



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**NOVEMBER 2018**

### **Message From Pastor Brad**

#### **On The Future of the Denomination and General Conference 2019**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

A specially called General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting in St. Louis, MO from February 23-26, 2019 specifically to discuss and resolve longstanding issues relating to our denomination’s stances and practices regarding homosexuality and homosexual persons. For those who don’t know, our denomination doesn’t have one person in power at the top (like the Roman Catholic Church) or some ruling council that decides matters for all United Methodist churches. The only body that makes decisions for the UMC regarding doctrine, practice, and other important matters is the General Conference. Much like the United States government, this is a representative body made up of delegates (half clergy and half laity) from across the global UMC. Each annual conference elects their representatives who then go to General Conference and vote on their behalf.

General Conference typically happens every four years, but at the last one which met in 2016 the body gave our Council of Bishops space and unprecedented authority to come up with a plan to resolve the 40+ year debate over our church’s stances and practices regarding homosexuality. In the 1970’s language was added to our denomination’s Constitution, found in our Book of Discipline, which made several claims about human sexuality and our church. Since then, the United Methodist Church has been in ongoing debate and struggle about this issue. In 2016 the Council of

Bishops (which have authority in administration and management, but not to make decisions or speak for the denomination) in response to the General Conference’s request for greater leadership on this issue, put together the Commission on a Way Forward.

This group made up of bishops, clergy, and laity from across the world and across the spectrum on this issue met several times in person and through video conferencing. These meetings were focused on prayer, discussion, and eventually coming up with different plans to resolve this debate and provide ways for our church to move forward in ministry. The language in the Book of Discipline at the focus of this debate, and addressed by their plans, focuses on the ordination of LGBTQ persons, marriage ceremonies of LGBTQ couples happening in United Methodist churches, and whether or not United Methodist clergy and bishops can perform weddings for LGBTQ persons at all. Currently our Book of Discipline prohibits all of those things from happening and prescribes specific consequences for infractions against the Discipline.

For nearly two years the Commission met and eventually put together three plans for review. During the summer the Council of Bishops took a look at all of them, gave their support to one, and issued statements on all of this before the official report from the Commission came out in August. As I am writing this letter, the denomination’s Judicial Council (our Supreme Court) is in the midst of confirming whether or not all three plans are constitutional. Once all of that is settled, at least these three plans will go to the General Conference for debate and hopefully a final decision. These

plans are called the Traditional Plan, One Church Plan, and Connectional Conference Plan.

**The Traditional Plan** essentially calls for the current language in the Discipline to stay the same, the current consequences for those who break church law to stay the same, and to provide a gracious way for dissenting churches and clergy to leave the denomination.

**The One Church Plan** basically calls for everything in our denomination to stay the same, except that the language under debate in the Discipline would be removed. Annual Conferences, clergy, and local churches are able to make their own decisions relating to these issues and would need to organize and function locally based on those decisions.

**The Connectional Conference Plan**, calls for the language under debate in the Discipline to be removed, and for the most drastic restructuring and downsizing of the denomination. The United Methodist Church would essentially move from being structured regionally, as we are now, to structuring itself based on its stance on this issue. There would be three conferences formed; one that believes and functions the same as we do now relating to LGBTQ issues, one that is essentially the same as we are now but gives churches and clergy the option to choose how they want to go forward, and a third conference where all clergy and churches must allow LGBTQ persons to be ordained, must allow weddings of same-sex persons to happen in their churches, and allow LGBTQ persons to serve as pastors.

Now I know all of this is a lot, which is why there is a helpful chart at the back of the Dove that explains all of these plans and their potential impacts with more detail and clarity. We will also be having monthly times to share, ask, and pray for our church in the midst of all of this.

Right now I encourage all of you to stay as informed as you can about what is going on from official church sources and to pray as often as you can for our denomination, its people, and most of all that God's will would work in this time so that we can continue to proclaim the Good News to the people around us who need to hear it. I am always

available to talk to any person or persons who have questions or concerns about any of this, so please don't hesitate to call, e-mail, or set up a time to talk with me. Most of all, even in this time, may we remember that God's church is here, will remain here, and that our work as God's children and His people continues on.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brad

## **Discussion and Prayer for the Future of the UMC**

Due to folks continuing to have a lot of questions about the future of our denomination, the Commission on the Way Forward, and the special General Conference in February 2019, Pastor Brad will be facilitating a series of gatherings to share new information, answer any questions, respond to concerns people have, and to pray for the United Methodist Church. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month Coffee with the Pastor will not be happening as usual. Instead, Pastor Brad will host these discussions in the sanctuary after Coffee and Conversation (roughly 10:30 AM). The dates of these gatherings are listed below:

November 18, 2018  
December 16, 2018  
January 20, 2019  
February 17, 2019

## **Community Thanksgiving Service**

On November 20<sup>th</sup> the Southeast Sussex Ministerium will be holding its annual Community Thanksgiving service at Ocean View Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM, with the Rev. Terry Dougherty preaching. Let's join with our brothers and sisters in Christ from our neighboring churches to give thanks to the Lord together!



*Wishing you a Blessed Thanksgiving*

**Dover District Events**  
**Amy Willey**  
**Interim Administrative Assistant**  
**(302) 526-2629**

**“Gather to Grow-Scatter to Save”**  
Moving from Leadershape to Leadershift to Leadership. Guest presenter Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2018  
8:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Whatcoat UMC, 341 Saulsbury Rd.  
Dover DE

Registration ends November 21, 2018.  
Forms located on table at rear of sanctuary

**Our Financial Health:**  
**...With Thanks to God**

Praise God!!! We are doing very well as we enter the last two months of the year. As of October 21st, our worship giving is more than \$10,000 greater than our budget estimate for 2018. We are truly blessed by a dedicated and generous church family.

Our General Fund balance at the end of September was \$38,571, and unless we have an unforeseen expense, should be close to \$40,000 at the end of the year. The Finance Committee will be meeting in early December to determine end-of-year actions to transfer funds to the capital reserve account, and make a supplemental payment against the mortgage, as we did in 2017.

We believe it would be prudent to go into 2019, with a general fund balance of between \$25,000 and \$30,000, so our end-of-year actions will reflect that plan.



**Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status**

Balance on 9/30/2018.....\$89,901.23  
Special Donation by Members.....\$ 240.00  
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....\$ 1,147.14  
Balance on 10/22/2018.....\$88,514.09

In April 2018, we estimated that the mortgage balance at the end of this year would be around \$97,000. As you can see, with your help, we may be under \$80,000. We are so grateful and blessed by the members of our church family who support the effort to reduce the mortgage in ways both financial, and through extraordinary personal effort.

We are still considering ways to have the mortgage paid off by the time the current note comes due in January, 2021, including a “Burn-the-Mortgage” drive.

It looks like if we can add an average of \$2,100 a month to our scheduled payment of around \$1,100, we can get there. For now, please prayerfully consider a special donation using the pew envelopes to make that happen!!

**Trustees Report**

Your Trustees have had a busy month, with a major cleanup/maintenance day on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The day included: installation of leaf shields on Wesley Hall rain gutters, restriping the parking area, painting rear door to sanctuary, general cleanup. The day was well attended by nine very hard workers from our church family.

In addition, the Trustees made adjustments to the pulpit microphone to avoid annoying feedback, and verified the functioning of the choir and organ microphones.

We will be taking on the tasks of repainting the sanctuary front door, and improving the lighting in the parking area. Also, we will be negotiating to have commercial trash pickup.

Finally, the trustees voted to increase the rental fee for use of Wesley Hall from \$50 to \$100, applied to use/users not related to church functions or our church family. Rich Spina, Chairman

## Make Missions Great Again!!

Last month we addressed the importance of Missions Support in our outreach to the community. We are doing an “OK” job so far this year (see the details below) but much less than we have done in the past.

Salem Community Food Pantry	\$1,500
Union Wesley UMC	\$ 450
Human Relations Sunday	\$ 12
UMCOR Sunday	\$ 330
Native American Sunday	\$ 49
Pen-Del Scholarship Sunday	\$ 340
S. E. Sussex Ministerium	\$ 200
Crop Walk	\$ 900
Local Needs	\$ 675
	<b>\$ 4,491</b>
Christmas Shoes (to date)	<b>\$ 2,094</b>

The Missions balance at the end of September was \$12.12. Please prayerfully consider your missions giving, especially on Communion Sunday, so we can do more to care for our local needs.

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”*  
*Matthew 25:40 NIV*

## Special Events

### Pot Luck Dinner

**Pot Luck** on November 4 at 4:30 PM. We will be celebrating Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey will be provided—please bring your favorite side dish. Contact Elizabeth Skinner with any questions.

### 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!! Classes on November 6 and December 4 will not be held.

Carol Gorden, Instructor

## Aging Faithfully

Cookie Bingo will be held Tuesday, November 13 at 10 AM. Please contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284 with any questions. If you’re looking for a good time with lots of laughs, join us at the next event.

**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

## United Methodist Women’s Group

### UMW Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale Saturday, November 10 at 8:00

UMW Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale is right around the corner. It will be held on Saturday, November 10 and doors will open at 8:00 am. UMW has reserved the Wesley Hall the week of Monday, November 5 to Saturday, November 10. This scheduling will affect anyone who uses the hall during the day - bible studies and classes. Any evening meetings in the library area during this week will not be affected.

We hope to offer 2nd Time Around Treasures (Any Christmas or Late Fall / Winter decorations), Crafts, Bake Sale, Silent Auction and the UMW Café will be serving lunch. Your donation of any lightly used and no longer needed Christmas items, would be greatly appreciated. Please check with family and friends to see if they would like to donate any Christmas Items too! Again, will be accepting only Christmas or Late Fall / Winter decorations. We will be accepting donations until Saturday, November 3. Donations received after November 3rd may show up at the yard sale or next year’s Christmas bazaar. Please place items in a sealed box and mark them Christmas Bazaar. I will set up tables in back of the Wesley Hall next to the electrical box. If you have already made a donation, thank you so much. Making a Craft? You have until Tuesday, November 6th. Have fun, can’t wait to see all the wonderful creativity.

If Baking is your thing? Bake goods need to be dropped off on Friday, November 9th between 1 and 3pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Binaut at 302-829-1680 or 443-668-8067. Or come to the meeting on Tuesday, October 30!

**~SAVE THE DATE~**

**MUMC Ladies Luncheon  
Tuesday, December 4th @ 12:00 Noon**

All MUMC ladies are welcome and please feel free to bring a guest. The luncheon this year will be at the Cottage Café on Route 1 in Bethany. Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church. For more information, contact Carol Gorden at 410-530-3002.

**Coffee and Conversation**

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

**Weekly Happenings at Millville**

**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.

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Covenant Bible Study	11:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wednesday	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

**~ Monthly Meetings~**

UMW	Tues., Oct 30 10:00 AM
	No meeting in November
Finance Comm.	No meeting in November
Trustees	No meeting in November
Admin. Council	Mon., Nov 19 7:00 PM
SPPRC	No meeting Nov/ Dec

**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. The third Sunday for the next four months will be dedicated to discussing the possible changes facing the Methodist Church. See Pastor Brad's articles earlier in this edition of the Dove. Everyone is invited.

**Covenant Bible Study** - Tuesday 11:00 AM In Wesley Hall. This is a 24-week DVD based study of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation that is divided into three sections (Creating, Living, Trusting). Anyone is invited to join in this study, regardless of your church background or knowledge of the Bible. See sign-up sheet at rear of sanctuary.

**Wesley Wednesday Group** – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. We will be studying the book “Wesley and the People Called Methodists,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Richard P. Heitzenrater.

**Thursday Bible Study** – Meets at 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Donald Maebly

### **Missions**

**Donate to CHRISTMAS SHOES  
By October 31**

As of this date, and with one week left to give, I'm happy to report that 585 children will be receiving their first pair of shoes because of you!!!! Imagine that! Picture the excitement (and appreciation) each child will feel when those shoes are handed to them. I do believe it will be a Christmas gift even greater than a toy.

Deep and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your love and your generosity. You are truly amazing!

Nancy Bowers

### **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](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, 8:30 AM, Bethany Beach @ Campbell Place. A time of prayer and fellowship on the beach with more fellowship and breakfast at the Bethany Beach McDonalds.



## 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. Join us and bring a friend!



*Thank you for serving our country  
and protecting our freedoms*

**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~

### Southern Delaware Chorale Performance of the “Messiah”

The Southern Delaware Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Colin Armstrong, will present a concert performance of G. F. Handel’s “Messiah, with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony and four professional soloists, on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Cape Henlopen High School, 1250 King’s Hwy., Lewes, DE 19958. For tickets please go to [www.southerndelawarechorale.org](http://www.southerndelawarechorale.org)., Puzzles in Lewes, Browseabout Books in Rehobeth Beach, or any chorale member. Ken Beckman, member

### 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.

### ~In Memorium~

Our longtime church member, Charlotte Conaway, went to be with her Lord in September. Her leadership and contributions to MUMC will be gratefully remembered. Celebration of Life Service, Monday, Oct. 29, 2:00 PM, Manor House, Seaford.



*Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>*

## CHURCH INFORMATION



### **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. Here is a check list for the leader of the activity/event to follow:

1. Please take all food home. Unless you are coming back the next day to get it or eat it, please take it home. Mark food that you leave. If not marked, it's available to anyone. If you left something, check back in a couple of days. We have many activities and events that need the room in the refrigerator. Wesley Hall and Church refrigerators will be cleaned out at the end of each month. Also, we have ice in the freezer; please feel free to use it.
2. Please clean, dry and put away all items used from the kitchen.
3. Buying items to be used. Thank you for purchasing cups, coffee, plates, etc. Please don't leave them on the countertop. We have plenty of cabinet space which holds the following: Napkins, Plates and bowls, Cups, Plastic silverware, etc. Look around to see where these items are stored.
4. Please be certain to wipe off the tables and kitchen countertops. Just use a wet paper towel and dry it.
5. Please also make sure the chairs have no crumbs.
6. Please make sure the floor is swept. There is a broom and dust pan in the Janitor's closet near the restroom.

Thank you for helping keep our Wesley Hall clean.  
Many hands make light work.

Donna Binaut

## **Church Supplies Needed**

We are currently in need of the following supplies for Wesley Hall:

- gallon plastic bags
- hand washing soap

### **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**

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[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.

The editors offer a special thanks to **Connie Warner**, who, among all her other church "jobs," assembles the Dove Newsletter for distribution and mailing.