

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 “Glory to His Name” L. Smith

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEW SEXTON Edie Reichard, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

INTROIT “Hosanna”

*CALL TO WORSHIP From Hope to Joy, USA, 20th cent., alt.

Leader: The Lord is Sovereign; let the people tremble in awe.

People: *God is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.*

Leader: The Lord is great in Zion and is high above all peoples.

People: *Proclaim God’s greatness and worship Yahweh on the holy mountain!*

*HYMN #173 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” Ratisbon

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) “Transfiguration” Hymnal #259

Holy God, upon the mountain you revealed our Messiah, who by his death and resurrection would fulfill both the law and the prophets. By his transfiguration enlighten our path that we may dare to suffer with him in the service of humanity and so share in the everlasting glory of him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Michael J. O’Donnell, USA, 20th cent.

Almighty and merciful God, we know that when we offend another, we offend you. We are aware that we have often allowed the shadow of hate to cloud our souls, hiding the light from our unseeking eyes. We have said unpleasant and hurtful things to our brothers and sisters when they failed to live up to our expectations.

Grant that we might find that spark of love that ever burns within us, the love that you have shown to us even when we failed you. Fan the embers of that love until it roars again in flames of love, peace and reconciliation. Forgive our sins and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us. Lead us into new life through your Son Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of all. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Exodus 24:12-18 Bible p.69

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

THE EPISTLE II Peter 1:16-21 Bible p.1107

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9 Bible p.894

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #258 “O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair” Wareham

THE SERMON “Stardust People” 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.)

BLACK HISTORY MOMENT “Wilma Rudolph” Carol Galloway

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “We Bow Down” Twila Paris

(The Adult Choir)

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #247 “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” Wie Schon

(Let the anointers come forward during the hymn.)

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

On the last Sunday of each month all are invited to come forward to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles as we sing hymns #451, 139, 644, 349 and 176. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church practice expresses God’s love as 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.

*CLOSING HYMN #731 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Austria

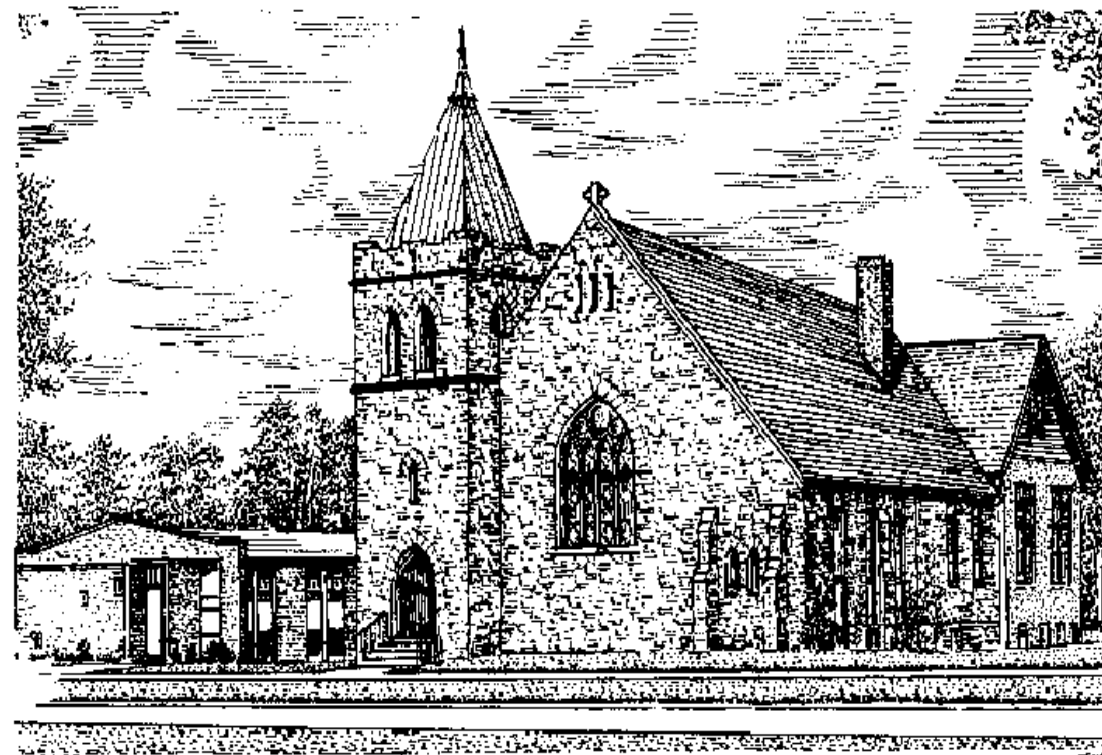
*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Holy Ground”

2272

Holy Ground

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground, and I know that there are an - gels all a - round; let us praise Je - sus now; we are stand - ing in his pres - ence on ho - ly ground." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.



Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church

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

*POSTLUDE "Psalm XVII" B. Marcello
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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.*

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 26, 2017

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, February 26</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Caring Ministries – Wesley Center</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>NO MYF today</i>
<i>Monday, February 27</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, February 28</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Pastor Brian leads worship at Wesley Heights</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Dodd Hall</i>
		<i>Confirmation Class attends supper</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 1</i>		DEADLINE FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR RESERVATIONS
	7:00 a.m., Noon and 7:30 p.m.:	<i>Ash Wednesday worship – Sanctuary</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
	2:30 p.m.	<i>Golden Hill Community Supper – Bridgeport</i>
<i>Thursday, March 2</i>	6:30 p.m.	<i>Mission Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, March 3</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers</i>
<i>Sunday, March 5</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
<i>Girl Scout/Camping Sunday</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship- Holy Communion - Sanctuary</i>
<i>Last day for collection of Socks for Seniors</i>	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	12:45 p.m.	<i>Ice Skating at Milford Ice Pavilion-291 Sub Way, Milford Cathy Cono contact 203-645-2362</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>MYF meeting – Movie Night – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, March 6</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 7</i>	10 am – 2 pm	<i>Candidacy mentor training in Poughkeepsie, NY (Pastor Brian)</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 8</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
	Noon	<i>Taize Service – Sanctuary</i>
	6:30/7:45 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, March 9</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, March 10</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers</i>

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. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O’Brien	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	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 26, 2017

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

“Give credit where credit is due.” No, this is not one of the Half-Truths sayings that are part of the upcoming Lenten study. Nor is it a promotion to extend our borrowing capacity!

It is the old slogan that reminds us that we ought to express appreciation to those who have done something worthy, providing recognition for a job well done.

That is exactly what Bishop Bickerton has done. His letter, which appears on the next page, is addressed to me but only because I have the privilege of serving as your pastor. Please take a moment to read it.

The credit he gives is to you, the people of Mary Taylor Memorial Church, for paying our Connectional Apportionments in full. The fact that this commitment is a “given” for MTMUMC – that is, we understand it as a non-negotiable part of what it means to be United Methodist – does not diminish its importance or the sacrifice involved. Yet we are a richer church because we are a part of a global church in mission through our apportionment payments. Emergency relief, educating the next generation of clergy and lay leaders, health initiatives, even the clinic in Furcy, Haiti where Leigh and Emily Bak and Dr. Tina Gage are serving at this very moment: all these and many more are made possible by full payment of Connectional Apportionments.

So I join my words to those of our Bishop to say, “Thank you” and “God bless you” and “To God be the glory!”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt



**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEW YORK EPISCOPAL AREA**

20 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

THOMAS J. BICKERTON
RESIDENT BISHOP

ROBERT M. WALKER
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

CHERYL A. FORTUNE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

February 17, 2017

Rev Dr Brian Russell Bodt
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church
168-176 Broad St
Milford, CT 06460

Dear Pastor,

*“Just as you excel in everything ... see also that you excel in the grace of giving.”
2 Corinthians 8:7*

I'm proud of you. I mean that. As your bishop, I'm especially proud of the commitment you have to each other and the way in which you demonstrate your commitment through your payment of Connectional Apportionments. I recently reviewed the giving of each of our local churches and noted that your church paid 100% of your connectional apportionments last year. I am writing today to thank you for that commitment. It has not gone unnoticed and, I know, is a result of intentional hard work on your part.

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline clearly states that paying your Connectional Apportionments is every local church's "first benevolent responsibility." You do that. Because you do I'm proud to write and acknowledge your faithfulness not only to the New York Annual Conference, and not only to the broader connection of The United Methodist Church, but also to the "kingdom work" that God has called us to as faithful disciples.

Well done! Well done indeed!

God is faithful! Faithful is also what God is asking us to be. In the book of II Corinthians, Paul recounts the extreme faithfulness of the church in Macedonia even in the midst of what Paul described as a severe ordeal in the midst of extreme poverty. They were faithful and joyful as they gave themselves to God and to one another. When they did, they gave beyond what the Bible says was their ability to give at all.

God changed the world through them. As we are faithful, I believe God will once again change the world,.... through us!

Thank you once again for your faithfulness in paying 100% of your Conference Apportionments. I deeply appreciate it.

The Journey Continues,...

Peace & Joy,

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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

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.

Altar flower donation open dates begin next Sunday.

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 ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW, according to Paul Downing's contact with the animal shelter. "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 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 February 19th:

Total worship attendance all services: 192; Feb. 19th: 147; GEUMC, 20; Feb. 20th: Healing and Wholeness worship: 9; Taize 2/22: 16; Total Offerings for February 19th \$7,263.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$3,231.67; Engaged in Small Groups: 75; Sunday School: 31; Methodist Youth Fellowship: 6; No Confirmation class; Adult Bible Study, 7 pm: 8; Adult Bible Study, 10 am: 9; Bell Choir: 0; Adult Choir: 12; Office Volunteers: 9. Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 3. *Small Groups – please contact the church office mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN: we've got 4, we need 8 more, to present a recitation called "The Twelve" on **Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m.** The skill needed is a willingness to memorize a brief monologue to portray one of the 12 disciples. The tableau is Rembrandt's famous "Last Supper" painting. No acting is required but you'll need to imagine being one of "the Twelve." If interested, speak with Paul Downing (203-676-5582 or paul.downing@snet.net) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753 or brian.bodt@yahoo.com).

MTMUMC COMMUNITY DINNERS could use your help. We would greatly appreciate any donations of cans of Dinty Moore Beef Stew. The stew is not the meal but would be used in case food runs out. It doesn't happen often, but it's best to be prepared. You can leave your donations in the kitchen in Dodd Hall. Thank you! *Lorraine Carr, Missions Co-Chair*

3 UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE BOOKS are still available at \$10 each. See Mary Lou in the church office if you'd like one.



AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O'Hara

Greeters – Dolly and Frank Bonisch

Liturgist – Dawn Bettencourt

Cross Bearer – John Leum

Intercessor – Mary Lou Hastings

Healing Anointers – Barbara Ann Griggs, Priscilla James, Sandy Morgan, Laura Perregaux, Pastors Hal Vink and Dani Levine.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in honor of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Month, and for those living with CHDs, given by Diana, Dick and family.

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 rear 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.

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.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000).

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

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by the Education Committee. Next Sunday's hosts will be Bob and Becky Virgalla, Christine McGregor and Liz Dillon.

CARING MINISTRIES meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center. Team leaders are expected, team members are welcome to attend.

HALF-TRUTHS books are available at \$10, payable today or at the first session, from Pastor Brian. The study begins this week: see the separate article with class schedules, topics, etc.

CHORAL EVENSONG at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 71 River Street, Milford is today, February 26 at 5 p.m., sung by the Choir of St. Peter's directed by Frederick Backhaus. This choral Service of prayer and praise has been offered daily in the great English cathedrals for 400 years. You will find that the Choir does most of the work! The congregation sings hymns and participates in prayers. The Service is free and you are most warmly invited to attend.

SOCKS FOR SENIORS concludes next Sunday. Eileen Potkay, LPN, of our Parish Health and Wellness team, invites donations of new and gently used Adult size (any color) socks for local seniors in need. They may be left in the marked box in Dodd Hall. Don't have time to shop? Monetary donations gratefully accepted and Stacy Riccardi will shop for you. Any questions please contact Eileen 203-809-0188 or email her at Eileenmary68@aol.com, or see Stacy or Eileen after church.



HAND-SANITIZERS are in the Dodd Hall window wells on the east (Wesley Center) and west (People's Bank) sides; and in the sanctuary along the north (Broad Street) wall.

GOOD NEWS! TRASH AND TREASURES WELCOMES DONATIONS! We expect a great year and are starting now to prepare for the big Fair on the Green, 2017! Clothing donations should only be spring and summer items. Please save the winter items for the Oyster Festival sale or give it to those in need now or to your favorite charity. Please call Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952, before you bring in large items. Try to pack your donations in small, manageable boxes which we will be happy to loan to you.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will be hosted this Tuesday, February 28. Pancakes will be served from 5:30 -7 p.m. There will be crafts and games for the children, the well-received word search from last year, and "King Cake." This fun event is sponsored by the Men's Club and Membership and Evangelism. Invite a friend! The Confirmation Class' lesson is attending the Pancake Supper! How great is that?!? **HALF-TRUTHS**, our Lenten study, begins right after at 7 p.m. in the Wesley Center. See the detailed article in this issue describing the study.



ASH WEDNESDAY – Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes will be offered this Wednesday, March 1 at 7 a.m., Noon and 7:30 p.m. The Noon service will use a Taize ("TAY-zay") worship format that we will offer each Wednesday at Noon during Lent. The 7:30 p.m. service will be use Communion Setting IV and include music by the Adult Choir. The readings are Psalm 51; II Corinthians 5:16 – 6:10 and Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21.

NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT: this Wednesday, March 1, 2:30 – 5 p.m. We prepare the meal, led by Maryanne Meehan Jordan and Bob Jordan. Golden Hill Church is about 20 minutes away: I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector. If you would like to volunteer, contact Maryann at 203-268-8850.

MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1. Committee chairs contact Lorraine Carr at 203.931.0516 or carrtrain@yahoo.com.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 5th

LENT I/GIRL SCOUT/CAMPING SUNDAY – We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper using Setting IV and observe an older United Methodist practice of serving the Communion in individual cups while kneeling or standing (as able) at the Communion rail. The message "One For All" is based on Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11. We will recognize our girls who are part of the Girl Scout program and our Women's History Moment will be presented by Edie Reichard. After worship we will observe Camping Sunday with a DVD and camp literature distributed by Becky and Bob Virgalla. This information emphasizes United Methodist camping opportunities through the New York (regional) Conference."

ICE SKATING! Right after worship plan to join us for an afternoon of ice skating at Milford Ice Pavilion, 291 Sub Way in Milford on Sunday, March 5th, 12:45 - 2:30 pm. Cost of \$5 per skater includes skate rental. Friends and family are welcome, the more the merrier!

LENTEN STUDY

HALF TRUTHS: "*God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*" is our Lenten study by the Rev. Adam Hamilton. The study will focus on five popular sayings, simple phrases that "sound" Christian but miss the point in important ways:
"Everything Happens for a Reason" "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves"
"God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" "God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It"
"Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin"

Classes will be taught by Pastor Brian Bodt and meet in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center on:

*Tuesdays, Feb. 28 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. or
Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 10-11:30 a.m.*

TO REGISTER: Please contact Mary Lou Kampert in the church office at 203.874.1982, ext. 110 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net, or speak with Pastor Brian TODAY, FEB. 26.