

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 “Only Trust Him” arr. by H. DeCou

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “O How He Loves You and Me!

*CALL TO WORSHIP Sarum Liturgy, England, 13th cent., alt.
Leader: Savior of the world, who by your cross and precious blood has redeemed us,
People: *save us and help us.*

*HYMN #508 “Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom” For the Bread

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) Book of Common Prayer, ed.
Almighty God, who sees that, by ourselves, we have no power to help ourselves: keep us, outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, through Jesus Christ the Guardian of body and soul. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Michael J. O’Donnell, USA, 20th cent.
Almighty and all-loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled the world to yourself. Help us now to be reconciled with one another, that again we might dwell in the warmth of your love. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to put aside the cloak of pride and put on Christ, that we might forgive and be forgiven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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WOMEN’S HISTORY MOMENT Bev Downing

THE PSALTER Psalm 121 Hymnal p.844, R.2

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Genesis 12:1-4a Bible p.9
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

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

THE EPISTLE Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Bible p.1026
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

*THE GOSPEL John 3:1-17 Bible p.968
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #2084 “Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise” rear cover

THE SERMON “Direction in the Dark” 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. People: *And also with you.*
(*Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.*)

MISSION MOMENT “Mission to Haiti” Leigh Bak

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Lift High the Cross” arr. by J. Althouse
(*The Adult Choir*)

*Presentation: “Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #129 “Give to the Winds Thy Fears” Festal Song

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #666
“Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.”

*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.

Come, Let Us with Our Lord Arise 2084



1. Come, let us with our Lord a - rise, our
 2. This is the day the Lord has made, that
 3. Then let us ren - der him his own, with



Lord, who made both earth and skies: who died to save the
 all may see his love dis-played, may feel his res - ur -
 sol - emn prayer ap-proach his throne, with meek - ness hear the



world he made, and rose tri - um - phant from the dead;
 rec - tion's power, and rise a - gain, to fall no more,
 gos - pel word, with thanks his dy - ing love re - cord,



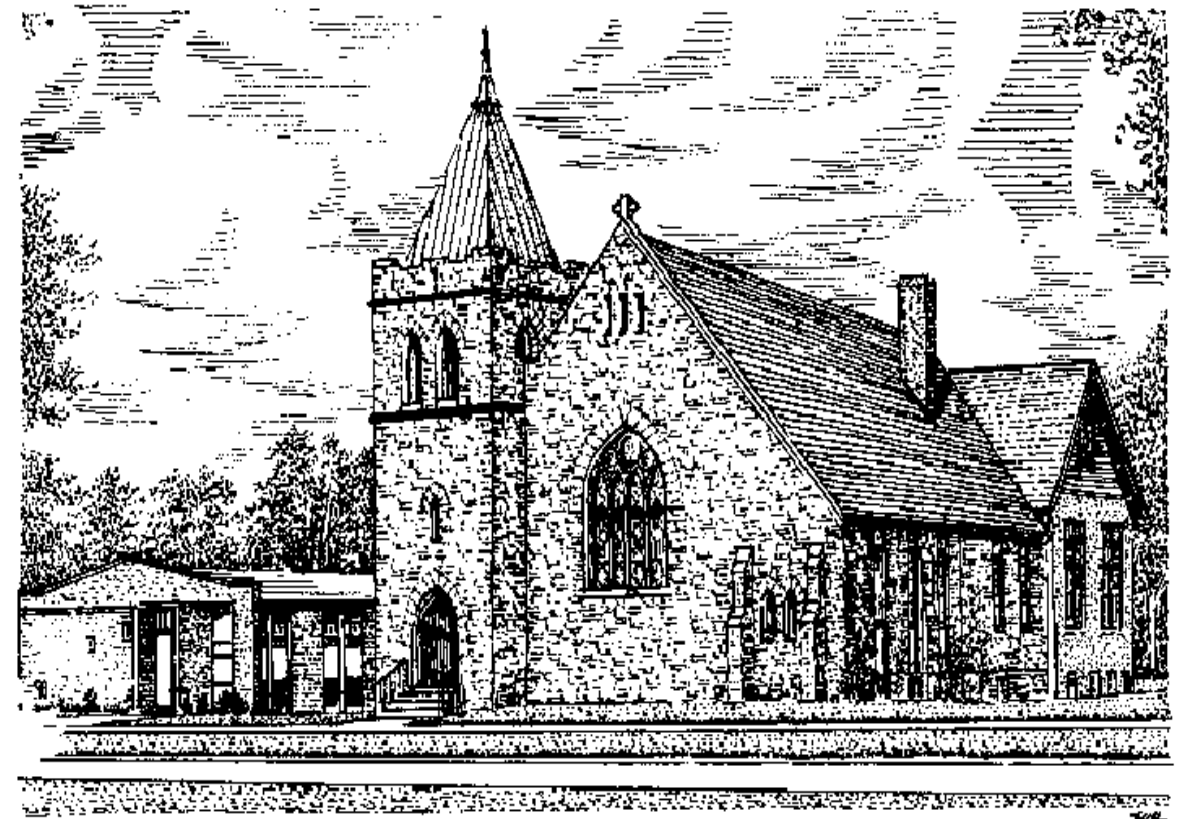
he rose, the Prince of life and peace,
 in per - fect righ - teous - ness re - newed,
 our joy - ful hearts and voic - es raise,



and stamped the day for - ev - er his.
 and filled with all the life of God.
 and fill his courts with songs of praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (Ps. 118:24; 1 Cor. 6:14; Heb. 4:16)
 MUSIC: Trad. English melody

SUSSEX CAROL
 88.88.88



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.***

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

March 12, 2017

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

Sunday, March 12	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School - Wesley Center
Daylight Savings Time begins	10:00 a.m.	Worship- Holy Communion - Sanctuary
Last Sunday for UMW	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
Soup Sales	11:30 a.m.	MYF Adult Advisors meeting – Youth Lounge
	3:00 p.m.	MYF Adult Advisors & Youth Officers mtg. - Youth Lounge
	3:30 p.m.	Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	MYF meeting – Youth Lounge
Monday March 13	6:00 p.m.	Membership and Evangelism meeting – Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m.	Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Tuesday, March 14	Noon	Greater Bridgeport United Methodist Cluster – off site
	5:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library
Wednesday, March 15	10:00 a.m.	“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library
BEACON Information	Noon	Taize worship – Sanctuary
Due Today	6:30/7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall
	6:45 p.m.	Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s office
Thursday, March 16	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting – Dodd Hall alcove
Friday, March 17	10:00 a.m.	Office Volunteers
Sunday, March 19	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School - Wesley Center
	9:45 a.m.	Informal Hymn Singing - Sanctuary
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Blood Pressure Screenings by Bob Virgalla – Sanctuary
	11:15 a.m.	Mission and Ministry Fair – Dodd Hall
	Noon	New member preparatory session #1 – Pastor’s study
	3:30 p.m.	Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	MYF meeting –Ice Skating – More information to come
Monday, March 20	7:00 p.m.	Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Tuesday, March 21	Noon	IAT meeting – Pastor Brian – Gunn Library
	5:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary Job Search Support Group- 70 Gulf St. Milford
Wednesday, March 22	10:00 a.m.	“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library
	Noon	Taize worship – Sanctuary
	6:30/7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall
Thursday, March 23	5:30 p.m.	MTMUMC Community Supper - Dodd Hall
	6:45 p.m.	Taize worship - Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Worship Committee meeting – Gunn Library
Friday, March 24	7:00 p.m. – Midnight	MYF “Mini lock-in” for treat making and games

Saturday, March 25

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Trip to NYC – Pastor Brian

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
March 12, 2017

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

“Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark. Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the light beyond the dark.”
“Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom,” U.M. Hymnal #508

Cynics sometimes refer to faith and those who practice it as “whistling in the dark.” Even if they are right, whistling is far preferable to some of the other things people do in the dark and hope that are never brought to light.

But if we agree with scripture that faith is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1), then today’s readings are not about whistling in the dark but about receiving direction in the dark. In the dark night of our souls, “he who keeps you will not slumber.” (Psalm 121:3) In the dark of an uncertain future, God’s word inspired Abram to “go.” (Genesis 12:4) In the dark of faltering certainties, God’s word revealed in Jesus challenged Nicodemus to begin anew by being “born from above.” (John 3:3)

Faith is a powerful thing. We sometimes know that best when we are in danger of losing it, whether in God, ourselves or another. Such faith is inspired by God and given to

us all. Claiming it and acting on it are other matters that I address in today's message. Whatever you may hear in this message, know that I believe God's yearning is to provide us "Direction in the Dark."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Pastor*

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Stacey Riccardi
Liturgist – Bob Virgalla
Cross Bearer – Stefano Cono

Greeters – The Volgmuth family
Acolytes – Mateo Cono and Natalie Rendon
Bible Bearer – Zoe Browne

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of the birth of Alexander Soren Daneault, born on December 1, 2016, grandson of Paul and Betty Daneault; and in memory of my Grandmother, Jeanette Maloney Blakeslee, given by Kelly Michael O'Hara. Happy St. Patrick's Day Gram, I love you always.

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 Book of Common Prayer (1928), United Methodist Hymnal (1989), 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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR March 5:

Total worship attendance all services: 194; Mar. 5th: 152; GEUMC, 17; Mar. 6th: Healing and Wholeness worship: 8; Taize Service Mar. 8th: 17 ; Total Offerings for March 5th minus "Lift Us Up": \$5,862.25; "Lift Us Up":\$ 325.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence 0; Engaged in Small Groups: 134; Sunday School: 41; Community Supper Golden Hill Mar. 1st: 12; Methodist Youth Fellowship: 5; Confirmation class: 6; Adult Bible Study, 7 pm: 18; Adult Bible Study, 10 am: 18; Trash & Treasures: 9; Bell Choir: 8; Adult Choir: 15; 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.



HEALTH, WELLNESS AND INFORMATION FAIR: Saturday, April 1st, 10 am - 1 pm
at Saint Ann Church, 501 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford, free of charge and open to all.

The event will include over 40 participating groups with a variety of health screenings as well as a broad spectrum of health, wellness and information vendors -- of interest to people of all ages. Speakers include Willa C. Horowitz, Au.D., "Hearing Tests and What Result Show" plus "Consequences of Untreated Hearing Loss"; Anne James, Veterans Service Officer, Milford, "VA Pension with Aid and Attendance"; and Cathi Kellett, Griffin Hospital Parish Nursing, "Medication Safety: Safe Storage, Safe Dosing, Safe Kids." Light refreshments will be available. For more information, including details on participating groups, please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell phone - voice or text).

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 hgobrien11@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 donations are needed for the month of April.

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.

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted in Dodd Hall by the Trustees. Next Sunday's hosts will be UMW – Women N-Z.

UMW SOUP SALES conclude today. All proceeds will go to the mission projects of the UMW.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Adult Advisors will be meeting **today, March 12 at 11:30 am** in the Youth Lounge.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP Adult Advisors and Youth Officers will be meeting **today, March 12 at 3 pm** in the Youth Lounge.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will be having a **meeting** tonight from **4-5 pm**. This meeting will be full of some fun, and possibly tasty, surprises. All youth, 6th-12th grade are invited!

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 IS NOW ACCEPTING 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.

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

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

TAIZE ("TAY-ZAY") WORSHIP is held each Wednesday at Noon during Lent. Taize worship is comprised of about 30 minutes of contemplative prayer, music unique to Taize, the reading of scripture and a brief reflection. This week's speaker is Pastor Hal.

APRIL "BEACON" DEADLINE is **this Wednesday, March 15**. Please submit hard copy to the church office or electronically to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets **Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m.** in the Dodd Hall alcove. Reports submitted by last Friday's deadline and agenda will be sent electronically tomorrow.

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THE NEXT ADULT STUDY will be Introducing the New Testament, the 3rd of a three-part series on "Exploring the Bible." **You need not have taken the first two studies to take this one.** This six-week series will follow our usual 7 p.m. Tuesday/noon Wednesday format, with participants choosing one or the other but with the opportunity to alternate days if needed. There will be an interruption for Holy Week, so **the dates of the study will be April 4/5 and then April 18/19 – May 16/17.** **If you wish to register**, please contact Mary Lou Kampert in the church office at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 110. Books will be available next week at \$10 each.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: we will receive new members on **Palm Sunday, April 9.** Three required preparatory sessions will be held at **noon the preceding three Sundays: March 19, 26 and April 2.** If you are interested in joining the church, please speak with Pastor Brian or register at the church office: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 110.

NEXT SUNDAY, March 19th

LENT III – Informal hymn singing begins at 9:45 a.m. The message, "Next," will be by Pastor Dani Levine based on Exodus 17:1-7 and Romans 5:1-11. The Women's History Moment will be by Cheryl Griffin. After worship our Mission and Ministry Fair will be held in Dodd Hall, with representatives from the many mission organizations supported by MTMUMC gifts as well as leaders of MTMUMC ministries. Also after worship, blood pressure screenings will be offered in the sanctuary by Bob Virgalla.

MISSIONS & MINISTRY FAIR: Come join us at our 5th Annual Missions & Ministry Fair on **March 19th** in Dodd Hall during Fellowship Hour. We will have over 18 groups highlighting their various projects along with our own church committees. This is sure to be a wonderful event and opportunity for you to learn about helping our community.

SAVE THE DATES

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet on Saturday, April 1st 9:30 – 11:30 am in Dodd Hall . Our program will include the annual Service of Prayer and Self-Denial and a presentation of the mission project “Days for Girls.” We will receive 2017 UMW pledges. This program includes combined items from the snow-cancelled January 31st meeting and what would have been the March meeting. We will serve a light breakfast. For more information, please contact Sue O’Shea (203.494.5339) or Joan Zauner (203.283.5643).

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY: It’s not too early to be thinking about who you might like to invite for our fourth consecutive year of “Friends and Family Sunday.” This year’s observance will be Sunday, April 2nd at 10 a.m. worship. We are planning a light luncheon after worship for which no reservations are needed!

CPR TRAINING EVENT: A training event for adult only (not infant) CPR will be held on Saturday, April 8th, 8 a.m.—Noon in Dodd Hall. To register please call Mary Lou in the church office at 203-874-1982 ext. 110 or email mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. **Please indicate to Mary Lou if you will need child care. Registration Deadline is Sunday, April 2nd. There is no charge for this event.**

PALM SUNDAY, April 9th - Mark your calendars for our **annual Easter Egg Hunt** during Sunday School hour. After Sunday School, as is our tradition, students will process into the sanctuary waving their palm branches as part of our Palm Sunday worship. We hope you will join us for this special celebration! There will be **no Sunday School on Easter Sunday April 16th** so that all may attend the special worship services and celebrate with family.

OTHER MINISTRY MATTERS

SUPPORT OUR TRUSTEES: various projects are underway at church, currently the stained glass window restoration and a new fire alarm system installation. These projects are contracted under the supervision of our Board of Trustees. If you have expertise you would like to share on a given project, please share it with our Trustees. Giving direction directly to contracted workers confuses them as to who they report to and slows the work. Contact the church office if you want a list of the Trustees or the name of the particular Trustee managing a particular project. Thanks for helping us work together.

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

MILFORD HOSPITAL seeks volunteers (morning, afternoon or evening) with greatest need in the Enchanted Window Gift Shop, Emergency Department, and the Walk In Center on Post Road. A required orientation session for volunteers, detailing volunteer policies, procedures and an overview of current vacancies, will be held on this Wednesday, March 15th, 9 a.m. to Noon at the hospital in Auditorium A. Most positions require the ability to commit to one 2-3 hour shift per week. For more information or to register for the session, please call 203-876-4062.

LIVING WELL THROUGH ILLNESS: CHARTING A PATIENT-CENTERED VOYAGE will be held on Saturday, April 1, 9 am – 1:30 pm at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. It will feature topics including Mastering the Demands of Caregiving, Palliative care: rethinking the name and the need and 18 Months and Beyond which will be the keynote presentation given by Dr. Lisa Caramico on her family’s experience when her husband was diagnosed with a terminal cancer. Sessions on honoring Mind, Body, Spirit and Emotions as well as Aligning your Values and Spirituality with your Health care choices are a few of the conference session titles.

Event includes free continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is required and limited. All are welcome. **If interested, please call Sheryl Hollyday (203-874-7325 or doulee@aol.com).**