



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE



DECEMBER 2018

Message From Pastor Brad

God Among Us

I have a confession to make. I had no idea what to write for this article three hours before I started it. One of my greatest professional fears is being repetitive, either in the sermons I give on or when I write to you all in things like this. I reassure myself often that everyone who is in attendance is listening attentively, retains every word I say and buries them deep in their brains. We won't consider the varying levels of awake people may be and how I may sometimes talk longer than the average attention span. Unlike my sermons this is written down, and I realize that if you save them you can go back and re-read them.

Anyway, my anxieties around all of this get a little more heightened around Christmas and Easter, because those are the biggest days in the church year and you can ask anyone on the street, even if they haven't been in a church in decades, and they'll be able to give you some kind of summary of what goes on. How do you say something new about a story the whole world knows, and that many people revisit at least once a year for their whole lives? God blessed me with relief from my writer's block and gave me early reassurance to these seasonal woes through visiting a homebound member of the church.

I have known for a few years now that if I am feeling down, stressed, or even questioning the worth of what I am doing all I need to do is go visit someone and I am cured and put back on track. This experience, and the subsequent feelings from it, are already redefining and deepening my feelings about Christmas for me. In John 1:14 we hear the familiar words that, "the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (NIV). It's that last part that I find particularly moving as I prepare for Advent and Christmas. Take a moment and think about what

that means. We aren't expectantly awaiting a fix to a problem, a divine solution delivered from on high, God to just snap God's fingers and make it all better. After we are done giving thanks with our loved ones, we await the Lord delivering us Himself to us. To make Himself like us; in our family, our community, and in our human experience.

God has made his dwelling among us because our Father and Creator desires to be in loving relationship with us. If your TV breaks or a kitchen appliance goes on the fritz, you either put it in the care of someone you may or may not know to fix or you replace it with a new one, putting the old one out to pasture. Like any good and loving parent, God tried every which way to lead His children to live healthy and loving lives and when that didn't work He got right in the mix of it and got hands on.

In putting Himself in our midst, Jesus could look directly in our eyes, speak to us face to face, and physically invite us into what life can be. Later on, in John's gospel we hear Jesus say, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5, NIV). Through the Incarnation we can read and hear, time and time again, about our Creator God who loved us His wayward and lost children so much that He wasn't willing to write us off and leave us to our own means. God came to lead us back to Himself, in His Spirit providing us with what we need step by step along the way. In the weeks ahead, we prepare ourselves to make and recommit to this lifelong journey once again of leading others while being led by Jesus Christ all the way home.

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

Discussion and Prayer for the Future of the UMC

Due to folks continuing to have a lot of questions about the future of our denomination, the Commission on the Way Forward, and the special General Conference in February 2019, Pastor Brad will be facilitating a series of gatherings to share new information, answer any questions, respond to concerns people have, and to pray for the United Methodist Church. On the 3rd Sunday of each month Coffee with the Pastor will not be happening as usual. Instead, Pastor Brad will host these discussions in the sanctuary after Coffee and Conversation (roughly 10:30 AM). The dates of these gatherings are listed below:

December 16, 2018
January 20, 2019
February 17, 2019

Update on Pastor Brad's Classes

Our first session of A Disciple's Class for new members, regular attenders, and those interested in Wesleyan spirituality will be finishing on Sunday, December 16th. Pastor Brad will be leading the next session of this class in the Spring of 2019.

Our Wesley Wednesday Group will be finishing its study on the book Wesley and the People Called Methodists by Richard P. Heitzenrater on December 19th. We will start back up in January of 2019 as the Pastor's Book Club and begin reading our last book about Methodist history, United Methodism in America: A Compact History by John G. McEllhenney, editor with Frederick E. Maser, Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., and Kenneth E. Rowe.

Our Tuesday Covenant Bible Study will be finishing the first unit of the program on Tuesday, December 18th. We will not be meeting on December 11th so that everyone can enjoy the AARP Chorus Concert. We will start Unit 2 of the program in January 2019, and anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

Our Thursday Covenant Bible Study will be finishing the first unit of the program on December 20th. We will

start Unit 2 of the program in January 2019, and anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

Annual Hanging of the Greens Saturday December 1st 5:00 PM

To usher in the Advent season our church will be having its annual Hanging of the Greens. There will be a Special Blessing of the Greens Service happening in the sanctuary at 6:00 PM. All are invited to come out and help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, join in the fellowship, and start Advent in this special way.

December Worship Series

“Expectation through Song”

A look at the history and meaning of Advent hymns

Week 1: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

Week 2: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6

Week 3: In the Bleak Midwinter

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 and John 3:7-18

Week 4: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Readings: Luke 1:39-45 and Luke 1:46-55

Millville UMC Ministry Map

The Millville United Methodist Church Ministry Map, provided by Tom Binaut, Chairman SPPRC, is located on the back of the Dove Church Information page.

Dover District Events

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

Our Financial Health: ...With Thanks to God

Once again, we are approaching the end of the year, praising God for his blessing, and your generosity. As of November 18th, worship giving is almost \$12,000 greater than our budget estimate for 2018.

We are truly blessed by a dedicated and generous church family.

Our General Fund balance at the end of October is still trending up. I am confident that the balance will be over to \$40,000 at the end of the year. The Finance Committee will be meeting in early December to determine end-of-year actions to transfer funds to the capital reserve account, and make a supplemental payment against the mortgage, as we did in 2017. It has also been suggested that we apply some of the undesignated funds in the memorial account (\$14,800) to mortgage reduction.

We believe it would be prudent to go into 2019, with a general fund balance of between \$25,000 and \$30,000, so our end-of-year actions will reflect that plan.

Rich Spina



Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status

Balance on 10/30/2018.....	\$78,494.09
Special Donation by Members.....	\$ 700.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	\$ 1,177.56
Balance on 11/19/2018.....	\$76,616.53

We are thankful to Cathy McCloskey for a very generous donation of \$10,000 made against the mortgage, that was included in last month's report. We are thankful for the generosity of all of our church family who are going the extra mile to remove our indebtedness.

We are still considering ways to have the mortgage paid off by the time the current note comes due in January, 2021, including a "Burn-the-Mortgage" drive. If you have any thoughts on how to make the drive as effective as possible, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.

Rich Spina, Chairman, Finance Committee

Trustees Report Sanctuary Security

At the last Administrative Council meeting, we started a discussion about 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. I have been approached by several members of our church family who are concerned about our vulnerability, and offered some suggestions on how to address the issue.

Although an attack on our facilities is, in my opinion, pretty small, it is not zero. Therefore, the Trustees, and other members of our church family who have knowledge of protection issues will consider what steps we should take to increase safety in our facilities. We will keep our members informed as we work through this issue.

Rich Spina, Chairman, Trustees

Make Missions Great Again!!

We continually stress the importance of Missions Support in our outreach to the community. We are doing an "OK" job so far this year but much less than we have done in the past. Our balance at the end of October was \$322.67. Please prayerfully consider your missions giving, especially on Communion Sunday, so we can do more to care for our local needs.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 NIV

Special Events

Pot Luck Dinner

Pot Luck on December 2 at 4:30 PM. We will be celebrating the season with a Christmas dinner. Ham will be provided—please bring your favorite side dish. Contact Elizabeth Skinner with any questions.

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!! Class on December 4 will not be held.

Carol Gorden, Instructor

United Methodist Women’s Group

~JUST A REMINDER~

MUMC Ladies Luncheon

Tuesday, December 4th @ 12:00 Noon

All MUMC ladies are welcome and please feel free to bring a guest. The luncheon this year will be at the Cottage Café on Route 1 in Bethany. Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church. For more information, contact Carol Gorden at 410-530-3002.

Aging Faithfully

Cookie Bingo will not be held Tuesday, December 11th. Please contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284 with any questions. **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

AARP Christmas Concert @ Wesley Hall

Tuesday, December 11 @ 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 presentation, we will enjoy a pizza lunch. Everyone is invited. Hope to see you there!

Marilyn Ferry

Community Christmas Singalong

with Barb

Saturday, December 15th, 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.

Coffee and Conversation

Sunday, December 16th

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

Christmas Eve Service

Monday, 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.



Weekly Happenings at Millville

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Covenant Bible Study	11:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wednesday	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

Pastor Brad's Office Schedule

Monday	By Appointment
Tuesday	10:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Wednesday	10:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Thursday	10:30 AM to 4:00 PM

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	No meeting in December
Finance Comm.	Monday, Dec. 10, 7:00 PM
Trustees	No meeting in December
Admin. Council	No meeting in December
SPPRC	No meeting in December

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 for the next four months will be dedicated to discussing the possible changes facing the Methodist Church. See Pastor Brad's articles earlier in this edition of the Dove. Everyone is invited.

Covenant Bible Study - Our Tuesday Covenant Bible Study will be finishing the first unit of the program on Tuesday, December 18th. We will not be meeting on December 11th so that everyone can enjoy the AARP Chorus Concert. We will start Unit 2 of the program in January 2019, and anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

Our Thursday Covenant Bible Study will be finishing the first unit of the program on December 20th. We will start Unit 2 of the program in January 2019, and anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible!

Wesley Wednesday Group – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. We are studying the book “Wesley and the People Called Methodists,” 2nd Edition, by Richard P. Heitzenrater. This study will conclude on December 19th, and resume in January with a new study subject.

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**

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

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

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, 8:30 AM, Bethany Beach @ Campbell Place. A time of prayer and fellowship on the beach with 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. Join us and bring a friend!

~Special Notes~

Southern Delaware Chorale Performance of the “Messiah”

The Southern Delaware Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Colin Armstrong, will present a concert performance of G. F. Handel’s “Messiah, with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony and four professional soloists, on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Cape Henlopen High School, 1250 King’s Hwy., Lewes, DE 19958. For tickets please go to www.southerndelawarechorale.org., Puzzles in Lewes, Browseabout Books in Rehobeth Beach, or any chorale member. Ken Beckman, member

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.

Millville Town Holiday Bazaar

The town will hold their annual bazaar in Wesley Hall on Saturday, December 8th. The hall is reserved Friday and Saturday for this event.

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

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:

- paper towels
- bath tissue

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

Church website:

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.



"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called: **Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**" From Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS