

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 “O Perfect Love” arr. A. Lovelace

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “O Perfect Love”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: I love you!

People: **WHAT?!?**

Leader: I said, “I love you.” God commands us to love one another.

People: ***How can you love us? You don’t even know some of us!***

Leader: Quite right! I love you because God loves you. This love yearns for your well-being. It echoes the love God has for all of us. It is an amazing, startling, wondrous love!

People: ***Well, then, if you and God love us, we love you and God, too!***

Leader: Great! Let us worship this God who, in Jesus Christ, shows us how to love.

*HYMN #549 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” St. Peter

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated)*

Lord, teach us to love. Teach us to love as thou hast loved: extravagantly, sacrificially, boldly and unrelentingly. Let love be found in us, for surely we cannot give what we do not have. Where we have blocked love—human and divine—soften our hardness of heart and hardness of head so that love may find in us fertile soil. As loves grows within us, let those to whom love is a stranger find in us generous friends. This we pray in the name of the One who loved us even to death on a cross, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

°°°

THE EPISTLE I Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13 Bible p.1047

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God.***

*HYMN #408 “The Gift of Love” Gift of Love

THE SERMON “A Question of Priorities” Dr. Bodt
(The last of three sermons on “The Corinthian Questions.”)

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

CANTICLE OF LOVE *(seated)* Hymnal #646, Response 1

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: “The Gift of Love” H. Hopson

*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 and kneel, if able, at the rail. Please eat the bread and drink the cup as it is served. Leave the cup in the holder at the rail and await a blessing before departing.)

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 #620 “One Bread, One Body” One Bread, One Body

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymnal #666

(Please consider refraining from hand-holding during the flu season.)

*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*

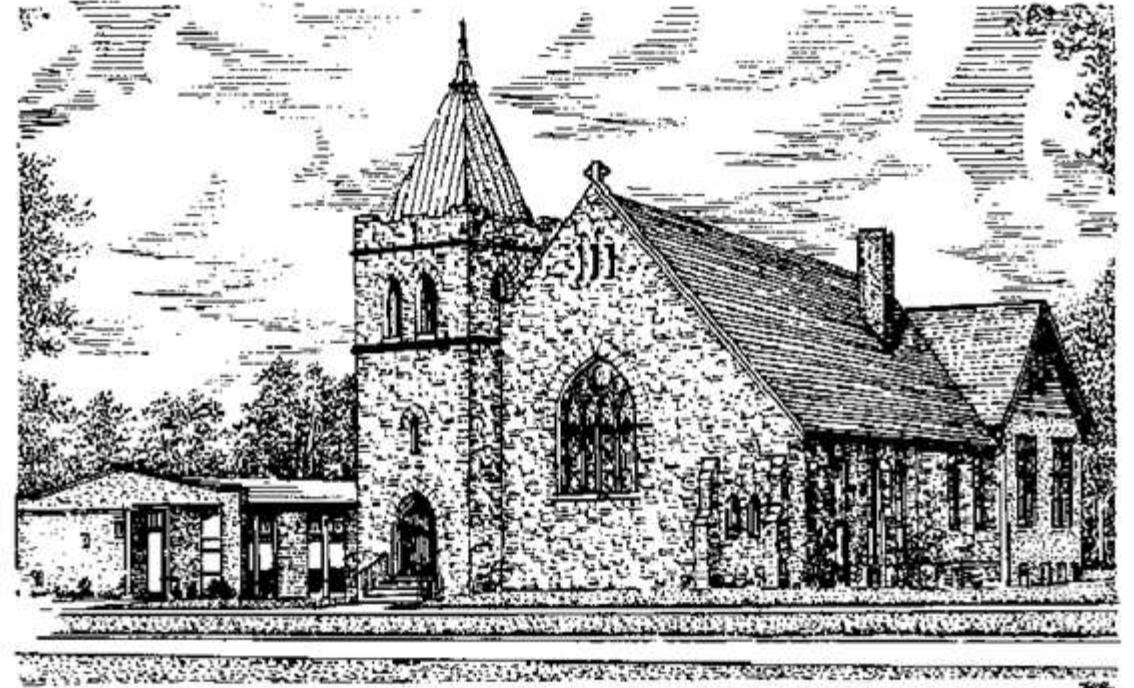
*POSTLUDE

“Celebration”

J. Mansfield

(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.*

EPIPHANY IV

February 3, 2013

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, February 3
Epiphany IV
9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. – “Souper” Bowl luncheon – Dodd Hall
4 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center
Monday, February 4
7 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Dodd Hall
Tuesday, February 5
6 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center
Wed., February 6
9 a.m. Mailing volunteers for Lenten letter – Wesley Center
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
Thursday, February 7
6:00 p.m. Missions Committee – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Wesley Center
Saturday, February 9
5:30 p.m. Valentine’s Dinner Dance – Dodd Hall

Sunday, February 10
Transfiguration Sunday
9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Soup Sale – Dodd Hall
4 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center
5 – 7 p.m. Bowling Party – AMF Milford Lanes
Monday, February 11
7 p.m. Service of Healing & Wholeness – Dodd Hall
8 p.m. Church Council – Dodd Hall alcove
Tuesday, February 12
Noon United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center
5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Dodd Hall
6 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
Wed., February 13
ASH WEDNESDAY
10:00 a.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
Noon Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion & choir
(no Bell or Adult choir rehearsals)
Thursday, February 14
Happy Valentine’s Day!
Friday, February 15
March “BEACON” deadline to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net
Saturday, February 16
6:45 a.m. MYF skis at Butternut

Grace Notes
February 3, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

The recent frigid cold reminds us of the miracle of spring. How anything could survive that brittle underground tomb boggles my mind. I think of Natalie Sleeth’s poetry in “Hymn of Promise” (Hymn #707):

*“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”*

Promise that waits to be fulfilled is found in Paul’s “love poem” from today’s scripture reading (I Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13). Of the spiritual gifts entrusted to us, all are worthless without agape, the love that wills the well-being of another. Love is the “still more excellent way” that keeps us from pride and divisiveness because we seek the well-being of our neighbor.

This love is not so much a gift (although some people are more easily inclined to it than others) as a decision of the will. Let us decide to love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian

P.S. Today’s Sacrament uses individual cups in light of flu season. This was standard practice in many Methodist congregations for over a century (and still is in some) and emerged in the last decade of the 19th century as greater understanding of microbiology disease transmission brought greater attention to congregational health.

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

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O’Hara **Greeters** – Pat Jaser and Ruth Starcher

Cross Bearer – Sarah O’Brien **Bible Bearer** – Julianna Patterson

Acolytes – Allison Bennett and Kayleigh Patterson **Liturgist** – Laura Perregaux

Communion Stewards – Kelly O’Hara and Barbara Macisco

TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS ARE given in celebration of Joan Zauner’s birthday this past Monday, January 28th.

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 in our “Souper” Bowl luncheon. Next Sunday’s hosts are the Finance Committee.

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 will 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.

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 from January 27 are available in the rear of the church and on the web at www.mtm-umc.org.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

OUR INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT is Mary Lou Kampert of Milford. Office hours are Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please welcome her when you call. If you come and Wesley Center is locked, call 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753).

BULLETIN NOTICES are due by Noon Wed., hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

OUR ADMIN. ASSISTANT SEARCH continues, led by Staff-Parish Relations. Interested applicants may send resume and cover letter to church168@yahoo.com.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS are taken for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers,” an opportunity to give to missions (UMCOR, UM Army 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 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; 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. Please inform us of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations as hospital will not release that information to us.

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: 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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 27:

Total worship attendance all services: 181 (174 + 7 Healing and Wholeness); Total Offering: \$3,224.50; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$107; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 21; 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) the number of persons that met.*

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY LUNCHEON** follows in Dodd Hall. A free-will monetary offering and/or canned and boxed goods for hunger needs is your ticket to soup, sandwiches and dessert. Thanks to the Men’s Club, the Missions and Worship Committees, and other volunteers.
- **VALENTINE’S DINNER DANCE: LAST CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!** See Jim Repetsky (203.874.8688; repetsky@optonline.net) or any Men’s Club member. It is **this Sat., Feb. 9, 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.**, Dodd Hall. All adults welcome.
- **DENTAL SUPPLIES COLLECTION** for folks in Appalachia begins. See the enclosed flier. Both Sunday and Tuesday Confirmation classes have chosen this as a mission project. Let the competition begin!
- **REGISTER NOW WITH PASTOR HAL** for the study “Give Up Something Bad for Lent.” Tues. eve and Wed. morning sessions. Details in “Coming Soon.”
- **SHIRT HANGERS FOR THE TEEN CLOTHES CLOSET ARE NEEDED** by the Foran High School Gay-Straight Alliance. The Closet benefits homeless teens in the area. Please put hangers in the box labeled “GSA Hangers” in the rear of the church for the next several Sundays. Thank you. *Kaylyn Bettencourt*
- **OUR CHAPEL WINDOW RESTORATION FUND CONTINUES** with \$1,330 received as of Jan. 29, reaching over 23% of our \$5,700 goal to reinstall the stained glass in the Chapel’s north wall. Checks may be made payable to the church, memo “Stained Glass Windows.” See any member of the restoration committee for more details: Bill Petremont, Jim Repetsky, Joan Zauner or Marjory Zurko.
- **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A LITURGIST?** We are looking for people interested in assisting in worship leadership by reading the scriptures and prayers as happens each Sunday. If interested, please contact Worship Chair Laura Perregaux at 203.283.5758 or misslmp2@yahoo.com.
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR MEETING SCHEDULE.**
- **LITURGY TODAY** comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The U.M. Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day are original compositions by the Pastor.

THIS WEEK

MAILING VOLUNTEERS meet this Wednesday, 9 a.m. to mail the Lenten letter.

ACTION ITEMS for the February Church Council meeting are requested by this Wednesday, Feb. 6 sent to the Chair, Shelly Lapadula at m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com or 203.874.4466. Church Council next meets on Monday, Feb. 11 at 8 p.m. following Healing and Wholeness worship.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DISTRICT DAY APART is this Sat., Feb. 9, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 188 Rocky Rest Road (at Long Hill Avenue), Shelton, 06484. Registration fee of \$8.50 includes lunch. While advance reservations were requested, it may still be possible to attend. Joan Zauner writes: *Every year the District has several programs for learning and fellowship. The speaker in Shelton is Rev. Wendy Vencuss, Coordinator of 'Mountains of Hope for Haiti.' Because of our close connection to Haiti, I wanted to make all women aware of this opportunity to learn more. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.*

VALENTINE DINNER AND DANCE is this Sat., Feb. 9, 5:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. This adult event combines a scrumptious dinner served by our men (in tuxedos!); music; entertainment and dancing. See “Activities Today” for reservation details.

NEXT SUNDAY

- **TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY:** The Rev. Hal Vink, Pastoral Assistant, will preach the message “The Tunnel at the End of the Light” based on Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36. Our Mission Minute will be Anna Henry speaking on the dental supply drive.
- **“SOUP’S ON!” WINTER SOUP SALE,** after worship in Dodd Hall. No orders: “first-come, first-served.” Monies benefit missions. Please contact me if you are interested in making soup. *Susan O’Shea (203.494.5339 (cell))*
- **BOWLING PARTY: 5 – 7 p.m.** at the Milford AMF Lanes. Pizza, beverage and shoes included. See Marcia Winter (mwinter@optonline.net) or Cathy Cono (spikkio@optonline.net). Hosted by the MTMUMC Gay-Straight Alliance and Membership and Evangelism Committees.

COMING SOON

CHURCH COUNCIL meets Monday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m. in Dodd Hall following Healing and Wholeness. **Please note this change of date and time.** Given our typical 2 hour meeting length, we ask Council members to provide action items in advance (see “Today”) and reports in advance to Secretary Paul Downing (paul.downing@snet.net).

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MONTHLY MEETING: Tuesday, Feb. 12, Noon, Wesley Center. Details from President Joan Zauner (203.283.5643/ jzauner@yahoo.com).

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER: This annual event on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 5:30 p.m. is a pancake supper with all the trimmings in Dodd Hall hosted by the Membership and Evangelism Committee. Taking its name from the “shriving” (confession and absolution) of penitents on the eve of the beginning of Lent, this day is also known as *Mardi Gras* (“Fat Tuesday”) from the practice of using up all “fat” (butter, etc) prior to fasting from them during Lent. We’ll have crafts and games for the kids; the fun of “king cake,” and a relaxing evening of fellowship. Bring your beads and masks!

ADULT LENTEN STUDY begins Feb. 12/13 taught by Pastor Hal. Please register at (203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com). Classes are Tuesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Feb. 12 – March 26 and Wednesdays, 10 – 11:30 a.m., Feb. 13 – March 27 in the Church Library, Wesley Center. The study is Give Up Something Bad for Lent by James W. Moore, who challenges us to eliminate one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, or negative thinking. How much better life would be! The study book is \$8 and scholarship help is available.

MYF SKIS AT BUTTERNUT on Saturday, Feb. 16, leaving at 6:45 a.m. and returning by 6:30 p.m. Details are in the February “Beacon” and costs vary in relation to your need for skis, lessons and rental helmet. **HELMETS AND ADVANCE RESERVATIONS A MUST,** the latter so we have enough drivers! Please contact Shelly Lapadula at 203.874.4466 or m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com. All payments—cash, please—are due the day of the trip.

GIRL SCOUT RELIGIOUS RECOGNITION AWARDS can be earned if your daughter is in Girl Scouts and would like to participate. Pastor Brian will conduct the instruction. Please contact Marcia Winter (203.878.0814; mwinter@optonline.net) and she will order the appropriate grade curriculum. Any Girl Scout, grades 1-12, is welcome.