



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE

FEBRUARY 2018

Message From Pastor Brad

Clean Your Interior

I've realized in my almost 8 years of preaching regularly and writing articles for the church on a regular basis that there are certain trains of thought I can very easily fall into on a routine basis. As I was about to sit down and use this month's Dove to pick on how most people have abandoned their resolutions by now anyway I realized that was a path I've already gone down anyway. God used that minor revelation to give me a greater realization about how the world works and how we as the church need to go the other way, all thanks to these pesky resolutions.

I now know why I don't like New Year's resolutions. They're too surface-level and based on us trying to do or act our way into being someone else. It's all about works, and if you're curious about what the Bible says about works take a look at the Book of James and what Jesus said about how to pray. Many people say they're going to eat more or this or less than that, when their goal should be to be a healthier person overall. Many people may say they are going to read more or take a class or something, but imagine if their goal was to be more curious and committed to learning? Maybe you've heard someone say they are going to be more sociable and go out more in the new year when they are really looking for closer relationships, not simply being around other people.

Being a follower of Christ is first and foremost about interior work. It's what God is most concerned with and we should follow suit. The exterior, for us and how we relate to others, is a byproduct and secondary to what's going on inside of us. I can get a bright new coat of paint put on my van, but that won't change the fact that my engine is

Skinny you, bigger, you, social you, more read you, the you that goes to things or doesn't. If God isn't at work in your heart and changing your life how you look and where you are doesn't matter. I'm reminded of the story of the rich young ruler, which can be found in Mark 10:17-27. This wealthy young person comes to Christ asking what he needs to do to, "inherit eternal life" (10:17). Jesus tells the young man to go sell all of his possessions and give the money to the poor. We read that when he heard this, "the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth" (10:22). This guy was willing to pay a price to attain this prize of eternal life because he had money to spare.

Thankfully and obviously, Jesus was wise to his game. When the young man was confronted with Jesus' challenge to change who he was, and not just make an easy sacrifice, he left empty handed. In this new year, I do hope we all continue to strive for greater health and discipline in our physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional lives individually and as a church. Doing is important, but we are called not only to do and say like Christ, but to take on the likeness of Christ in all our ways. It's more than a resolution, it's a covenant we've made and in God's mercy, He lets us renew it often and turn to Him for everything we need to get there. May we all be God's obedient children ready to receive the blessings the Lord has in store for us this year.

Blessings,
Pastor Brad



Lent 2018

Hello friends! Pastor Brad here. I am very excited to announce that Lent this year, which starts on Wednesday, February 14th, is going to be extra special. We are going to partner with St. George's UMC to spend our Lent going through the 40 Day Prayer Challenge with our neighbors up the road. This journey will begin with a joint Ash Wednesday service happening at 7:00PM at St. George's UMC.

Pastor Blair and I will be preaching through Lent with *The Circle Maker*, the book that Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge is based off of. Every Sunday morning, we will hear a testimony from a member of our church about their experience with the Prayer Challenge. In our "Arise!" Early Morning Prayer Service we will be taking a look at that day's reading and Scripture from *Draw the Circle*. The full title of the book is *Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge* by Mark Batterson.

This journey through Lent and focus on prayer will end with a joint Good Friday service happening at our church on Friday, March 30th at 11:00am and our sanctuary being open for prayer from 12:00pm to 3:00pm that day. Easter may seem far away now, but I wanted to invite all of you to the Community Easter Sunrise Service put on by the Southeast Sussex Ministerium that will be happening at the Bethany Bandstand. I am always amazed at the huge crowd that comes out for that, and would love to see as much of Millville UMC there as possible. May we all approach this Lent with ready spirits and open hearts.

Daily Devotional Resources

Hello Friends,

It's my hope that in this new year you may have made a commitment to grow in your study and devotional reading. If not, I encourage you to do so and have provided a couple of resources that I've been using this year that I believe are very good and would recommend to anyone. They touch on different aspects of faith, and can be used

individually or as a group. So you can use one or all of them by yourself or with some friends!

Pastor Brad

The Upper Room Disciplines 2018: A Book of Daily Devotions

This is a collection of daily devotional readings, which are relatively short, and daily prayers for the whole year. This book also includes a list of the lectionary readings for the year, a guide to daily prayer, and examples of prayers to use throughout your day.

A Disciple's Journal 2018: A Guide for Daily Prayer, Bible Reading, and Discipleship by Steven W. Manskar

This book is written and edited by a United Methodist pastor who works for our denomination's Discipleship Ministries. He is also an expert on covenant discipleship, which is a small group ministry and guide for individual faith based on how Wesley practiced and organized the early Methodist movement. This book provides Scripture readings for every day, selections from John Wesley's writings, hymns from Charles Wesley, individual prayers, and a variety of articles and guides on Methodism, covenant discipleship, and Methodist doctrine.

Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge by Mark Batterson

This book is familiar to many of you since we engaged in the 40 Day Prayer Challenge as a church last year. I encourage anyone who doesn't have this book to get it because we will be using it throughout Lent as we partner with St. George's UMC to do the 40 Day Prayer Challenge together. This book provides a powerful devotional reading every day, along with a Scripture reference and a prayer. Reading this book has changed lives and churches, so get it now so that you're ready for Lent this year.

Dover District Leadership Training

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Classes are Open to Both Clergy and Laity
\$7 per person covers registration and resource materials

NO REFUNDS for no-shows

Registration Deadline: February 15, 2018 - No day of event registrations!

Avenue United Methodist Church
20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963

For directions, please call the church at (302) 422-8111

Schedule:

08:30 am Registration Begins
09:00 am Gathering & Opening Devotion (Sanctuary)
09:15 am Classes Begin
11:30 am Gathering & Closing Devotion (Sanctuary)

The purpose of Leadership Training is to equip both clergy and laity for service in mission and ministry within the local church, district, and conference. Presenters will address several different ministry areas and discuss how to meet the needs of those areas in the local church, the connection of the UMC and the world. Learn how Discipleship and Servant Leadership work hand-in-hand by attending one of the workshops. Information and registration forms are available at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.



Our Financial Health:A Good Start For 2018

Even after we missed the first Sunday of the new year because of snow, we are still almost at our estimated worship giving level, with the year-to-date actual giving at \$8,565 compared to \$8,998 budgeted. We finished 2017 with a general fund balance of \$37,387, about \$4,000 more than we anticipated. The Finance Committee will be meeting on February 12th to consider an additional supplemental payment on the mortgage, and adding to our capital reserve fund.

Our budget for 2018 is \$155,970, so if the Lord continues to inspire your generosity, we should be in good condition to carry out our mission.

Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Balance on 12/31/2017..... | \$117,099.66 |
| Special Donation by Members..... | \$50.00 |
| Budgeted Payment (less interest)..... | \$1004.14 |
| Balance on 1/22/2018..... | \$116,045.52 |

For 2017, we reduced our mortgage balance from \$145,277.74 to \$117,099.66. This was very encouraging as we continue our effort to pay off the mortgage by the end of 2019. Hopefully (and prayerfully) we will see the same generosity in 2018, and beyond. Some of our members have made special donations to reduce the mortgage balance for a substantial savings in interest paid. You can do the same in several ways: by 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

Trustees Report

Your Trustees are considering a number of projects to start in 2018. Among those are installation of better lighting in the sanctuary to support performances such as "The Other Twelve

Disciples” and “The Living Last Supper.” Other projects include improved presentation of images in the sanctuary through either upgraded projector and screen, or installation of a large screen TV. As always, we will be considering ways to improve the comfort and safety of our church family.

Special Events

Potluck Dinner Sunday, February 4th 4:30 PM

This is the first potluck of 2018! Bring your favorite dish and a friend and enjoy a special time of fellowship. Call Donna Binaut (cell phone 443-668-8067) for further information.

Fitness for Life

Classes will not be held in February. Our regular schedule will resume on March 13th. See you then!
Carol Gorden

Aging Faithfully -- Cookie Bingo

Cookie Bingo will not be held in February. We will resume on March 13th.

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.

Ash Wednesday Service February 14, 7:00 PM St. George's UMC

Millville UMC & St. George's UMC will hold a combined service at St. George's UMC, 34281 Omar Road, Frankford. Plan to attend this service in preparation for the Lenten season.

Lenten Prayer, Soup & Salad Schedule Wednesday, 12:00 Noon

- Feb. 21 Frankford UMC
12 Clayton Ave., Frankford
- Feb. 28 Ocean View Presbyterian
67 Central Ave., Ocean View
- March 7 Community Lutheran Church
30897 Omar Road, Frankford
- March 14 Millville UMC
36405 Club House Road
- March 21 St. Ann's
691 Garfield Pkwy. Bethany Beach

AARP Safe Driver Refresher Course Saturday, April 7, 9-12:30 PM

The AARP Safe Driver Refresher Course will be presented in Wesley Hall on Saturday, April 7, 9-12:30 p.m. The members of the congregation who took the basic course on April of 2015 need to take this course to continue their insurance discount. If you've had the basic course elsewhere and need the refresher, this is the course you can take. The course cost is \$15 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. Please bring your driver's license and AARP membership number when you sign in the day of the course. **Check only**, made payable to AARP Driving. **(cash will not be accepted)**
A sign in sheet will be circulated on a Sunday Worship Service in March. Katherine Maly (kmaly315@yahoo.com) is handling the registration and her husband Tom will be presenting the course.

Weekly Happenings at Millville UMC

Pastor Brad's Schedule

Pastor Brad is normally in the office on Tuesdays, 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 |

*Cancelled for February

~February Monthly Meetings~

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------|
| Nominations Comm. | Mon., Feb. 5, | 7:00 PM |
| UMW | Tues., Feb. 6, | 10:00 AM |
| Finance Comm. | Mon., Feb. 12, | 7:00 PM |
| Trustees | Mon., Feb. 12, | 7:30 PM |
| Admin. Council | Mon., Feb. 19, | 7:00 PM |

“Arise!” Early Morning Prayer

5:00 AM - During the month of February, we will be meeting 7 days a week at St. George's UMC.

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. 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 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 | Magic Markers |
| Clorox disinfectant wipes | Tissues |
| Highlighters – all colors | #2 wooden pencils |
| <u>Needed all year:</u> Construction paper | |
| Glue Sticks | |

Church Supplies Needed

Tissues, Simple Green, Napkins

2017-2018 Winter Homeless Shelter

Needs List:

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

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 – Donald Maeby
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!

~SPECIAL NOTES~

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MY MILLVILLE CHURCH FAMILY for the Christmas giving. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and will continue to serve you and the Lord with musical talent. Your kindness is a blessing and with this New Year, may we together keep on singing praises to our Lord.
In Christ’s Love, Barb

Address Updates

Bob & Helen Chin
285 North Washington Street
Apartment 239
Rockville, MD 20850
301-978-7108

Kathy & Brice Cropper (Winter address)
14541 Sherbrook Place
Apartment 204
Ft. Myers, FL 33912

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

The 2018 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the church.

To reserve an important date, please write your name next to your choice as soon as possible. You may give me a note with your dedication (“In Honor of or In Memory of”) and message, along with \$20.00 for the cost of the flowers – no later than a week before your date occurs.

Either cash or a check (made payable to Millville United Methodist Church) is acceptable. If you pay by cash, please be sure to include your name on the envelope.

Thank you, Marilyn Ferry

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

CHURCH INFORMATION

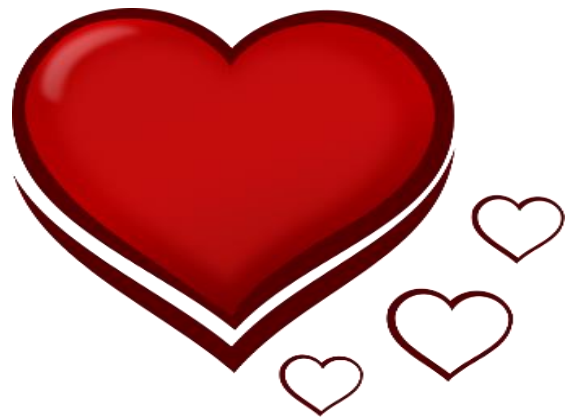
Millville United Methodist Church
36405 Club House Road
Millville, DE 19967
Church Phone (302) 539-9077
Pastor Brad Schutt (302) 249-2337

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.

*Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue
Someone Loves you...
Here's a clue:*

Read John 3:16



Happy Valentines Day

“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.” 1 John 4:12 NIV