

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**168 South 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 “Sing We Now of Christmas”

*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 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 “Born of God” Dr. Bodt

*CAROL #248 “On This Day Earth Shall Ring” Personent Hodie

*THE PROLOGUE OF JOHN 1:1-18 Bible p.966

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: “A Star Shone Bright” Garland/McIntyre

*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

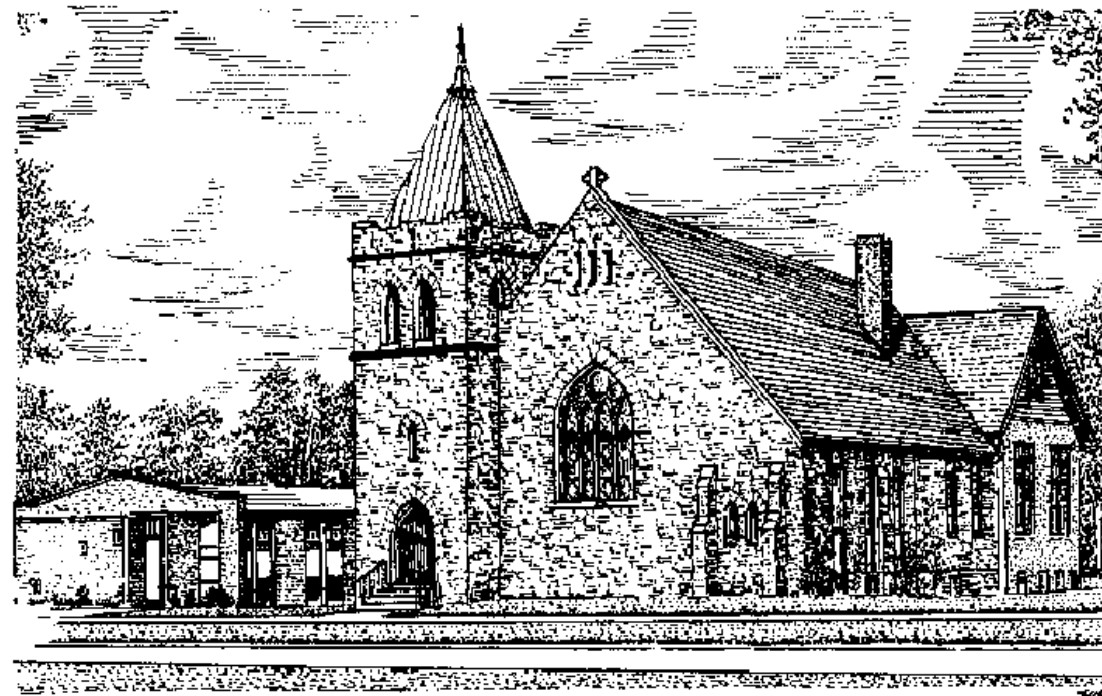
*Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.*

*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: 1836

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.*

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 4, 2015

Grace Notes
Epiphany Sunday
January 4, 2015

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Like many of you, I purchase boxes of non-religious Christmas cards (with apologies to anyone scandalized by such un-pastor-like behavior!). One such card pictures a young girl sitting in rapture before a stocking-adorned fireplace. In the hearth where one might expect a fire there is a translucent, heavenly light. One opens the card to read the greeting:

He's back!!!

It is a pleasure to return to the pulpit today after an extended opportunity to visit my father, brothers and their families in Maryland and time with my own family in Connecticut.

He's back!!!

Most importantly, as we observe this Second Sunday of Christmas as Epiphany Sunday (Epiphany being January 6th), we have the privilege of luxuriating in the Christmas message with the story of the Three Kings and the great Prologue of St. John (1:1-18). In short:

He's back!!!

In fact, Christ never left. And never leaves us. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.mtm-umc.org

www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers
Middleton

All the People of God

Bishop

The Rev. Jane Allen

Lay Leaders
Kieffer

Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak

Superintendent

The Rev. Kenneth



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 Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck		

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – John Henry **Greeters** – Carol Degnan and Marilyn Natlo
Acolytes – Lillia Downing and Amanda Repetsky **Cross Bearer** – Ryan Lapadula
Liturgist – Emily Bak **Bible Bearer** – Mary Repetsky

Communion Stewards – Mary Lou Hastings and Deb Dubien
Communion Servers – Pastor Brian, Kelly O’Hara, Leigh Bak, and Emily Bak

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian and Emily Bak.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are given in memory: Merry Russian Christmas Honey.

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 the attendance pads 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. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.

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

SERMON COPIES from recent weeks are in the rear of the church or 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, the building next door. You may also hear the service in Dodd hall should your child become restless. 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 an adult or guardian.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, January 4</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages - Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m. Worship</i>
<i>EPIPHANY SUNDAY</i>	<i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, January 5</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, January 6</i>	<i>5:30 p.m. Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Disciple 3-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Adult Bible study – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 7</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Adult Bible study – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, January 8</i>	<i>6:30 p.m. Take down Chrismon Tree – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Missions Committee meeting – Wesley Center – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry- Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting-Chapel</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting –Wesley Center – Egan Room</i>
<i>Friday, January 9</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers</i>
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<i>Sunday, January 11</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. MYF Ice Skating-Milford ice Pavilion-lunch provided</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m. New Member’s Class-Pastor’s study, Wesley Ctr. 2nd floor</i>
<i>Monday, January 12</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, January 13</i>	<i>12:00 p.m. UMW meeting- Wesley Center</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m. Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Disciple 3-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Adult Bible study – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 14</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Adult Bible study – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, January 15</i>	<i>BEACON Information Due</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting-Dodd Hall Alcove</i>
<i>Friday, January 16</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers</i>
<i>Saturday, January 17</i>	<i>3:00 p.m. Private Party – Dodd Hall</i>

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 TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). Fellowship Time hosts are the Education Committee (Sunday School) committee. Join us for a few moments of fellowship and conversation. Next week's hosts are the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

"LIFT US UP!" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN continues for handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center. *See the info table in Dodd Hall* with our new brochure. For more information please speak with co-chairs Tom Beyer (203.525.2265; tom.beyer@cort.com) or Rachel Merva (203.641.5088; rmerva@optonline.net).

A SEASONAL REMINDER: *"Nursing the beginning of a cold (or suffering from a full-blown one)? Please pass "The Peace" virtually with the sign of the "V." Let's all do our best to keep each other healthy."* Sheryl Hollyday, R.H., Health and Wholeness Coordinator

INTERESTED IN JOINING MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHURCH?

We will receive new members on Sunday, February 8th. Preparation for membership will be three required sessions: **January 11** (getting acquainted and membership vows), **January 18** (UMC and MTMUMC history) and **February 1** (mission and service).

Preparatory sessions will be in the pastor's office, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor at 11:30 a.m. following morning worship. 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; or speak with him on Sundays.

AN ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR A NEW YEAR:

Here's a perfect way to begin the new year—an 8 week study of "The Acts of the Apostles".

- ❖ What happened when the risen Christ left his gathered band of followers and ascended into Heaven?
- ❖ How was the Christian Church birthed, and how did it begin its assignment to continue the saving ministry of Jesus? Fascinating stuff!

Time: Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

Place: Gunn Library, on the second floor of Wesley Center

Dates: January 6/7, to February 24/25

Study Guide, "ACTS" (\$8.00) available from Pastor Hal after Sunday Worship (near the organ). Bring your Bible and join either class.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

CHILDREN NEEDED!



Our booklet, "Journey of the Bell," has no pictures! Are you a child (or the parent of one) that will help draw them?

The booklet tells the story of the Myrtle Beach Community Church bell. Myrtle Beach Church merged with Mary Taylor Memorial Church in 1969.

The bell was installed at our church last spring and dedicated on October 5, 2014. The story was written by Sally Chapin with production assistance from Wendy Hoffman and the church office.

So, we are looking for children willing to draw some pictures to illustrate the story. You need not be a Rembrandt to participate, just a willingness to try.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Brian (brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.895.3753) or Sunday School Superintendent Cathy Cono (spikkio@optonline.net; 203.878.9218).

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

"We are deeply grateful for your generous Christmas love gift made possible by the generosity of so many MTMUMC members and friends.

Thank you so much and God bless you all in the New Year. Warmly, Pastors Brian and Hal; Rick, Bruce, Mary Lou and Nicole.



OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

NEXT SUNDAY

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - “A United Methodist Theology of Baptism” is the sermon based on Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7 and Mark 1:4-11.

MYF will meet immediately after morning worship for lunch (provided by MYF adult leaders) and travel by carpool for ice skating at the Milford Ice Pavilion. **Skating begins at 1:00 pm and pick up is at 2:30 pm at the Milford Ice Pavilion.** Please bring your signed permission slip, \$7.00 for admission, \$3.00 if you need to rent skates and a little extra money if you want to make purchases at the snack bar. This event is open to all current and former MYF participants as well as friends! An **RSVP** to Dawn Bettencourt at stevedawn@optonline.net is required in order to ensure we have enough lunch and drivers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL’S 1ST CHAPEL WORSHIP of the new year will take place on **January 11th at 9:00 a.m.** Our student-led chapel services are open to parents, friends, and all the congregation. We hope you'll join us for a new and different worship experience!

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

THE JANUARY “BEACON” (our monthly newsletter) was mailed on December 22. If you are not receiving The Beacon, please contact the church office (203.874.1982).

2015 ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS are now being received by Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net. Flowers are \$20. A donation in lieu of flowers to support missions is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar. Checks for either one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

ACOLYTES, CROSS BEARERS AND BIBLE BEARERS WANTED! Our children and youth make a positive contribution to our worship. See or contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to help take the Chrismon Tree down **on Thursday, January 8th at 6:30p.m.** If you can help, please email or call the church office.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Our new season is underway in Wesley Center. Our next meeting is **Thursday, January 8th at 7 p.m.** We invite anyone who is interested to join us. If you need help knitting or crocheting, we are happy to help. If you know of someone who would like a shawl, please ask Fran Merva 203-874-0666, Deb Dubien 203-877-4959, Faye Zeiner 203-878-6186, or Joan Zauner 203-283-5643.

SAVE THE DATE: January 18th for the **FAIR ON THE GREEN** meeting in Wesley Center - 1st Floor, right after Church.

HOME VISITATION by Pastor Brian is available to become better acquainted. Visits may also occur in his office. Weekday, evening and Sunday appointments are available. If you would like to arrange for one, please contact Mary Lou Kampert at 203.874.1982, ext. 10.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are **Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Please note that when only one staff person is in the Wesley Center during office hours the building is locked. If you find this, please call the office (203.874.1982) or ring the Broad Street doorbell. Thank you.

BULLETIN NOTICES are **due by noon Wednesday** for the following Sunday bulletin.

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 food is still needed for seniors with pets, but the Animal Control is not allowed to take in peoples’ released pets. However, they do take care of kittens and will spay and neuter feral cats as has been the policy for years. They also request towels and blankets for the animals. Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

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@gmail.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.

PLEASE NOTE: During a medical or other emergency the Head Usher or a designee will call #911. Please do not call on your cell phone as multiple calls may delay response

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 28th:

Total worship attendance all services: 503; Dec. 28: 117; Healing and Wholeness Dec. 29th: 5. Christmas Eve, 5 p.m.: 176; Christmas Eve, 11 p.m.: 205; Christmas Eve Total offering: \$3,074.37; Sunday, Dec. 28th: 6,139.00 Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) \$9,213.37; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$3,288.33. Amount to Charities/Benevolences: \$750.00

Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 185 (Men’s Club Soup & Sandwich on 12/21: 126; Community Dinner: 49; Office Volunteers 8; No Sunday School, choirs, Disciple 3 or Confirmation. Total 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.