



# ***MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

## ***The Dove***      ***MARCH 2019***

### **Pastor Brads Message**

#### **Reflections on the Special General Conference**

As many of you are probably aware, the global gathering of our denomination that met in St. Louis concluded its business at 6:30 PM our time on Tuesday night. This concluded four days of meetings which consisted of a day of prayer, a day of setting priorities, a day of functioning as the Legislative Committee to decide what was going to be brought to a vote, and finally voting on the last day. There were a few surprising events along the way, starting with how the voting delegates prioritized what was to be discussed. After the body voted, legislation relating to clergy pensions came out on top. This was considered first, even above the primary plans that came through the Commission on a Way Forward, and petitions for providing a means for congregations to amicably leave the denomination. Second to pensions were two petitions about disaffiliation, followed by the Traditional Plan, and then the One Church Plan. Both the Connectional Conference Plan and the Simple Plan ranked far lower on the list.

The surprise to many in the legislative session was that the One Church Plan, which was endorsed by the Council of Bishops, failed to get enough votes to be considered for a final vote in the last day of the conference. The Traditional Plan was voted through the Legislative Session, and after much discussion in the Plenary Session was ultimately approved by the General Conference after a final vote. The legislative session addressed legislation related to clergy pensions and voted through two petitions providing means for congregations to leave the denomination quickly and without much legal entanglements. The Simple

Plan was discussed after the One Church Plan, but it too was vetoed by the body. After all of this was discussed, a motion to vote on the rest of the legislation as one was approved and led to everything else being voted down in one action.

During the Plenary Session of General Conference on the last day there was a great deal of discussion, debate, public demonstrations, and even heartache and pain among those present. The One Church Plan was brought up for consideration as a minority report only to be voted down again. After a prolonged debate, including discussing several amendments and passing a view, the Traditional Plan was approved as amended by the body. One of the plans for disaffiliation was also approved by the General Conference delegates. After the Traditional Plan was approved, many LGBT persons and their supporters began to gather in worship, prayer, and in silent demonstration on the floor of the conference. The conference ended with another action that brought the rest of the business of the conference to one vote, and the body decided to vote everything else out of consideration at once.

Looking at the future of our denomination right now, more things are up in the air than certain. The Traditional Plan as it was approved contained several petitions that were already deemed unconstitutional by the Judicial Council, our denomination's Supreme Court, before the vote. At their next meeting at the end of April it appears the Council will have to address the Traditional Plan again. The petition that was approved by the conference to allow congregations to leave the denomination was also deemed unconstitutional by the Judicial Council because it infringed on the rights of annual conferences to manage the status of congregations, including those that leave.

At the end of General Conference, representatives of the Western Jurisdiction, which consecrated a bishop who is an open and married lesbian, made a statement that they were going to continue being a church for all people and continue to be in ministry as their faith and consciences dictated. They also invited anyone interested into a discussion about the future of the United Methodist Church, including their relationship with the denomination. The Wesleyan Covenant Association, a conservative coalition of UMC clergy, laity, and churches from across the denomination, held a meeting right after General Conference to discuss their plans as a group. There are several other gatherings being planned across our denomination by annual conferences and other key leaders to discern what the future of United Methodism is in our country and the world.

This is my first attempt at recounting all of the facts and key events so far, but there will be time for us to meet and share as a congregation later this month after Bishop Johnson holds her town halls about all of this and more information comes out about the implications of all of this. In this time if anyone needs to talk or meet with me in person, through phone, e-mail, for any reason related to all of this, please don't hesitate to contact me, or schedule a meeting. Throughout the world, countless people are seeing headlines about our denomination and seeing limited views of all of this and what it means. I encourage you to be in prayer for our denomination and the ministry of our local church, so that we can continue to live out God's love and grace for ourselves and those around us in meaningful ways.

Blessings, Pastor Brad

### Dover District Events

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

**Revival Prayer Day #7** March 23, 2019  
9 AM to 3 PM Smyrna Centennial UMC  
Open to Clergy and Laity

### Bishop's Briefings on General Conference

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM,  
Cornerstone UMC, 3135 Summit Br. Rd. Bear, DE

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
St. Luke's UMC, Denton, MD

### **Our Financial Health: ...2019 Will Be ????**

As we begin 2019, at this time of year I usually get a little anxious. At the end of February, our worship giving is under budget by about \$3,500. Although this is typical of the first few months, I am concerned, given the uncertainty about what The Way Forward will mean to us. Our wonderful church will face many challenges, especially how the General Conference decision to elect the Traditional Plan will affect us.

The love we have for each other, and the generosity of our church family, is overwhelming. Our prayer is that God will strengthen our bonds and keep our church family intact as we continue our mission to make disciples for Christ. Rich Spina, Finance Chairman



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

Balance on 1/31/2019.....	\$57,187.21
Special Donation by Members.....	\$ 857.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....	<u>\$ 1,288.53</u>
Balance on 2/28/2019.....	\$55,041.68

Our plan is to reach mortgage payoff by January 2021. Given the present balance of about \$55,000 and twenty-two months to get there, we can **HIT THE TARGET** (new rallying cry??) for not much more than the cost of a Starbucks latte (\$5.00) per giving unit per week above your usual contribution. I will be providing weekly updates to keep you informed of our progress.



I am optimistic that we will **Hit The Target**. We are thankful for the generosity of all of our church family who are going the extra mile to remove our indebtedness. Rich Spina

## Trustees Report

Sanctuary Security: We have engaged local law enforcement to arrange for training for reaction to an armed intruder. When the date and time are arranged, we will invite all who are interested to attend. Other initiatives may be considered in the future.

Sanctuary Audio System: We have awarded a contract to provide the system upgrade. Installation will occur on March 12, 2019, with testing and training to be completed prior to the Living Last Supper performance on April 18, 2019

Parking Lot Street Lights: We have awarded a contract to add an additional street light to the parking lot. Siting of the light will take place within the next week.

Sanctuary Projection System: A demonstration of a large-screen TV system for the sanctuary was held at St. Georges UMC, with encouraging results, given the age of that system. However, due to the cost of the system (~\$7,000) the Trustees voted to put this upgrade on hold until later in the year, when our financial situation is more clearly defined.

Rich Spina, Trustees Chairman

### Worship Service Cancellation

In the event of inclement weather, call church office (302) 539-9077 for voicemail message about worship service status.

### Missions Update

Our Missions balance on 2/28/2019 was \$308. Please prayerfully consider your missions giving, especially on Communion Sunday, so we can do more to care for our local needs. Ellen Hitchens

### United Methodist Women's Group Tuesday, March 5th @ 10:00 AM

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am. Please arrive 5 minutes before this. We will be discussing new mission projects and preparing for the upcoming Lenten Soup & Salad Luncheon for the Southeast Sussex County Ministerium. If you have never been to a UMW meeting and would like to see what we are all about, ladies please join us in fellowship and

friendship. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680 or 443-668-8067.

### UMW Reserving Wesley Hall Refrigerator Monday, March 11 – Wednesday, March 13

On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> the UMW will be bringing in food to store in the Wesley Hall Refrigerator for the upcoming Lenten Soup & Salad Luncheon for the Southeast Sussex County Ministerium being held on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you please help in keeping the refrigerator empty for us for what will only be for these two and half days. Food or drink items on the door and in the bins at the bottom are fine. We just need the shelf space to fully use. Setup of the Hall for the Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your assistance. I hope you all can attend the church service and luncheon on Wednesday, March 13. Thank you and many blessings, Donna Binaut

### LENTEN SOUP & SALAD SCHEDULE PRAYER SERVICE Wednesday, 12:00 Noon

- March 13** Millville United Methodist  
Corner Rt. 26 & Club House Rd.
- March 20** Community Lutheran Church  
30897 Omar Rd., Frankford
- March 27** Ocean View Presbyterian Church  
67 Central Ave., Ocean View
- April 3** St. Martha's Episcopal Church  
117 Maplewood St., Bethany Beach
- April 10** St. Ann's Catholic Church  
691 Garfield Pkwy., Bethany Beach

### Special Events

#### Pot Luck Dinner

**Pot Luck on Sunday, March 3 at 4:30 PM.** Our main dish will be Irish in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Please bring your favorite side dish and a friend(s). Contact Elizabeth Skinner with any questions.

## Ash Wednesday Service at MUMC

March 6, 6:30 PM

## Worship Committee Training Saturday

March 9, 10:00 AM

Readers, Greeters, Communion Servers and anyone interested in participating in these activities are invited to attend. This training is open to any attendee of our church. No preparation needed -- just show up.

## Choir Notes

Because of the Ash Wednesday service on March 6, choir rehearsal will be held Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30.

We welcome all who can sing to join our choir. We practice in Wesley Hall on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Sunday morning before church at 8:30 AM. Come one, come all – use your God-given talents to serve the Lord!  
Elizabeth Skinner

## 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!!

Carol Gorden, Instructor

## Aging Faithfully

### Cookie Bingo

There will be no cookie bingo in March. We will resume the second Tuesday in April – April 9<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you all then. Come and bring a friend for a lot of fun and laughter – and cookies!

Contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284 with any questions. **Note:** If you have ideas for future programs for **Aging Faithfully**, and would like to help with planning events, contact Connie Warner at 539-7488

## Coffee and Conversation

Sunday, March 17

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

## Coming in April

April 18, 2019, 7 PM



## 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 7 PM, April 18. We are blessed with men who are willing to give their time and talents to make this happen.

Look forward to seeing you at the performance.

God Bless

Marianne Smith

## Good Friday Service at MUMC

April 19, 2019, 6:30 PM

## Weekly Happenings at Millville

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Tuesday	Covenant Bible Study	11:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wednesday	Pastor's Book Club	11:00 AM
	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
Thursday	Bible Study	9:00 AM
Thursday Eve	Pastor Brad's Home:	
	Covenant Bible Study	7:00 PM
Saturday	Praise Service	6:00 PM
Sunday	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee/Bible Study w/Pastor Brad	10:30 AM

## **Pastor Brad's Office Schedule**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>By Appointment</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 4:30 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 3:30 PM</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:30 AM to 4:00 PM</b>

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~**

Nominations Comm.	Monday Mar. 4, 7:00 PM
UMW	Tuesday, Mar. 5, 10:00 AM
Finance Comm.	No meeting in March
Trustees	No meeting in March
Worship Comm.	Sat. Mar. 9, 10:00 AM
Admin. Council	Monday, Mar. 18, 7:00 PM
SPPRC	Monday, Mar. 25, 7:00 PM

### **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. Everyone is invited.

**Covenant Bible Study** - Our Tuesday Covenant Bible Study, 11:00 AM, will continue with Unit 2 of the program. Anyone is invited to join us for this next leg of our journey through the Bible! There will be an evening session of the Covenant Bible Study on Thursday, 7:00 PM at Pastor Brad's home. Participation in the first unit is not a requirement to join now.

**Pastor's Book Club** - Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. We will be studying "United Methodism in America: A Brief History" edited by John G. McEllhenney.

**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](mailto: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!**

**Wednesday, 8:30 AM**

During the winter months, we will share a time of  
prayer, fellowship, and breakfast at the South Bethany  
Beach McDonalds on Rt 1.



### **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. Join us and bring a friend!

### **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



**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)

### **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

### 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**

## Contact 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 suggestions 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.

**~SPRING FORWARD~**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

**BEGINS MARCH 10.**

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR**



## **Pictures from the Service For Christian Unity at St Ann’s Church**

**Bethany Beach**

**Tuesday, January 22**

The Churches in the Ministerium, as well as our MUMC choir and others, participated in this service.



**Donald Maebly**



**Our Choir**



**Pastor Brad**