

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.)

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

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” G. Near

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 27:1, 4

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

P: *The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

L: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

P: *that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in the Lord’s temple.*

*HYMN #116 “The God of Abraham Praise” Leoni

PRAYER OF THE DAY (seated, unison) Howard Thurman, 20th century

O Holy God, open unto me light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair. O loving God, open unto me wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, love for my hate. O God of peace, open unto me peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness. O generous God, open my heart to receive all your gifts. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Lavon Baylor, USA, 20th cent., alt.

O merciful God, we confess that we have not acknowledged you as the source of our successes, our substance, ourselves. We have been far more ready to complain when things go wrong than to praise when all is well. We have fed our bodies a rich diet while neglecting to feed our souls. Power and wealth have assumed greater importance to us than sensitivity and service. We have allowed religious words and forms to substitute for living encounters with the persons you have called us to love.

Forgive us, compassionate Redeemer, and grant us the opportunity to start over again. Keep us from repeating the mistakes of the past or from new evils that could mislead or destroy. In the name of Christ, we offer our earnest prayers for pardon and deliverance. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Bible p.11

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

THE EPISTLE Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Bible p. 1070

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35 Bible p. 951

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #140 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Faithfulness

THE SERMON “Conviction” Dr. Bodt

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

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

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

*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 Sarah O’Brien

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Thou Art the Way” Doane/Roesch

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #295 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” Rathbun

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

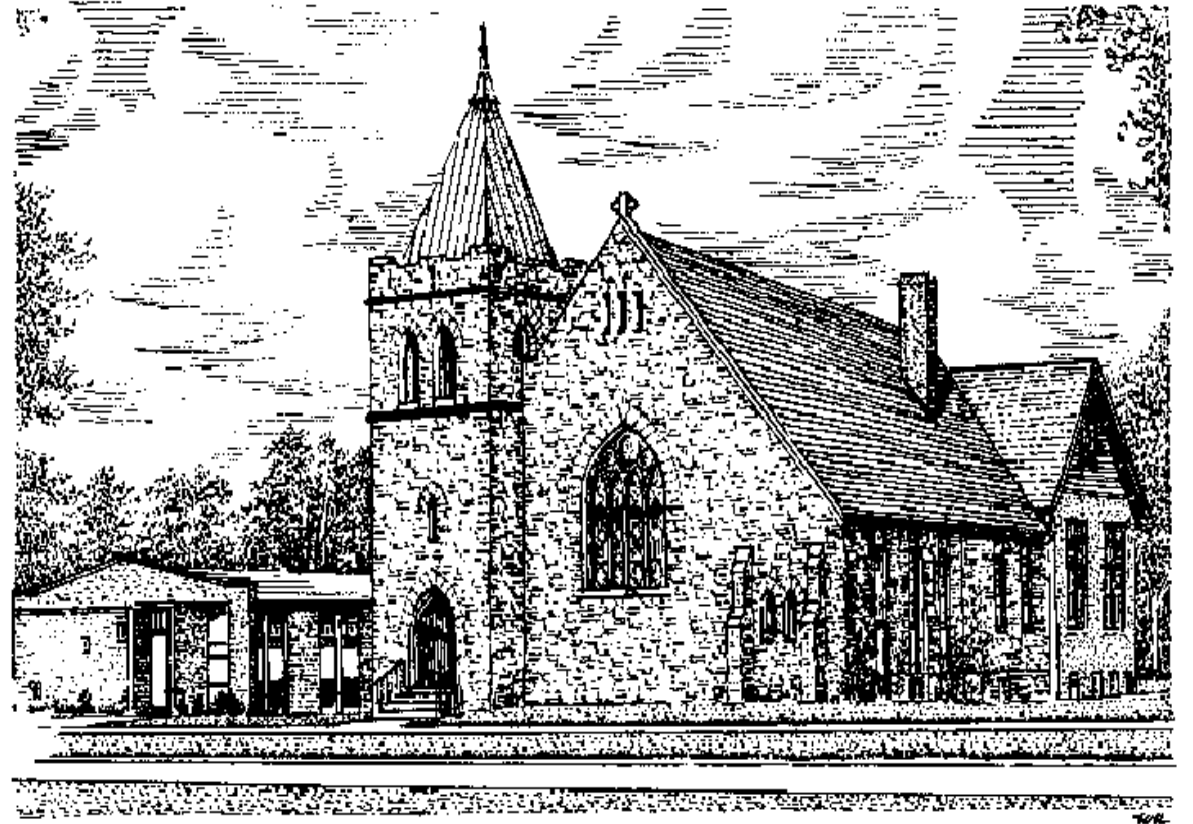
“Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom.”

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

POSTLUDE Toccata on “Leoni” 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.*

LENT II

February 21, 2016

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, February 21</i> LENT II	8:45 a.m. New Members class-Pastor's study, 2 nd floor Wesley Center
	9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Wesley Center
	9:45 a.m. Informal hymn singing - Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m. Worship -- Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
	11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings - Sanctuary
	4:00 p.m. MYF Meeting – Wesley Center
<i>Monday, February 22</i>	7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel
<i>Tuesday, February 23</i>	10:00 a.m. Worship at Wesley Heights, Shelton – Led by Pastor Brian
	5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room – Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library – Wesley Center
<i>Wednesday, February 24</i>	9:00 a.m. Beacon Volunteers – Egan Room – Wesley Center
	10:00 a.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library – Wesley Center
	Noon Taize worship– Sanctuary
	5:30 p.m. Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
	6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
	7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
<i>Thursday, February 25</i>	5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall
	7:15 p.m. Ambassador Training – Gunn Library
<i>Friday, February 26</i>	10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers
<i>Saturday, February 27</i>	9:00 a.m. Sunday School Teacher's meeting – Sunday School office
<i>Sunday, February 28</i> LENT III	8:45 a.m. New Members class-Pastor's study, 2 nd floor Wesley Center
	9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Wesley Center
	10:00 a.m. Worship with Prayer and Healing Anointing - Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
	11:30 a.m. Caring Ministries meeting-Wesley Center 1 st floor
<i>Monday, February 29</i>	7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel
<i>Tuesday, March 1</i>	5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
<i>Wednesday, March 2</i>	10:00 a.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
	Noon Taize worship – Sanctuary
	5:30 p.m. Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
	6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
	7:00 p.m. "Lift Us Up" campaign committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr.
	7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
<i>Thursday, March 3</i>	6:00 p.m. Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor's office, Wesley Center
	6:30 p.m. Missions Committee meeting – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting – Egan Room, Wesley Center
<i>Friday, March 4</i>	10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers-Gunn Library, Wesley Center

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. Jane Allen Middleton
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	Outreach Pastor	Rachel Duncan
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

Grace Notes

February 21, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

"I love you, but..." Who hasn't given that message of "conditional" love? I sure have!

Lent prompts me, along with all other Christians, to think about the unconditional love of Jesus on the cross. It is truly extraordinary: loving without calculation, without considering "what's in it for me," without expectation of return. That's why we call it "grace."

While no person or church is perfect (Lent also prompts us to think about confession!) our congregation yearns to be a loving place. I consistently see, and hear stories of, people being compassionate when mistakes are made. I hear and see people going out of their "comfort zone" to welcome someone new, to assist someone they don't know, to care about the needs of people we may never even meet. These are beautiful things.

This yearning to be a loving place characterized by loving actions makes many of us proud of our church. Three Sundays from now – March 13th – we hope you will invite others to experience the joy of our congregation on "Friends and Family Sunday." One of our people already told me they have invited seven people, all of whom are coming. Please remember that it is OUR job to extend the invitation. I hope you will. Whether or not someone is able or desires to respond is up to them and to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

One final thought: "I love you...SO wear your name tag." If you never received one misplaced yours (please don't ask me why I have two!) just contact Mary Lou in the church office. Wearing your name tag helps us greet one another and it will help our visitors, on March 13th and every Sunday, feel more comfortable as they enter this church: very familiar to many of us but unfamiliar to them. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" was Jesus' praise to those who inherited the Kingdom of God (Matthew 25:35c). Let's "raise the bar" on our welcome in the spirit of the unconditional love of our Savior.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O’Hara

Liturgist – Priscilla James

Bible Bearer – Mary Repetsky

Greeters – Nancy Cicarella and Susan Matthews

Cross Bearer – Shannon Thompson

Acolytes – Allison Bennett and Amanda Repetsky

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Priscilla James.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of our children and grandchildren, given by Ken and Elaine Hawkins.

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

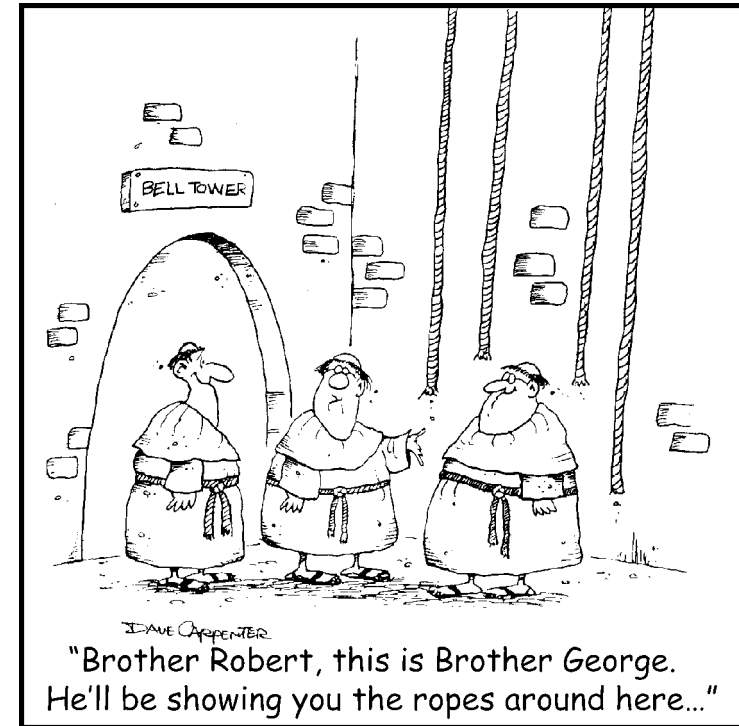
CHILD CARE for children 5 and under is provided in Wesley Center, the building next door. You may also hear the service in Dodd hall should your child become restless. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary; the child care in Wesley Center is not staffed to provide for older children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

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).

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God’s presence today. Please complete a red visitor’s card (in the pew racks) and wear the “Visitor” name tag to help us greet you. Our Ambassadors will look for you! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is in the rear of the church.

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



OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

The stained glass window project announced Feb. 7 and reported last Sunday has begun. The four windows currently removed will be restored in the first half of 2016 and four more will be restored early in 2017. The “bowing” will be corrected and the top louvres will be repaired so that the top portion may be opened for ventilation. Our Board of Trustees has contemplated this project for at least five years. Your budget support now makes it possible to maintain these treasures. Our contractor is Stained Glass Resources, Inc. of Hampden, Massachusetts. Worship will continue as usual during the restoration period. Mr. Chris Paton is the project manager. You may direct any inquiries to him at 203.874.9390 or Ms. Rachel Merva, Trustee President, at 203.641.5088.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Details on all these events will appear in the March “Beacon” newsletter.

Wednesday, March 2: Golden Hill Community Supper, 2 – 5 p.m., Golden Hill UM Church, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport. To serve for part or all of this time, contact Maryanne Meehan Jordan at 203.268.8850 or maryannej@charter.net.

Sunday, March 6: *Mission and Ministry Fair* after 10 a.m. worship, hosted by our Missions Committee.

Sunday, March 13: “*Friends and Family Sunday*” during and after 10 a.m. worship, hosted by Membership and Evangelism. Proud of your church? Invite a friend or neighbor to meet us! Light luncheon after worship.

Sunday, March 20:
“*Diabetes Alert Screening*” after 10 a.m. worship, along with our regular blood pressure screenings, in the sanctuary.

Spring Equinox Drum Circle” after 10 a.m. worship in the Egan Room, Wesley Center,

Thursday, March 24: *MTMUMC Community Supper*, 2-6:30 p.m., Dodd Hall. If you can help, sign up with Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959.

Saturday, April 2: Adult CPR training (not infant), 8 a.m. – Noon, Dodd Hall. This event is free and typically costs in excess of \$100 when procured commercially. Limit of 15.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted today by the Worship Committee and next Sunday by the United Methodist Women.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS are offered after worship in the sanctuary by Leigh Bak, R.N.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP meets today, 4 – 6 p.m. in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, first floor. All youth grades 6-12 are welcome! Come and bring a friend!

DEAR MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL FAMILY,

The Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday (February 7) was a tremendous success! The pots and pans that our Methodist Youth Fellowship youth passed during the Offertory collected \$626. The food drive brought in more than 250 lbs. of non-perishables. All of which was delivered to the CT Food Bank who is in desperate need this time of year. Blessings to you for being a blessing to those in need.

Paul Downing

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

CONFIRMATION RESUMES THIS TUESDAY: Feb. 23rd, 5:45 p.m.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet Wed., Feb. 24th, 9 a.m. to prepare the March “Beacon.”

TAIZE WORSHIP, a contemplative 30 minute experience of music, scripture and prayer, is offered each Wednesday Noon during Lent as well as the third Thursday of each month.

MTMUMC COMMUNITY SUPPER is this Thursday, February 25th. We begin prep as early as 2 p.m. and serve from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. with clean up following. If you can help this Thursday, please contact Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959.

NEXT SUNDAY

LENT III – The readings of Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63 and Luke 13:1-9 are the basis of the sermon “Call.” Prayer and healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymns. After worship the Caring Ministries team will meet in the Wesley Center, 1st Floor.

ICE SKATING will be held at Milford Ice Pavilion, 91 Bic Drive, next Sunday, February 28th from 1 - 2:30 pm [203. 878.6516 <http://milfordice.com/>]. Cost is \$5 per person (adults and kids) which includes skate rental. Friends and family are welcome - the more, the merrier, and spectators, too! Please arrive between 12:30 and 12:45 pm to ensure parking and time to get skates, etc. before they open the ice at 1:00. There is a snack bar for lunch, hot chocolate, or other snacks as desired. There are a limited number of "helpers" (plastic bars for little ones learning to skate) that can be used by skaters up to a certain height. Dress warmly and come enjoy some winter time fellowship and fun!

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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 and monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: "Wet and dry cat food is needed for seniors with pets. Also wet and dry dog food 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.

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Please inform a pastor or the church office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations:

Pastor Brian Bodt: brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 11 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 Rachel Duncan: 203.874.1982 or rachel.e.duncan@gmail.com.

“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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE: Pastor Brian will consult with leaders as needed and agree on plans for worship, Sunday School, and other activities. **Weather-related closings will be posted on church voice mail, Yahoo e-mail group, and WTNH (Channel 8).**

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR February 14th:

Total worship attendance all services: 129; February 14th: 110; February 15th: cancelled; February 17th, 19; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for February 10th: \$275.00; February 14th: \$3,898.50; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$291.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$801.34; Engaged in Small Groups: 110 (Office Volunteers: 3; Sunday School: 45; No Confirmation; Lenten study, Feb. 16: 21, Feb. 17: 16; Praisemaker’s: 0; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir: 16; 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MINISTRY INVITATIONS

PARISH HEALTH & WELLNESS: Knowing your risk for Type 2 diabetes is an important first step toward preventing or delaying the onset of the condition, and you can find out your risk by taking a simple Diabetes Risk Test. Your **Parish Health & Wellness Team** will provide copies of the Risk Test on **Sunday March 20th** during **Fellowship Time in Dodd Hall**; you can either complete the test yourself, or members of our team will help you answer the questions and confidentially help you determine your risk.

TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS, contact 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 on the altar. Checks for either are payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460.

SOCKS FOR SENIORS: Eileen Potkay, L.P.N., Parish Health and Wellness Convener, is collecting new and gently used socks (any size and color, **matched pairs only**) for seniors in long-term care center or nursing home. **Please leave donations in the box in Dodd Hall through Mar. 20th** or contact Eileen at 203.809.0188 or eileenmary68@aol.com.

THE LITERACY CENTER is looking for volunteer tutors to assist basic literacy and ESL students. No previous teaching experience is required. Tutor training will be held in Milford on February 3, 10, 17, 6-8:00 p.m. and in Stratford on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6-8:00 p.m. Call 203-878-4800 to schedule your orientation meeting. For information visit www.lvscet.org.

THE WOODMONT LIBRARY is looking for volunteers. Volunteers are low tech as the Library is not on computer and strictly pen and paper check in and out of books. If you have 2 hours a day or two hours a week to help out, please call the library at 203-874-5675. The library is located at 16 Dixon Street, at the Fannie Beach Recreational Center, next to the Literacy Center. Hours are M, T, W, F 10-12 & 2-4 pm, Thurs. 10-12 & 6:30-8:30 pm.

NOW YOU CAN HELP BOTH TRASH AND TREASURE AND HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE AND FURNITURE BANK in Orange at the same time. If you have an item that may be too big for Trash and Treasure to handle, call Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952, who will explain how we, Mary Taylor, can get money from Helping Hands from any gently used donation you make to them.