

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 Broad Street  
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982  
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 “The First Noel” W. Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing those items not published elsewhere.)*

INTROIT “From a Distant Home”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from II Peter 1:19

Leader: We have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. Be attentive to this:

People: *As to a lamp shining in darkness, until the morning star rises in our hearts.*

All: *Let us worship Christ, whose star still leads wise seekers!*

\*HYMN #254 “We Three Kings” Kings of Orient

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) “Epiphany” Hymnal #255  
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THE PSALTER Psalm 72:1-17 Hymnal p.795, resp. 1

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 60:1-6 Bible p.724  
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

\*THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12 Bible p.877  
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON “The Christmas Conundrum” Dr. Bodt

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN #242 (*seated*) “Love Came Down at Christmas” Gartan

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*by the Pastor*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Hymnal p. 8

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

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

\*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

Offertory Anthem: “Cold December Fled Away” arr. by Monaco

\*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Hymnal p. 9-11

*(Music for sung responses is Setting A, pages 17-18 in the Hymnal.)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

\*THE COMMUNION

*(The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive or refrain from receiving. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.)*

PRAYER FOR LAY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS (*unison*)

*Gracious God, we remember the apostolic Church which sent representatives from the Lord’s table to those unable to be present. Bless and assist these lay visitors who continue this ministry. Nourish and strengthen those to whom this sacrament is brought, that they may know the comfort of your presence and the love of this community of faith. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

\*HYMN #229 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W Zlobie Lezy

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*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 “March of the Kings” G. Young

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

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

**~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~**

Sunday, January 6

***The Feast of the Epiphany***

***9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center***

***10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary***

***11:30 a.m. – Staff-Parish Relations – Pastor’s study***

***11:45 a.m. – Drum Circle – Wesley Center***

Tuesday, January 8

***6 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center***

***6 p.m. Men’s Club – Dodd Hall***

Wed., January 9

***5 p.m. Praisemaker’s Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall***

***6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall***

***7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall***

Thursday, January 10

***7 p.m. Church Council – Dodd Hall alcove***

Sunday, January 13

***The Baptism of the Lord***

***9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center***

***10 a.m. Worship/Church officer installation – Sanctuary***

***11:30 a.m. – MYF leaves for movie, off-site***

***4 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center***

Monday, January 14

***7 p.m. Service of Healing & Wholeness – Dodd Hall***

Tuesday, January 15

***February “Beacon” deadline***

***6 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center***

***7 p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center***

Wed., January 16

***10 a.m. Milford Clergy Assn. at Trinity Lutheran Church***

***5 – 5:45 p.m. Praisemakers Choir practice – Dodd Hall***

***6:30 p.m. Bell Choir – Dodd Hall***

***6:30 p.m. Gay-Straight Alliance – Wesley Center***

***7:45 p.m. Adult Choir – Dodd Hall***

Thursday, January 17

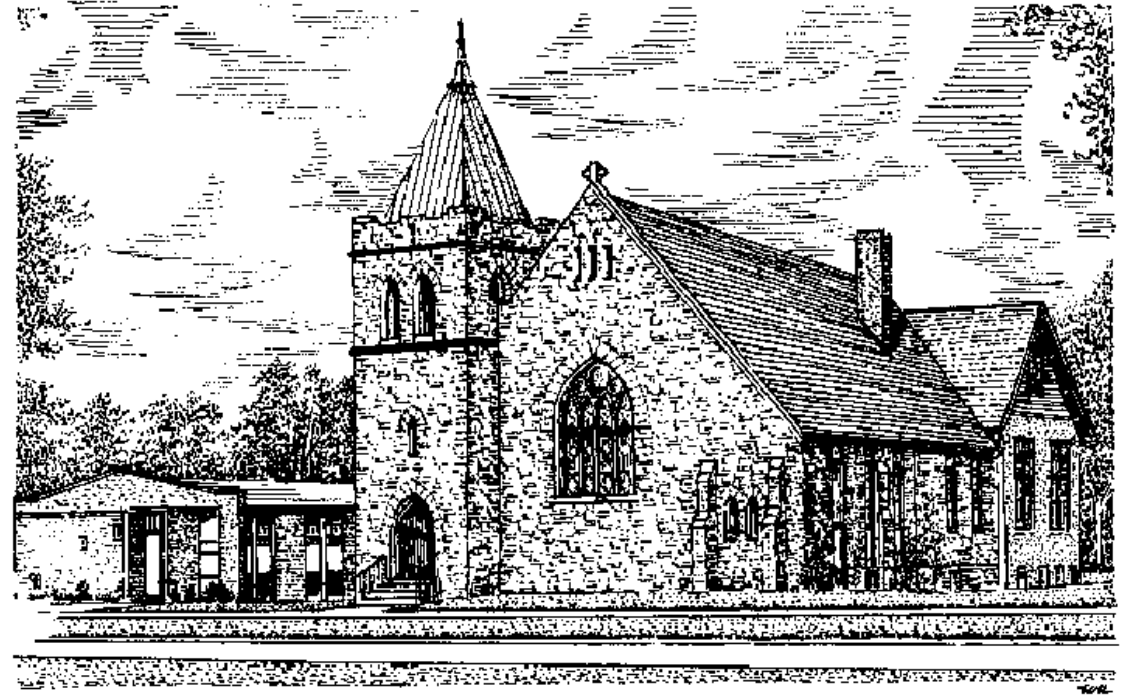
***7 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Wesley Center***

**MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Website:** [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org) [www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)

**E-mail:** [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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		



**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 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

January 6, 2013

**OUR BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY SUPPER  
CONNECTION NEEDS YOU!**

Our Missions Committee recently renewed its commitment to the Community Supper at Golden Hill United Methodist Church, Bridgeport. We serve there alternate fourth Wednesdays. Our next date to serve is January 23, 2013.

Maryanne Meehan and Bob Jordan, our new coordinators, are looking for others who will assist them from about 2:30 – 5 p.m. to prepare the meal. A minimal crew of 4, ideally 6-8, is needed. We prepare only: others serve and clean-up. Anyone 13 or in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older may serve.

Please let Maryanne know of your interest to prepare to serve our neighbors who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. You may reach her at [mjbmj@att.net](mailto:mjbmj@att.net), 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home). Golden Hill Church is at the end of the Exit 2 northbound ramp off the Route 8/25 connector in downtown Bridgeport.

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**ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS** are taken for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers,” an opportunity to give to missions (UMCOR, UMArmy and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). Flowers may be ordered at any time. *\*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](mailto:bgobrien11@optonline.net) or mail: Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

**PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS** on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

**CONTACTING THE PASTORS:** **Pastor Brian** ([brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto:brian.bodt@yahoo.com); 203.874-1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753) is typically in office 9 – Noon, Mon.-Thurs. Pastor Hal can be reached at 203.878.8977 or [vinkhaljane@yahoo.com](mailto:vinkhaljane@yahoo.com). Please let us know of pastoral care needs, including hospitalizations. HIPPA privacy laws will not allow hospitals to release that information to the pastors.

**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.

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

*Grace Notes  
January 6, 2013*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,*

*The Feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>) officially ends the Christmas cycle in remembering the arrival of the Magi, wise seers from the East or the so-called “Three Kings.” Biblical scholars observe that these seekers were more likely astronomers, adherents of the Zoroastrian religion that paid particular attention to the heavens. The idea that three magi came to the child Jesus is conjecture, based on the three gifts they brought.*

*More importantly, “Epiphany” means “manifestation:” the manifestation of the “Messiah” (Anointed One) to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world. The birth of this child therefore heralds not only the long-awaited Messiah, but the Savior of the whole world.*

*This is joyous news for all! Jesus’ birth begins the “old, old story of Jesus and his love” that can withstand the hardships and challenges that assail us; that threaten his Lordship; and that undermine his peaceable kingdom. He comes among us not just in carols and candlelight, but in the most difficult challenges of living. That he comes to each person regardless of lineage reminds us that we, too, are worth saving.*

*As this new year unfolds, how will you and I live our salvation? What a delightful question with which to wrestle!*

*In the name of the Prince of Peace,*

*Pastor Brian*

**VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT:**

**December 30:** Total Worship Attendance all services: 92 (88 + 4 Healing and Wholeness); Total Offering: \$4,849; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$30; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 8; Total number persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0 *\*Important! Small Groups – please email the church office ([mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) or call (203.874.1982) the number of persons that met.*

## AT WORSHIP TODAY

**Head Usher** – Bill Katt

**Greeters** – Betty and Paul Daneault

**Acolytes** – Josh Carr and Nate Carr

**Communion Stewards** – Joan Zauner and Karyn Doherty

**Liturgist** – Susan O’Shea

**Cross Bearer** – Ryan Lapadula

**TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in honor and in loving memory of Thelma McLean, whose birthday was January 2<sup>nd</sup>, by her husband Jim.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We pray you experience God’s presence among us. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or greeters.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** follows worship in Dodd Hall, hosted today by the Gay-Straight Alliance. Next Sunday’s hosts are the MYF.

**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

**TO OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS** please use the "Blue Sheets" found in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. The ushers will collect them during the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. Please be sure you have others’ permission to share their information. These prayers 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:** Several copies of last week’s Wesley Covenant Service are in the narthex for those who desire the entire service text. Prior sermons are available in print in the Narthex and on the web at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org).

**LITURGY TODAY** comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

## ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **DRUM CIRCLE** meets at 11:45 a.m. in the Wesley Center. You need neither experience nor instruments, which will be provided. Did you know drumming can lower blood pressure? Come share your inner rhythms in a relaxed group environment. A free-will offering will be taken. See Lydia Smith.
- **PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES** at the rear of the church. Thank you for your faithful support of Christ’s ministry.
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR MEETING SCHEDULE.**

### THIS WEEK

**CONFIRMATION RESUMES** this Tuesday and next Sunday at the usual times. A mailing was sent Friday with first trimester quizzes, memory work study guide, and a plan for mission service. If you did not see it, please speak with Pastor Brian.

**MEN’S CLUB** meets Tuesday, 6 p.m. in Dodd Hall. Supper provided. Come plan for 2013.

### NEXT SUNDAY

- **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** will be observed in the scriptures of Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22. The sermon is entitled “A Transformation of the Spirit.” Our Mission Minute speaker is Emily Bak speaking of Haiti; and we will install our 2013 church officers. **SUNDAY CONFIRMATION** resumes at 4 p.m.
- **MYF** will leave *immediately after worship* for a movie, returning for Confirmation.

### OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

**OFFICE SCHEDULE:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mon. – Fri. If Wesley Center is locked, call the office (203.874.1982) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by Noon Wednesday, hard copy or to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).

“**THE BEACON**” **DEADLINE** for February is **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider your February publicity now. Send to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or hard copy at the office.

“**FAIR ON THE GREEN**” **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** will be held **Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** in the Wesley Center following worship. Any people interested in working on and learning more about this important fun(d)raiser for your church, please come!

**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.