



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE **OCTOBER 2015**

**Hello Church!**

Have you ever heard anyone describe to you the process for becoming an ordained elder or deacon or a licensed local pastor in our denomination? People have different stories to tell depending on their life situations and when they begin to pursue their calling to ministry. If you ask even a small number of folks in this process, you're always going to hear two universal truths about it. The process is long and it involves a lot of meetings and paperwork. Throughout my first couple of years there was one question I dreaded more than any of the theological inquires or curveballs that the District Committee on Ordained Ministry would toss my way. Someone was always bound to ask me how it was with my devotional life and what I was doing to further it. It's not that I did not have one, I read and studied the Bible and prayed regularly. Compared to everyone else I could not help but feel that my devotional life was not as good as those who made theirs public around me.

You see, journaling and I have had a very love-hate, on and off kind of relationship ever since the first time I was assigned to do it in grade school. I did not become a real morning person until later in my college career. As wonderful as it sounded to get up early and spend an hour or so in devotion to start my day, that was not an option until I started my 20's. If you've been a Christian for any significant amount of time, then I'm sure you've been exposed to the same extensive number of devotional and study books that I have. They all

sit on my bookshelf to this day. I got through a few days of some, maybe a week or two of a few more, a couple have served me very well, and there are even one or two that I didn't get past the cover. Not an altogether stellar record there either. So what was I to do? The answer was a relatively simple one. After voicing these concerns and feelings to an early mentor of mine he shared some advice that has stuck with me up to today. Keep it simple and keep it between you and God!

That sounds simple enough, but we're called to spend our whole lives pursuing the meaning of it. Our devotional life and growth in Christ and with God is not solely about head knowledge or learning information. Memorizing verses, reading familiar passages, and spending time in prayerful settings are not the end of the story. They are paths that need to lead us to God. That's why I'm starting a study on the spiritual practices and making the informational available to everyone. It is my hope and prayer that by being exposed to these ancient practices and old traditions of prayer and devotion your spiritual lives will be enriched and deepened in new ways. They don't require much of any training or advanced study, and many of them are quite simple and can be done anyway, even on the go! We don't just visit God on Sunday mornings or check in with the Lord at certain times of the day. We're meant to walk with God because He wants to be with us in every moment of the everlasting lives we are blessed to have through the sacrifice of Christ. May we all walk with Christ more often and more deeply every day!

Blessings,

Pastor Brad

## **The Words of God: Remnant**

Today in our progressive secular society Christians are in exile. Believers who hold to traditional Biblical truths form a remnant. The remnant finds its refuge in God and His Biblical truths. Their mission is to proclaim those truths to those who have abandoned the faith thus creating a revival of the church. For the next three months we'll explore the themes of remnant, refuge and revival.

What comes to mind when you think of a remnant? A left over piece of cloth or rug of reduced value? In the Bible a remnant is more than a left over piece of something worth little value. It is a special group of people set aside by God for His chosen purposes.

The idea of a Biblical remnant is found all through the Bible from the first remnant, Noah and his family in Genesis, to those who are in The Book of Life in Revelations. The doctrine of a remnant was introduced by the prophet Amos. About 750 B.C. Amos found that many people in Israel believed that God would protect all of them and their institutions. With strong language Amos dismissed this notion. He said divine judgment would be poured out on all Israel. He corrected the belief that everyone would

live happily and prosper with the doctrine; that only a few would survive and rebuild the nation.

### **Read Isaiah 10:20-24.**

At the time of this prophecy, Assyria was the major world power in the Middle East. During the period of Isaiah's ministry, he saw Assyria invade the northern kingdom of Israel, resulting in the northern ten tribes being scattered among the surrounding nations. As Israel's neighbor, Judah was obviously concerned about what Assyria might do to them. Isaiah's prophecy was intended to assure the people that even though Assyria will attack Jerusalem, they will not be totally successful. For God Himself, Isaiah declares, will preserve a remnant to return from exile.

Verses 21-22 drives home this truth to the hearers, "A remnant will return." It will not be all of Israel that will be delivered. Notice verse 22: "For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return." This is a direct reference to the promise God made to Abraham in Exodus.

When God made a covenant with Abraham God promised that through Abraham's offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed, declaring that he would multiply Abraham's offspring like the stars of heaven and the sand of the sea (Genesis 22:17). God is recalling his covenant promise by not

destroying the entire nation. Only a remnant of the faithful will return from exile.

Verse 20 tells us that the remnant will be those who no longer depend on outsiders, but will faithfully depend on the Lord alone. The truthfulness of the nation's faith will be demonstrated by their action of choosing to trust the Holy One of Israel, the Mighty God, rather than someone or something else. Thus Isaiah states an important truth: the Abrahamic promise is not an absolute guarantee of blessing for people who fail to trust God.

### **Now read Romans 9:27-28.**

Paul in Romans 9:27-28 quotes verses from Isaiah and makes the same point about the remnant. Not all who are descended from Israel are truly Israel. Paul spends Romans chapter nine proving this point. God chose Israel as

### **The Words of God: Faith**

By Ed Thornton

### **United Methodist Women**

The United Methodist Women (UMW) of MUMC will meet at 10:00 AM on October 6. This organization is open to all women of the church. We have a Bible study with refreshments and then our business meeting. Come and join us.

Our Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2015. We meet to

work on craft items for the bazaar every Wednesday from 9 to noon. Anyone is welcome. You do not need to be a UMW member. (And we could certainly use the help!)

Also needed for the bazaar are jewelry, Christmas items (used are OK), baked goods and workers. We can also use any craft items you'd like to get rid of. Let me know if you can help.

Marie Myers, 302-539-4623

### **Congregational Giving Falls Below Budgeted Expenses**

The finance committee is concerned that our congregational giving continues to fall below our budgeted expenses. The results for January through August show that we are **\$7,679 short of our goal.**

**This has been a difficult year for MUMC;** we have lost many wonderful friends through deaths and through relocation away from this area. However, there is still time to catch-up. A review of our giving in 2014 shows that of those using envelopes for their giving:

1. 10 givers averaged less than \$10 a week
2. 13 givers averaged less than \$20 a week
3. 15 givers averaged less than \$40 a week
4. 18 givers averaged less than \$80 a week
5. 6 givers averaged less than \$115 a week
6. 5 givers averaged less than \$155 a week
7. 2 givers averaged more than \$155 a week.

**WHERE DO YOU STAND in that grouping?** Would you please pray and try

to move up to at least the next higher group. Please pray for more givers and more members. Reach out to your neighbors, especially new neighbors and invite them to come to our wonderful, loving church.  
Larry Kaplan

## **A BIG THANK YOU**

**A special hand of applause goes to Sandi Kobi and her committee for the wonderful job setting up the Revival. If you missed every night, you really did MISS it!! We were only able to come to the Saturday Night Revival and what a wonderful message and wonderful uplifting music!!**

## **Our County Food Bank**

As all of you know, we, here at Millville United Methodist church are supporters of our local food bank. This is housed at the Salam United Methodist Church in Selbyville. We have always given most generously year after year and I cannot tell you how wonderful you all are for what you do. Winter will be here before we know it and there are so many families who are struggling to feed their families. If it is possible to do so, could you think about donating sweet potatoes in cans, canned meat of all sorts, as well as noodle and rice mixes. The people who receive this will be

so great full. Also pasta and jarred sauce goes a long way as does cereal as a snack. Thanks so much, Marianne Smith  
I want to thank **John Amato** for delivering the food all summer long for me as I was working and could not do so. Thanks John!!  
M.S.

## **LIFE FORCE**

This group will meet October 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 P.M. at the fellowship hall. Volunteers for donating food for the Hoe-Down as well as are helpers for the craft table. The Western theme will be carried out with a fire and smores making, country dancing and good old fashioned viddles!! Should be a fun day. Please contact Jamie if you can help .  
302-670-8184

## **Aging Faithfully**

Unfortunately we didn't reach our minimum number of theater - goes to make the Sight & Sound bus trip affordable. Hopefully some of those who wanted to see "*Joseph*" will still call the theater and order their individual tickets so they can drive up and see the show. Next time around we may have to plan ahead with one or more other churches to have a combined trip.

On Tuesday the 22nd, we had a nice turnout of a little over 20 folks at the congregation breakfast. Lots of good food, followed by a speaker with some useful information on special transportation for the elderly to get to their doctor appointments, etc.

Next Cookie BINGO is scheduled for  
Tuesday October 13th at Wesley Hall.

**B. Bowers**