



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**MARCH 2018**

### **Message From Pastor Brad**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

“Why do bad things happen to good people?” OR

“Why does God let bad things happen to good people?”

Have you ever been asked one or both of these questions before? Have you ever been the one asking? Or even asked yourself? I’ve been the asker and recipient several times over to both questions. Usually the question never leaves my mind, but there have been rare occasions when I have asked a family member, friend, or mentor. You know what the common thread is, what happens every time regardless of who is involved or how? An unsatisfying answer. I have honestly never heard someone give an answer to this issue that made me feel God’s strength, love, control, and compassion equally and deeply across the board. You have to favor one side, God as strong and in control or God as loving and compassionate, in order to try and justify things.

Why do we want to know why? Is there comfort in the facts or details? Imagine if God somehow sat you down and somehow explained to you all the reasons and rationale for every tragedy and failure in your life. That would be the worst day

of my life. There’s no spreading it out or sugar-coating things to make it any better. Knowing the why of terrible things won’t bring change or healing, so what’s to be done with them? I like how, far better than why. I know I am excellent at dwelling on the past, whether I somehow brought it on myself or something horrible just happened. What I need is a next step or two, to have God give me some kind of push to get myself going again. This doesn’t excuse trials and tribulations or the long-term pain that they can bring.

In my mind, this illustrates the reality of life and how willing God is to be present in our right now, even when things are so bad that no one else is able to stand that close to us. In this Lenten season of preparation, it’s important for us to acknowledge the burdens and scars we carry around with us from the world we live in. They happened, they’ve left their mark, but the good news is that they don’t define us or our story. They certainly are a part of it, but they ultimately point to the redemptive work of God’s grace and how needed it is in our life. It points to God’s grace in our life so that, if we let it and answer the call, our lives can point to the presence of God in this world for others also. That is the ultimate how at work here and where our next steps from tragedy can lead to. As Christ reaches out to all of His children with His pierced hands out of love, we can reach to those in need around us with hands and hearts that have weathered so much because of who God is and wants to be for us all. May we all strive to reach as far and wide as our savior who showed divine strength through human weakness and brought the joy of everlasting life from the depth of grief and loss.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brad

## 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 Events

Cathy Myers (302)-526-2629

**March 11 is UMCOR Sunday.** We encourage all congregations to participate in this vital mission of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR teams are the first to respond and the last to leave a disaster area, offering water, shelter, food and caring for physical and emotional and spiritual needs.

**March 17 – Revival Prayer Day #5** from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Open to clergy and laity – Whatcoat UMC, 16 N. Main St., Camden, DE

### Our Financial Health

.....???

Well, we are two months into 2018, and I thought it would be productive to talk about where we stand financially.

We ended 2017 on a positive note, with our actual worship giving exceeding the amount budgeted by over \$18,000. This included a special \$5,000 donation to fund the sanctuary ramp improvements.

Unfortunately, at the end of February, our worship giving is almost \$3,900 under budget, and our disbursements are almost \$1,100 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

### **Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status**

Balance on 1/31/2018.....\$116,045.52  
 Special Donation by Members.....\$301.00  
 Budgeted Payment (less interest).....\$1009.39  
 Balance on 1/22/2018..... \$114,735.13

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 have completed the project to install sanctuary lighting to support performances such as “The Other Twelve Disciples” and “The Living Last Supper.” Other pending projects include improved presentation of images in the sanctuary through either upgraded projector and screen, or installation of a large screen TV.

Mike Matera has graciously agreed to handle our trash removal from the premises. Waste material should be placed in large trash containers - one located outside the rear door of the sanctuary and one at the ramp door to Wesley Hall.

We are also planning the installation of rain gutters over the handicapped ramp.

The sanctuary oil furnace was inspected last week, and found to be in satisfactory condition, considering it is more than 15 years old.

As always, we will be considering ways to improve the comfort and safety of our church family.

Rich Spina

### **Special Events**

#### **United Methodist Women’s Group March 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM**

We will be having our second meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. I would like to personally invite all of our ladies of the Church to attend this upcoming meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680 or 443-668-8067.

#### **Life Force**

#### **March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**

The Life Force will be holding a pre-St. Patrick’s Day gathering. We are looking for volunteers to help our guests with crafts, dancing and just plain fun. We do need food donations and I know this church family is wonderful with that help. If you’re interested in helping out with food or just coming to join in on the fun, please contact Jamie Eglit at 302-670-8184. Remember, it’s a pre-St. Patrick’s gathering so WEAR GREEN! Thank you in advance for your constant support.

#### **Potluck Dinner**

#### **Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30**

We will be celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. Bring your favorite Irish dish, a friend and enjoy a special time of fellowship. Call Elizabeth Skinner 302-732-9684 for further information.

## Fit for Life

Our regular schedule will resume on March 13<sup>th</sup>. See you then!

Carol Gorden

## Aging Faithfully -- Cookie Bingo

Cookie bingo will be held on Tuesday, March 20 at 10:00 AM. 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.

## Lenten Prayer, Soup & Salad Schedule

Wednesday, 12:00 Noon

- 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

### “The Other Twelve Disciples”

Maundy Thursday

March 29, 2018 at 7:00 PM

Millville UMC will present a chancel drama featuring the twelve women in Jesus' life. Come hear the testimony of the women who traveled with and really knew Jesus. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend. You will be blessed by the powerful message of these special women.  
Marianne Smith, Director (302-541-4213)

## 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](mailto:kmaly315@yahoo.com)) is handling the registration and her husband Tom will be presenting the course.

## Holy Week Services @ Millville

Thursday, March 29

7:00 PM

“The Other 12 Disciples”

Friday, March 30

11:00 AM

Good Friday Service

12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM

Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Saturday March 31

6:00 PM

Saturday Praise Service

Sunday, April 1

6:30 PM

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Service**

**Bethany Beach Boardwalk**

9:00 AM

Easter Sunday Worship MUMC

**Please Note: There will be no Coffee/Bible Study with Pastor Brad on Easter Sunday**

## 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

#### **~March Monthly Meetings~**

UMW	Tues., Mar. 6, 10:00 AM
Finance Comm.	No Meeting in March
Trustees	No Meeting in March
Admin. Council	Mon., Mar. 19, 7:00 PM
SPPRC	Mon., Mar. 26, 7:00 PM

#### **“Arise!” Early Morning Prayer**

**5:00 AM** - During the month of March, we will be meeting 7 days a week at Millville 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**

Clorox Clean-up

## **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](mailto:nanbowers4@comcast.net)

#### **"Loving Care"**

If you need a helping hand, please contact Nancy Bowers 1-410-598-5600 or email [nanbowers4@comcast.net](mailto: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!

## ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still a few Sundays available for altar flower dedications. The 2018 altar flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the church. Please write your name next to your choice and give me a note with your dedication ("In Honor of" or "In Memory of") and message. The cost is \$20.00 (either cash or a check made payable to Millville United Methodist Church) – no later than a week before your date occurs. If you pay by cash, please be sure to include your name on the envelope.

### **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](mailto:wingferry@aol.com)

### **~Special Notes~**

#### **Hall & Church Refrigerators**

Both refrigerators will be cleaned out at the end of each month. Please take all leftover food and beverages when you leave an event. Only unopened containers will be kept. Thank you. UMW

#### **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.



## 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](mailto:millvillechurchwesley@yahoo.com)**

**Church website:**  
**[www.millvillemethodistchurch.org](http://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.**

### **~SPRING FORWARD~**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
BEGINS MARCH 11.  
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR**

