



MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DOVE

SEPTEMBER 2017

Message From Pastor Brad Find Your Meaning

When you enter the land that the Lord has promised to give you, be sure that you observe this ritual. And when your children ask you, "What does this ritual mean to you?" you will say, "It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck down the Egyptians, he spared our houses." The people then bowed down and worshipped. - Exodus 12:25-27 (CEB)

Lately I've been thinking a lot about rituals, the ones present in our lives and what they mean to us. This started with a conversation about religious rituals, which is the context I most often hear about this topic. Religious rituals are typically easy to pick out; standing to sing hymns, praying with our hands together and heads bowed, even how we order our worship. Those aren't the only ones in our lives though! Think about how you get ready for the day just after you wake up. Is every time a new and exciting process with something new thrown in here and there, just for kicks? For most people, the answer is no.

How we start our day is its own ritual, something personal that we've fallen into by some combination of habit and comfort. What we do for lunch, what we do when we get home, and how we relax are some of the many examples of rituals we have, even if we don't call them rituals. Then there are the big rituals that mark major transitions and changes in life. Barely three months ago countless students and their families experienced the ritual of graduating from one level of school to more learning or to go out into the world. Our family is experiencing a trial run of one of the biggest, and for me traumatic, rituals in parenting; the first day

of school. Emma starts part time pre-school in a couple weeks and my coping with it has been debatable at best so far. So, what makes these rituals so meaningful? How do these things become so universally lifted up and agreed upon? That takes us to Moses.

This passage from Exodus has always intrigued me because during the anxiety, fear, excitement, and all the other emotions swirling around in this dramatic night, Moses takes the time to declare this ritual for all time for the people. Packing and getting ready for a planned and normal trip stresses me out; I can't imagine what the Israelites were thinking or feeling. Amid all that excitement and anxiety Moses takes them, and this night, out of the present and into eternity. This ritual is something they are going to do for generations after their own, and Moses makes sure they will know why and what to tell anyone who asks. The Passover ritual was and continues to be so meaningful because it represents all that the Lord did for God's people to save them and how they are supposed to live their lives in response.

In my mind that sounds like a good way of measuring the value of most of the rituals in our lives. When we brush our teeth may remain unchanged, but think of what the first thing you read or watch is in the morning. Are you hearing from God first, or wherever you like to get the news? The order that happens can greatly affect your day and shape how you view things. In those times that you are worshipping and focused on God, do you know why you do what you do? Or do you do it because that's the only way you've even done it and you know it works? Take some time to reflect on your own rituals and see which ones have meaning to you and which ones just happened along

the way. All the rituals we practice can connect us to God, each other, and be a means of reflecting on how far we've come thanks to the Lord. May we continue in the rituals that bring meaning and give the ones that don't over to God so that He can do a new thing through them in our lives.

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

Pastor Brad & Erin's Spiritual Pilgrimage

Hello Friends! I've shared this a time or two in worship, but several people have asked for more details about the trip Erin and I are taking later in September. From Tuesday, September 19th through Wednesday, September 27th Erin and I will be joining 30 other clergy, clergy spouses, and laity on a spiritual pilgrimage to South Korea. This trip is being led by our District Superintendent and her husband and includes our former District Superintendent and her spouse also. This isn't a vacation or sightseeing, as our time in South Korea will be full of educational, cultural, and spiritually moving experiences.

Our itinerary for this trip includes lectures and visiting churches, museums, and sites relating to South Korean culture and the history of Christianity in the country. Our days will start with worship at 5:00AM as we join folks for the daily prayer services that are filled before people go to work. We will even be observing (but not too closely) the Korean Demilitarized Zone. Once we arrive back home most of the folks, including the Schutt's, will be giving our testimonies at the next District Revival Prayer Day in October. I'll be writing about what all of this for the church and Erin and I will give a presentation to the church about what we experienced and take away from the trip.

One of the primary purposes of this trip is for us to learn about the rapid growth of Christianity in the country and the deep dedication of those who become followers of Christ. We all hope to be able to take what we learn and incorporate what we can into the ministries of our churches and district. For those who don't know, Erin was adopted from South Korea when she was a baby, and this will be her first time visiting the country. Some folks have

asked what they can do for us in this time. Erin and I both wanted to say that we appreciate all your prayers now, while we are there, and any other ways our church family would like to support and care for us through this exciting time as a family and in ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Brad

2017 Church Conference

Our Church Conference, which is our annual business meeting led by the District Superintendent, will be happening Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30PM at the church. Anyone can attend this meeting, but only members of the church are able to vote. This is a wonderful time of worship and sharing along with some important business and administrative votes we need to take care of.

As a church we get to see where we've come, talk about what God has done through us and in the midst of our congregation, and look ahead to the future. If you are a committee chairperson or have forms to fill out please start on them if you haven't already! If you have any questions about what goes on at this meeting if you can come, and what you may need to do to prepare for it, please contact Pastor Brad. See you there!

Annual Prayer Service for First Responders

The Southeast Sussex Ministerium, of which our church is a part, will be hosting its annual ecumenical prayer service for law enforcement and first responders on Wednesday September 27th at 6:00PM. This year the service will be held at the Millville Volunteer Fire Company which is located at 35554 Atlantic Avenue, Millville, DE 19967.

All are invited to this event to give thanks and pray for the protection of our police officers, firefighters, fire police, paramedics, EMT's, and those in related fields. Everyone is invited to this event, and if you are a part of our local law enforcement and first responders please share this with your departments and stations. We would like to give our thanks and prayers directly to as many folks as possible. If you have any questions please call or e-mail Pastor Brad.

Wesley Hall Mortgage Monthly Status We Are Getting There!!

Balance on 7/31/2017.....\$131,963.97
Special Donation by Members.....\$325.00
Budgeted Payment (less interest).....\$930.26
Balance on 8/31/2017.....\$130,708.71

We again made a pretty good dent in our mortgage balance during August, but we still have a way to go. As I have mentioned frequently in the past, our current loan will come due in about four years. At that time we will be faced with renegotiating for a new loan, probably at an interest rate greater than the 5.47% rate we currently hold. We are now paying about \$641/month in interest.

You can help reduce the mortgage balance and avoid interest in several ways: by special donation using a pew envelope, or by placing your donation in a basket at the rear of the sanctuary marked "Mortgage Reduction." Some of our members have made a special donation in honor of, or in memory of someone special in their lives. Thank you in advance for your support.

Rich Spina, Finance Chairman

Our Financial Health: Still Doing OK, but.....

Donald Maebly told me many times... "Rich, you worry too much about money. The Lord will provide what He knows we need, no more, no less." I know that is true, but my job description seems to say "you need to worry a little bit."

Here we are, two thirds of the way through our budget year, and we are still doing OK. Our worship giving exceeds our budget estimate by about \$5,500, and our expenses are less than our budgeted amount by about \$3,700. I watch the trends, and although our margins have been favorable over the past months, they leveled out this past month.

I am prayerful that the margins will continue to increase during the remaining four months, and that the Lord will speak to all of us as we return to Him what He has so generously provided to us.

I will be proposing a budget for 2018 for the committees to consider, starting with finance on September 11th. I know we will be facing an

increase in some expenses, and hopefully, we can start the new year with a good financial cushion.

Rich Spina

Safe Sanctuaries

God calls us to make our churches safe places. We answer God's call by creating communities of faith where children and adults can grow spiritually in Christ in a strong and safe way. Our goal at MUMC is to protect children and adults from any type of abuse, sexual or otherwise. Our congregation's purpose for establishing this Safe Sanctuary Policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical and emotional safety, and the spiritual growth of all our children, youth and at-risk adults, as well as all of those who work with them.

The Safe Team is responsible for implementing and maintaining the Safe Sanctuary program. We have a group of members who belong to the Safe Team: Richard Shoobridge, Connie Warner, Sandi Powell, Wanda Freed, Elizabeth Skinner, Pastor Brad. If you are aware of or involved in an abuse or harassment issue relating to church activities, please report the incident to one of these people immediately. This information is kept in the STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE. All related information is kept in a locked file that can only be accessed by two designated people.

This is a matter we take seriously. The effects of sexual abuse on a child, youth or at-risk adult are detrimental to that individual for a lifetime, most importantly their relationship with God.

Elizabeth Skinner

Looking Back, With Thanks

In August, we had our last bake sale of the year, and a wonderful Suicide Bridge Cruise. I know you will join the editors of the Dove in offering a special thanks to **Sharon Graham** and her team for their work on all of the bake sales, and to **Elizabeth Skinner** for organizing a very special day.

Cookie Bingo

Don't forget – the second Tuesday of the month (September 12th) is time for Cookie BINGO in Wesley Hall at 10:00 a.m. Come have some donuts and coffee and win some good treats. Bring a friend, too! See you there!

Fit for Life

Every Tuesday at 9:00 a group of energetic ladies attend the Fit for Life class with instructor Carol Gorden. This class improves balance, strength and flexibility. Laughter is also an added element in the class when games are played.

Prayer at the Beach!

Join us Every Wednesday morning at 8:30AM on Bethany Beach at Campbell Place For an informal time of fellowship and worship We are looking for speakers!! You can be a pastor, church member, or a believer with a testimony to share.



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 – Pastor Brad
- Week 5 – As needed:
 - Janet Smith
 - Donald Maeby
 - Lou Ciccanti

Weekly Happenings at Millville

UMC

Pastor Brad's Schedule

Starting in the Fall, I'll be focusing more on visitations and working on behalf of our church in the community. It is my hope to better care for our church family while working to grow it by being more present and visible in our area. This shift in priorities has led me to shift my weekly schedule around. Although my listed office hours are only on Tuesday, I'll be in the church at different times throughout the week. I am available to meet folks Monday through Thursday, please just call or e-mail me to set anything up.

Monday – Sermon Planning & Research, Visitations, Meetings

Tuesday – In Office from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Meetings, Administrative, Planning, Research)

Wednesday – Small Groups, Sermon & Worship Planning, Community Work

Thursday – Meetings, Visitations & Community Work

Friday – Sermon & Small Group Planning & Writing, Administrative Work

Monday	Bible Study	10:00 AM
Tuesday	Fit for Life	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Prayer on the Beach	8:30 AM
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 Tuesday September 5 th	10:00 AM
Trustee/Finance Comm. Sept. 11 th	7:00 PM
Nominations Comm. Sept. 18 th	6:00 PM
Administrative Coun. Sept. 18 th	7:00 PM
Other meetings to be announced	

Small Groups -Weekly

Coffee with Pastor Brad - Sunday at 10:30 AM in Wesley Hall. We read scripture and discuss topics of faith.

Studying Scripture – Monday, 10:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Larry Kaplan.

Wesley Wednesday Group – Wednesday, 11:00 AM in Wesley Hall, led by Pastor Brad. Each week we will look at a sermon of John Wesley, so you can join any time and not be behind!

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
Weekend Lunch Program will
resume in September.

Ministries

To activate the Prayer Chain

Call Nancy Bowers at 1-410-598-5600
Or email nanbowers4@comcast.net

“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).

~Special Notes ~

Lord Baltimore Elementary School Student Assistance

Weekend backpack program is starting up again at L. B. Elementary School. Donations can be placed in the tub at the back of the church

We will also be collecting school supplies that you can place in the same tub. There will be a list of needed items posted on the table.

Millville UMC 110th Anniversary

On Sunday, September 10th we will recognize our wonderful old church’s 110th anniversary with cake and light refreshments following the service. This will be in place of the usual third Sunday coffee and conversation that would have taken place the following week.

Coming in October

Potlucks are back! Sunday, October 1st at 4:30 PM. Bring your favorite dish and a friend!

Revival is Coming to MUMC. Stay tuned for details.

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

Missing You Cards!

There are note cards in each pew. If you notice someone absent who usually sits near you, take the time to send them a note. Please put your cards in the basket on the table at the rear of the church if you would like me to mail them. Thanks!

Church Chuckle Corner

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church servicesback in the day!!

- The sermon this morning: **Jesus Walks on Water**. The sermon tonight: **Searching For Jesus**
- **Fasting and Prayer Conference --Includes Meals**
- **Pot-luck Supper at 5 PM—prayer and medication to follow**

