

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

Leader: The baby born in Bethlehem is a light for all people.

People: *Gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

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

*CAROL #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 “It’s Not the Grade, It’s What You Learn” Dr. Bodt

CAROL #229 *(seated)* “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W zlobie lezy

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: “Were You There on That Christmas Night?” N. Sleeth

*Presentation: “The First Noel” Carol #245, vs. 5

*Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

*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 #250 “Once in Royal David’s City” Irby

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Carol #242, vs. 3

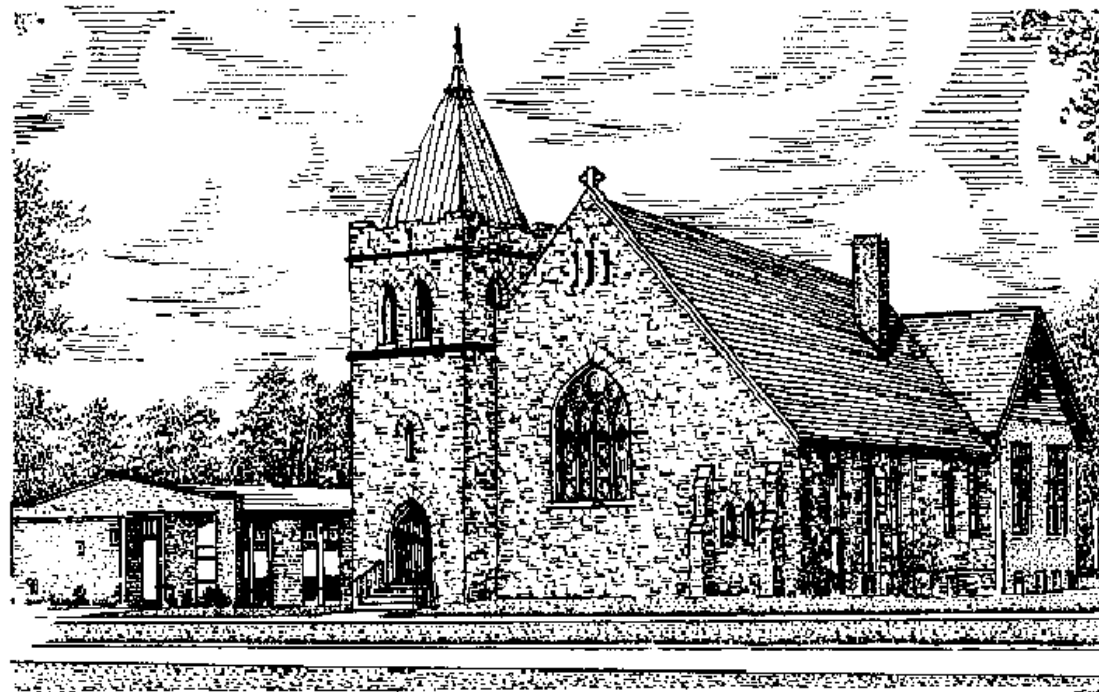
*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

*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.



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 5, 2014

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Grace Notes
Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2014

Sunday, January 5 **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**
10:00 a.m. *Worship – Sanctuary*
11:00 a.m. *Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall*

Monday, January 6
6:00 p.m. *Men’s Club – Dodd Hall*
7:00 p.m. *Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel*
7:00 p.m. *Finance Committee meeting-Gunn Library*
7:30 p.m. *Gay-Straight Alliance meeting – Egan Room*

Tuesday, January 7
5:45 p.m. *Confirmation Class*
7:00 p.m. *Disciple I Bible Study*
7:00 p.m. *Building Committee Meeting-Dodd Hall*

Wednesday, January 8 *TBA – Choir party at Nancy Bennett’s Home*

Thursday, January 9
7:00 p.m. *Prayer Shawl Ministry*
7:00 p.m. *Trustees Meeting*
7:00 p.m. *Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting*

Saturday, January 11 *8:00 a.m. CPR Class-Bill Katt-Dodd Hall*

Sunday, January 12 **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
9:00 a.m. *Sunday School for all ages*
10:00 a.m. *Worship – Sanctuary*
11:00 a.m. *Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall*
11:30 a.m. *New Member’s class-Pastor’s study*
Noon-Long Range Planning Committee-Egan Room
4:00 p.m. *MYF Meeting-Dodd Hall*

Monday, January 13 *7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel*

Tuesday, January 14
Noon UMW Meeting – Wesley Center
Noon Greater Bridgeport United Methodist Cluster-off site
5:45 p.m. *Confirmation Class*
7:00 p.m. *Disciple I Bible Study*

Wednesday, January 15 *BEACON information due*
6:30 p.m. *Bell Choir rehearsal*
7:45 p.m. *Adult Choir rehearsal*

Thursday, January 16 *7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

The personal resolutions that are associated with the start of the new year sometimes get a bad rap. A TV report last week noted that only about 8% of resolutions made are kept.

One thing clear to me from my own experience is that most of us don't keep commitments alone. A prayer partner, running partner, accountability group, support group or some similar network is key to success.

If we think of "resolutions" as "goals" then another path to success also emerges. Goals are reached by subdividing them into manageable steps. Losing ten pounds is a great goal. Adjusting nutrition, increasing activity and meeting with like-minded folks helps us get there.

As we consider our personal and communal spiritual growth in 2014, I hope we will make small victories a goal on the way to large ones; and remain or become active in supporting one another in the journey through prayer and active involvement in church life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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. 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
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Child Care Coordinators	Betty Laferriere and Nicole Ellerbeck		

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Bob Elliott

Liturgist – Priscilla James

Acolytes – Amanda Repetsky & Julianna Patterson

Communion Stewards- Dawn Bettencourt and Barb Macisco

Greeters – Viola Burke & Nita Prior

Cross Bearer –Kayleigh Patterson

Bible Bearer – Anna Wessinger

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Priscilla James at the Dodd Hall door and Dr. Bodt at the Narthex door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in celebration of Laura O'Brien's 21st birthday on December 31st, given by her family.

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

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in each pew or obtain one from an usher. Ushers collect them on the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. These prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. Please also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

TODAY'S LITURGY is from Holy Scripture, and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

SERMON COPIES from last Sunday and previous messages are available in the rear of the church and on-line: www.mtm-umc.org.

CHURCH INFORMATION is available in the racks in back of the church.

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 older children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

NEED A NEW OR REPLACEMENT NAME TAG? Contact (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 10) with your request please. **PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS** on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. –2 p.m. If Wesley Center is locked, call Mary Lou at 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753).

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.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat is desperately needed for seniors with pets. Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: Beth is now accepting orders for 2014. Orders are taken at any time for Altar Flowers OR "In Lieu of Flowers" to support missions (UMCOR, UM Army and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). **A donation in lieu of altar flowers is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar.* Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net or Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian (brian.bodt@yahoo.com: 203.874-1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753) is typically in office 9 – Noon, Mon. – Thurs. **Pastor Hal Vink** can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com. Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations.

"FIX IT BOX" is in Dodd Hall. See a need? Drop a completed form in the box.

WE HOST Alcoholics Anonymous AND Gamblers Anonymous WEEKLY. Please call the church office for the schedule or see it posted on the bulletin boards.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 29:

Total worship attendance all services: 729

Sunday, December 22: 200

Monday, December 23, Healing and Wholeness: 5

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: 169 (5 pm) and 226 (11 pm). Total Offering: \$3388.00

Sunday, Dec. 29: 121 Total Offering: \$4510.27

Mon., Dec. 30, Healing and Wholeness: 8;

Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$4819.74; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 7; (All regular classes cancelled except "Christmas is Not Your Birthday:" 7; 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) or call (203.874.1982) with your attendance.*

NEXT SUNDAY

WORSHIP celebrates THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - “God plays no favorites!” is the sermon based on Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43 and Matthew 3:13-17. We will install our 2014 church officers. Our Mission Minute speaker will be Leigh Bak talking about Emergency Response Team (ERT) training, scheduled for February 15.

NEW MEMBER CLASS begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Pastor’s study, second floor of the Wesley Center. **Preparation for membership will be three required sessions: January 12 (getting acquainted and membership vows), January 19 (UMC and MTMUMC history) and January 26 (mission and service). We will receive new members on Sunday, February 2nd.**

If you are interested in joining our church, please contact the church office (203.874.1982, ext. 10) or Pastor Brian (ext. 11) to indicate your interest.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP meets from 4 – 6 p.m. in Dodd Hall where they will discuss and design the new youth group lounge, finishing up the evening with some fun games.

COMING SOON

GSA IS SPONSORING DEVON DUCKPIN BOWLING January 19th 5-7pm. The cost is \$10 pp—including pizza, drinks and dessert. Please RSVP to Marcia Winter at 203-878-0814 if you would like to bowl.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVER training on more effective home visitation techniques for church and other visitors, **Sunday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** taught by the Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling and sponsored by our Caring Ministries team. See the January “Beacon” for details.

NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT:

Wednesday, January 22, 2:30 – 5 p.m. For a number of years we have helped prepare to feed 100+ people each fourth Wednesday (every other month) at our sister church in Bridgeport. We prepare the meal, led by Maryanne Meehan Jordan and Bob Jordan. We need 6 – 8 people and anyone 13 or in the 7th grade or older may serve. It helps if we have a few younger, stronger people to lift pots and pans, but all are welcomed and will be put to good service. Please let Maryanne know if you can help this month: maryannej@charter.net, 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home). Golden Hill Church is about 20 minutes away: I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector.

COMMUNITY SUPPER AT MTMUMC will be **Thurs., Jan. 23rd**, any portion of 2-6:30 p.m. If you can help, please contact Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959.

SUPPORT A TRULY WELCOMING CHURCH: go to www.mindny.com and become a lay signer of the Covenant of Conscience, a statement welcoming all people regardless of sexual orientation or identity. If you would like a print copy of the Covenant and how to sign up using traditional mail, contact Marcia Winter at mwinter@optonline.net or 203.878.0814. If you’d like to know those 51 members from Mary Taylor Memorial Church who have signed, check the above website or request the list from the church office.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO SERVE AS AN ACOLYTE, CROSS-BEARER OR BIBLE BEARER? Contact Noel Fino at 203.877.3005.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ SCRIPTURE IN 2014? Contact Priscilla James at 203.874.2742 or pcjames60@gmail.com.

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.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God's presence with us. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" name tag to help us greet you warmly. Our Ambassadors will look for you!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall. The Gay-Straight Alliance hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SURVEY MAY STILL BE COMPLETED at the link through our website, www.mtm-umc.org; or by hard copy available in the rear of the church. The survey takes 20-40 minutes to complete. Please return hard copies to the church office.

PAPER GOODS COLLECTION FOR BETH-EL CENTER: January is our month to support the Beth-El Center by collecting the following items. Please place them in the collection box in Dodd Hall: paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue, paper placements, paper napkins, hot/cold cups (6 or 8 oz), 8 oz bowls, heavy duty lawn and leaf trash bags (55 gal.), tall kitchen garbage bags (13 gal), food storage bags (gallon size), plastic wrap, heavy duty aluminum foil, latex or vinyl powder-free gloves (large and medium), surgical masks, anti-bacterial Lysol or Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer.

FRIENDS OF APPALACHIA (FOA) 2014 KICK OFF MEETING is today, January 5th, 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m., Office Building 2nd Floor, 5520 Park Avenue, Trumbull. FOA is now accepting applications for their 2014 trip to Appalachia scheduled for June 28-July 6, 2014. See Anna Henry or the website for more information. www.friendsofappalachia.org.

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

BULLETIN NOTICES for January 12 are due Wednesday, Jan. 8, Noon to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or to the church office.

SAVE \$110.00 AND PERHAPS A LIFE! CPR Training will be offered this Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 8 a.m. to Noon in Dodd Hall. Would you know what to do in a cardiac, breathing or first aid emergency? The right answer could help you save a life. CPR training will be sponsored by the Parish Nurses and conducted by Bill Katt. Those completing the course will be CPR certified, valid for 2 years. If taken in a public venue this can cost over \$100; for our parishioners, it is free. Please reserve through Mary Lou in the church office by January 4, 2014. Class size is limited to 15, so please reserve your spot now. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation can help save a life, please join us on January 11th.

ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL will hold a final entrance exam on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 8 a.m. You may register for the exam at www.sjcadets.org. For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at 203-378-9378.

