



# MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE DOVE

**FEBRUARY 2017**

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRAD

#### Be Kind...

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

- Galatians 5:22-23, NIV

One morning, some time ago, I was listening to a radio show and they stumbled upon the topic of slogans and catchphrases that no longer exist, or are on the brink of disappearing. Most of it just came off as silly talk-show nonsense, but I actually had an emotional reaction when they got to Be Kind, Rewind. Those three words immediately took me back to countless special memories from my childhood that involved movies, especially VHS tapes.

I remember the first time I watched Star Wars when I found a copy of it at my aunt and uncle's house in Florida. I remember how my parents bought me a copy of Batman Returns for the only surgery I've ever had (I was 8), and stuck it in my bed as they wheeled me into the operating room. All of those experiences ended with me hearing the phrase, Be Kind, Rewind in my head and following suit. It was done either out of kindness to myself or others. There were few things worse as a kid than wanting to watch a movie and needing to wait that agonizing minute or two for it to rewind. I didn't want to impose that on myself or anyone else.

It may sound silly, but I believe we can treat what Be Kind, Rewind stands for as a modern day parable about how God relates to us and what we are called to do about it.

What would your definition of kindness be? How do you think about it, or use it? What does it mean to be kind? In Jeremiah 31:3 we hear these words, “The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness” (NIV). Kindness isn't a word to be thrown around lightly, or a general state of being. We often think of kindness as simply the opposite, or absence of some form of meanness or negativity. I often use kindness to describe someone who seems gentle or compassionate, even if there isn't much action or evidence to prove it. The kindness we find in Galatians and Jeremiah isn't so simple, we hear that it is a result of God's everlasting love. One is poured out upon us as the other unceasingly draws us in.

Look at your own life, especially as you try to live according to the teachings of Christ. How do you embody the phrase, “Be Kind...” in your daily life? How would people finish the phrase about you? We all receive and know the unyielding kindness of the Lord, but how do we share it or pass it on to others? In the same way we would always rewind the video for the next person out of courtesy, we are called to pass on the kindness of Christ in whatever way we can. Make it something big, or something small and wonderful. Most of all make it something that reveals the Lord at work in your life and reaching out to connect all. In 1 Samuel 20:14 we hear this plea, “But show me unfailing kindness like the Lord's kindness as long as I live” (NIV). Through

the work of the Spirit in us, may we transcend niceness and go beyond simply being not mean, but live out this verse with all our being.

Blessings & Hope,  
Pastor Brad

### **Conference Wide Prayer Vigil & Service February 5-11, 2017**

#### **A Message from Our Bishop**

This prayer vigil serves as a response to the Council of Bishops initiative for Praying Our Way Forward. Together, let's be in a posture of prayer for the church. I invite You - clergy, laity, congregations, and small groups across the Peninsula-Delaware Conference to pray for God's guidance.

Our prayer focus is twofold: We are praying that God will help us to more effectively fulfill the mission of the church and we are praying to be one in Christ.

During this time, I also recommend reading Dr. Elaine Heath's new book, *God Unbound: Wisdom for the Anxious Church*.

Please also join me on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 7:00 PM at Conley's UMC, 33104 Jolyn's Way, Lewes, DE 19958 for a conference-wide prayer service.

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

If you aren't able to sign up for the prayer vigil from the e-mail Pastor Brad sent, or don't have e-mail or access to the Internet, please let Pastor Brad know when you would like to pray and he will sign you up for the vigil. It is divided into 1 hour slots, 24 hours a day, throughout the week. Please pray for our church, our denomination and all the people the Lord has put around us to cover with God's transforming grace and unending love!

### **Reaching Out to Make Disciples for Christ**

Pastor Brad and Erin are leading a team whose charter is to come up with ideas to reach out to our neighbors in the local community. The intent is to make them aware of our presence, and the opportunity to join with us in Christian fellowship and worship. The team will also work with others to take on leadership of various initiatives, and assist in detailed planning and implementation.

The team has had a number of meetings over the past year, and promoted events like Barb Clair's Christmas Sing-Along (which everybody loved) and participation in Cops and Goblin's. This is a good start, but the team believes there is an opportunity to do much more.

At the last meeting, the team discussed a number of events for 2017, some of which were repeats of last year, and some new events to reach out more effectively. Listed below are events and other initiatives to be proposed for consideration:

- Movie night
- Pot luck dinners
- Local events
- 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration
- Day trips to various venues
  - Sight & Sound
  - New York City
  - Washington DC
  - Longwood Gardens
- Mailed flyers about Millville UMC
- Coastal Point articles
- Cook books to visitors
- More effective ways to follow up with visitors to our services

These are great ways to meet our neighbors and invite them into fellowship and worship. As with everything else worth doing, to make it happen takes leadership, time, and commitment. If you love our church and would like to help bring in more disciples to Christ, please see Pastor Brad or Erin to help out in any of the above items. Better yet, if you have other ideas, let us know.

Rich Spina

## Trustees Report

The Trustees committee has undergone some changes for 2017. We welcome Phyllis Rudd (who agreed to another term), Sheila Herman, and Frank Lathbury. Joe Skinner, who has provided extraordinary leadership in so many areas, is stepping down as chairman but will continue on the committee. I will attempt to maintain the high leadership standard Joe has set, but those are big shoes to fill.

We have been truly blessed to have gotten through 2016 without any major issue with respect to our physical plant. Unfortunately, we started 2017 with the sanctuary oil furnace shutting down on January 28th, causing us to move our Sunday service to Wesley Hall. However, the problem was easy to diagnose and repair at minimal cost, so we are back to the sanctuary on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

As with many of our church's systems, and like ourselves, age has a way of sneaking up on you and causing some aches and pains. The furnace is over 12 years old and although still working fairly well will not last forever. Other components are even older, some going back to original construction 110 years ago. The Trustees are dedicated to preserving our beloved old church, and will do our best to keep it going as the "Lighthouse on the Corner".

For 2017, the Trustees are considering a number of projects:

- Sanctuary handicapped ramp—the ramp has a number of issues, not the least of which is age deterioration. In winter, it is difficult to keep the walkway safe after snow/ice since it gets no sun. De-icing material does not work well. Railings are prone to splinters. Alternatives are (1) to replace the ramp in another sunny location (along the west side of the sanctuary) with synthetic materials, (2) rebuild at the same location with synthetic materials and a system to keep it clear of snow/ice. Both are quite expensive, and only cost estimates will be prepared this year due to funding constraints.

- Sanctuary audio/visual system and special event lighting—the current video system performance is marginal in terms of clarity and observation from the pulpit area. Improvements would include using better wiring to transmit images, new technology projector, and additional monitors to enable viewing by the choir and pastor. Microphones would be upgraded to reduce background noise interference and response. Directed lighting would support special events in the altar area. The use of large-screen TV in place of current projector/wall screen will be considered. We are in the process of getting an estimate, and will make a recommendation to the Administrative council.
- Other minor projects include replacing some deteriorating exterior doors (under warranty) in Wesley Hall, creating a plaque to recognize those who made special donations to the sanctuary lighting.

Rich Spina

## MEMORIAL BRICKS

It is time to order Memorial Bricks. I have a few orders, but I need a minimum of seven to place an order. If you would like to purchase a Memorial Brick for our walkway to permanently recognize someone, even yourself, the cost is only \$ 60.00 per brick. You may pick up an order form in the church or Wesley Hall.

Please contact Joe Skinner (302-732-9684) or Marilyn Ferry if you need help. The deadline for ordering is February 28, 2017.

## AGING FAITHFULLY

We will not be having any events during February, but we look forward to getting back together in the Spring. Stay warm!  
Brad & Nancy Bowers

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall. We will be making our calendar for 2017 and planning goals and events for this year.

We encourage all ladies of our church to join us. Your ideas, help and encouragement are greatly needed and appreciated.

May God grant us kind hearts and willing hands.

Sharon Graham, Chair

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### POT LUCK DINNER

Join us on Sunday, February 5, 4:30 PM in Wesley Hall. Everyone is welcome. Come, bring a friend, a covered dish, and enjoy the great food and fellowship.

Sunday, March 5, 4:30 PM

Pot Luck/Chili Cook-Off

More information will follow! Elizabeth Skinner

### CONFERENCE WIDE PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 PM  
Conley's United Methodist Church  
33104 Jolyn's Way, Lewes, DE 19958

### DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Training will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2017. Classes are open to both Clergy and Laity. Registration Deadline: February 15, 2017. The cost is \$ 7.00 per person. Further information and Registration Forms are available in the office.

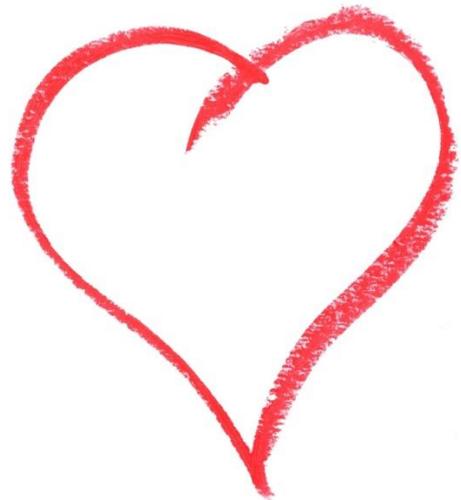
## LIVING LAST SUPPER

We look forward to presenting the Living Last Supper on Saturday, April 8 and Holy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 PM.

Please put these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. In the past, we've enjoyed a full house at each performance. Make sure you spread the word.

We will need help with costumes and publicity. Let me know if you can assist us in any way. MEN!!! I still need men!!! We can't do it without you!!!

Thanks in advance,  
Marianne



*Love is patient, love is kind.  
Love always protects, always  
trusts, always hopes, always  
perseveres. Love Never Fails.*

*I Corinthians 13 (NIV)*