



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE

MARCH 2017

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD

At Least I'm Not...

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” – Galatians 5:22-23, NIV

This month, in our journey through the Fruit of the Spirit, we get to look at goodness. I had a bit of a hard time tackling this one for two reasons. First, talking about kindness and goodness back to back, and it not sounding the same, was a worry of mine. Second, I didn't realize how general a word goodness was until I started thinking about how I use it and often say it. As you may expect, I turned to Scripture to see what it had to say about goodness throughout the Old and New Testaments and it has totally redefined and expanded what this word means. Personally, I often use variations of good and goodness as a vague synonym for nice or instead of the phrase, “That's nice”. I couldn't think of a time in my life when I was so moved by an experience or anything that I would proclaim it as good or full of goodness. Ultimately, I, and I feel like many people, use the word good and its variations to describe a lack of bad or negative qualities more than any kind of exceptionally positive qualities.

Many of us consider ourselves good because we don't spend our time murdering, stealing, or generally causing pain or harm to the world around us. Where do you think God's bar is set on goodness? Do you think the kind of goodness Paul is talking about to the Galatians is simply a lack of evil or wrongdoing? A favorite passage of mine in Scripture even speaks to this issue. Midway through Luke 18 Jesus tells a parable about a tax collector and a Pharisee. We hear the Pharisee pray to God in Luke 18:11, “God, I thank you that I am not like

today. What this Pharisee is basically saying is that these people are bad, including this tax collector near him, and in his mind, he's not like them, so therefore he must be good. I've veered too close to that thinking too often in my life, have you? At the end of the parable Jesus uses the Pharisee as a lesson in what goodness is not and how we should claim it in our own lives.

That's what goodness is not, so what does the Bible say about what goodness from God is? Looking up where the word is used throughout Scripture reveals that God's goodness is often described as a state of being and a qualifier to a relationship or action. The goodness of the Lord is something asked for, that we are given, and experienced by people on Earth. That is a helpful thing to meditate on and look for in our walk with Christ, but I believe we can take the other usage and really use it as a means of spiritual growth. In Psalm 109:21 we hear this plea, “But you, Sovereign Lord, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me” (NIV). This isn't simply an appeal to love, because love is a word and feeling that can be tied up in many things of the world and not of God. Luke 6:32 says, “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them” (NIV). It is God's goodness associated with His love that is being pleaded with in this passage.

This spiritual gift of goodness can be brought into the things we are already doing, especially that which we already consider good. Plenty of people do good things and have nothing to do with God, so goodness in the eyes of the Lord can't be only about doing the just care for the poor, do so out of the goodness of the Lord and letting the person know that's where it is coming from. Don't just give the thirsty a drink, give them a drink from your heart being full of God's love and pouring that

upon them also. How can you bring God into the things you do on a regular basis? The answers are countless, so be hopeful in knowing that we all have so many opportunities to pursue and live out the spiritual gift of goodness every week!

Pastor Brad

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (UMH 607)

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

* Several people said they appreciated being introduced to this prayer on New Year's Day, so I wanted to include this in The Dove for Lent as a prayer to be used in this season of preparation for Easter. Pray it often and revisit it whenever you feel like you need to refocus or come back to the foundation God has laid in your heart. Blessings,
Pastor Brad.

Prayer on the Beach

In just a week from the distribution of this month's Dove we will celebrate the end of Daylight Savings Time with the changing of our clocks and springing forward! If you're anything like me you mourn the lost hour of sleep, but it is a small price to pay for more sunlight in our lives. Since our days continue to get longer in this Lenten season of prayer and preparation, I want to invite and encourage everyone to come out to our weekly Prayer on the Beach. It happens every Wednesday at 8:30AM on Campbell Place in Bethany Beach.

A few of us get together on the boardwalk every week and pray for whatever is on our hearts either silently or out loud. I can tell you whenever I don't get to it I notice the difference it makes in my week. If you have never been I urge you to try it at least once, if nothing else than as a means of gratitude and giving thanks to God for living by the beach and in the beauty of what the Lord has created. If you have any questions or need directions ask Pastor Brad or Donald Maebly anytime!

See You There,
Pastor Brad

OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH **.....???**

Well, we are two months into 2017, and I thought it would be productive to talk about where we stand financially.

Let me start out by saying, as I did in my last Dove article on finance, Millville is incredibly blessed by the generosity of our loving church family. Clearly, the Lord speaks to us as we seek His will for the vision and mission we embrace.

We ended 2016 on a positive note, with our worship giving exceeding our budgeted expenses by over \$8,000. Based on that, the finance committee believed that the trend would continue. The administrative council agreed to a 2017 budget that was slightly less than 2016, erring on the side of prudence. The committee was hopeful that some items that were eliminated could be restored as our situation improved.

Unfortunately, at the end of February, our worship giving is almost \$3,000 under budget, and our disbursements are almost \$2,000 over our worship giving receipts. Without going into the various reasons causing this situation, I would urge you do the following

- Pray for our church and church family, thanking the Lord for His many blessings, and asking for His guidance for the future.
- Join the ongoing effort to reach out to nearby communities, to make them aware of opportunities we offer for worship and fellowship.
- Consider your worship giving. Although we do not have a pledge campaign, consider

your giving as a pledge to the Lord, keeping up with your commitment, and where possible, increasing it.

Yours In Christ, Rich Spina



MEMORIAL BRICKS

It is time to order Memorial Bricks. I have a few orders, but I need a minimum of seven to place an order. If you would like to purchase a Memorial Brick for our walkway to permanently recognize someone, even yourself, the cost is only \$ 60.00 per brick. You may pick up an order form in the church or Wesley Hall.

Please contact Joe Skinner (302-732-9684) or Marilyn Ferry if you need help.

AGING FAITHFULLY

We will not be having any events in March. We look forward to getting back together in the Spring. Stay warm!
Brad & Nancy Bowers

SPECIAL EVENTS

CHILI COOKOFF

TODAY, Sunday, March 5, 4:30 PM in Wesley Hall. Contestants please have CHILI to Wesley Hall by 3:00 PM. All others bring a dish to share AND a friend. Ideas for side dishes: Casseroles, Veggies, Salads, Jello Salads, Desserts. Provided: Shredded Cheese, Onions, Sour Cream, Chips and Drinks.
Elizabeth Skinner (732-9684)

LIVING LAST SUPPER

For some time now, we have worked on making sure that Jesus is at the center of Christmas and Easter as He should be. It has been forgotten by many that Easter does not revolve around bunnies, colored eggs and flowers.

Once again, we will proudly present The Living Last Supper at 7pm April 12 and 13th. We are blessed with men who are willing to give their time and talents to make this happen.

So!!! Having company for the week before Easter?? Well, bring them to see this performance. Tell your neighbors! Tell your friends! We truly expect a full house each night and we will be thrilled to see our church family supporting this truly wonderful performance.

Look forward to seeing you at the performance.
God Bless
Marianne Smith

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION OF UNION WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(32137 Powell Farm Rd., Frankford)
THE CHURCH IS HOSTING A TIME OF
SUPPORT AND PRAYER FOR OUR
CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS, FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITY

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Come and be blessed in a sacred place of
peace, hope and comfort.
WE WELCOME YOU....

For more information contact
Rev. Jeanel Starling 302-422-9749

LENTEN SOUP & SALAD SCHEDULE

During the Wednesdays of Lent, we will gather for Worship at noon, followed by a soup and salad luncheon. A freewill offering will be taken up during worship to assist local food banks. The Wednesday gatherings will be as follows:

- March 8 Frankford UM Church
Main & Daisey Sts.
- March 15 Bethel Tabernacle
Omar Rd., Clarksville
- March 22 Community Lutheran Church
Rte. 20 & Omar Rd. Frankford
- March 29 Millville UM Church
Rte. 26 at Club House Rd.
- April 5 St. Ann's Catholic Church
Garfield Parkway
Bethany Beach



**THERE WILL BE AN EASTER
SUNRISE SERVICE AT THE
BETHANY BEACH BANDSTAND
STARTING AT 6:00 AM
SUNDAY, APRIL 16.**

~ JUST A REMINDER ~
Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday,
March 12



A LENTEN PRAYER

O God our deliverer, you led your people of old through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN.