

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 “Amazing Grace” W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER SERVERS

Maryanne Meehan, Coordinator

INTROIT “Grace Alone”

*CALL TO WORSHIP U.M. Service of Healing I (edited)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

People: *And all that is within me, bless God’s holy name!*

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God’s benefits.

People: *The Lord forgives all our iniquity and heals all our diseases.*

Leader: The Lord redeems our lives and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

People: *God satisfies us with good as long as we live!*

*HYMN #159 “Lift High the Cross” Crucifer

THE COLLECT (*seated, unison*)

Almighty God, from whom comes all power to help ourselves: keep us, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which hurt the soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION England, 20th cent., alt

All-knowing God, you know what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. Sometimes we fear admitting to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls, but we cannot hide our true selves from you. Yet still you love us. Help us not to fear self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves. Give us courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Release us from the grip of guilt to be free, energized and forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, please break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°
THE PSALTER Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Bible p. 548 (LP, OT 687-688)

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

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:1-10 Bible p.1064 (LP, NT, p.235)
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

*THE GOSPEL John 3:14-21 Bible p.968 (LP, NT, p.114)
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #185 “When Morning Gilds the Skies” Laudes Domini

THE SERMON “Having the Conversation” 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.*)

MISSION MOMENT “Mission Fair” Sunday, April 15, 2018
Lorraine Carr, Missions Co-Chair

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, *including the special offering for
United Methodist Committee on Relief Sunday*

Offertory Anthem: “For God So Loved the World” J. Martin
(*The Adult Choir*)

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #378 “Amazing Grace” Amazing Grace

*THE BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE “Voluntary on ‘Crucifer’” P. Manz
(*During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.*)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

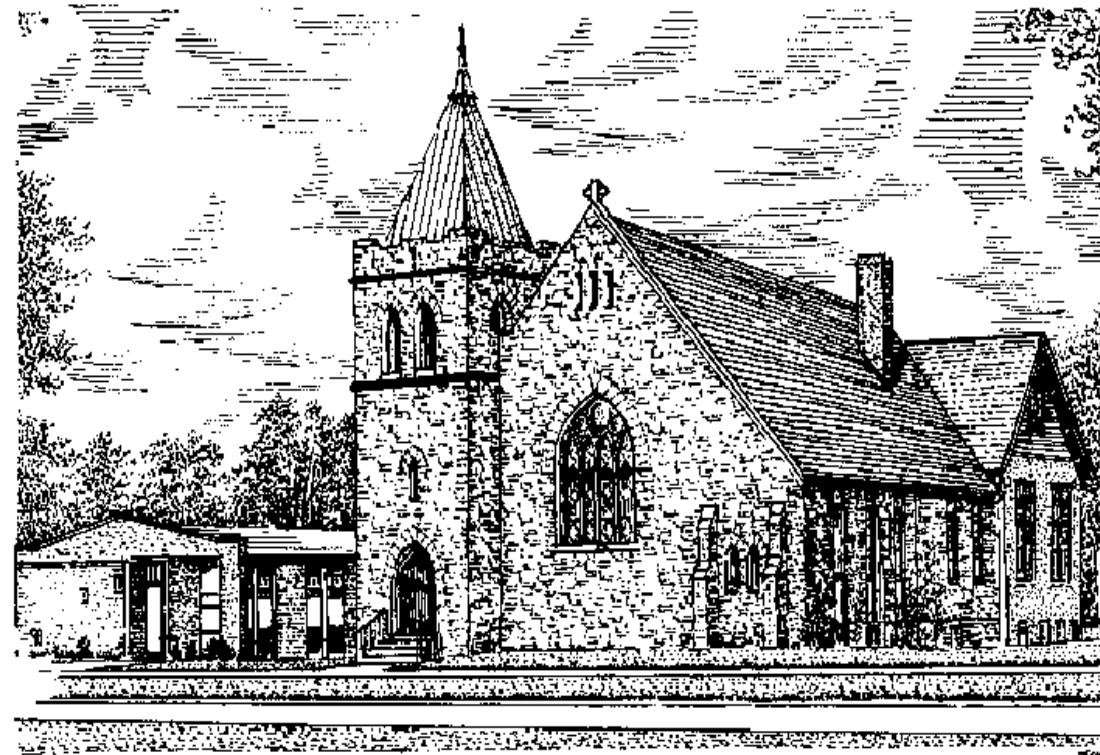
OUR NEW PASTOR

As announced last Sunday, our new pastor, effective July 1, 2018, will be the Rev. Kristina D. Hansen, currently pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Northport, Long Island, New York. Rev. Hansen is completing an eight year pastorate with that congregation. She previously served in Woodbury, CT; Grand Gorge, Gilboa and Conesville, NY; and St. Paul and St. Andrew in Manhattan.

Prior to ordained ministry, Rev. Hansen served in the corporate world in human resources, computer consulting and case management for dual-diagnosed adults with intellectual disabilities.

Rev. Hansen has a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, New York (2003); a Master of Social Work from the State University of New York, Stony Brook (1985) and a Bachelor of Science, *magna cum laude*, from Houghton College, Houghton, NY.

More information will be provided as Staff-Parish works with Rev. Hansen on a transition and communication plan. We look forward to the warm welcome which is the hallmark of this congregation, and a smooth transition as Pastor Brian works with Rev. Hansen toward that end.



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 IV

LAETARE

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF SUNDAY

March 11, 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

Grace Notes
March 11, 2018

Dear MTMUMC community,

Today is "Friends and Family Sunday." Oh, wait, no it's not! It's NEXT Sunday!

All the better to have a week's reminder to invite friends and family to experience the joy of worship and fellowship in our congregation. Borrowing from the old TV show, "Your mission, should you choose to accept it," is to simply invite friends and family members to our 10 a.m. worship and the Fellowship Time following next Sunday. If they do not have a church home, your invitation may be a seed planted that grows into becoming part of our faith community. If they already have a church home we respect that, and your invitation is simply to experience the joy of our church community and a welcome in Christian love. See the "Next Sunday" notice for more details about the day.

TODAY, then, is United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sunday. Your gift in the special envelope goes directly to United Methodist mission work at home and abroad. Every cent you give goes directly to mission need. How? Like many churches in our denomination, our church pays its apportionments in full. This giving, part of our church budget that you support, covers the administrative costs of UMCOR so that mission gifts go entirely to missions. Please be generous as you are able.

Today is also Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent that takes its Latin name – meaning "rejoice" – from the traditional Introit of the Latin Mass: "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:10) In the midst of the reflective mood of Lent, there is joy anticipating the Resurrection. I hope today's liturgy, music and preaching reflect that joy in offerings that, as one chorister recently remarked after a difficult piece, are "not half bad." We have much about which to rejoice, including the light touch of redemptive love that God gave in Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Brian Bodt



TRES DIAS INFORMATION TODAY! Please stop by the table in Dodd Hall today if you are interested, or know someone who is interested in learning more about Tres Dias Weekend. We will have brochures, sponsor forms and applications. Any improvement in your life begins with a conscious decision on your part. Growing closer to God is no different. Attending a Tres Dias weekend can be that conscious decision. Regardless of where you are in your faith walk, once you actually set out to move closer to God, He will draw nearer to you, There is a sequela on March 24th if you would like to attend and experience a little of what it is all about. Any questions? Come visit our table! **Upcoming Weekend Dates: Men's #105 April 19-22, 2018 Women's #105 May 3-6, 2018.** Please feel free to call Barronlee Grasso at 203-339-2531, or Justine Guckin 203-623-0840 with any questions or concerns.

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Stacey Riccardi

Liturgist: Bev Downing

Greeters: Pat Jaser and Lodemia Lopes

Acolytes: Carolyn Hollyday and Mary Repetsky

Cross Bearer: Amanda Repetsky

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in loving memory of Nick and Carol Rogers, 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

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 Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

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

Calendar, continued

Wednesday, March 21 10:00 a.m.

Noon

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 22

5:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 23

10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 24

9:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Adult Study: "Made for a Miracle" – Gunn Library

Holy Communion – Sanctuary

Choir Fellowship Dinner – Dodd Hall

New Members Class-Pastor's study Wesley Center 2nd floor

MTMUMC Community Dinner – Dodd Hall

Stewardship meeting – Wesley Center

Office Volunteers – Gunn Library

Men's Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel

United Methodist Women Prayer Breakfast – Dodd Hall

SAVE THE DATE

UMW PRAYER BREAKFAST. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend our spring United Methodist Women's meeting on Saturday, March 24, 9:30-11a.m. in Dodd Hall. Our morning will include prayer, breakfast, joyful music, and gentle meditative movement. Sue O'Shea will be leading our meeting and Sue Paulsen and Beth O'Brien will lead us in song and worship. Please join us for a time of fellowship and renewal.

A light breakfast will be served; please RSVP to Sue if you think you will attend. Any questions, feel free to contact: Sue O'Shea at 203-494-5339 sueoshea@optonline.net or Beth O'Brien at 203-877-8668, bgobrien11@optonline.net.

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. We currently have 7 people registered.

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

FAIR ON THE GREEN SPRING MEETING will be Sunday, April 8, 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center, first floor. This is an all-church event annually raising in excess of \$15,000 for our church budget. Even more, it's great fun! Many hands make light work. Especially if you are newer to MTMUMC, come to this meeting or say "Yes!" when asked to be part of a team!

OUR ANNUAL MISSIONS FAIR will be 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.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, March 11</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/ UMCOR Sunday - Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time - Dodd Hall</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Last United Methodist Women Soup Sale</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 12</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Membership & Evangelism meeting – Wesley Center</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 13</i>	Noon <i>United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center 1st floor</i> 5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Tres Dias meeting – Dodd Hall</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 14</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Study: “Made for a Miracle” – Gunn Library</i> Noon <i>Holy Communion – Sanctuary</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>
<i>Thursday, March 15</i>	<i>Beacon Information Due Today</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Church Conference/Church Council meeting-Dodd Hall alcove</i>
<i>Friday, March 16</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, March 17</i>	8:30 a.m. <i>Tres Dias meeting - Women’s Retreat prep – Dodd Hall- date change to avoid Holy Week</i> 9:00 a.m. <i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i>
<i>Sunday, March 18</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/ Friends and Family Sunday - Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time - Dodd Hall-</i> <i>Socks for Seniors collection ends today</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Blood Pressure screening - 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 19</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Historical Society meeting – Dodd Hall</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 20</i>	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i> 6:30 p.m. <i>Tres Dias meeting – Dodd Hall</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>

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by the Trustees. Next Sunday’s hosts will be the United Methodist Women, women with surnames beginning N-Z.

ALSO DURING FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY:

- **SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SALE** by the United Methodist Women, supporting their mission efforts.
- **SALE OF EASTER ITEMS** by our Trash and Treasures team, supporting our program budget.

UMCOR COFFEE PROJECT: Orders delivered today, March 11. See Christine McGregor.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY. See enclosed flier to order.

SECOND NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSION is 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Pastor’s study, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) will meet today, March 11th, 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center, First Floor Youth Lounge. 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 03/11: "Surfin' QWERTY" will be led by Pastor Dani Levine and Youth, Emily Brennan.

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.

THIS WEEK

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

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!

A CHURCH CONFERENCE will be held this Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. in the Dodd Hall alcove. The purpose of this Church Conference, in accordance with Par. 246.7 of The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, is to receive three motions establishing funding for our proposed sanctuary sound system. Anyone is welcome to attend with vote reserved to members of Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets immediately following the Church Conference in Dodd Hall.

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

NEXT SUNDAY, March 18th

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT/"FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY – We encourage everyone to invite friends and family to join us in worship. Informal hymn singing begins at 9:45 a.m. The message, "Changing Mary and Martha" will be based on Psalm 130 and John 11:1-45. Barbara Repetsky and Stacey Cronk will portray the sisters. The Stewardship Spotlight will be by Maria Macri. After worship, blood pressure screenings will be offered in the sanctuary by Karyn Doherty, R.N. and "Trash and Treasures" will again have Easter items for sale.

SOCKS 4 SENIORS ENDS NEXT SUNDAY! Eileen Potkay, LPN on our Parish Health and Wellness Team, has collected 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 ends next Sunday, March 18, 2018. There is 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.



GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) will meet the next two Sundays, **March 18th & March 25th 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center, First Floor Youth Lounge.** For the next two weeks, we will be preparing for the Easter Sunrise Service. All youth are requested to be in attendance these two weeks, as we determine main and supporting roles for this fun and meaningful service. Leader for these two weeks is Dawn Bettencourt. Thank you, Dani.

DODD HALL REAR DOOR CHANGES

Based on the recommendation of the Church Security Task Force and the endorsement of the Church Council at their January 18 meeting that the back door to Dodd Hall be an emergency exit only door, the Trustees have taken the necessary steps to permanently convert this door to an "emergency exit door only." In so doing, an alarm was installed on this door so that if it is opened either from the inside or the outside **an alarm will now sound.**

The signage associated with the door has also been updated to reflect the updated status of the door as an emergency exit only door. With this move the Trustees also had the outside cylinder changed so people can no longer enter this door using their church key. Should you trip the alarm by mistake, a key is located in the kitchen next to the stove hanging on a red wooden dowel. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Chris Paton, Trustee President, at 203.675.9093.

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. **Our next open Sunday is April 8th.**

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 March 4th

Total worship attendance all services: 205; Mar. 4th: 163; GEUMC: 10; Mar. 5: Healing and Wholeness: 9; Lent Mar.7: 23 (Noon); Total Offerings for Mar. 4: \$6,978.80; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$1,195.23; Engaged in Small Groups: 98; Sunday School: 25; "G.U.T.S" (youth group) : 22; Confirmation: 4; Disciple 4: 8; New Members group: 12; Adult Bible Study: Tues: 10; Wed.16; Bell and Adult Choir rehearsals: cancelled; 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.