



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE

JANUARY 2018

Message From Pastor Brad

Happy (Cough) New Year

As many of you heard the Sunday after Christmas, I found myself pretty sick just in time for New Year's Eve. It wasn't the best time for me, because of all the obvious reasons. I can't help but shake my head at myself because I have the remarkable knack for getting so sick that I can barely talk on the one day of the week I have to. All of that notwithstanding, it was oddly liberating and comforting to be in the condition I was at the end of the year. As we all know, countless people take the start of the year as an opportunity and motivation for changing their ways and starting anew.

Did you make any resolutions this year? I sure didn't. I probably wouldn't have even I was totally healthy. Those never last too long into the year for me. Whenever people bring up new year's resolutions I tell them about the year Erin and I decided to join a gym. We gave it a good go, but our time as gym people ultimately lasted about as long as you'd expect. Now whenever I think of new year's resolutions I am immediately reminded of that very expensive keychain I carried around for most of that year.

My resolution for 2018 was to stay upright for as long as I needed to in the morning, and then to sleep as long as I could after that. I am happy to say that I achieved my goals. Our New Year's Eve party ended around 8:30PM and I don't even think I saw the clock turn to the double digits before I was fast asleep. That all makes quite a difference, compared to many New Year's Eves of the past. There were too many years when I tried staying up as long as I could into the morning; being fueled by too much soda, too loud music, and too much junk food. How we approach a new year represents how many folks approach a lot of things, with good

intentions but ultimately misguided and over-zealous implementation.

Every Christmas Eve, in the midst of all the hymns about Jesus' birth and Scripture readings from the nativity there is a short passage from Titus that is included in the lectionary. I believe it speaks more to this time of the year with these words:

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.” – Titus 3:4-8a, NIV

The call here isn't to try and take on the whole world or fix something about ourselves in even a few months. As Titus says about those who trust in God, we need to, “be careful to devote [our]selves to doing what is good”. I can't think of a better approach than that to starting 2018. Trust in God and devote yourselves to doing good. Don't worry about fighting all of the evil or trying to get rid of all the bad in yourself right now. Find the good and do good today, do it again tomorrow, and if we all keep repeating that I'm confident God can do wonderful things through us all. I have great hope and assurance in the Lord working for and through us to bring His goodness more fully into our world in the year ahead.

Blessings and Anticipation,
Pastor Brad

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:We are Truly Blessed

Back in early November, I presented an end-of-year expense plan to the Finance Committee, projecting what our worship giving would be on December 31st. Once again, I failed to appreciate the incredible generosity of our church family. My estimate was \$162,000, and, praise God, the actual amount was \$168,285!! Our budget for 2017 was \$150,254, so we exceeded our budget by **over \$18,000**. 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 11/30/2017.....\$122,649.87
Special Donation by Members..... \$4,550.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....\$991.21
Balance on 12/31/2017.....\$117,099.66

As you can see from the status, 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

Worship Giving by Direct Deposit and/or Qualified Charitable Distribution

Some members of our church family have been asking about worship giving through other means than Sunday morning offering. The Finance committee will be developing guidelines for Direct Deposit and Qualified Charitable Distribution. You will be notified when those options are available.

Trustees Report

In the last few months, your trustees have been busy in the usual tasks to maintain and safeguard our beautiful old sanctuary. The most notable improvement has been the installation of new railings and application of a non-skid treatment to the sanctuary ramp. By a very generous special donation, the railing project was funded by Bob and Cathie Heird. Our church is blessed by the generosity of their financial gift. Thank you, Bob and Cathie, from the bottom of our hearts!!

Special Note: immediately following worship on January 14th, there will be a trustee's election to install Brad Bowers and Rich Spina. Members are asked to vote at that time.

Special Events

LOOKING AHEAD -- Because of the cancellations in January due to the snow event, the Potluck Dinner and Cookie Bingo are now scheduled for February.

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.



Aging Faithfully -- Cookie Bingo **Tuesday, February 13, 10:00 AM**

Don't forget – the second Tuesday of the month is time for Cookie BINGO in Wesley Hall at 10:00 AM. Come have some coffee and win some good treats. Bring a friend, too! See you there!

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

AN ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

St. Ann's Church in Bethany Beach will host the Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018 @ 6:30 PM**. Our MUMC choir will be participating in the service, as well as several other choirs. All of the churches in the Ministerium will unite for a time of worship and prayer as we celebrate our love of God. Please plan to attend. You will be blessed.

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

January Monthly Meetings

Finance, Trustee and Administrative Council Meetings cancelled for January.
UMW will have their first meeting in 2018 on Tuesday, February 6th at 10:00 AM.

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:

- magic markers
- tissues
- crayola crayons
- clorox wipes
- #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 – 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!

~Special Note~

A Heartfelt Thank You to MUMC for remembering me at Christmastime.

God has a way of leading us to a place where we can be used to help further His work. I'm thankful and blessed to be able to serve here at Millville.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy New Year as we continue our faith journey together.

Love In Christ, Marilyn

CURRENT ADDRESS FOR:

Dorothy **Jean Lyons**
Room 206
Forwood Manor
1912 Marsh Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

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



**A winter's portrait, so bountiful,
Nature's gift indeed;
Touches our lives through each new day,
God's gifts.....that's all we need!**
Excerpt from poem by Dianne Cogar

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