



May 29, 2016

## “Memorial Day”

### Excerpt from Psalm 31

"My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

### Reflection by Lillian Daniel

Memorial Day began after the Civil War as an effort toward reconciliation between the families of veterans in the North and the South. After the war, there was already a tradition in the North of decorating soldiers' graves, called "Decoration Day." But in 1868 an organization of Northern war veterans decreed it ought to be a national holiday. May 30 was carefully chosen as the date because it was not the anniversary of a specific battle, and therefore would be a neutral date for both sides.

Memorial Day did become a time to remember all veterans, a time to visit the graves of family and friends, and to remember their lives. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill moved three holidays off of their specific dates and onto Mondays, in order to create three-day weekends. Memorial Day came to be associated with the beginning of summer, as well as the Indianapolis 500.

Today, let us remember the spirit in which the day was conceived, as a way to bring together those who had once been bitter enemies. After the fighting is over, the loss and heartbreak are shared throughout the human family. God's mercy pours out over all God's children, with no respect for the borders of nation states, which are awfully temporary, from the perspective of eternity.

### Prayer

On this day, we pray for comfort for all those who have lost a loved one to the ravages of war. We pray that the peace of Christ, which passes all human understanding, will knit together this weary and war-torn world. Amen.

-written by Rodney Mundy

## Getting to Know :

### Bern Reformed UCC

3196 Bernville Rd., Leesport, PA 19533



At Bern Reformed United Church of Christ, we strive to provide a family-oriented, stimulating, Bible-based and musical worship environment that fulfills the spiritual needs of all those who worship with us.



### Our Mission:

To place God first in our lives.

To share in God's love and grace through worship.

To grow and be strengthened through prayer and scriptural studies.

To accept the joy and cost of discipleship, following Christ's example.

To be good stewards of who we are and what God has given us, while reaching out to those beyond ourselves to be instruments of peace.

“We are a welcoming and caring Christian community whose purpose is to share the love of God for all those needing food for body and soul.”



Prayers are requested for Bern Reformed UCC in Leesport and Rev. Paul Cronin.