

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1836

Current building dedicated: 1893

Merged with Myrtle Beach Community Church: 1969

Nesting Ghana Emmanuel U.M. Church: 2016

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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD,
CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2017

Order of Worship
11:00 p.m.

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

PRELUDE (10:45 p.m.) Christmas selections by the Bell Choir

LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

THE BELL TOLLS – Welcoming us to worship God

INTROIT "We Shall Light a Thousand Candles" D. Rasbach

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 (Verses 1,2,3,6)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

People: *And on earth peace, good will toward all.*

Leader: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: *Glory be to God on high!*

Leader: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord.

People: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (seated) Tom Beyer and Wendy Hoffman

CAROL RESPONSE (seated) "Love Came Down at Christmas" No. 242

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THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT (unison) No. 231

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the World. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" No. 251

THE BIRTH OF JESUS St. Luke 2:1-7

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS St. Luke 2:8-14

CAROL "Angels, We Have Heard on High" No. 238

MARY AND THE SHEPHERDS GLORIFY GOD St. Luke 2:15-20

CAROL "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

*THE WORD MADE FLESH St. John 1:1-5, 10-14

*CAROL "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 224

THE MESSAGE "Christmas This Year" Dr. Bodt

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*THE CHRISTMAS 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

Offertory Anthem "Noel Festival" arr. by L.Larson

(The Adult and Bell Choirs)

*Presentation: "In the Bleak Midwinter" No. 221, v.4

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you. P: *And also with you.*

L: Lift up your hearts. P: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. P: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*
(Here the pastor gives thanks to the Lord, concluding)

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name in singing this carol:

A Christmas Eve Welcome

December 24, 2017

11 p.m.

Dear church family, friends and neighbors,

Merry Christmas to all! I trust God has blessed you this Christmas.

If you are a visitor, we thank you for being in worship with us. If you do not have a spiritual home, we invite you to consider this church and learn more about us at www.mtm-umc.org. Our active congregation welcomes and supports people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, nationalities, ethnicities, abilities and socio-economic situations.

If you are a member who has been away for a while, welcome back! May this Christmas be an opportunity to renew a vital relationship with Christ.

If you are an active member, seek out someone tonight whom you do not know and ask, "Are you new, or new to me?" May the welcome we promise be incarnate in you!

May God, who is rich in mercy, enfold us all with the love that came down at Christmas.

Christ the Savior is born!

Pastor Brian

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. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula and Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Administrative Assist.	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Andy Thomas	Outreach Pastor	Danielle Levine
Child Care Coordinator:	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence:	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett



AT WORSHIP TONIGHT

Ushers – Dennis Darak, David Doyle, Kelly O’Hara and Stacey Riccardi

Liturgists – Carol Galloway, Pastor Dani Levine, Leigh Bak

Acolytes – Sarah O’Brien and Olivia D’Andrea

Aisle Acolytes – Barbara and Elizabeth Repetsky **Cross Bearer** – Nick Bettencourt

Communion stewards – Phoebe Repetsky and Joan Zauner

Communion celebrants – The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt and Carol Galloway;
Rev. Hal and Jane Vink; Pastor Dani Levine and Amanda Repetsky; the Rev. Dr. Judith
Bennett and Beth O’Brien

Musicians: The Bell and Adult Choirs; Sarah Brockett, flute; Mark Dennis and Jeff
Brockett, trumpet; Brian Bodt, Lucas Greifzu and Rick Riccardi, trombone

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP please see our ushers for large print Bibles, hymnals,
bulletins and hearing assist devices.

NOTICES

OUR SANCTUARY WAS DECORATED by Leigh Bak, Flo Berrien, Nancy Bennett,
Pastor Brian Bodt, Bev Dean, Eileen Doyle, Joyce Haig, Lodemia Lopes, Kelly O’Hara,
Shauna Paton, Rich Perregaux, Brenda and Ed Pineau, Bob Virgalla, Ken Wilhelm and the
children of the church.

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED TOMORROW, Christmas Day and St.
Stephen’s Day, Tuesday, Dec. 26. **We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 9 a.m.**

NO HEALING AND WHOLENESS WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY. Healing
and Wholeness Worship will resume New Year’s Day, January 1, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the
Chapel, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the rear table. Please take yours. If you do not
have envelopes and desire them, e-mail Mary Lou Kampert at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

RECENT SERMONS are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

NEW YEAR’S EVE WORSHIP on **Sunday, December 31 at 10 a.m.** will be the historic
“Wesley Covenant Service” with the message “Looking Forward” based on Luke 2:22-40.
Worship will close with our ritual of prayer and healing anointing. **THERE WILL BE
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT SUNDAY.**



**A
Very
Merry
Christmas,
the joy of a rich
Christmastide and
a happy and healthy
New Year to all our members,
friends and visitors; from your staff at
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church:**

**-
Rick,
Andy,
Laura,
Mary Lou,
Pastors Brian,
Hal, Dani and Judy**