



# THE DOVE **SEPTEMBER 2015**

## MILLVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Hello Church!

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said... Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." – John 11:33-36,38,41-42

In writing this article to you all I find myself in a sadly familiar situation for our church, albeit new for you and I together, as we mourn the loss of another part of our church family. In the midst of this loss we give thanks for the assurance of where Don is and all that he was and will continue to be to us. In times of sadness I often find myself turning to this passage from the Gospel of John as I seek the comfort of the Lord. For me, the ultimate comfort doesn't come from what Jesus does to and for Lazarus himself, it comes from how Christ himself reacts to the situation first.

Faced with the death of a beloved person in His life, surrounded by weeping individuals with their hearts broken ever so deeply, Jesus Christ is overcome by emotion before He does anything else. Seeing the tomb for Himself, Jesus weeps over the death of his dear friend. Every time I come across that verse I am taken aback and my heart is touched more deeply by what all that means. Jesus the Christ, Savior of the world, Messiah to us all, Son of God, Lord of all creation, and our great Reconciler stands before a tomb, much like the one He is to

occupy, and cries OUR tears more deeply by what all that means., Savior of the world, Messiah to us all, Son of God, Lord of all creation, and our great Reconciler stands before a tomb, much like the one He is to occupy, and cries OUR tears. He feels OUR loss. Jesus doesn't stand in the midst of this deeply human situation as a cold, emotionless, and aloof deity. He doesn't look upon the people with bewilderment at what's going on. Not only does Jesus know exactly what's going on,

He feels OUR loss. Jesus doesn't stand in the midst of this deeply human situation as a cold, emotionless, and aloof deity. He doesn't look upon the people with bewilderment at what's going on. Not only does Jesus know exactly what's going on, He FEELS it also. Jesus feels all that is going on with a human heart, He feels the tears running down His face, and all the other physical and emotional reacts we all experience when we face this loss.

This passage speaks to me on so many levels because it informs our relationship with God, how we interact with Him, and live out our faith in so many ways. Jesus weeping at the tomb of Lazarus is an invitation to leave our most raw and painful emotions at the feet of the God who stood where we are and felt everything we feel. I believe that where we are at and feeling right now is not somehow solved or rationalized in a quick and neat way. We are led through these times slowly, carefully, and caringly by the ever-loving Christ revealing Himself through the Holy Spirit, the Holy Scriptures, and the sacred community of believers taking care of each other and holding each other up. May we be so bold and vulnerable as individuals and as a church that we give all of ourselves to Him in all the seasons and trials of life, so that His comfort and peace can be further known by all God's children.

In Peace Pastor Brad

The Words of God: Faith

By Ed Thornton

**Our God is an awesome God. He gives us the gifts of unmerited grace and undeserved promises. Our response to these gifts should be unconditional faith. God's grace flow His undeserved promises. This month will look unconditional faith**

**Faith in the Old Testament read Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5 & 6.**

**The words translated "trust" in the Bible literally mean "a bold, confident, sure security or action based on that security." Trusting is what we do because of the faith we have been given. Trusting is believing in the promises of God in all circumstances. Proverbs is the classic verse regarding trust. This verse sums up the Bible's teaching on trust.**

**Let's look more closely at this life-changing result of faith. Any real relationship has to start with some level of trust. It's the only way a friendship will endure. It's the only way a marriage will work out. It's the simple reason why an employer hires workers, or why the workers stay employed. It's all about trust.**

**Trust in the Lord, however, takes on an entirely new dimension. This is our trust in an eternal, all-powerful, all-wise, all-loving God. He is worthy of our trust. The trust is important, not just because of who God is,**

**but because of the way in which we must trust him: with all your heart.**

**The verse also involves a positive—something you must do. But it also involves a negative—something you must not do. Don't lean on your own understanding. Basically, the verse is telling us that we ought not to be self-reliant. Self-reliance is such a deceptive trap. We begin to take pride ourselves it takes away our trust in the Lord. It has become trust in self. The result is a dangerous compromise that will lead to destruction.**

**The antidote to this self-reliance is found in the first command of the verse. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." This is further developed in the next verse which says: "In all your ways acknowledge him." The word "acknowledge" should be taken lightly. It means allowing Him access, control, command, and involvement in all your ways.**

**Finally God's promise is put in the form of a metaphor. What does it mean to have straight paths? This means several things. First, paths lead toward an end—a destination, a goal. Second, it indicates that there will be a clear understanding of where you are going and what you are doing. Third, "straight paths" suggests moral purity. It suggests a life that has less of sinful compromise and more of wholesome attitudes, actions, and behavior.**

**That's the kind of life having faith God promises. It's the kind of life that you can have. It begins with trust. It involves acknowledging God in every way.**

## **Faith in the New Testament, read Hebrews chapter 11.**

**Everyone has faith. The fact is we can't get through a single day without living by Faith. Even when people claim no religion at all, they still live by faith. Every human puts faith in something. It may be in some notion of human potential. It may be in the supremacy of science or reason or political power. Or they may have faith in some vague concept like "oneness with nature." But everyone lives by faith. The truth is faith is only as valuable as the **object** of that faith**

**Hebrews 11 is called "The Faith Chapter." Let tells us what Biblical faith is. Hebrews 11 puts this central truth in a few words: 1Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Having faith means that we keep our eyes on God who controls circumstances --- not on the circumstances themselves.**

**We live by faith, not by sight. That sounds simple enough. But for some reason, people get all kinds of misconceptions about what Faith is. Let's look at what Biblical Faith is not. Faith is not a blind leap in the dark. Some people think you have to ignore logic and reason in order to believe in God. The fact is, believing there is no God requires an unreasonable kind of faith. If atheists, agnostics, or secular humanists put their faith into words, it might sound like this: By faith, we believe that the universe evolved from mindless matter, so that order accidentally emerged from chaos. Science consistently shows that order does not grow from chaos and that design points to a designer.**

**Another misconception is faith that we can make God do anything we want. But Biblical faith is not the ability to manipulate God. Some Christians think Faith is a kind of magic spiritual medicine. Biblical faith does not believe that God will do what we say. Biblical Faith knows that God will do what He says.**

**Finally Faith is not adherence to a list of doctrines. Biblical Faith is a relationship with a personal God.**

**In the Old Testament, God is often referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These Bible people show us what real faith does. These people show us what faith does.**

**Worship: First faith is worship, as seen in Abel. The first Biblical example of a Worshipper is Abel --- the younger brother of Cain, who was the first man born to the first parents. Able worshipped in obedience and with a sincere heart. His faith pleased God. Unfortunately Cain's offering was not pleasing to God. And out of envy, Cain killed his brother. But Abel's honest worship stands as a testimony. Faith that pleases God will always lead to worship.**

**Walk: The next example Biblical people faith is a rather obscure character named Enoch. We don't know much about him, but what we know is impressive. Genesis 5:24 tells us, Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Hebrews 11:5 elaborates. By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. Evidently Enoch walked so closely with God that God took him home without Enoch having to experience physical death. From Enoch we learn that to walk with God is to please God.**

**Work: The next Bible person of faith is Noah. Noah is a man whose faith led to some long hard work. Maybe you never thought about it, but building an Ark is no small task. It took Noah and his three boys over 100 years. By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.**

**Wait: The last Bible Hero we'll talk about today is the best known of all. In fact, Abraham is called the Father of our Faith. His life teaches us hundreds of things about faith. But perhaps the biggest challenge Abraham faced was that his faith required him to**

wait. Abraham waited for a home in the Promised Land. He waited until he was 100 years old for the son God promised. And all along, he waited and waited and waited for the promised Messiah and the Eternal City of God. By faith he made his home in the Promised Land.

Unconditional faith worships God, walks with God, works for God, and waits on God's promises. Do you have unconditional faith?

Next month we'll start a series of three Bible studies exploring what it means to be a believer in exile. We'll look at God's words remnant, refuge, and revival.

## Coffee and Conversation

**Help Needed!!!!!!!!!!**

Coffee and Conversation will be held in Church on the third Sunday of every month and those dates are:

**September 20th**

**October 16th**

**November 15th**

**December 20th**

Back by popular demand, Coffee and Conversation will be served at the Church. Help is needed, please call me.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Mary Towson  
541-8168

## Trustees:

The pre-school area in Wesley Hall has been completed. We are ready for small children, but before we can accept these little people we have to get some people cleared to take care of them. If you are interested, contact anyone on the Safe Team, they will let you know what to do. Now that we have the facilities for learning God's word or just playing maybe we will attract more of God's children.

Joe Skinner, Chairman of Trustees

## Safe Team

Walters, Marie Myers, Richard Shoobridge, and Elizabeth Skinner

Contact one of these people if you suspect sexual abuse or harrassment in the church surroundings or with any of our church activities.

ALL information is dealt with STRICT CONFIDENCE!

Anyone wishing to volunteer with children, youth, or adults-at-risk should contact Elizabeth 302-732-9684. Please look for dates to be posted soon for CPR/First Aid and orientation to Safe Sanctuaries.

Tues. Sept. 22, 2015 10am The director of Senior Transportation Cooperative in Sussex County will be holding an informative session in Wesley Hall. Keep your eyes and ears open, I understand there may be food offered at 9-10 that morning.

Thanks, Elizabeth

Trustees: Take notice of the area in Wesley Hall set up as a space for children.

## Upcoming Events at Millville UMC

Last Sunday, you were asked to circulate flyers announcing upcoming events at our church. The events are:

Saturday September 19th –

Church Picnic at 4:00 PM,

Hymn Sing at 6:00 PM

Thursday September 24th – Saturday  
September 26<sup>th</sup>

Revival Weekend

Please note that on the flyers given out, the date for the church picnic is wrong, listed as September 12<sup>th</sup> instead of September 19<sup>th</sup>. Please correct that date before you distribute the flyer.

## The 6th annual

### "Millville Great Pumpkin Festival"

has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 10am until 2pm. We are going to have a table to share the vision of Millville United Methodist Church. We will also invite and welcome any new members within our community to worship with us on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Please join us in this wonderful opportunity to help our Church thrive! See or call Connie Warner 539-7488) if you are willing to help.

We can use 300 lollypops!! How about 300 small candy bars . This is for the kids goodie bags. We plan to add information about the Lord as well about our up and coming Sunday school and our church. We could use help in loading the 150 bags we fill each year.

Thanks in advance.

## AGING FAITHFULLY COMING EVENTS:

**SEPTEMBER 8TH - 9:00 Coffee & Dunkin Donuts followed by Cookie BINGO.**

**SEPTEMBER 22ND - At 9:00 we'd like to invite you to a congregation breakfast. The last time time there was lots of very yummy food ! ( What else would you expect from the ladies of MUMC ? )**

**- If you can stay after, there will be a special information session presented by Diane Rodgers, the Director of the I.T.N. program which deals with transportation needs of the elderly.**

**In any case, COME AND**

**EAT!**

**OCTOBER 13TH - Bus trip to Lancaster to the Sight & Sound Theater for their presentation of "JOSEPH". If you have been to Sight & Sound before, you know how spectacular and how inspiring their shows are.**

**SCHEDULE: 7:30 a.m. leave MUMC by bus;**

**11:00 a.m. show of "JOSEPH"**

**2:15 buffet lunch at Hershey Farms**

**Restaurant**

**Return to MUMC**

**COST: \$109.50 each [we will need your commitment and you money by Sept.22]**

**This promises to be a wonderful day. Hope you can join us!**

## Life Force

**We are so happy to tell you that we will be having a Hoedown for our special guests on October 18<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday, we will be having a small fire in a portable pit to make s'mores, square dancing, music, games and crafts for the fall. We are happy to accept any and all donations of food and support.**

**Jamie Eglit 302-678-8184**



