

MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE DOVE

DECEMBER 2017

Message From Pastor Brad

Not Yet

Around this time of year for at least the last several years that I can remember, when all things Christmas begin to appear everywhere, something else catches momentum in a lot of Christian circles. Have you ever been faced with talk about the “War on Christmas”? Countless people, churches, and other organizations have used this phrase as a rallying cry against the overwhelming secularization of Christmas in our world.

It is true that we live in a culture where countless people and families celebrate this holiday with no mention or awareness of Christ. Kids and youth can spend their whole adolescence thinking Santa Claus is the reason for this season. The greatest gift this world has even been given, Jesus Christ, is overshadowed by piles and piles of stuff. I would say these are all valid points and issues we need to deal with individually and with others. Before you take up the struggle against any war on Christmas, I have one question for you. What about Advent? Do we care enough about Advent to put up a fight for it and make it more a part of our lives?

We as followers of Christ, those who know His story and have inherited the faith and practices of generations of believers before us, can do more with the season of Advent. Christmas is coming, we all know, but we are blessed to have a whole season in the church beforehand to prepare ourselves to more fully receive the coming Messiah. I’ve spent some time trying to find something or someone that best expresses Advent to me, and the Lord led me to John the Baptist.

In the first chapter of Luke’s Gospel we read about a powerful moment between Mary, Elizabeth, and the not yet born John. Verse 41 says that when, “Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit” (NIV). Matthew 3:2 introduces us to the

grown-up John the Baptist who proclaimed this message, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” (NIV). Through his ministry John fulfilled the words of Isaiah 40:3 that describes, “A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (NIV). I don’t know about you, but I could certainly do more of this in my life.

Before Jesus there was John. Before Christ offered Himself, humanity was led into repentance. Advent calls us into a time of holy preparation before we approach the manger and the star. May we take the time God has set before and do the work in ourselves and with each other He is enabling us to do so that we may fully join in with all heaven and nature singing in praise. Christmas is coming, but until then I wish you all a blessed and meaningful Advent.

In Christ’s Hope,
Pastor Brad

Pastor Brad’s e-mail: umcpastorbrad@outlook.com
Pastor Brad’s cell phone: 302-249-2337 (You Can Call or Text)

Now It’s Your Turn!

In 2018 Pastor Brad would like to see two new small groups started in our church, preferably one that meets in Wesley Hall and one that meets at someone’s house. Since coming up and leading a small group by yourself can be a daunting task for many people, Pastor Brad is letting anyone who is interested use the small group resources he has.

These are all DVD based small group studies that he has the videos for and in most cases, a leader’s manual, and some participant guides. These studies require a leader’s book and

participant book, in addition to Bibles. If you are interested in borrowing any of these resources and using them to start your own group, please call or e-mail Pastor Brad. Thank you for helping guide the spiritual life of our church!

- Adam Hamilton - Revival
- Mike Slaughter - First
- Rob Bell - Nooma (a series of short video conversation starters)
- What Does it Mean to be United Methodist?
- Max Lucado - Fearless
- Max Lucado - Outlive Your Life
- The Story (done in partnership with Max Lucado)
- Francis Chan - Crazy Love
- Faith Commander (a study done by Duck Commander)
- Believe (done in partnership with Max Lucado)

Home Communion & Visitations

Pastor Brad is putting out an open invitation to submit names for anyone who would like to receive communion at home, but is unable to attend our church or any church. They do not have to be a member of our church or any other congregation to receive communion where they are. This can include friends, family members, or neighbors who are homebound or at a local rehabilitation or nursing home center. If there is a person in your life who has indicated they would appreciate this kind of visit, please submit their full name, address, phone number, and any other contact information to the church through e-mail or a written note. Also, please indicate whether they would like a layperson to visit them, only the pastor, or if either one would be okay.

It is Pastor Brad’s hope and vision to expand the caring and visitation ministries of our church beyond him to include as many laypeople from our church as are willing. Some members of our church expressed their interest in doing this some time ago, but we are going to make a more concerted effort to train and send out the laypeople of our church to provide home visits for communion, prayer, and fellowship. If you feel led to participate in this ministry, please let Pastor Brad know by e-mail or written note.

Our Financial Health:Praise God

With one month to go in our budget year....wow! Your generosity is overwhelming. After the third Sunday in November, the margin between what we budgeted for worship giving and actual giving is \$10,952. Furthermore, at the end of October, the difference between our worship giving and actual expenses is around \$11,800.

That being said, the finance committee has recommended, and the administrative council approved, putting an additional \$4,000 against the Wesley Hall mortgage, and increasing our capital reserve fund by \$2,000. Also, we will start work on replacing the splintered railings on the handicapped ramp to the sanctuary. We had planned that project, but were holding off to see how are financial situation looked.

The Administrative Council approved a 2018 budget of \$155,780. This budget is about 4% greater than 2017, and represents the confidence the council has in your continued generosity. Copies of the budget are available at the rear of the sanctuary for your information. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding our finances.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman

Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status

Balance on 10/30/2017.....	\$128,250.84.
Special Donation by Members.....	\$350.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	\$951.97
End-of-Year Payment	\$4,000.00
Balance on 11/21/2017.....	\$122,948.87

The Administrative Council authorized a special end-of-year payment from the General Fund. You can help reduce the mortgage balance and avoid interest in several ways: by special donation using a pew envelope, or by placing your donation in a basket at the rear of the sanctuary marked “Mortgage Reduction.” Some of our members have made a special donation in honor of, or in memory of someone special in their lives. Thank you in advance for your support.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman

Special Events

Hanging of the Greens **Saturday, December 2nd** **4:00 PM**

Everyone is WELCOME to come and help prepare our Sanctuary for the Advent Season. Please bring your favorite “snack” or Christmas dessert to share.

Join us for some fun, food, fellowship and a time of praise following the decorating of our church. See you there!

Potluck Dinner **Sunday, December 3rd** **4:30 PM**

This is the last potluck of 2017! Bring your favorite dish and a friend and enjoy a special time of fellowship. Call Elizabeth Skinner at 302-732-9684 for further information

UMW Christmas Luncheon **Tuesday, December 5th** **12:00 PM**

All ladies of Millville United Methodist Church are invited to the Christmas luncheon, which will be held at the Cottage Café in Bethany Beach. Please RSVP to Carol Gorden by signing the list in church or call 410-530-3002 by November 30. Members of the UMW may invite guests.

Aging Faithfully **AARP Christmas Concert** **Wesley Hall** **Tuesday, December 12th** **11:00 AM**

If you want to get into the Christmas spirit, please come and enjoy the wonderful sounds of the season. Both sacred and secular music will be performed by the local AARP choral group. Following the concert, we will enjoy a pizza lunch. Come and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.

Please note: Aging Faithfully—Cookie Bingo will resume in January. If you have ideas for future programs or would like to help with planning events, contact Connie Warner at 539-7488.

Community Christmas Singalong **with Barb** **Saturday, December 16th, 6:00 PM** **Wesley Hall**

Come join in the fun as we remember all those wonderful Christmas songs. There will be lots of singing, special presentations, prizes and light refreshments. Please bring a canned food item for the Food Bank! Also, bring a dessert/finger food or snacks to share. You don't want to miss this event. Lots of laughs!! SEE YOU THERE!

For further information, call Barb Clair at 717-575-9303.

Christmas Eve Service **Sunday, December 24th** **7:00 PM**

Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for singing and sharing in the traditional Christmas story. You will be blessed.

Notes From Donna

Rada Cutlery makes great gifts for the Holidays!

Just got a huge order in to restock our UMW Rada Cutlery inventory. If you need a last-minute gift or just want something for yourself, we may just have what you need. Plus, I would be happy to place an order if we don't have what you are looking for in stock. Contact Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680.

There is still time to get your portrait taken by Lifetouch

For those of you who would like to schedule a photography session with Lifetouch, call 866-756-0281 and talk with Anissa or any other Service Agent to schedule your appointment. You won't have to use your account number; just tell them you will be a visitor and when you get your sit card, have them mark it NFD (not for directory). Your portrait would not be available to go into our church directory, but you will still be able to get a free 8 x 10.

Here are two locations in the near future taking photographs:

Centreville United Methodist Church
608 Church Hill Road

Centreville, MD 21617

Dates: November 27 – 30, call 866-756-0281 to make an appointment

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
15 East Green Street
Middletown, DE 19709

Dates: November 30, December 1, 2, & 5th, call 866-756-0281 to make an appointment

If the above dates or locations don't work for you, then call after the New Year as they may have something that will fit your schedule and be closer.

What's happening with the Directories?

The last of the portraits were taken on October 29th by Lifetouch. I submitted the final directory on November 2nd. Lifetouch was searching for a missing church member, but together we found their photo on November 9th. It takes 10-15 business days to get a proof of the directory from Lifetouch. The proof for the directory is being mailed out on November 30th, so I have asked them to overnight it to me. After I give approval, it will take them 10-15 business days to produce then ship! We just may have them by Christmas!

Please keep this in mind:

1. Church may submit **photos of not-available members who are in nursing homes, home-bound, away at college or the military**, and they also receive a copy of the directory. We are allowed to submit photos that fall into this category. We can submit up to 10 of these for free, and then they are \$10 each after that.
2. If MUMC Members or Attendees **chose NOT to be photographed**, their contact information will still be in the roster. The roster is the complete listing and not just people photographed. Being in the roster but not photographed will not qualify for a free copy of the printed directory. **Only those who are photographed by Lifetouch and those listed will get a free directory.** A directory can be purchased for \$ 10.00.
3. Some of you have already given me money towards your directory -- thank you. If you haven't paid, please wait until the directories

are ready for distribution and pay me then. I have placed and paid for the additional directories for MUMC Members or Attendees. Do not place the money into the offering. This is on my credit card – not the church's card.

4. Free directories go to the following families: Bob & Helen Chin, Anita Dayton, Pat Derrickson, Beryl DeJarnette, Betty Neary, Marion McMahan, Claire Supernaw, Roger & Shirley Howard, John & Sue Amato, Richard Shoobridge, Jean Lyons, Sonny & Nancy Seal and Barbara & Oscar Clair.

Thank you all for supporting this wonderful program. Many Blessings, Donna Binaut

Weekly Happenings at Millville UMC

Pastor Brad's Schedule

Pastor Brad is normally in the office on Tuesdays from 10:30 am - 4:30 pm, but he is available by appointment Monday through Thursday. He'll be in the office Monday through Thursday, but 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	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wesley 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

Monthly Meetings

No monthly meetings in December

Small Groups -Weekly

Coffee with Pastor Brad - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. We read scripture and discuss topics of faith.

Wesley Wednesday Group – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. Each week we will look at a sermon of John Wesley, so you can join any time and not be behind!

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:

- soup mixes, fruit cups
- small packets of peanut butter and jelly,
- paper towels, ziplock bags (quart size),
- #2 wooden pencils

2017-2018 Winter Homeless Shelter Needs List

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Toilet paper
- Paper Towels
- Bath Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Twin Size Comforters and Blankets
- Antibacterial Floor Cleaner
- Men's Deodorant
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap

Once again SOUL Ministries, a ministry of Bethel Tabernacle, will be operating a men's homeless shelter in Bethany Beach. Donations can be dropped off at the church at any time or taken to House of Mercy, 36674 DuPont Blvd., Selbyville, DE. For more information about the needs and functions of SOUL Ministries and the shelter please call Cherith Snyder at 302-632-4289.

Ministries

To activate the Prayer Chain

Call Nancy Bowers at 1-410-598-5600
Or email nanbowers4@comcast.net

"Loving Care"

If you need a helping hand, please contact Nancy Bowers 1-410-598-5600 or email 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!
Every Wednesday at 8:30 AM

Join us at Bethany Beach, Campbell Place
for an informal time of fellowship and worship.



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 – Pastor Brad
- Week 5 – As needed:
Janet Smith
Donald Maeby
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. You'll be blessed!

~Special Note~

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

Ready For Christmas?

“Ready for Christmas?” she said with a sigh,
As she gave a last touch to the gifts piled high,
Then wearily sat for a moment and read,
Till soon, very soon, she was nodding her head.

Then quietly spoke a voice in her dream,
“Ready for Christmas? What do you mean?”
Ready for Christmas, when only last week
You wouldn't acknowledge your friend on the street.

Ready for Christmas while still holding a grudge?
Perhaps you had better let God be the judge,
Why, how can the Christ-child come and abide
In the heart that is selfish and filled with pride?

Ready for Christmas when only today
A beggar lad came and you turned him away,
Without even a smile to show that you cared?
The little he asked -- it could have been spared.

Ready for Christmas? You've worked it is true,
But just doing the things that YOU wanted to do.
Ready for Christmas? Your circle's too small --
Why, you are not ready for Christmas at all!

She woke with a start, and a cry of despair,
There's so little time and I've still to prepare.
O Father, forgive me, I see what you mean,
To be ready means more than a house swept clean.

Yes, more than the giving of gifts and a tree,
It's the heart swept clean that He wants to see;
A heart that is free from bitterness and sin --
Ready for Christmas!! And Ready for HIM!!

...Alice Haneche Mortensen



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