



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**AUGUST 2018**

### **Message From Pastor Brad**

#### **Why Church?**

Have you ever spent time asking yourself why you are a part of a church? You can phrase this question in the context of our specific church or church in general. Why be a part of this church thing at this point in your life? One could make the argument that being a part of church is very necessary in your early years of life, and especially your early days as a Christian. Going to church is almost a reflex, or a given, for the generations represented in our congregation. That being so, I'm sure you have plenty of friends and family who have given the practice up. In 2 Thessalonians 2:15 it says, "brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teaching we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter" (NIV). Could you do that by yourself?

We live in a time where you can receive just about everything you would from a church service without leaving your home. You can find whole worship services on certain channels and only preaching or worship performances on others. If you're looking for new church music, there are always plenty of new CD's coming out and you can even watch my sermons online. So why make the effort? I hope you have an answer to that question! In fact, I'm sure all of you do. Even if you cannot express it right away with words, it's buried in there somewhere. If you didn't, I doubt you would ever come back to church. Please don't worry or get down on yourself if you can't say anything right away or your answer may not seem all that deep or spiritual. Honestly, I make sure to periodically reflect on this myself.

I know that if I don't have a clear answer that speaks to wherever I am currently at in faith

and life, then it will show on Sunday morning. My answer to "Why Church?" for myself does shift and change a little from time to time. For me personally I believe that is part of the beauty and power of being a part of a church. What it is to me, what I need from it, and what it gives to me has changed and grown over time. Are you still looking at church the same way you did ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago? Are you expecting it to give you the things you needed from it then? Because if you are, current you may be a bit lost and hungry. I encourage you to look upon our church with the eyes and heart of today so that you can re-evaluate and re-commit yourself to it as you are.

All of this leads to a challenge I've put upon myself that I'm now passing along to you. Imagine if we took church more seriously. Don't worry, hellfire and brimstone aren't around the corner. This is phrased more in the words of 1 Corinthians 10:31 which says, "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (NIV). This is also not an outright call to do more or give more, but if you feel led to God will receive that greater offering. Doing more just for the sake of doing more won't get any of us very far. As Matthew 6:7 says, "when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words" (NIV). Heaping more on until things look good won't answer these questions.

I encourage all of us to go deeper and look at the heart of the matter. I won't give you the answer here, but there are many to choose from. All I'm asking is that you look inward and ask yourself why you are here, why have you chosen to be a part of our church family. What do you need right now, and what might you need in the future? What do you think our community needs that our church can offer? If you are put in a situation where you can invite someone to our church, what are you inviting

them to? To best serve God and our neighbor, I believe we need to have answers to all of this. Ultimately it is God who brings us together. Whatever the specifics may look like for each of you I am eternally grateful and blessed you have been led to be a part of our church family.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brad

### **Summer Vacation for Sunday School**

Our Children’s Sunday School will be going on break from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. May our teachers, volunteers, and children enjoy the vacationing, travelling, and other fun of summer!

### **Nominations Update**

At our last Lay Leadership and Development Committee meeting the group put together, through prayer and careful discernment, a list of people we believe are equipped and able to serve on the various committees and ministries of the church. Those who were chosen will be receiving letters in the mail over the summer and have the opportunity to talk with Pastor Brad.

### **New Members**

Our church will be receiving new members every year on All Saint’s Sunday in November and on Pentecost Sunday in the Spring. In order to join the membership of the church a person will need to complete a 6-week course called A Disciple’s Path, a class based on the membership vows of the United Methodist Church. This class will be offered prior to both Sundays. If you are interested in joining Millville UMC we would love for you to do so! Contact Pastor Brad to work out the details and sign up for the class.

### **Church Renewal Team**

Do you have hopes and dreams for our church? Do you want to see Millville United Methodist Church bring the Kingdom of God out into the world around us? Do you feel like the Lord is leading you to help our church deepen its spiritual foundation, remember the value and meaning of

gathering as the church, and be organized around God’s vision for us? If any of those questions speak to you, we would love to have you join our new Church Renewal Team. We will meet at 7:00 PM on July 30<sup>th</sup> to have discussions about our church’s mission, vision, values, and how we can practically organize and carry them out through all the goings on of our church. If you are interested in being a part of this group, e-mail Pastor Brad.

### **Arise! Early Morning Prayer**

Our early morning prayer service will be happening one day a week, Thursdays, at 5:30 AM in the sanctuary. Join us any week for as long as you’d like to stay. We will have a brief, informal worship service followed by a time of praying. See you there!

### **Our Financial Health ...Looking Better**

As we start the second half of the year our financial situation is looking better. As of July 22<sup>nd</sup> our worship giving is almost \$4,000 greater than our budget for 2018. At the end of June, our expenses exceeded our budget by almost \$7,700, due in large measure to the cost of the recent replacement of air conditioning in the sanctuary Mac Room. We are very appreciative of a special donation towards that expense by two of our very generous members. We have faith that God will continue to provide for our needs.



### **Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status**

Balance on 6/30/2018.....\$106,090.85  
Special Donation by Members.....\$365.00  
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....\$1,074.40  
Balance on 7/23/2018.....\$104,651.45

Special donations towards mortgage reduction by members of our church family are always very much appreciated.

## **In Appreciation**

Three years ago, someone approached the trustees with concerns regarding the sanctuary lighting being insufficient and the fixtures outdated. The trustees were aware that the 700 watt bulbs were becoming hard to find for replacement, too. So the trustees gathered estimates and chose preferred fixtures and informed the congregation. There were several people who came forward with donations to purchase the chandeliers in memory of a loved one.

We have placed a plaque in the back of the church commemorating those individuals who made the purchase of new lights possible.

On behalf of the trustees and the congregation, we thank each and every one for their support.

Joe Skinner, Trustee

## **Memorial Brick Pavers**

We are ordering the pavers again in September. If you want to order, do it now. Just fill out the necessary form located on the table at the back of the church or in Wesley Hall. Follow the instructions on the form and return the form, with your check, to Donna Binaut or Joe Skinner.

## **Special Events**

### **United Methodist Women's Group**

We will not be holding UMW meetings in the summer, so that our ladies may enjoy their summer with family and friends. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am. We will be discussing the upcoming Christmas Bazaar, missions and other fun future events. 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.

## **2018 UMW Bake Sales**

A huge thank you to Lois Lathbury and Rosemary Spina for helping me host our end of July bake sale.

Our next events...

Friday, August 31 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Drop off Bake goods for pricing)

**Saturday, September 1 – 8:00 am to \*11:30ish (Last Bake Sale)**

I want to personally thank all of those who go out of their way to make the UMW Bake Sales so amazing and successful. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680 or 443-668-8067.

## **Church Picnic**

**July 29, 2:00 PM (note date/time change)  
at Skinner's home  
31155 Vines Creek Rd., Dagsboro, De. 19939  
302-732-9684**

Bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs. Everything else will be provided, including Joe's Famous Dogs. Sharing rides would be helpful due to limited parking. We are looking forward to a blessed time together. Come and join us!

Joe & Elizabeth

## **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 will **not** be held in August. Please contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284 with any questions. If you're looking for a good time with lots of laughs, join us at the next event.

**Please note:** If you have ideas for future programs for Aging Faithfully, or if you would like to help with planning events, contact Connie Warner at 539-7488

## Annual Yard Sale



As I am sure you know by now, our annual yard sale will be held on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:15 AM to 11:15 AM. A flyer describing our need for donations was included in the Sunday service bulletin for July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additional flyers will be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. We are going to start a little earlier than the 8:00 AM time noted in the flyer.

In addition to items listed in the flyer, we are looking for everyday dishes, eating utensils, tools and hardware, sporting goods, bicycles in good condition, more jewelry, perfume in spray bottles.

Finally, I would love to have more help, especially on sale day. If you would be willing to spare some time, either setting up, or on sale day, please contact me at (302) 381-8444 by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you in advance for your help.

Kathy Cropper

## Weekly Happenings at Millville

### Pastor Brad's Schedule

Pastor Brad is normally in the office on Tuesdays. He'll be in the office Monday through Thursday at various times. If you would like to stop by and see Pastor Brad on any of those days, please call or e-mail in advance so he can prepare accordingly and give you his undivided attention.

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.

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Worship on the Beach	8:30 AM
	Bible Study	11:00 AM
	*Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
Thursday	Bible Study	9:00 AM
Saturday	Praise Service	6:00 PM
Sunday	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee/Bible Study	
	With Pastor Brad	10:30 AM
	*Choir on break until September	

## Monthly Meetings

**The first meeting of the Church Renewal Team will be held on Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.**

Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will meet Monday, August 6th, 7:00 PM

The following committees will not meet in August: UMW, Trustees, Finance and Administrative Council. All meetings will resume in September.

## Small Groups -Weekly

**Coffee with Pastor Brad** - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. We will be reading the shorter books of the New Testament throughout the beginning of 2018.

**Wesley Wednesday Group** – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. Our group is reading and discussing the book If Saddlebags Could Talk: Methodist Stories and Anecdotes by Frederick E. Maser. This is a book about the leaders, lives and circuit riders of early American Methodism and promises to be an interesting journey into our denominational roots. This book can be purchased wherever books are sold online. Everyone is invited to join in!

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

## 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

Donations will resume in September

## 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).

## Worship at the Beach!

Every Wednesday at 8:30 AM  
Bethany Beach @ Campbell Place

~A time of worship and fellowship on the beach~  
Bring a chair or a towel and join with folks from other churches and the community for a casual and traditional worship service. Pastor Brad, other clergy and community members will be delivering messages every week before we pray together. Everyone is invited to join us for more fellowship and breakfast at the Bethany Beach McDonalds.



## 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. It's a relaxing way to finish the end of the week with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Join us and invite a friend or neighbor to come along!

### **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)

### **~Special Notes~**

**During the summer months, the choir will enjoy some vacation time. We will be blessed each Sunday with special music by choir members.**

**Reminder....**Coffee and Conversation will take place the third Sunday of each month immediately following the Worship Service. Everyone is welcome for a time of fellowship and an opportunity to greet our visitors.

### **Hall & Church Refrigerators**

Both refrigerators will be cleaned out at the end of each month. Please take all leftover food and beverages when you leave an event. **Only unopened containers, and containers specifically marked, will be kept.** Thank you. UMW

### **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.



### **CHURCH INFORMATION**

#### **Fire Extinguisher Locations:**

**Fire extinguishers are located immediately inside the front entrance, and the inside entrance to the choir room/ lavatory area.**

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.

**Thoughts by Max Lucado**  
**Shared by Marianne Smith**

Jesus made his fears public. He “offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death” (Heb. 5:7 NIV). He prayed loudly enough to be heard and recorded and he begged his community of friends to pray with him.

His prayer in the garden becomes, for Christians, a picture of the church in action – a place where fears can be verbalized, pronounced, stripped down and denounced; an escape from the “wordless darkness” of suppressed frights. A healthy church is where our fears go to die. We pierce them through with Scripture, psalms of celebration and lament. We melt them in the sunlight of confession. We extinguish them with the waterfall of worship, choosing to gaze at God, not our dreads.

*Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.*

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful --  
The Lord God made them all!*

*By Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander (1848)*

