

## "BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE TO BE HELD AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHURCH

Nearly 60 years ago Elvis Presley crooned "*I'll have a blue Christmas without you...*" His love song barely touches the depth of sadness some people feel at Christmas. The emphasis on joy all around us simply magnifies the grief and loss experienced by some.

In compassionate response, "Blue Christmas" services began appearing in Christian churches nearly two decades ago. On Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Blue Christmas" service at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This service of worship is for all but especially for anyone for whom the joy and gaiety of the Christmas season is muted by sadness, loss and grief.

The worship is quiet and contemplative but not morose, as we reflect on the truth that Jesus was born to a poor family and his birth elicited a king's death threat, compelling the Holy Family to flee for their lives. Songs appropriate for the season will be interspersed with the story of Christ's birth, prayers and the comfort of God's promise that "the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light." A brief message will be offered by Outreach Pastor Dani Levine. A time of light refreshments will follow.

The church campus at 168 South Broad Street, Milford, has ample parking and the sanctuary is fully handicapped-accessible. As a congregation committed to diversity in all its forms, all are welcome. This unique worship is one of our regular "Healing and Wholeness" services each Monday evening at 7 p.m.