

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

168 Broad Street

Phone: 203.874.1982

Milford, Connecticut 06460

FAX: 203.877.8973

Order of Worship

10:00 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Voluntary on ‘Duke Street’” arr. by Ken Kone

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(In order to keep our service time focused on the worship of God, please share only those items which are not already in the bulletin or on the flyer table. Thank you.)

INTROIT “He is Exalted”

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Revelation 1:8

Leader: Says the Lord God, “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*”

People: ***Blessing and honor and glory and might be unto the Lamb!***

All: ***Let us worship God!***

*HYMN #718 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” Helmsley

COLLECT FOR CHRIST THE KING (*unison*) England, 20th Cent, alt.

Almighty God, who gave your Son Jesus Christ a realm where all peoples, nations and languages should serve him: make us loyal followers of our living Lord, that we may always hear his word, follow his teachings, and live in his Spirit; and hasten the day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord; to your eternal glory. Amen.

°°°

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Michael J. O’Donnell, USA, 20th century, adapted

Almighty and all-loving God, through Jesus you have reconciled the world to yourself. Help us now to be reconciled to one another that we might again live in the warmth of your love. Inspire us by the Holy Spirit to put aside the cloak of pride and put on Christ, that we might forgive and be forgiven; in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

(Let all pray in silence.)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE EPISTLE

Revelation 1:4b - 8

Bible p.1117

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

Bible p.987

*HYMN #168

“At the Name of Jesus”

King’s Weston

THE SERMON

“From A to Z”

Dr. Bodt

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN #157 (*seated, verses 1 & 2*) “Jesus Shall Reign”

Duke Street

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, **People: Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

*THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be always with you. P: ***And also with you.***

(Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, including the special offering

for United Methodist Student Day

Offertory

“How Great is our God”

arr. by Christopher

Presentation:

“Bless Thou the Gifts”

Hymnal #587

***“Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;
bless thou the work our hearts have planned.***

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy hand.”

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #176

“Majesty, Worship His Majesty”

Majesty

*HYMN #715

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Darwall’s 148th

You are invited to come forward to receive a healing anointing for yourself or on behalf of others. Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak the name and need to the anointer. This practice from the earliest days of the Church expresses God’s mysterious love as a “caring” expression of God’s promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

*THE BENEDICTION

(Please turn to rear cover for sung response.)

***THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Hymnal #666

(You are invited to join hands with those near you as we sing.)

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom.***

***THE BELL TOLLS – Sending us to walk with and witness for Jesus**

***POSTLUDE**

“Toccata on ‘Darwall’s 148th”

G. Young

(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Sources of liturgy and prayers for today's service are Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

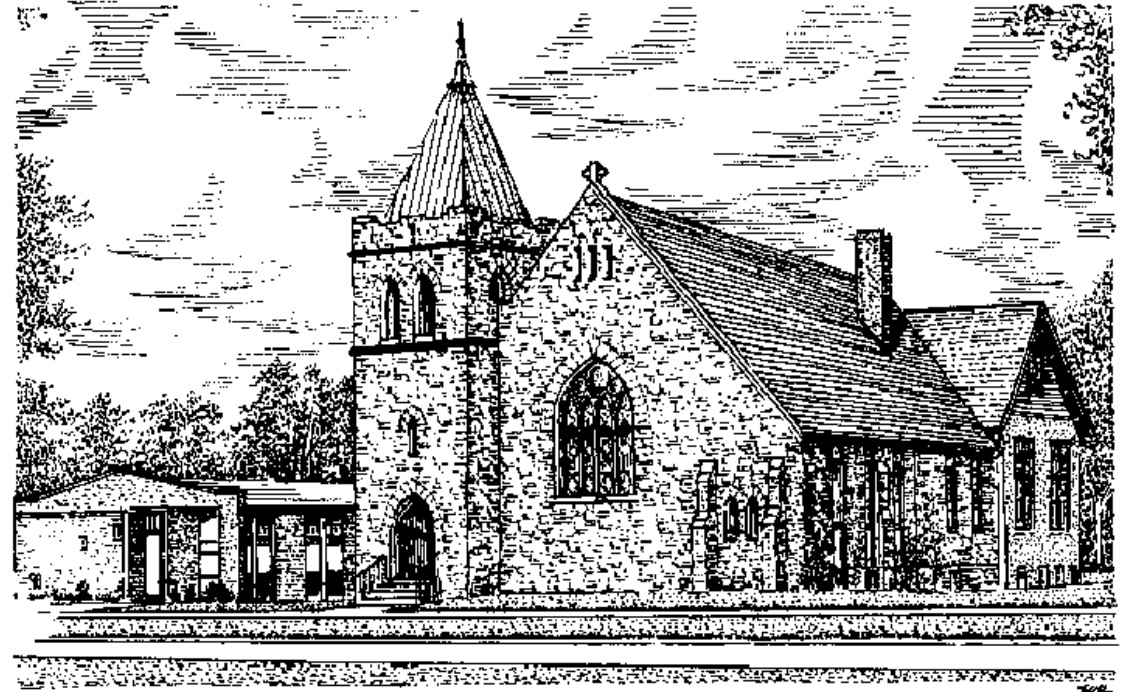
MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.mtm-umc.org www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Ministers | All the People of God | Bishop | The Rev. Dr. Martin D. McLee |
| Lay Leaders | Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak | Superintendent | The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer |
| Prayer Chain | Stacy Meszaros | Pastor | The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt |
| Child Care Coordinator | Betty Laferriere | Pastoral Assistant | The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink |
| Administrative Assistant | Suzanne Miko | Music Director | Dr. Richard L. Riccardi |
| Sexton | Bruce Rumford | | |

PLEASE NOTE: Should there be a medical or other emergency during worship service, someone designated by the head usher will call #911. Do not call on your cell phone. Multiple calls are unnecessary and may delay response. Thank you.



Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1843

Current building dedicated: 1893

Merged with Myrtle Beach Community Church: 1969

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

The Reign of Christ
November 25, 2012

Grace Notes
November 25, 2012

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, November 25 *Pentecost 26/The Reign of Christ/United Methodist Student Day*
9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Visitation Committee – 1st Floor, Wesley Center
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MYF Christmas Treat Making – Dodd Hall
Noon Safe Sanctuary training – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

Monday, November 26 *7 p.m. Service of Healing & Wholeness – Dodd Hall*

Tuesday, November 27 *6 p.m. Confirmation Class – Wesley Center*
7 p.m. Disciple II – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

Wed., November 28 *10 a.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center*
5 – 5:45 p.m. Praisemakers Choir practice – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir – Dodd Hall
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir – Dodd Hall

Thursday, November 29 *7:00 p.m. Membership and Evangelism – Wesley Center*
8:00 p.m. Pastors – Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s study

Saturday, December 1 *9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk, open to all, hosted by UMW – Dodd Hall*
Noon Rick Dubien Memorial service – Sanctuary

Sunday, December 2 *The First Sunday in Advent*
9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal -
4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Ring & Sing – church (see notice)
SUNDAY CONFIRMATION WILL JOIN RING AND SING

Monday, December 3 *7:00 p.m. Service of Healing & Wholeness – Dodd Hall*

Tuesday, December 4 *6:00 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center*
7:00 p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

Wed., December 5 *10 a.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center*
5 – 5:45 p.m. Praisemakers Choir practice – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir – Dodd Hall
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir – Dodd Hall

Thursday, December 6 *6:00 pm. Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center*
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center

Friday, December 7 *6:00 p.m. Nutter – Peel wedding rehearsal – Sanctuary*

Saturday, December 8 *3:30 p.m. – Nutter – Peel Wedding – Sanctuary*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and that your meal was the toast of the town. But maybe you had a bad day (like the year my mom, may she rest in peace, served green pumpkin pies). If you burned the turkey, here are the top ten reasons for giving thanks anyway:

- 10. Salmonella wasn't a concern*
- 9. Pets didn't pester you for scraps*
- 8. The smoke alarm was due for a test.*
- 7. No one overate.*
- 6. You won't have to face two weeks of turkey sandwiches.*
- 5. Carving the bird provided a good cardio workout.*
- 4. Last minute guests will think twice next year.*
- 3. You will garner new appreciation for your "cheese-broccoli-lima bean" casserole.*
- 2. After dinner the guys were able to play football with the turkey.*

And the number one reason to give thanks?

- 1. You got to the desserts quicker.*

Yet the focus of today's worship, the Reign of Christ, finds us in solemn cross-current between Thanksgiving and Advent. As we end the Christian year, we move from gratitude for God's gracious bounty to preparation for God's coming in the birth of an innocent child. Today, the promise is fulfilled as the Sovereign of Heaven and Earth stands as Alpha and Omega, First and Last, "A to Z," to rule over our hearts and lives. Let us profess loyalty to this regent and recognize our calling as "priests serving his God and Father."

Reflectively,

Pastor Brian

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher (November) - Stacey Riccardi

Liturgist –Laura Perregaux

Greeters – Maryanne and Bob Jordan

Cross Bearer –Ryan Lapadula

Acolytes – Sarah O'Brien and Olivia D'Andrea

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS –In loving memory of Myrtle Hawkins, given by Ken and Elaine Hawkins

WELCOME VISITORS! We pray you experience God's presence among us. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or greeters. Please join in Dodd Hall for Fellowship Hour after worship, hosted today by Christian Education.

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- Hearing Assist Devices
- Children's bulletins for ages 3 – 6 and 7 – 12

OFFERING PRAYER CONCERNS: Please use the "Blue Sheets" to share your prayer concerns. You will find them in the attendance pads at the end of each pew or may obtain one from an usher. The ushers collect these during the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. If you offer intentions on behalf of others, please be sure you have their permission to share their information. Prayers offered via the Blue Sheets are included in our on-line prayer chain and at our Monday night Healing Service. You may also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

CHILD CARE: *For children 5 and under* is provided in Wesley Center, building next door to sanctuary – OR – the service may be heard in Dodd Hall, if you wish to use it for restless children during service. *Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary; the child care in Wesley Center is not staffed to provide for these children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

INFORMATION: All informational sheets are available in the back of the church.

SERMON COPIES: November 18th is available, in print in the Narthex and on the web at www.mtm-umc.org.

or by calling her cell phone at 845.239.2007. Sessions are held in the Chapel in Wesley Center and arranged at the convenience of the counselee.

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian is typically in the office Mon.-Thurs. from 9am to Noon (203.874.1982, ext. 11) and by appointment there or elsewhere at other times. E-mail is brian.bodt@yahoo.com and church cell at 203.895.3753. **Use Pastor Brian's cell if timely or an emergency.** Pastor Hal can be reached at vinkhaljane@yahoo.com and at 203.878.8977. Please let us know any time someone needs pastoral care, especially those who are hospitalized. Multiple calls are better than none at all. Most are aware that hospitals no longer provide this information directly to the clergy due to HIPPA privacy laws.

WESLEY CENTER ACCESS: All 12-Step, Support Group & Meetings are able to use the upstairs and downstairs of Wesley Center. Contact Paul Downing at 203.876.8540 or Bill Petremont at 203.415.9982 for further information.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: Flower orders are always taken for Altar Flowers OR "In Lieu of Flowers" which is an additional opportunity for giving to United Methodist Church Missions (UMCOR or UMArmy and many others – please see info. table in back of church for list) and may be ordered at any time during the course of the year. **When a donation is made in lieu of altar flowers, the cross with a miniature mission scarf will be displayed on the altar in place of flowers.* Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or by email at bgobrien11@optonline.net or mail: Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church & monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT: November 18: Total Worship Attendance all services: 218 (208+10 H&W); Total Offering: \$5,319; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$265.00; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 0; Total number persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions:0 **Important! Small Groups when you meet – please email the church office (mtmumc@sbcglobal) or call (203.874.1982) the number of persons that met.*

NAME TAGS: Please keep them on during Fellowship Hour and return to the table before leaving. Thank you!

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERING** is one of six observed world-wide by the United Methodist Church. United Methodist Student Day supports scholarships for college and seminary students. Please use the enclosed special envelope to give.
- **ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG/ORDER FORMS** are available through December 16. Over the years your giving through this catalog has supported health and human service programs, evangelism efforts, disaster relief, programs to end hunger, senior housing, women's causes, youth programs and countless others. Many members and friends look forward to this catalog as a way to express their faith and keep Christ in their Christmas season. See Deb Dubien today for a catalog.
- **VISITATION COMMITTEE** meets at 11:15 a.m. in the Wesley Center. We will have training for lay Communion visitors. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please attend.
- **MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)** meets after worship until 1:30p.m. in Dodd Hall to complete "Christmas Treat Making." All youth grades 7 – 12 are welcome!
- **"SAFE SANCTUARY" TRAINING** is held from Noon – 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel. This training was scheduled on short notice but anyone who is available and wishes to be more informed about our Safe Sanctuary practices and protections is welcome. Our trainer is Rachel Merva.
- **"PREPARING THE WAY," a four week Advent study**, begins this Tuesday (7 – 8:30 p.m.) and Wednesday (10 – 11:30 a.m.) in the Wesley Center. The class will be taught by Rev. Vink but **Don Hastings has your book TODAY if you pre-registered.** If not and you are interested, see him. No time for Bible study? Four weeks is a short commitment! Want a more spiritual Christmas? Come!
- **CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT BOOKLETS** from our Nov. 15 conference are available in the rear of the sanctuary. These have incorporated corrections to the best of our ability, but if you find an error please contact Pastor Brian directly. If copies are exhausted, please let him know and more will be made available. See the December "Beacon" for the minutes of the conference.

THIS WEEK

THE COOKIE WALK IS THIS COMING SATURDAY, December 1, 9 a.m.! Fabulous home-made cookies are churned out by our fabulous MTMUMC bakers. Your purchases support the United Methodist Women and their mission outreach. Word on the street is that

the cookies go fast, so don't be late! "Last call" to help bake or sell: contact Joan Zauner, please, at jzauner@yahoo.com or 203.283.5643.

CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME: see the weekly calendar. New to our church with interest in a choir? Speak with Dr. Riccardi: 203.392.5232 or riccardir@southernct.edu. **We especially want new choristers for Praisemakers for children grades 1-5.** Our plan is for them to sing at the 5 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Speak with Rick or Leigh Bak.

OUR REGULAR WEEKLY OFFICE SCHEDULE RESUMES: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mon. – Fri. If Wesley Center is locked, call Sue Miko (203.874.1982) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by Noon Wednesday, hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR CHILD IN THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT? Contact Sylvia Elliott (203.877.7567 or elliottb2@mac.com). Rehearsal next Sunday; the pageant and dinner are 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15. See "Our Life" article in this issue.

"SPIRIT OF LOVE" holiday concert benefitting Beth-El Center will be held on Saturday, December 1, 7:30 p.m. at the Parson's Center Complex, Milford. Featured music will be the Harmony on the Sound Chorus and the Big Apple Chorus. This annual event is a major source of support for Beth-El (www.bethelmilford.org) which provides support services for our Milford neighbors who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children ages 6-12; and free for children under age 6. Tickets are available at Canvas Patch, Milford Photo *and* Wild Expressions or by calling Maria Tomasetti at 203.988.8598. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

- **WORSHIP: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT** will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper using a liturgy set to the tune of familiar carols. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Cable and Bettencourt families. The message "Meaningful Stress in Advent" will be based on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 1:25-36. Following worship will be Christmas pageant rehearsal (location TBA).
- **INTERGENERATIONAL RING AND SING** leaves the church at **4 p.m.**, bound for the United Methodist Homes of Connecticut (Shelton) and the Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center. All welcome to sing the carols we love so dearly. We conclude at Leigh and David Bak's home, 15 Seaside Court, for refreshments. Need more information? Contact them at davidbak@sbcglobal.net or 203.877.4807.

- **LIVING CRECHE SIGN UPS BEGIN Dec. 2:** Consider participating in the Living Creche on December 24th (5-7 p.m.) and, if enough volunteer, Dec. 23rd (5-7 p.m.). The Creche outside the church is comprised of people representing angels, Mary & Joseph, the Magi and shepherds). Participants change every ½ hour. Please pray about this and sign up ASAP so we know who will serve and how many nights we can have this event. Sign up sheets will be in Dodd Hall on December 2nd or contact Laura Perregaux at misslmp2@yahoo.com.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS MAGNETS: Membership and Evangelism has "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets for \$5.00 each at the Cookie Walk and also provided to our college students in their care packages. Makes a great stocking stuffer, teacher gift, or gift to the person who has everything! See Cathy Cono.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY, Sunday, December 9, 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall. All Mary Taylor Memorial adults and guests welcomed. Bring a \$10 wrapped gift for our Yankee swap plus an appetizer (last name beginning A-K) or dessert (last name beginning L-Z). Beverages provided. The promise of the organizers is that you will learn something about your guests that you never knew before!

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER will again be held on **Saturday, December 15, 5 p.m.** at the church. Sunday School Superintendent Sylvia Elliott (203.877.7567; elliottb2@mac.com) is coordinating this event. **If you have children that you would like to have participate in the pageant,** please contact Sylvia immediately.

OUR "EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY" CAMPAIGN for the 2013 Mary Taylor Memorial budget is still underway. Your estimate of giving makes a difference! You may return it to the church office or in any Sunday offering. We will announce results on Sunday, Dec. 16. Please respond to help us make this a successful campaign for the service of Christ.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS may be ordered using the form in the December "Beacon." We will have forms available in the bulletin next Sunday. The deadline for submission is Monday, December 17.

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING: Carol Gantter is available for bereavement counseling for any person who is dealing with the loss of a relative or friend. The loss does not have to be recent. Feelings of grief may occur at any time after the loss of a dear one and counseling can assist a person in dealing with the grief. Carol can be reached at home at 203.283.4271