

MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Dove



DECEMBER 2019

Message From Pastor Brad

Where Are You Putting Christ?

As we begin the holy season of Advent -- the time of waiting and preparing for Christ to be born at Christmas -- the rest of the world has already rushed headfirst into the Christmas season. It's easy to feel burdened and overwhelmed with everything going on and to be done. In Ecclesiastes 3:10-14 we find these words:

“I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it.” (NIV)

A common feeling and response from many Christians at this time of year to the chaotic commercialization and holiday business is to “Put Christ back into Christmas.” That certainly is a valid observation and reminder, even for us who know the reason for this season. It's tragically easy even for our focus on the coming Christ and observance of our spiritual growth to get lost amid the parties, cookies, and preparing for time with family and friends. This passage from Ecclesiastes is a good reminder for us to not only remember our place in the world and God's plans, but also to see all things in our lives as being from God or that God is within us.

Many of us do and say what we can to bring Christ into our observances this time of the year like making sure to say “Merry Christmas” whenever we can or to hold our annual Christmas events for the community. As much of an uphill battle as it can feel sometimes, putting Christ into or back into Christmas is relatively easy compared to other struggles we face. The groundwork is already laid for us to do that. As a means of responding to all the gifts that God has blessed you with, I encourage you to pray upon and respond to a greater issue we all face. How do you regularly and actively bring Christ into the world around you? How can those you know, and those who simply cross your path, recognize Christ at work in your life?

Once the trees and decorations come down, all of us are faced with a greater task that goes on long after the world has packed up Christmas until next year. How are we putting and keeping Christ in Christianity for the rest of the world? Matthew 6:33 tells us to, “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (NIV). Although we can't force anyone to acknowledge or believe in God, and Scripture describes folks being spiritually blind and hard-hearted all the way back to Moses, God has entrusted us to do everything we can to bring the Kingdom of God into this world and the lives of those around us.

Please, do everything you can to glorify and point to Christ in the weeks ahead, but please don't stop there! In Paul's letter to the Philippians he describes having an assurance, “that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (1:6). Through our “partnership in the gospel” as Paul puts it, I believe that God's confidence and trust lives in and carries us, and the entire Body of Christ, through until

Christ returns triumphant (Ephesians 1:5). May we all strive to point to Christ, who is at work and amidst all things in the lives of all His beloved children.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Brad

New Member's Class

Pastor Brad will be holding the next class for new members and those who want to learn about the United Methodist Church in Wesley Hall on Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. We will welcome new members into the church on Sunday, December 21st or the next Sunday for those who want to join and will be away that week. New members will go through a 6-week study on the membership vows of the United Methodist Church with a mentor early in 2020. To join this class please e-mail Pastor Brad at umcpastorbrad@outlook.com or sign-up on the sheet on the back table of the sanctuary and indicate if you want to join the church.

Mission Notes

For those who don't know, Pastor Brad is the chairperson of the Peninsula Delaware Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry. One of the most exciting and uplifting things this board gets to do is award three scholarships to incoming and current college students based on financial need, academic merit, and their participation in United Methodist campus ministries.

These scholarships are funded entirely by the churches of our conference and their members. If you feel led to do so, you can give to these scholarships through our Sunday offering through the end of January, please mark any checks or envelopes as Conference Scholarships. Thank you in advance for your generous giving to young people who are pursuing higher education!

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

Readings for Advent and Christmas

December 1st - First Sunday of Advent

Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44

December 8th - Second Sunday of Advent

Romans 15:4-13 and Matthew 3:1-12

December 15th - Third Sunday of Advent

James 5:7-10, Luke 1:47-55, and Matthew 11:2-11

December 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th - Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, and Luke 2:1-20

December 29th - First Sunday After Christmas

Hebrews 2:10-18 and Matthew 2:13-23

Dover District Events

Contact Amy Willey

302-526-2629

Saturday, January 18th - Impactful Service Workshop from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at Mt. Olivet UMC in Seaford, DE

Committee Reports

Our Financial Health

As of November 30, 2019, our worship giving was under budget by over \$8,700. The Finance Committee will meet in December to make any changes to our end-of year expenses. I know God will continue to bless us by inspiring our church family to support the mission and vision of our wonderful old church.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman



Trustees Report

Sanctuary Power Failure: We received a check for \$320 from our insurance company, and with the special (and very generous) donation of \$1,000 from one of our church families, the entire cost of the repairs has been covered.

Sanctuary Projection System: This project is under consideration as a 2020 effort.

Facility Security:

The Trustees are waiting for a response from our insurance company on liability coverage for our security volunteers who may use pepper spray. Before endorsing, Trustees requested, and the team provided information on products and training in the use of this material. Trustees are evaluating this information.

Our Security Team (Brice Cropper, Tom Maly, and Joe Skinner) provided draft instructions to our security volunteers, as shown in the report below:

Security Team Report

Thanks for Volunteering for this important mission!

- 1) Below are the instructions for door monitors. Please review and provide comments, suggested improvements, as needed.
- 2) A sign-up chart where you can select your preferred availability dates to serve will be provided on the Sanctuary bulletin board.
- 3) A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss training, finalize plans.

Primary responsibility and goals of the church security team is to help ensure a safe environment for all church attendees.

- 1) Coordinate with greeters for door monitoring.
- 2) Lock front and back Sanctuary doors during opening hymn.
- 3) Familiarize yourself with walkie-talkie operation. Turn on and set both units to channel 3. Hand-off a walkie-talkie to Children's Church Leader and ensure they know how to call if needed.
- 4) If asked, escort Children's Church participants to Wesley Hall and ensure all doors are locked.
- 5) Position yourself near front door to welcome late arrivals, and oversee Sanctuary. Keep your cell phone at hand to call 911 if needed.
- 6) Welcome back Children's Church participants, turn off walk-talkies and return to the rack in the Sanctuary vestibule.
- 7) Unlock front and back doors during benediction.

If you are interested in being a member of the team, email Tom Maly at tmaly818@mchsi.com so he can have a complete roster.

Brice Cropper/Tom Maly

Missions

Please prayerfully consider your missions giving, especially on Communion Sunday, so we can do more to care for our local needs. Ellen Hitchens.

Christmas Mission - Angel Tree Week One – “Code Purple” (Men’s Shelter)

Throughout Advent we are called to prepare ourselves to receive the greatest gift in all of creation, Jesus Christ the Messiah. In this season we are encouraged to examine our lives and let the Lord lead us into ways we can better follow Him and live out God's grace and love. While we are readying ourselves to receive, we can also give from our grateful hearts to causes and people in need in our community. Every week of Advent there will be opportunities to give by picking a need from our Angel Tree, purchasing the item, and bringing it to church the next week. **A complete list of mission projects will be available Dec. 8.**

Thank you, Ellen Hitchens

UMW Notes from Donna

No meeting in December and January

Millville Holiday Market December 7, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

The UMW will have a booth at the Millville Holiday Market in our Wesley Hall Kitchen. We will be selling Rada Cutlery and Crafts from the Christmas Bazaar. Come by to see us and all the other wonderful vendors! Donna Binaut

Special Events

Aging Faithfully

AARP Christmas Concert Wesley Hall Wednesday, December 11, 2019 11:00 AM

If you want to get into the Christmas spirit, please come and enjoy the wonderful sounds of the season. Both sacred and secular music will be performed by the local AARP choral group. Following the concert, we will enjoy a pizza lunch. Come and bring a friend. See you there.

Pot Luck Dinner

~No December or January Potluck~

We will resume our schedule in February. Look forward to seeing you February 2nd. We will really be hungry by then!!! Elizabeth

Coffee and Conversation

Just a reminder that our Coffee and Conversation is on the 3rd Sunday of every month. This is a special time for members and visitors to say “hi” and to “catch up”. So many of you have helped to make these 3rd Sundays of the month a success by bringing yummy things to share and enjoy, and I thank you for that. Remember the sign-up sheet on the back table which helps us to know what to look forward to. If you forget to sign your name, please, by all means, still bring something we will all enjoy. We can never have too much!!!

We are a Church family and it’s great to have us all involved in our fellowship events. Your presence and involvement makes those times more special and more fun!

Please think about looking at the sheet this Sunday and signing up!

Thank you! Ellie Trait

Cookie Bingo

Cookie Bingo will be on a break until someone volunteers to assume the responsibility for this activity.

If you are interested, please Contact Cathy Witmer @ 302-732-6284.

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.

Choir Notes

Choir practice is held every Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM in Wesley Hall. We always welcome anyone interested in joining us. If you can sing in the shower, maybe you can sing with us. We love praising the Lord, how about you? Elizabeth
“With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord.....”
Ezra 3:11 NIV

Weekly Happenings at Millville

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
Wednesday	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM
Thursday	Bible Study	9:00 AM
Saturday	Praise Service	6:00 PM
Sunday	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Pastor’s Study	10:30 AM

Pastor Brad’s Office Schedule

Tuesday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Wednesday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Thursday 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Friday and Saturday - Sabbath and Family time

Monthly Meetings

UMW	No December Meeting
Finance Comm.	Monday Dec 9, 7:00 PM
Trustees	No December Meeting
Admin. Council	No December Meeting
SPPRC	No December Meeting

~ Christmas Services at MUMC ~
(in the Sanctuary)

A Christmas Play

Saturday, December 14
7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24
7:00 PM

Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for singing and sharing in the traditional Christmas story. You will be blessed.



Fit for Life

Each Tuesday we meet at 9:00 AM and Carol Gorden leads us in “gentle exercise.” Everyone is welcome to join in for fitness, fun, and fellowship!! Carol (410-530-3002)

Small Groups –Weekly

Pastor Brad’s Study - 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.

Pastor Brad’s Class

New Member’s Class

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Missions Giving

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: International Disaster

**Response, Hurricane Relief
for Islands Affected by “Doria”
Advance # 982450**

Remember To Bring Donations For

Salem UMC Food Pantry

Supplies Needed for Wesley Hall

Tri-fold paper towels, toilet paper, hand/dish soap, cleaning or disinfectant supplies.

Ministries

To activate the Prayer Chain

Call Nancy Bowers at 1-410-598-5600
or email 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
Mariner’s Bethel UMC

Volunteers for ACTS are needed!

Fill out an Application at 34634 Atlantic Ave.,
Ocean View. (Phone 302 539-3513)

*“Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign.”*

Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

Prayer on the Beach!
During the winter months,
we meet at McDonalds
Wednesday, 8:30 AM

Come and share in a time of prayer, fellowship and breakfast at the Bethany Beach McDonalds on Route 1. Invite a friend!



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!

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 see is followed:

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 anyone's who wants it. If you left something, check back in a couple of days. We have many activities and events that need the room in the refrigerator. 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



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

Reader/Greeter Schedule
(Subject to change as needed)

December 2019

Date	Reader	Greeters
1	Janet Smith	Tom & Donna Binaut
8	Marianne Smith	Rich & Rosemary Spina
15	Donald Maebly	Jerry Lingenfelter & Bill Graham
22	Tom Binaut	Phyllis Campbell & Millie Cheek
29	Rich Spina	Bev Brady & Betty Moffett

Please refer to the bulletin board and web site for a schedule for the entire year. Contact Marilyn Ferry with questions. (539-9598)

Readers / Greeters schedule for 2020
Looking for Readers and Greeters

We are currently looking for members who would like to be a Reader or a Greeter at Sunday service. We would love to have more volunteers. If you are interested, please talk with Luella Wright, Worship Chair or Pastor Brad to learn more.

Many blessings, Donna



“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called: **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**”

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

December Birthdays



- 1 – Beverly Bigley
- 2 – Frances Smith
- 3 – Carol Gaulding
- 6 – Millie Cheek
- 6 – Shirley Howard
- 7 – Jerry Lingenfelter
- 10 – Jeremy Eglit
- 11 – Dee Paris
- 12 – Roger Howard
- 12 – Ed Palmer
- 13 – Frank Lathbury
- 14 – Cathy Witmer
- 14 – Susan Fry
- 15 – Lee Brubaker
- 22 – Bob Walters
- 27 – Jamie Bily
- 29 – Elizabeth Skinner
- 29 – Rick Bigley
- 31 – Charlotte Dunn

We would like to wish Cary Gaulding – October 24, a happy belated birthday and much love!

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

Worship Service Cancellation

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

An Advent Prayer by Renee Swope shared by Bev Brady

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth.

"The Manger of My Heart"

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, remind me of the gift You gave when you sent Your son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever. You came as a baby born in a manger. Wrapped like the gifts I find under the tree, waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me. Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth, when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night. And Angels announced "Into your darkness, God brings His Light." "Do not be afraid" they said, to shepherds in the field. Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield. Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.

Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all. Surround me with Your presence Lord, I long to hear Your voice. Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.

Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush. In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.

Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.



***May your greatest gift this
Christmas be the blessings of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***

Contact Information

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