

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 South Broad Street

Phone: 203.874.1982

Milford, Connecticut 06460

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*

INFORMAL HYMN SINGING (9:45 a.m.)

PRELUDE “Near the Cross”

F. Binckes

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 1:18

Leader: Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:

People: *though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;*

ALL: *though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.*

*HYMN #269 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Land of Rest

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*)

(Ruth Duck, USA, 20th century)

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations. And, as you know the weakness of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE PSALTER

Psalm 25:1-10

Hymnal p.756

THE EPISTLE

I Peter 3:18-22 Bible p.1105 (LP, NT, p. 284)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11 Bible p.879 (LP, NT, p. 3)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #325

”Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus”

In babilone

THE SERMON

“Changing Himself”

Dr. Bodt

(*Imagined first-person reflections of Jesus on his temptation.*)

HYMN #298 (*seated*)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hamburg

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Hymnal #895

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church is a community growing in God’s grace and love. We are committed to following Christ’s teaching and example by heeding his call to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, preach the good news, teach our children and youth, and visit the sick, homebound and imprisoned.

We recognize and celebrate the diversity of God’s creation and God’s gifts. As disciples of our Lord, we publicly acknowledge, welcome and support people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, nationalities, ethnicities, abilities and socio-economic situations. Our welcome knows no boundaries.

Called by the Holy Spirit to share a ministry that reflects God’s love and justice, we embrace and honor all who participate in the ministries and leadership of our church.

The Mission Statement of Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church

*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.*)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Nancy Bennett

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem:

“Thou Art The Way”

Doane/Roesch

Presentation:

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #178

“Hope of the World”

Vicar

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BELL TOLLS – *Sending us to walk with and witness for Jesus*

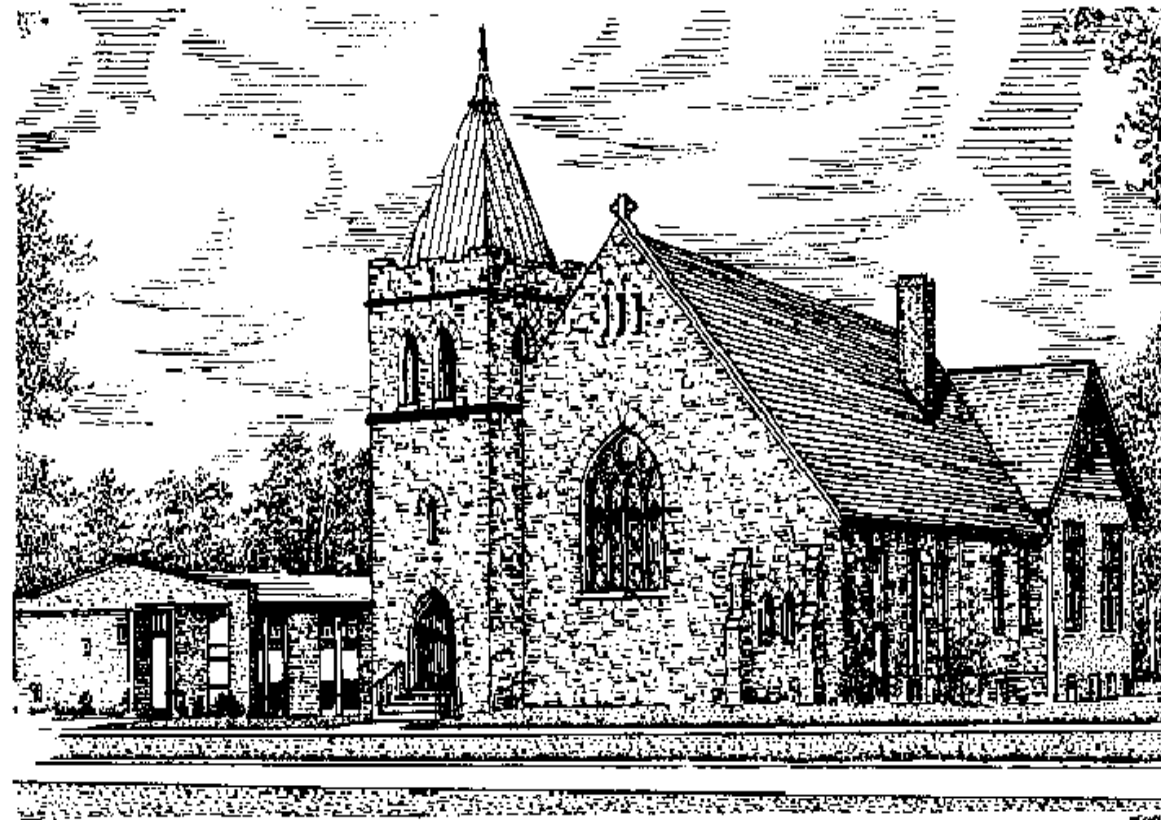
*POSTLUDE

“Aria Solemnis”

D. Hegarty

(*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

Nesting Ghana Emmanuel U.M. Church: 2016

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

LENT I
February 18, 2018

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973

Website: www.mtm-umc.org www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
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	Andy Thomas	Outreach Pastor	Danielle Levine
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

Grace Notes
February 18, 2018

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Welcome to Lent. I began it by writing a note. It was one of the hardest notes I've written in a long time. It was a note of apology.

The note was not to anyone in our church or even in Connecticut. I had challenged someone and, by so doing, hurt them. I hadn't meant to, but I had. They told me so, in prose designed to catch my attention. It did.

My original convictions about my viewpoint - the substance of the matter - remain unchanged; and the self-justifying part of me says, "Well, to make omelets, you have to break eggs." But that doesn't change the fact that, despite intentions, I had injured one for whom Christ died.

"Confession is good for the soul" is an old bromide. It doesn't mention the difficulty of swallowing pride, admitting one's sinfulness and making amends. The risk is there, too, of adding to the hurt through a clumsy apology, or of the apology being rejected. "Easier said than done," I say.

But "done" it must be, by all of us along life's path, for "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) To whom, and for what, will you make amends?

Welcome to Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt



AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Stacey Riccardi

Liturgist: Nancy Bennett

Cross Bearer: Amanda Repetsky

Greeters: Cathy Liontas and Kyle Collins

Bible Bearer: Paige Perregaux

Acolyte: Addyson Perregaux

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in loving memory of Tom Calabrese – 11th birthday in heaven, given by Stacey, Rick, Jason, Jennifer, Aiden and Madison.

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

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God's presence today. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" peel-and-stick name tag to help us greet you. Our Ambassadors will look for you! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is in the Narthex.

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. **Please return them completed to an usher or to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them on the opening hymn.** Our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. **You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.** Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. **Please also consider joining our Yahoo e-communication group** (which was created for prayer concerns) to offer immediate posting of intercessory prayer requests. To sign up, contact the church office.

CHILD CARE for children five years old and younger is provided in the Wesley Center, the building to your left. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary since our child care is not staffed to provide for older children.

IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE SANCTUARY DURING WORSHIP, please exit by the east (left) side aisle. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar). **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the east side aisle.

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

SERMON COPIES from previous Sundays are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE THANKS

We thank all who helped to make this annual event special, including the members of the Men's Cub and Membership and Evangelism Committee, for the 78 people in attendance last Tuesday. A special word of thanks to Dawn Fino who made, and has made for many years, the "King Cake" that ends our evening of feasting.

MISSION NEWS

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL MISSIONS FAIR: *Sunday, April 15th.* If you know of a group that does great work locally, please contact Maryann Petremont at 203-877-0612, mapetremont@yahoo.com or Lorraine Carr at 203-931-0516, carrain@yahoo.com.

SOCKS 4 SENIORS: Eileen Potkay, LPN on our Parish Health and Wellness Team will be collecting new and gently used (any color or length) ADULT size socks for seniors in need living in local Nursing Homes.



This is our 3rd Annual Sock collection and there IS a need right here in Milford.

The collection will run until March 18, 2018. There will be a box in Dodd Hall to leave your donations. To learn more, see Eileen after worship or contact her at 203-809-0188 or Eileenmary68@aol.com. If you would like to leave a monetary donation, Stacey Riccardi will be happy to shop for you. Contact her at 203-562-6508 or stacey.riccardi@comcast.net.

U.M. ARMY MISSION WEEKS: *(A home repair and improvement mission of the UM Church)*

Young Adult Program: June 3-9 Long Island – Participants must be 1 year beyond high school
Mixed Age Program: July 8-14 Forestville, CT – Participants must have completed 7th grade or older. As always, do not hesitate to email or text me with questions. Friends of MTMUMC are welcome to join us. Cost is \$300 per youth and there are some scholarship funds available for members. Please contact me for information. This is the first year that there will be no High School week, I am not certain if space will be limited because of that so please, reply to get your name on our group roster. Here is the link for more information about U.M. ARMY <http://ne.umarmy.org/> Blessings, Stacy Meszaros (203.414.9235).

FINANCIAL HELP WITH WINTER HEATING BILLS AVAILABLE. Families and individuals seeking financial help to off-set their winter heating bills may apply to TEAM for assistance. Homeowners and renters in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Orange, Oxford, Milford, Seymour, Shelton and Woodbridge can apply. Income limits are \$34,366: one person household; \$44,940: two person household; \$55,514: three person household; \$66,089: four person household. To schedule an appointment with TEAM Energy Assistance, call 203-736-5420 and follow prompts for Energy Assistance.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION SERVICE. TEAM, Inc. offers preparation of federal and state income tax returns free of charge to those with household incomes of \$54,000 or less. Volunteers are IRS-certified. Schedule in Derby or Milford Senior Center by appointment. Schedule on-line at www.bookeo.com/211tax or call 211 (available 24/7 follow prompts choose option 3 & 6) or call 203-736-5420 ext. 0.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, February 18</i>	8:45 a.m. <i>Sunday School Jamboree Time – Chapel</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i> 9:45 a.m. <i>Informal Hymn Singing-Sanctuary</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship– Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time - Dodd Hall</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Blood Pressure Screening-Sanctuary- Leigh Bak APRN</i> 3:30 p.m. <i>GEUMC Worship – Chapel</i> 4:00 p.m. <i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>	
<i>Monday, February 19</i>	<i>The Office is Closed – Presidents Day observance</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>	
<i>Tuesday, February 20</i>	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation class – Gunn Library</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Disciple 4 - Egan Room</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library</i>	
<i>Wednesday, Feb. 21</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library</i> Noon <i>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Choir Fellowship Dinner – Dodd Hall</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Stewardship meeting – Wesley Center, Egan Room</i> 6:40/7:45 p.m. <i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>	
<i>Thursday, February 22</i>	5:30 p.m. <i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall</i> 6:45 p.m. <i>Taize Service – Sanctuary</i>	
<i>Friday, February 23</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>	
<i>Saturday, February 24</i>	9:00 a.m. <i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i>	
<i>Sunday, February 25</i>	8:45 a.m. <i>Sunday School Jamboree Time – Chapel</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship/ Baptism of Jayden Russell Clark– Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time - Dodd Hall</i> 3:30 p.m. <i>GEUMC Worship – Chapel</i> 4:00 p.m. <i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>	
<i>Monday, February 26</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Beacon Volunteers – Egan Room</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>	
<i>Tuesday, February 27</i>	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation class – Gunn Library</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Disciple 4- Egan Room</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library</i>	
<i>Wednesday, Feb.28</i>	9:30 a.m. <i>District Clergy Prayer Team - Sanctuary</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library</i> Noon <i>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Choir Fellowship Dinner – Dodd Hall</i> 6:40/7:45 p.m. <i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>	
<i>Thursday, March 1</i>	6:30 p.m. <i>Missions Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>	
<i>Friday, March 2</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers-Gunn Library</i>	
<i>Saturday, March 3</i>	9:00 a.m. <i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School Teachers meeting – Sunday School office</i>	

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by the Finance Committee. Next Sunday’s hosts will be the Education Committee. **PRAYER SHAWLS AND LAP ROBES** are available to extend God’s loving care in a tangible way to those who are sick or in need of comfort. Help yourself!

FROM YOUR PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS TEAM: Connecticut has been hit hard by the flu this year. Please remember the guidelines of the Center for Disease Control:

- Please stay home, to protect yourself and others, if you are ill, not feeling good, or “fighting something”
- Consider extending the “V” sign of peace instead of hand-shaking
- Wash hands or use the hand sanitizers available in the Sanctuary and Dodd Hall window wells before you eat or touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) is our Youth Group. They will meet **today, February 18th, 4 – 5:30 p.m.** in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, 1st floor. Each week we have a different discussion topic and leader. Come join us for the Youth Group! All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome (friends, too)! Topic for today: "It's A-parent" led by Dawn Bettencourt. *This is the Third topic in our Family Relationships series.*

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE IS MARCH 11. See enclosed flier to order.

THIS WEEK

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED MONDAY in observance of President’s Day and will reopen on *Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 9 a.m.*

LENT HOLY COMMUNION is held *each Wednesday noon* through March 28. The service of scripture, reflection and song lasts about 30 minutes. Come to this mid-week spiritual oasis!

COMMUNITY SUPPER is held *this Thursday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m.* in Dodd Hall. If you can help, please contact Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959.

NEXT SUNDAY, February 25

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - “Changing Nicodemus” is the message based on John 3:1-17, 7:45-52 and 19:38-40. Our Black History Moment will be presented by Carol Galloway on Judge Thurgood Marshall. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Jayden Russell Clark, son of Sean and Shayla. Prayer and healing anointing will be offered to conclude the worship. After worship the Visitation Ministries Team will meet in the Wesley Center.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) will meet next Sunday, **February 25th, 4 – 5:30 p.m.** in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, 1st floor. Each week we will have a discussion topic and a different topic leader. Come join us for the Youth Group! All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome (friends, too)! Topic for today: "It Depends" led by Pastor Dani Levine. *This is the Fourth topic in our Family Relationships series.*

USHER TRAINING

Usher training will be held on *Sunday, March 4, 11:30 a.m.* in the sanctuary. Come learn what ushers do so you might possibly become one. Ushers help lead dignified worship by welcoming people, distributing the Order of Worship, collecting the offering, directing people to the Holy Communion, and other seasonal tasks related to specific services. **You may attend this session without a commitment to be an usher.** Training will provide more detail on the commitment, scheduling, and other questions you may have. For further information, speak to Dennis Darak (203.988.3554) or Kelly O'Hara, David Doyle or Stacey Riccardi.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION IN MARCH

We will receive new members on **Palm Sunday, March 25 at 10 a.m. worship.** Three required preparatory sessions will be offered on both Sundays and Wednesdays in my study (Wesley Center, 2nd Floor). Folks may choose one or the other or alternate; and one may attend these sessions to learn, without a commitment to join. Those sessions will be:

Sundays, March 4, 11 and 18, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with professional child care

(reservation for child care requested to me, please)

Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Session 1 is a “get-acquainted” session. Session 2 is United Methodist history and belief. Session 3 introduces sponsors and hears from church leaders about what excites them in ministry. Participants may alternate between Sunday and Wednesday sessions as needed.

Please let me know if you are interested or have questions not covered here.

Pastor Brian Bodt, 203.895.3753 or brian.bodt@yahoo.com

ADULT STUDY IN MARCH AND APRIL

Made for a Miracle is the adult study scheduled to begin in March and continue, with a break for Holy Week, into April. Michael Slaughter, pastor emeritus of Ginghamburg U.M. Church in Tipp City, Ohio is author of the book, video and leader's guide. Pastor Brian will be the study leader. We will follow our usual Tuesday, 7 p.m./ Wednesday, 10 a.m. format for study, with participants choosing one day or the other.

Sessions run March 6/7 through March 20/21; break for Holy Week (March 25-April 1) and resume April 3/4 through 17/18. Cost is \$10 and scholarship help is available. Please register through the church office at 203.874.1982, ext. 110; or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

PRAYER ANOINTERS SOUGHT

We are looking for additional anointers to serve the last Sunday of each month in worship. The anointer prays with those worshippers who come forward and, if they desire, anoints the forehead or hand with a small amount of oil. Qualities needed are abilities to (a) listen clearly to the prayer request, (b) offer an extemporaneous prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit, for the particular intention requested, and (c) maintain absolute confidentiality (with the exception of risk of injury to a minor) of any request shared. If you would like to know more or offer yourself for this ministry, please contact the Rev. Hal Vink at 203.878.8977.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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

DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS. *Beth O'Brien (203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net) is now taking orders for 2018.* Flowers are \$20. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to support missions are honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for both are payable to MTMUMC, mailed to Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460. **The next available date is March 18th.**

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church and monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat food is needed for seniors with pets and for the canine facility. Towels and blankets are needed. Animal Control will not take peoples' released pets but will spay and neuter feral cats. Please leave your donations in the designated basket in the back of the Sanctuary. The Youth Fellowship brings these items to Animal Control each week. Bless you for caring for God's children with fur. **If you and your animals are in need please help yourself to the available donations.**

CONTACT THE PASTORS directly or through the church office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 111 or 203.895.3753. He is typically in office **10 am – 1 p.m.**, Mon. – Thurs. **Pastor Hal Vink:** 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@gmail.com. **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or Danielle.levine@mail.com.

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

WE HOST Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Recovery from Co-dependency (CODA) 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 February 11

Total worship attendance all services: 278; Feb.11: 147; GEUMC: 23; Feb.12: Healing and Wholeness: 14; Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14: 7 (7 am), 19 (Noon), 68 (7:30 pm)
Total Offerings for Feb.11: \$5,548.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$1,000.00;
Engaged in Small Groups: 173; Sunday School: 24; “G.U.T.S” (youth group) :11; Confirmation: 6, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: 78; Disciple 4: 12; Christianity and Islam: Tues: 9; Wed.11; Prayer Shawl: 8; SPRC: 12; Bell Choir and Adult Choir rehearsals cancelled for Ash Wednesday; Office Volunteers: 2; Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0. *Small Groups – please contact the church office mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.