



THE DOVE NOVEMBER 2015

MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hello Church!

Last week I was a part of a discussion that quickly shifted to the idea of being angry with God. I don't have a problem with the idea itself, it's something I believe can be appropriate and have experienced it myself multiple times. I struggle with this because I have encountered too many people who feel like that can't be angry with or at God because they often feel like negativity can't have a place in their faith. Basically, they think that if they expose their anger to God then they are not being a good Christian. That's something I don't agree with because we are called to be in relationship with God with all of our being, even the harsh and not nice parts of it.

Think about your closest, most intimate relationship with another person; it could be a spouse, sibling, friend, parent, or other beloved person. In all the time you've spent with that person, in all you've shared with them, have they ever experienced your anger? The answer is probably yes, and more than likely on more than one occasion. If we can trust a fellow human being that much, shouldn't we give God the same consideration? Our relationship with God should be the most intimate one in our life! If anyone is most deserving of our trust, vulnerability, and full openness it's our ever-loving and forgiving Lord. Anger left unchecked can certainly be negative and destructive in any relationship. Anger that God is brought into through prayer and openness of the heart can

lead to deep healing and reconciliation.

We can blame God. We can yell at God and even curse God if that's what's on our heart. This scares a lot of people, but God can take it. We won't scare God away or offend God. Our God will hear all of that, but in return we need to let ourselves be taken by the Lord through whatever journey He has for us through it. God is okay with us being angry, even at Him, but it's not a part of His plan for us to be there forever. If you've never read about people being angry at God in the Bible all you have to do is look to the Psalms or Job. I would consider the end of Job one of my absolutely favorite and meaningful parts of Scripture. After experiencing so much tragedy and heartache, after seemingly having his entire life ripped away from him, when he's given the opportunity Job says to God exactly what any of us would want to.

Job unloads on God all of his hurt, pain, confusion, and frustration. Is he punished for it? No. Does God cut him off or disregard it all? No. God takes it all in and is fully with Job in all of those emotions. The Lord responds with just as much honesty and rawness, and through their exchange they are brought into a new and deeper relationship together. God didn't take Job around the heartache, block it all out, or ignore it. He led Job straight through the center of it and out the other side. I find such beauty and hope in that relationship because it's so hard for us to be open and honest at

times with any of our loved ones. Our God won't run away because there's no overwhelming Him. God can take it all, if only we would give it to Him. God can lead us through whatever we are in or what may come, if only we'd let Him direct us. May we all be so bold and humble to do just that.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Brad

Refuge Part 2

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.

Last month we looked at Isaiah 10:20-24. Isaiah 10 covers these themes:

God punishes injustice (Isaiah 10:1-4)

Assyria used as God's rod for punishment of Israel, but Assyria's pride is condemned (Isaiah 10:5-9)

Idols offend God wherever they are (Isaiah 10:10-11)

Assyria is arrogant and does not acknowledge God (Isaiah 10:12-19)

A remnant of Israel will return (Isaiah 10:20-23)

The people of Judah will be oppressed by Assyria, but not destroyed (Isaiah 10:24-27)

Assyria will then itself be destroyed (Isaiah 10:28-34)

Now read Romans 9:27-28.

Paul in Romans 9:27-28 quotes last month's verses from Isaiah and makes the same point about the remnant. Not all who are descended from Israel are truly Israel. Paul then spends Romans chapter nine proving this point. God chose Israel as His special people. They were to proclaim his message of redemption through faith.

Paul says now that the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, has come, the remnant is those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. The election is no longer based on physical lineage, but on one's relationship with the Messiah. The election of nation of Israel was but a sign of a greater spiritual election. It is an election based not of the lineage of Abraham but on the faith of Abraham. The "new" remnant consists of those who have faith in Jesus Christ.

P R A Y E R

Dear God, I thank you for today and that I can see and hear. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving and understanding God. You do so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm and let me start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control of. Give me the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limit. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my

heart. Please clear my mind so I can hear You. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me so I can be a blessing to others. Keep me strong so that I can help the weak. Keep me uplifted, so I can have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe. But I believe that God can change people and things. There is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. I pray for all my sisters and brothers; for each and every family member in their household. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes and that all their needs are met.

Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight alone.

I pray all this in Jesus' name

. Amen

submitted by Mary Towson

HOW'S YOUR GIVING?

By now you should have heard about our current shortfalls in financial giving. Just to give you some idea of the current extent of the problem – our worship giving through the end of September was about \$11,000 less than our budgeted amount! And our weekly offerings have averaged about \$300 behind what they should be every week! Further, these numbers

are getting worse, not better; recent weekly offerings have been as much as \$600 less than needed. These shortfalls present challenges to us as members of MUMC and threaten our ability to further the Lord's work in our church and community.

Discussion at the Administrative Council meeting this past month resulted in the Council taking a major action to address our finances and reduce expenses. The Council voted to move all worship services from the church sanctuary to Wesley Hall for January, February and part of March. It is projected that this will result in significant savings in church heating costs during that period.

Make no mistake, this is a problem we all need to address with our prayers, because if we don't correct the matter, it may start a serious erosion of our support for the important work God wants us to do. Pray about your response to the church's needs. Think about all the blessings God has given you. Then remember that we need to give thanks and praise to our Lord for all the gifts He has given us. This includes returning a fair portion to Him and His church.

I present to you, 1 Chronicles 28:9, which says: The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.

And then, Psalm 37:212, which says: The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously....

Let us heed these words and understand that our giving is important to the well-being of our church family, the community and the purposes established by our Lord. We need to give freely, wholeheartedly and generously.

Jerry Lingenfelter - Chair, Administrative Council

Aging Faithfully

10:00 a.m. Aging Faithfully is experimenting with starting an hour later for **Cookie BINGO**. **10:00 a.m.** Some folks have let us know that it would be a little easier for them to join us at **10:00 a.m.** instead of the usual **9:00**. So... on Tuesday morning, November 10th we'll meet at **10:00 a.m.** (Can you tell that we're concerned someone will show up at the usual **9:00**?) See you there! (at **10:00**).
B. Bradley

UMW BAZAAR

UMW is preparing for our Christmas Bazaar! It will be held in Wesley Hall on Saturday, November 22, from 9 'til 1. Crafts, Food, Christmas items and Jewelry will be some of the things we're offering. Last year all of our proceeds were donated to mission works. We need your help in providing baked goods to sell and any other items that fall into the categories above. The day of the bazaar we'll need helpers for serving food, selling, and smiling. We are grateful for any help.

The UMW will hold its Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 5 at Bear Trap Dunes. All women of the church and their guests are welcome. This year at the luncheon we will be collecting items for SOUL Ministries (Bethany Beach's homeless shelter) and Lord Baltimore Elementary School (school nurse's office). In November I'll provide a list of items needed so that anyone can participate if they desire. For those not attending the luncheon I will collect items on Sundays in December. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 3, in Wesley Hall. Y'all Come! God Bless everyone as we prepare for the celebration of our LORD's birth. Marie Myers, 302-539-4623

POEM...

**I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.**

**But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.**

**There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
who never said anything nice.**

**Bob, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.**

**I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.**

**And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.**

**'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'**

Life Force

I am so happy to report to all of you that our Ho-Down was a big success!

You may remember that we started this mission last year. At that time, we had 6 guests attending. This event brought two group homes as well as Power, a group from Milsboro, as well as local adults that have heard about us. We enjoyed 16 very happy guests as well as parents and care givers.

I want to thank the many helpers from our church who gave so much time and effort as well as wonderful food donations! We gave our guests a wonderful time and it is really growing! Thanks be to God

Jamie Eglit

THANKS

Jamie, Jeremy, Ron and I want to thank all of you for the food, cards, prayers and support you have given us during this very sad and trying time in our lives. Loosing someone so young is a difficult thing to cope with. You truly gave the support we needed to get through these trying times.

We give thanks to God for our wonderful Church Family.

Marianne

The Bible is more than a doctrinal guidebook, Gods word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the Devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy, overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being, and guarantees our future forever.