

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 “Contemplation” C. Saint-Saens

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “You Who Are Thirsty”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 55:6-7

L: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

P: *Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;*

L: Let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

P: *And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*HYMN #475 “Come Down, O Love Divine” Down Ampney

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated)* The Book of Worship, 1965, alt.

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)* A Prayer of Susanna Wesley

You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray. Therefore, whatever may be the sin against which we pray, make us careful to watch against it, and so have reason to expect that our prayers will be answered. In order to perform this duty aright, grant us grace to preserve a sober, equal temper, and sincerity to pray for your assistance. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°
THE PSALTER Psalm 63 Hymnal p.788

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 55:1-9 Bible p.671
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

*HYMN #124 “Seek the Lord” Austria

(The tune substituted is Hymnal #731.)

*THE GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 Bible p.950

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON “Call” Dr. Bodt

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed” Hymnal #881

*THE GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #71

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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” arr. Schrader

Presentation: “Bless Thou the Gifts” Hymnal #587

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #505 “When Our Confidence Is Shaken” Lauda Anima
(The tune substituted is Hymnal #66. Let the ushers retire and the anointers come forward.)

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, as needed, hymns 375, 510, 340, and 347. 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.

*HYMN #438 “Forth in Thy Name, O Lord” Duke Street

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #473

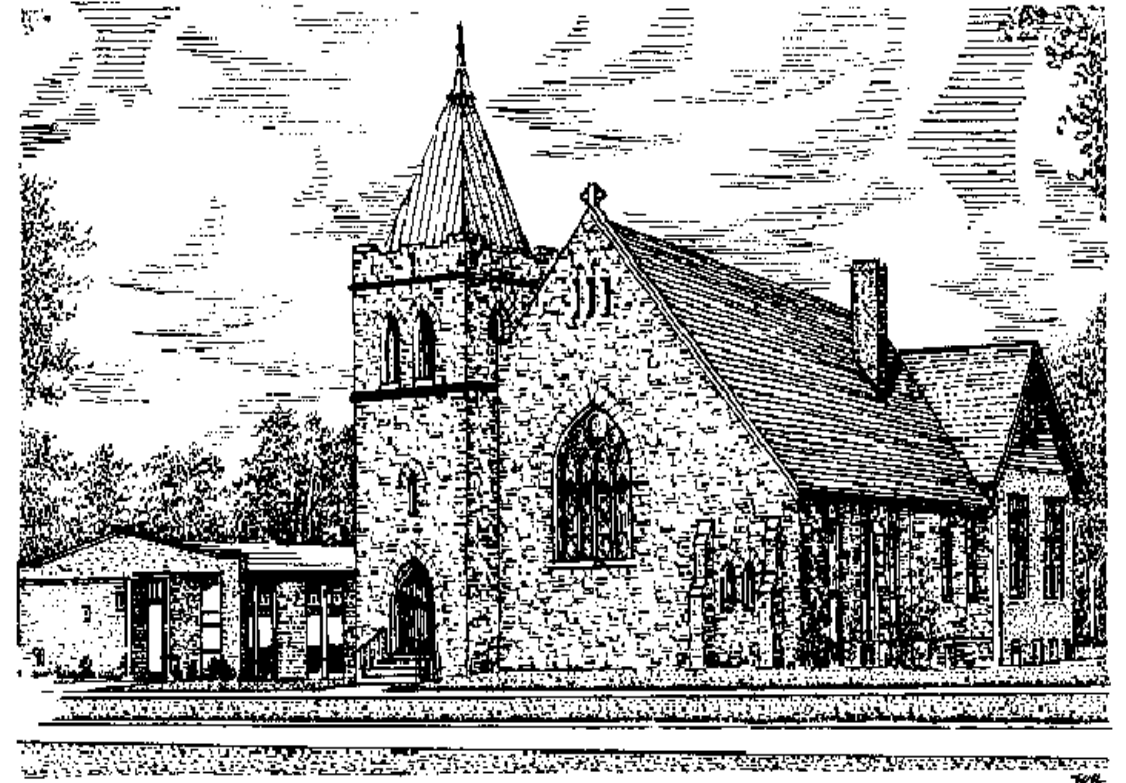
“Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.”

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

*POSTLUDE “Voluntary on ‘Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah’” P. Manz
(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 III

February 28, 2016

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, February 28</i> LENT III	8:45 a.m. <i>New Members class-Pastor's study, 2nd floor Wesley Center</i>
	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m. <i>Worship with Prayer and Healing Anointing - Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:30 a.m. <i>Caring Ministries meeting-Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
	12:30 p.m. <i>Ice Skating, Milford Ice Pavilion (see notice)</i>
<i>Monday, February 29</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 1</i>	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 2</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	Noon <i>Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
	2:30 p.m. <i>Golden Hill UMC Community Supper – 210 Elm St., Bpt.</i>
	5:30 p.m. <i>Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m. <i>Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>“Lift Us Up” campaign committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr.</i>
	7:45 p.m. <i>Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, March 3</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor's office, Wesley Center</i>
	6:30 p.m. <i>Missions Committee meeting – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Board of Trustees meeting – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, March 4</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers-Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Sunday, March 6</i> LENT IV	8:45 a.m. <i>New Members class-Pastor's study, 2nd floor Wesley Center</i>
	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m. <i>Holy Communion/Girls Scout Sunday/OGHS - Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:00 a.m. <i>Missions & Ministry Fair – Dodd Hall</i>
	4:00 p.m. <i>Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, March 7</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Membership & Evangelism meeting – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 8</i>	Noon <i>United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 9</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	Noon <i>Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
	5:30 p.m. <i>Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m. <i>Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	7:45 p.m. <i>Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, March 10</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Staff Parish Relations committee meeting –Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
<i>Friday, March 11</i>	10:00a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, March 12</i>	6:30 a.m. <i>Confirmation Trip to NYC</i>
<i>Sunday, March 13</i>	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - Clocks FORWARD 1 HOUR

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 28, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

“Can you hear me now?” God seems to say in today’s scriptures from Isaiah and Luke.

“Listen carefully to me...listen, so that you may live” is God’s call to abundant life in Isaiah. This God, Isaiah tells us in the third person, “will abundantly pardon” (55:7) and then, using God’s voice in the first person, tells us why: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.”

Yet it is Lent, after all, so the Gospel reminds us that we are accountable for our lives. To those who think that avoiding calamities like the murder of religious pilgrims or deaths because of the fall of a tower (Luke 13:1-4) are a sign of particular favor with God, Jesus reminds us (Luke 13:5) “unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.”

In similar fashion, the parable Jesus tells (Luke 13:6-9) is a call to accountability for our lives and actions. This call is found elsewhere in the preaching of John the Baptizer (Matthew 3:10, Luke 3:9) and Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:19). There is no escaping that we are responsible for our actions.

We can count on God’s mercy because that’s who God is. Still, let’s make every effort not to put God to the test, for living the Godly life is true and abundant life. We know what to do. Let our prayers be less about forgiveness for not doing it and more for strength to get up and do what has to be done.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O’Hara

Liturgist – Christine Volgmuth

Bible Bearer – Carolyn Hollyday

Intercessor – Mary Lou Hastings

Healing Anointers - Pastor Hal Vink, Barbara Ann Griggs, Priscilla James, Bob Lawrence and Mark Platt.

Greeters – Judy Russell and Lisa Sobolewski

Cross Bearer – Lillia Downing

Acolytes – Mateo and Stefano Cono

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Christine Volgmuth.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in memory of Ada Weyant, given by Jeanette Acton.

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

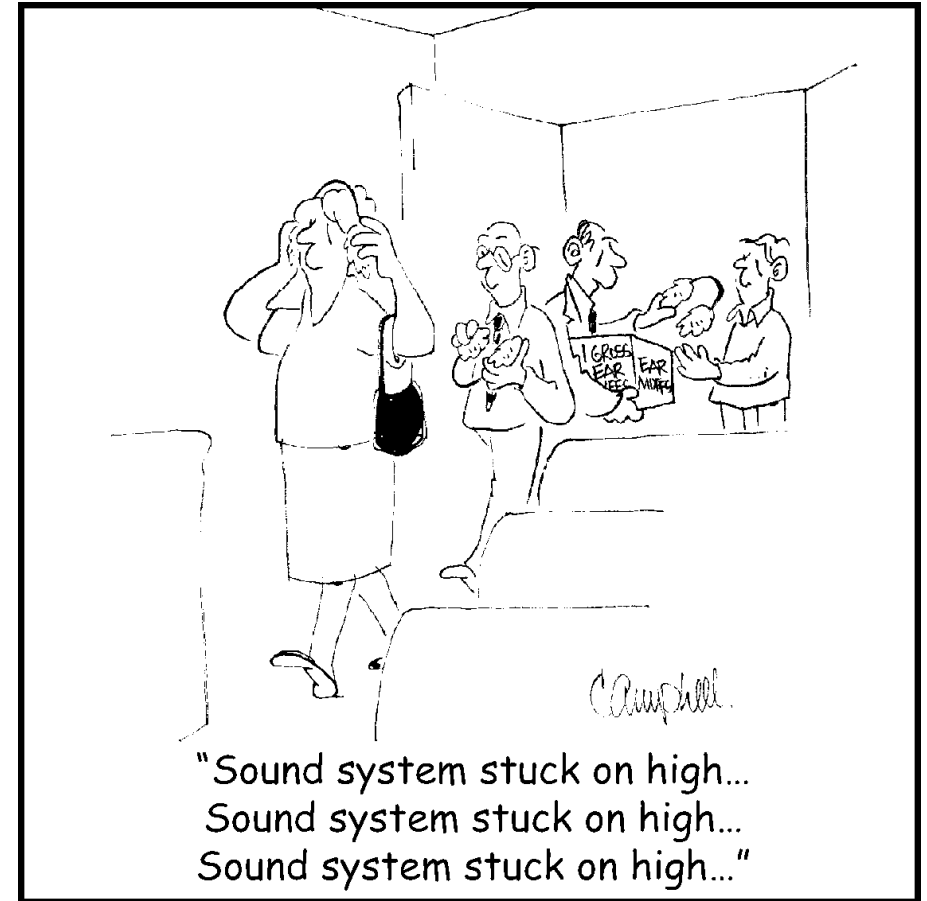
CHILD CARE for children 5 and under is provided in Wesley Center, the building next door. You may also hear the service in Dodd hall should your child become restless. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary; the child care in Wesley Center is not staffed to provide 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). **Susanna Wesley** (1669 – 1742), author of the prayer of confession, was the **mother of the Reverends John and Charles Wesley**, founders of the Methodist movement.

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.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Details on these events appeared 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.

Trash and Treasures Easter decorations will be available in Dodd Hall this Sunday after church. Remember, T&T has rock bottom prices. Your purchases not only save you lots of money but also support the beginning of Trash & Treasure's 2016 endeavor to have another banner year!

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 United Methodist Women and next Sunday by the Pitre and Firmender families.

CARING MINISTRIES meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center.

ICE SKATING will be held *today, Feb. 28* at Milford Ice Pavilion, 91 Bic Drive, from 1 - 2:30 pm [203. 878.6516 <http://milfordice.com/>]. Cost is \$5 per person (adults and kids) including 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. 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 winter time fellowship and fun!

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

PASTOR BRIAN will be available this week Tues. – Fri. rather than his customary Mon. – Thurs. **In an emergency tomorrow**, call the church office and a pastor will be reached.

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.

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER is prepared *this Wednesday, March 2* during any portion of 2 – 5 p.m. at Golden Hill UM Church, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport. The church is about 20 minutes from Mary Taylor Memorial Church, just off the Route 8/25 connector in downtown Bridgeport. If you can help or would like to know more, please contact Maryanne Meehan Jordan at 203.268.8850 or maryannej@charter.net.

NEXT SUNDAY

LENT IV/MISSION FAIR/GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY/OGHS - We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper using Setting IV. The message "Celebration" will be based on II Corinthians 5:16-21 and Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. **We will recognize Girl Scouts from our own church and any from neighboring congregations. Girl Scouts are asked to please attend worship in uniform.** Our special offering supports the One Great Hour of Sharing. After worship our Mission Fair will be held in Dodd Hall, with representatives from the many mission organizations supported by MTMUMC gifts.

THE ANNUAL MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR will take place during Fellowship Hour, please visit the tables of the programs that are supported through the Missions Committee's yearly budget. This year, you will see some familiar programs and some new participants. Of course, all of the church's committees will be represented giving you the opportunity to see the enormous amount of good work that is happening right here at Mary Taylor!

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 yinkhaljane@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 21st:

Total worship attendance all services: 184; February 18th, 4; February 21st: 150; February 22nd: 9; February 24th: 21 Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for February 21st: \$5,746.38; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$895.33; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$2,237.09; Engaged in Small Groups: 192 (Office Volunteers: 9; Sunday School: 41; Confirmation: 9 ; Valentines Dinner Dance: 63; Trash & Treasures: 8; Lenten study, Feb. 23: 19, Feb. 24: 17; Praisemaker’s: 0; Bell Choir: 10; 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

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE is Friday, March 11th. Lilies, tulips and daffodils may be ordered at \$10 using the enclosed form and submitted to the church office or in the morning offering.

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 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.lvset.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.