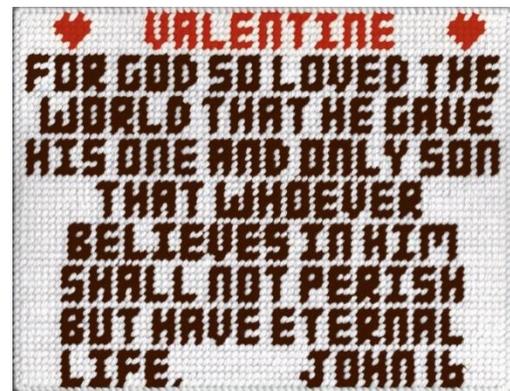
[millvillechurchwesley@yahoo.com](mailto:millvillechurchwesley@yahoo.com)

Church website:

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

Please contact your Dove editors, Marilyn Ferry and/or Rich Spina at the above church e-mail address for submission of future articles or suggestion to improve content.

The editors offer a special thanks to Connie Warner, who, among all her other church “jobs,” assembles the Dove Newsletter for distribution and mailing.



 *Happy*  
*Valentine's Day*