

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 “Sweet Hour of Prayer” W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Awesome God”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 111, vss. 1-3, 9, CEB (ed.)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: *I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

Leader: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

People: *Full of honor and majesty is God’s work, and God’s righteousness endures forever.*

Leader: God sent redemption to the people; God commanded the covenant forever.

People: *Holy and awesome is God’s name. Let us worship God!*

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

THE COLLECT (*seated, unison*)

Almighty God, source of all truth and wisdom to all who will receive: grant that our knowledge of You will be entwined with our love of You, so that we, living in Your Spirit, will proclaim with the evidence of our lives Your goodness, power and holiness; we pray in the name of the one who most perfectly lived this union of knowledge and love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION The Book of Common Prayer, 20th cent., alt.

O God, your glory is always to have mercy. Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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HYMN #611, verses 1-2 (*seated*) “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” Stuttgart

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hymnal p. 39

*Jayden Russell Clark, son of Sean and Shayla
(The setting for the Apostles’ Creed is Hymnal #881.)*

Godparents: *Steve Clark and Kayleigh Coleman*

Sponsors: *Richie and Laura Perregaux*

HYMN #611, verses 3-4 (*seated*) “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” Stuttgart

*THE GOSPEL John 3:1-17 Bible p.968 (LP, NT p.114)

John 7:45-52 Bible p.974 (LP, NT p.122)

John 19:38-40 Bible p.988 (LP, NT p.140)

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

*HYMN #256, verses 1-3 “We Would See Jesus” Cushman

THE SERMON “Changing Nicodemus” Dr. Bodt

(Imagined first-person reflections of Nicodemus on his relationship with Jesus.)

HYMN #256, verses 4-5 (*seated*) “We Would See Jesus” Cushman

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.)

BLACK HISTORY MOMENT Judge Thurgood Marshall Carol Galloway

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “God So Loved the World” J. Stainer

(The Adult Choir)

*Presentation: “All Things Come of Thee” Hymnal #588

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #496 “Sweet Hour of Prayer” Sweet Hour

(Let the anointers come forward during the hymn.)

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

Each last Sunday of the month all are invited to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church

practice of God's love is a mysterious, caring expression of Christ's promise "I will be with you always." Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

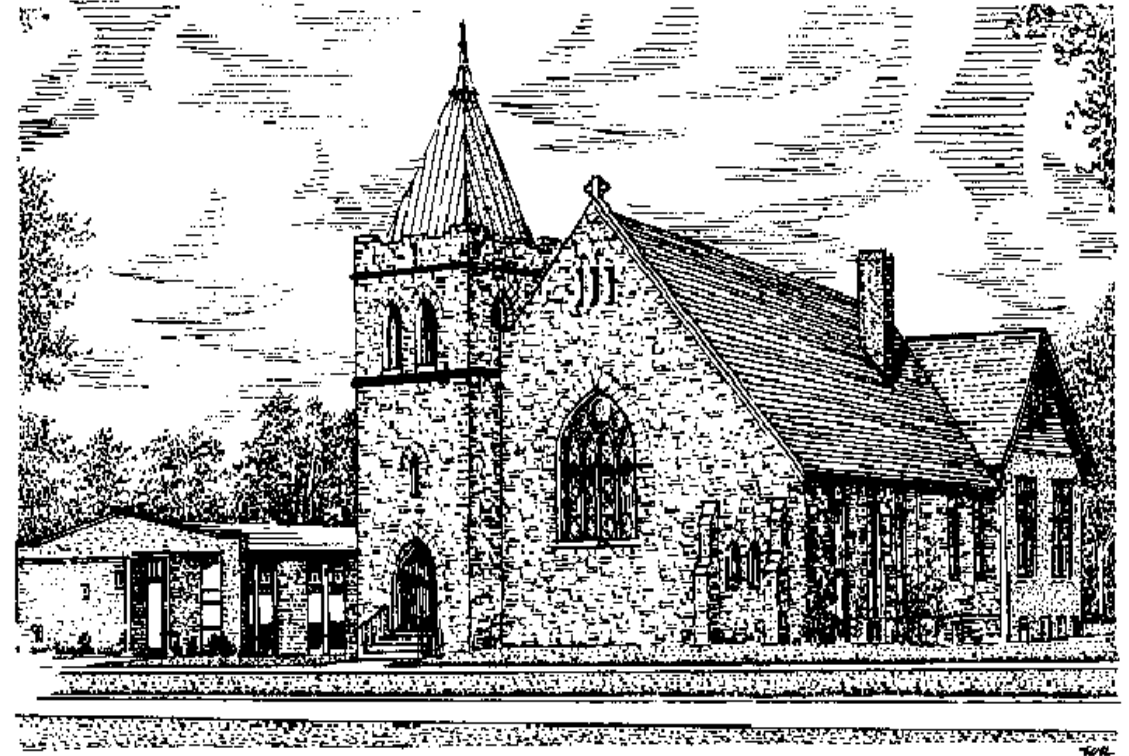
*HYMN #2149 "Living for Jesus" insert

*THE BENEDICTION

*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

Nesting Ghana Emmanuel U.M. Church: 2016

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

LENT II

February 25, 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



SOLIDARITY Tastes Delicious

People of faith are living out their values through their consumer choices, using fairly traded and organic products



Farming communities are providing for their families, greening our planet and building a better future

ORGANIC & FAIR TRADE

Orders for coffee, tea, cocoa
and chocolate bars will be taken

Sunday, March 4th

Dodd Hall



THANK YOU
for supporting farming
families around the world.

equalexchange.coop

Photo: Members of coffee farming families from PRODECOOP in Nicaragua.

Grace Notes
February 25, 2018

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

The following reflections were written a day before the death of the Rev. Billy Graham:

A question that's been around a long time is "Do you know about Jesus or do you know Jesus?"

The question is designed to provoke us to think about our relationship with Christ. Is he simply an historical figure, someone about whom the Bible and a few ancient scholars have written, whom we "know" as we know the figures of our national history? Or is he someone we know as a personal Savior, a friend, a companion in the journey, who inspires us to better living and deeper communion with faith and spiritual matters?

As you'll hear today, this was the challenge Nicodemus faced (John 3:1-17, 7:45-52 and 19:38-40) as he considered who Jesus was and what difference it made in his life.

Personal salvation is not all there is to the Christian life, of course. Our founder, the Rev. John Wesley, taught that there is no holiness without social holiness: transforming the systems and culture of which we are a part to reflect God's love in the world. Like the proverbial "chicken and egg," it can neither be determined nor matters which comes first. We need both.

What do you need – from me, from the Church – so that you better know and more closely follow the One whom we call, in the words of the Apostles' Creed, "Lord?"

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Stacey Riccardi

Cross Bearer: Stefano Cono

Acolyte: Matteo Cono

Intercessor: Sandy Morgan

Healing Anointers: Pastor Hal, Barbara Ann Griggs, Mary Lou Hastings, Beth O'Brien, Mark Platt, and Steve Wasko.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are for a Happy Birthday to my wife Eileen Doyle, whose birthday is March 4th, given by her husband Dave.

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), The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The Collect was written by Pastor Brian Bodt.

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

Liturgist: Shelly Lapadula

Greeters: Liz Dillon and Christine McGregor

Calendar continued

Thursday, March 8

7:00 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry-Wesley Center 1st floor

7:00p.m.

Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting – Wesley Center

Friday, March 9

10:00 a.m.

Office Volunteers

Saturday, March 10

9:00 a.m.

Men's Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel

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 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> 11:30 a.m. <i>Visitation Ministry Team – Wesley Center, 1st Floor</i> 11:30 a.m. <i>Finance Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</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>	9:00 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>
<i>Sunday, March 4</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/ Girl Scout Sunday</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time - Dodd Hall</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>UMCOR Fair Trade Coffee Project – Dodd Hall</i> 11:30 a.m. <i>Usher Training – Sanctuary</i> 11:30 a.m. <i>New Member Class- Pastor’s study Wesley Center 2nd floor</i> 3:30 p.m. <i>GEUMC Worship – Chapel</i> 4:00 p.m. <i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, March 5</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 6</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: “Made for a Miracle” – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 7</i>	<i>Trash & Treasures-donations accepted today</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Study: “Made for a Miracle” – Gunn Library</i> Noon <i>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i> 2:30 p.m. <i>Golden Hill Community Dinner-Bridgeport</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Choir Fellowship Dinner – Dodd Hall</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>New Members Class-Pastor’s study Wesley Center 2nd floor</i> 6:40/7:45 p.m. <i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>

TODAY

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

MEETINGS AFTER WORSHIP TODAY include the Finance Committee (Gunn Library) and the Visitation Ministry (Wesley Center, 1st Floor), both at 11:30 a.m.

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 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 in the Sanctuary and Dodd Hall window wells.

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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet tomorrow, 9 am, Wesley Center to mail the March “Beacon.”

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!

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS are due this Friday, March 2 to Council Secretary Joanne Platt at jocbs@aol.com. Our next meeting is Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. in the Dodd Hall alcove. Action items for that meeting may be submitted to the Chair, Dennis Darak (wingridrs@optimum.net) or Pastor Brian Bodt (brian.bodt@yahoo.com).

NEXT SUNDAY, March 4th

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT/GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY – We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (Setting IV). The message “The Temple” will be based on Exodus 20:1-17 and John 2:13-22. We will recognize our Girl Scouts program and our Women’s History Moment will be presented by Pastor Dani Levine on the 19th century Methodist hymnist, Fanny Crosby.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) meets next Sunday, March 4th, 4 – 5:30p.m. in **Dodd Hall**. 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 03/04: "Stress-Away" led by Paul Downing and guest, Co-Lay Leader, Beth O'Brien. *Please wear comfortable clothing, as we will be participating in some physical activities*

(“Next Sunday” continued next page)

NEXT SUNDAY, March 4th, continued

USHER TRAINING will be held next Sunday, 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Learn what ushers do so you might possibly become one. **You may attend this session without a commitment to be an usher.** Ushers 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. 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) David Doyle or Stacey Riccardi.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION will begin next Sunday, 11:30 am – 12:30 p.m. in my study, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Three preparatory sessions are required. To accommodate schedules, those sessions are Sundays, March 4, 11 and 18, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with professional child care offered; or Wednesdays, March 7, 14 and 21, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; or one may alternate between the two. **New members will be received on Palm Sunday, March 25 at 10 a.m. worship.** Please let me know if you are interested or have questions.

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

ADULT STUDY BEGINS MARCH 6 AND 7

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.

ADULT CPR TRAINING COMING IN APRIL

Adult CPR training will be offered on Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m. – Noon in Dodd Hall. The trainer is Bill Katt, a former MTMUMC member well known to many.

Training is open to people 14 years old and older. Cost is provided by our Parish Health and Wellness budget. **Child care will be provided if need is expressed on or before Sunday, March 25.** Up to 16 persons can be accommodated on a "first come, first served" basis.

Registration deadline is Monday, April 2. To register, please contact the Church Office at 203.874.1982, ext. 110; or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

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 18

Total worship attendance all services: 145; Feb.18: 98; GEUMC: 24; Feb.19: Healing and Wholeness: 8; Lent Feb. 21: 15 (Noon); Total Offerings for Feb.18: \$3,109.50; Ash Wednesday: \$383.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$200.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 66; Sunday School: *cancelled*; "G.U.T.S" (youth group) : 6; Confirmation: 4, Disciple 4: 10; Christianity and Islam: Tues: 10; Wed. 9; Bell Choir: 8; Adult Choir: 17; 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.