

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 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 Voluntary on “Rathbun” arr. by H. Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

*CALL TO WORSHIP **Isaiah 66:10-13, NRSV**

Leader: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;

People: ***Rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—***

Leader: that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;

People: ***that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.***

Leader: For thus says the Lord: “I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;

People: ***and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.***

All: ***As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.***”

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated, unison)*

Loving and gracious God, you have come to us in Jesus Christ and revealed mercy and acceptance beyond all understanding; beyond all deserving. We open ourselves to your gracious Spirit, that our lives may be renewed. May our human journey as your people reflect true discipleship and resound to your praise; through Jesus Christ your beloved Son. Amen.

°°°

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Hymnal p.39

Cameron Dwyer Nash,
son of Benjamin and Julie

HYMN #608 *(seated)* “This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now Azmon

(Let the baptismal party be seated on verse 1 and the children of the church come forward on verse 3.)

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #120 “Your Love, O God” Finlandia

(Tune: Hymn #437)

*THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Bible p.952

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

THE SERMON “The Return of the Prodigal Son” Dr. Bodt

HYMN #297 *(seated)* “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” St. Christopher

(Let those trained as Ambassadors come forward to the Communion rail for dedication.)

DEDICATION OF OUR AMBASSADORS

Pastor: Today we dedicate these servants who have been trained in welcoming hospitality.

They have agreed, for the next six months, to be in worship as often as possible, to briefly greet people new to them immediately after worship; and to invite new people to Fellowship

Hour and to meet the pastors, lay leaders or others as circumstances suggest. They are identified by white ribbons so that all may know of, and support, this ministry.

Ambassadors, do you acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you understand and agree with this call to ministry? **I do.**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace? **I will.**

Members of the congregation, will you support these ambassadors in their dedicated task of radical hospitality and singular welcome to new people among us? **We will.**

Let us pray: ***Almighty God, you call us all to return to Godly living. Pour your blessings on these servants who have accepted special responsibility to welcome. Help us all support them and be infected by a contagion of kindness and hospitality. May such a welcome be worthy of you, who welcomes us all home. Amen.***

HYMN #2179 *(rear cover, seated)* “Live in Charity” Ubi Caritas (Taize)

(Please sing three times as we prepare for prayer.)

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.)

MISSION MINUTE

“Mission Fair”

Anna Henry

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS including *One Great Hour of Sharing*

Offertory Anthem:

“Only Love Can Answer Why”

Beall/Carter

*Presentation:

“All Things Come of Thee”

Hymnal #588

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #389

“Freely, Freely”

Freely, Freely

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymnal #420

(You are invited to join hands with those near you as we sing.)

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,

That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

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

*POSTLUDE

“Come, Ye Sinners”

arr. B. Jones

(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

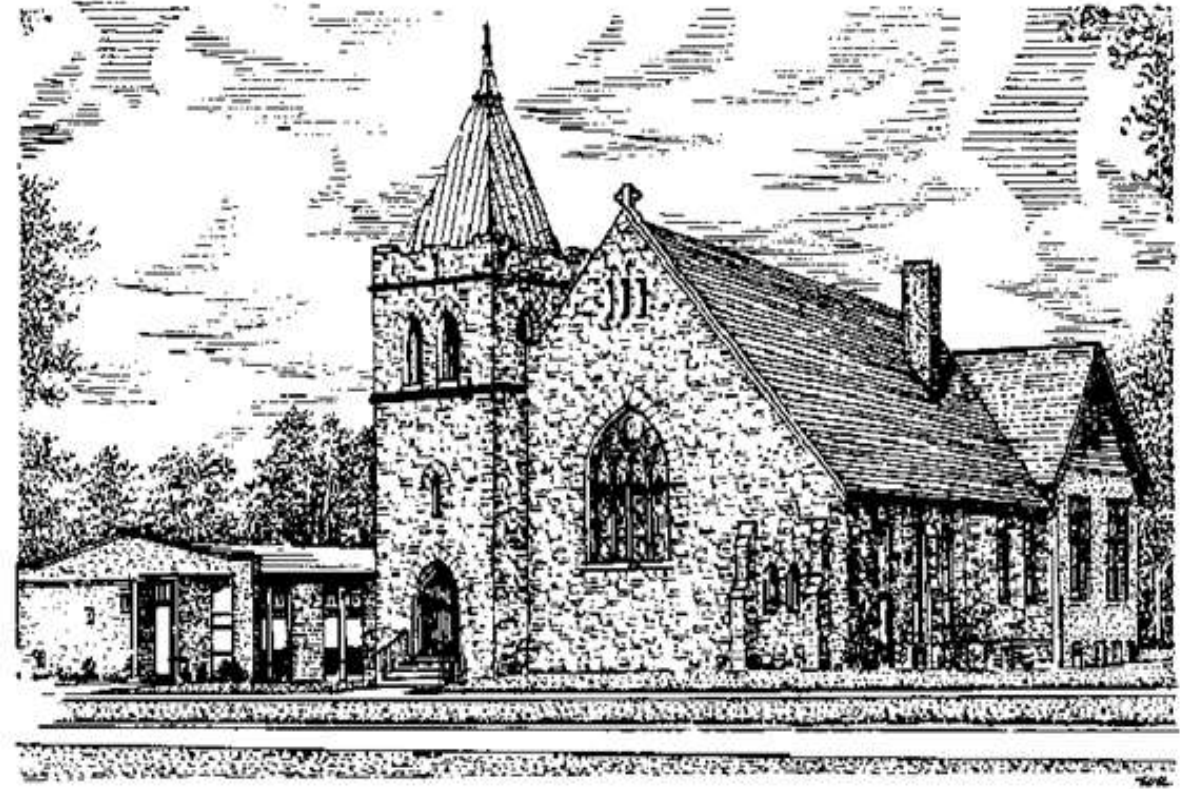
THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

2179

Live in Charity
(Ubi Caritas)

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.



Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1843

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 IV/LAETARE
The One Great Hour of Sharing
March 10, 2013

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, March 10

LENT IV/LAETARE/ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center

10:00 a.m. – Worship/Baptism/Ambassador dedication – Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Hour/Mission Fair – Dodd Hall

Noon – Girl Scout “God and Church” class – Pastor’s study

1:00 p.m. Palm Sunday narrator rehearsal - Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center

Monday, March 11

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Dodd Hall

Tuesday, March 12

Noon United Methodist Women – Wesley Center, 1st Fl.

6:00 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 a.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

5:00 – 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

Thursday, March 14

7:00 p.m. Church Council – Dodd Hall alcove

Saturday, March 16

1-5 p.m. MIND workshop, Asbury-Crestwood UMC, Yonkers

Sunday, March 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center

LENT V

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hour/MYF Easter Treat sale

11:30 a.m. – Palm Sunday narrator rehearsal - Sanctuary

4:00 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center

5-7 p.m. MYF – Easter Dawn service planning – Dodd Hall

Monday, March 18

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Dodd Hall

Tuesday, March 19

6:00 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center

7:00p.m. Disciple 2 – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

Wed., March 20

10:00 a.m. Lenten study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

5:30 p.m. – Palm Sunday narrator rehearsal - Sanctuary

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. “Praisemakers” choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

6:30 p.m. – Gay-Straight Alliance mtg – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr.

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

Thursday, March 21

7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr

7:00 p.m. Membership and Evangelism – Egan Room, Wesley Ctr

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center, 1st Floor

Grace Notes

March 10, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

Rembrandt’s 1766 painting “Return of the Prodigal Son” and Fr. Henri Nouwen’s book The Return of the Prodigal Son are the basis for my message today of the same title. While it is a story about coming home and forgiveness, it is most of all about the unstoppable love of God. The small reproduction of Rembrandt’s work in today’s bulletin is my gift to the congregation. I hope the visual will carry the message in a helpful way.

“Laetare,” the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the mid-point of our journey to Easter. It takes its name from the traditional Latin introit of the day “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:10). A reprieve from some of the more solemn liturgy is part of this day.

So is our joy in the baptism of Cameron Dwyer Nash, son of Ben and Julie; and our Mission Fair immediately following worship in Dodd Hall. Please linger for a few moments and see how lives are changed because of your financial support of this church and its mission budget.

Today’s “One Great Hour of Sharing” special offering is one of the six annual special offerings of the United Methodist Church and observed by many other Christians as well. Please give as you are able in the enclosed envelope.

May we continue, in word and deed, to observe a holy Lent.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Martin D. McLee
Lay Leaders	Kelly O’Hara & Leigh Bak	Superintendent	The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Child Care Coordinator	Betty Laferriere	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
	Interim Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Greeters – Liz Dillon and Dawn Tremills

Cross Bearer – Tiffany Pierce

Liturgist – Paul Downing

Acolytes – Elizabeth and Anna Pierce

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Rev. Bodt, inside Dodd Hall at the Mission Fair; and Paul Downing at the Narthex door.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given in celebration of the birthdays of my daughter, Susan, and my son, Tom, Jr., given by Tom Griggs.

WELCOME VISITORS! We pray you experience God's presence among us. Please complete a blue visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the detachable "Visitor" name tag to help us extend a warm welcome to you. Our Ambassadors will be looking for you!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall. Today's hosts are the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF). Next Sunday's hosts are Christian Education (Sunday School).

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

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. Ushers will 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. These prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. Please also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

CHILD CARE: *For children 5 and under* is provided in Wesley Center, building next door to sanctuary – OR – the service may be heard in Dodd Hall, if you wish to use it for restless children during service. *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 these children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

INFORMATION: All informational sheets are available in the back of the church.

SERMON COPIES from March 3 are available in the rear of the church and on the web at www.mtm-umc.org.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

OFFICE HOURS this week are Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you come and Wesley Center is locked, call Mary Lou at 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by Noon Wed., hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS are taken for Altar Flowers OR "In Lieu of Flowers," an opportunity to give to missions (UMCOR, UM Army and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). Flowers may be ordered at any time. **When a donation is made in lieu of altar flowers, the cross with a miniature mission scarf will be displayed on the altar in place of flowers.* Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or by email at bgobrien11@optonline.net or mail: Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: **Pastor Brian** (brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753) is typically in office 9 – Noon, Mon.-Thurs. **Pastor Hal** can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com. Please inform us of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations as hospital will not release that information to us.

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: Should there be a medical or other emergency during the worship service, someone designated by the head usher will call #911. Do not call on your cell phone. Multiple calls may delay response. Thank you.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR MARCH 3:

Total worship attendance all services: 189 (Sun., Mar. 3: 183; Mon., Mar. 4: 6); Total Offering: \$5,826; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$154; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 48; Total number persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0. **Important! Small Groups – please email the church office (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or call (203.874.1982) the number of persons that met.*



Mary Taylor Memorial UMC Confirmation Classes
are supporting the
Friends of Appalachia, Inc.
Dental Supply Drive

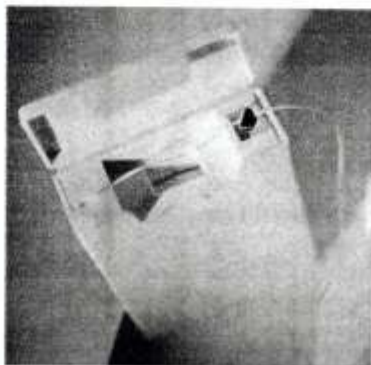


HELP. BUILD. HOPE.

Please help Friends of Appalachia, Inc. provide dental supplies to assist the dire need of improved oral hygiene for impoverished children in Central Appalachia.

- *In Appalachia regular dental care is inaccessible*
- *Pain caused by dental problems is the leading cause of school absenteeism*
- *1 in 10 adults have no natural teeth*

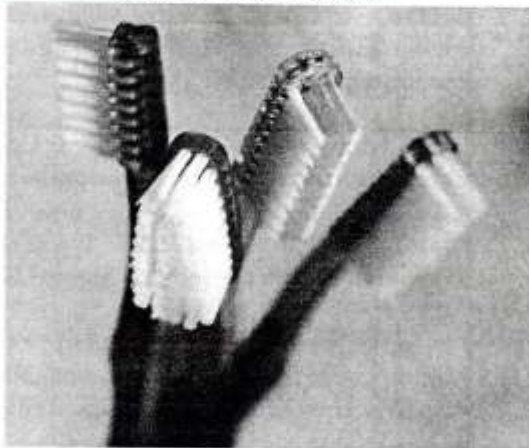
Dental supplies collected will be shipped to
Kids First Dental Services in Kentucky
www.kidsfirstdental.org



During February & March 2013

we are collecting:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dental Floss
- Cash Donations (will be used to purchase dental supplies)



Friends of Appalachia, Inc. is a Connecticut based Community Organization, open to all, which strives to educate and sensitize youth and adult volunteers to address the needs of the impoverished people in Central Appalachia.

Friends of Appalachia, Inc. is a 501c3 tax exempt organization Federal ID#27-1344135.

helpbuildhope@gmail.com
 203-807-4362
www.friendsofappalachia.org
 Facebook page: Friends of Appalachia

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **OUR MISSIONS FAIR** is right after worship in Dodd Hall. Delegates from missions supported by YOU, Mary Taylor Memorial Church, will present their projects and dreams: Friends of Appalachia (FOA); UMARMY; Mountains of Hope, Haiti; Beth El Center, Milford; Christian Community Action, New Haven; Bridges, Milford; and Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Please stay and learn more about how your generosity helps God's children to survive and thrive. You will also discover hands-on things you can do to give time as well as money. Hope to see you there as we discover together some of what goes on out there in the world beyond our red doors.
- **"AMBASSADORS" DEDICATED TODAY** include Leigh Bak, Flo Berrien, Cathy Cono, Michelle Craig, Holly Firmender, Carol Galloway, Edie Reichard, Jim Repetsky and Joan Zauner. Please assist them in their ministry of welcoming newcomers. Several others unable to take the training have expressed interest. Please talk with Pastor Brian and we will schedule another training in the spring.
- **MYF EASTER TREATS** are available today and March 17 and 24 at Fellowship Hour. Please support our youth. Funds support "Mountains of Hope – Haiti."
- **GIRL SCOUTS INTERESTED IN "GOD AND COUNTRY?"** Study starts today at Noon with Marcia Winter and Pastor Brian in the Wesley Center. Come!
- **PALM SUNDAY NARRATORS** rehearse at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- **MARCH 23rd NYC TRIP:** 8 seats were left as of last Wednesday. See Pastor Brian.
- **APPALACHIAN DENTAL SUPPLIES COLLECTION** continues. See enclosed flier. Both Confirmation classes have chosen this as a mission project.
- **OUR CHAPEL WINDOW RESTORATION FUND CONTINUES** with \$2,166 received as of March 5, now over 38% to our \$5,700 goal to reinstall the stained glass in the Chapel's north wall. Checks may be made payable to the church, memo "Stained Glass Windows." See any member of the restoration committee for more details: Bill Petremont, Jim Repetsky, Joan Zauner or Margery Zurko.
- **EASTER FLOWERS MAY BE ORDERED NOW** using the enclosed insert. Please submit forms to the church office by Friday, March 22.
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR MEETING SCHEDULE.**
- **LITURGY TODAY** comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and The U.M. Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000).

THIS WEEK

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN meets **Tuesday, March 12, Noon** in the Wesley Center, first floor. UMW is open to all women of the church. If you would like to know more about this mission organization, please contact contact Joan Zauner (jzauner@yahoo.com or 203.283.5643).

“PRAISEMAKERS,” our choir for children in grades 1-5, has resumed **Wednesday rehearsals from 5-5:45 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. They will sing Palm Sunday, March 24 and possibly Easter and Mother’s Day depending on the number of children who attend. Please consider making this short term commitment for the musical and spiritual formation of your child. Besides, it’s fun! For more information contact Barbara Repetsky (mrmrsr97@aol.com or 203.931.4363), Judy Darak (wingridrs@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.5881) or Dr. Rick Riccardi (riccardir1@southernct.edu or 203.506.7270).

CHURCH COUNCIL meets **Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m.** in the Dodd Hall alcove. Please let Secretary Paul Downing (paul.downing@snet.net; 203.878.8540) know if you are unable to attend. An agenda will be sent early this week.

APRIL “BEACON” DEADLINE is **this Friday, March 15.** Please submit materials to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or hard copy to the church office.

A RECONCILING MINISTRIES TWO-PART WORKSHOP will be held on **Saturday, March 16, 1-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, 3-6 p.m.** at Asbury-Crestwood U.M. Church, Yonkers, NY. The purpose of these sessions is to help continue our ministry of hospitality to all without regard to sexual orientation. Pastor Brian, Marcia Winter and Leigh Bak are currently committed to attend on March 16th and Marcia Winter on March 17th, so rides will be available. Please see one of them if interested.

NEXT SUNDAY

LENT V: Informal hymn singing precedes worship at 9:45 a.m. The message “Anointed” is based on Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14 and John 12:1-8. We will have a special recognition for the Girl Scouts. We ask all Girl Scouts to attend in uniform. **Healing anointing**, tying closely to the Gospel reading, **moves to this Sunday** during the closing hymns. Blood pressure screenings will follow worship in the Sanctuary.

MYF EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE planning session will be held on **Sunday March 17, 5-7 p.m.** Dinner will be served.

COMING SOON

GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE meets **Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center. Our primary topic of conversation is the “Covenant of Conscience.”

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets **Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.,** Wesley Center, first floor. If you knit or crochet and would like to know more about this important ministry of pastoral care, please contact Joan Zauner (jzauner@yahoo.com or 203.283.5643).

GOLDEN HILL UMC COMMUNITY SUPPER is supported by us the fourth Wednesday of alternating months. Our next date is **Wednesday March 27 from 2:30 – 5 p.m.** We need 6-8 people, age 13 or older. Please contact Maryanne Meehan to serve: mjbmj@att.net or 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home).

MYF will host the **COMMUNITY SUPPER AT MTMUMC on Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.** If you can help, please see Kate Georgelos or Mary Ann Petremont.

AMONG OUR NEIGHBOR CHURCHES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SHELTON welcomes all to their 11th Annual Lenten Fish Fry dinners, Friday nights through March 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Join them for some great home cookin’, including baked or fried fish, choice of potato, pasta, homemade coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Clam chowder will be available for an additional charge. \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (60+) and children 14 and under are FREE! No reservations needed. Dine in or take out. First United Methodist Church is located at 188 Rocky Rest Road, Shelton (corner of Long Hill Avenue and Rocky Rest Road). Call 203-929-3537 for more details or visit www.umshelton.org. Proceeds will support the church’s ministries and missions.

LINDSEY WILSON COLLEGE CHOIR CONCERT will be held on **Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 p.m.** at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 71 River Street, Milford. This Methodist-related, 30 voice college choir from Columbia, Kentucky is touring the Northeast performing sacred and secular music. The concert is not ticketed; a free-will offering will be received. The organizer is looking for support in two ways:

- Cooks to bring pot-luck for a 5:30 p.m. dinner for the singers at St. Peter’s
- Home hosts for the singers the evening after the concert. Hosts will provide simple sleeping arrangements for two singers (Safe Sanctuary) and a light breakfast on April 4 before delivering the singers back to St. Peter’s for their bus.

If you desire to assist, you may **sign up on the sign up sheets on the bulletin board by the entrance to Dodd Hall or contact Sarah Bromley** at seabromley1@yahoo.com or 203.246.0706.