

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 “I Need Thee Every Hour” D. Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Jann C. Weaver, USA, 20th cent., alt.

Leader: O God, we may cry through the night but your joy comes with the morning.

People: *You hear us and are gracious in our distress.*

Leader: You turn our mourning into dancing! Our souls cannot be silent!

ALL: ***O GOD, OUR SAVIOR, WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOREVER!***

*HYMN #709 “Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above” Forest Green

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated, unison)* Ruth Duck, USA, 20th cent.

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing new life out of destruction, hope out of despair, growth out of difficulty. We thank you that you do not leave us alone but labor to make us whole. Help us to perceive your unseen hand in the unfolding of our lives, and to attend to the gentle guidance of your Spirit, that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Jewish Prayer for Forgiveness, USA, 20th cent.

Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence filled with regret for our many sins and failings. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity. There is weakness in us as well as strength. At times we choose to walk in darkness, our vision obscured. We do not care to look within, and we are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help.

O God, we are too weak to walk unaided. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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THE PSALTER Psalm 126 Hymnal p.847, R.1

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN #2182 *(seated)* “When God Restored our Common Life” rear cover

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 43:16-21 Bible p.659

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

THE EPISTLE Philippians 3:4b-14 Bible p.1070

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

*HYMN #299 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” Rockingham

THE SERMON “Racing. Toward What?” Dr. Bodt

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Hymnal p. 33

Joining in membership are Vilma Casteno-Rendon, sponsored by Cathy Cono and Rich Prigge, sponsored by Carol Frantz

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 “Sock for Seniors” Eileen Potkay, L.P.N.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory: “Take the Name of Jesus With You” arr. by Rouse

*Presentation: “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

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

*THE BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE *(seated)* “Irish Blessing” Old Gaelic blessing
(Barbara Ann Welker Griggs, soloist)

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

*POSTLUDE “Carillon Toccata” D. Wagner
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

2182 When God Restored Our Common Life



1. When God re - stored our com - mon life, our hope, our lib - er -
2. We went forth weep - ing, sow - ing seeds in hard, un - yield - ing
3. Great lib - er - at - ing God, we pray for all who are op -



ty, at first it seemed a pass - ing dream, a
soil; with laugh - ing hearts we car - ry home the
pressed. May those who long for what is right with



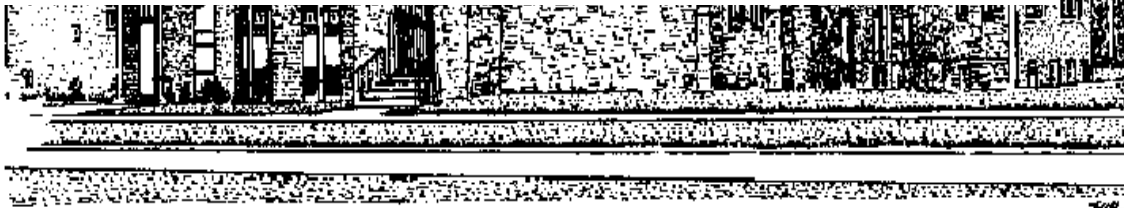
wak - ing fan - ta - sy. A shock of joy swept
fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who
jus - tice now be blest. We pray for those who



o - ver us, for we had wept so long; the
gave the growth, with voic - es full and strong. The
mourn this day, and all who suf - fer wrong; may



seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds we wa - tered once with tears sprang up in - to a song.
seeds they wa - ter now with tears spring up in - to a song.



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.*

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY

LENT V

March 13, 2016

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, March 13</i>	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - Clocks FORWARD 1 HOUR EASTER PLANT ORDERS – DEADLINE TODAY
LENT V	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Friends and Family Sunday/New Members received - Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Last Soup and baked goods sale-Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, March 14</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Historical Society meeting-Dodd Hall-Marcia Winter</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i> 8:00 p.m. <i>Palm Sunday recitation rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 15</i>	BEACON INFORMATION DUE 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 16</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 17</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Church Council meeting – Dodd Hall Alcove</i> 8:30 p.m. <i>Taize Worship – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, March 18</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Sunday, March 20</i>	HOLY WEEK
PALM SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School- Wesley Center - Easter Egg Hunt</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School lines up for processional</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship - Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Blood Pressure screenings – Sanctuary</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Diabetes Alert screenings – Dodd Hall</i> 11:30 a.m. <i>Visitation Ministry – Egan Room – Wesley Center</i> 11:30 a.m. <i>Drum Circle – Wesley Center – <u>1st floor</u></i> 4:00 p.m. <i>Methodist Youth Fellowship – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, March 21</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 22</i>	5:45 p.m. <i>NO Confirmation Class this week</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 23</i>	HOLY WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m. <i>Beacon Volunteers</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 / 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>

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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

March 13, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

On this “Friends and Family Sunday” we extend a special welcome in Christ to all who have come by invitation to this special day. If you have happened upon us as a visitor without such an invitation, you are twice-blessed! To our church members and friends who extended an invitation, “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.”

If this is a first-time visit or you have never received a gift mug and church brochure, please be sure to obtain one today. They are available in the entrance to the sanctuary. We hope all will remain for a light lunch and conversation in Dodd Hall (the space behind the sanctuary). We thank Sandy Morgan, Holly Firmender and the Membership and Evangelism team for organizing the luncheon and day.

Anyone with a name badge can answer questions. Ambassadors, with a red ribbon, may be especially helpful. Please ask.

While not every church can be everything to everybody, we try to live up to our creed “Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.” We hope you find a warm—indeed, extravagant—welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Tanner Georgelos

Liturgist – Chris Carveth

Bible Bearer – Mary Repetsky

Greeters – Rev. Judy Bennett and Joan Zauner

Cross Bearer – Olivia Kingston

Acolytes – Ryan and Sean Kingston

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Chris Carveth.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of our congregation, friends and family all worshipping together.

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).

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.

Thursday, March 24

Friday, March 25

(continued from rear cover)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Community Dinner – Dodd Hall

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion Service

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library

11:45 a.m. The Church Office will close at 11:45 a.m. today

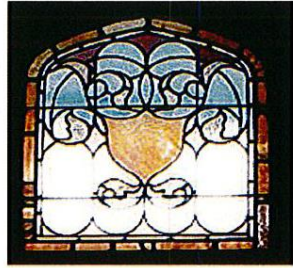
Noon – 1:30 pm Community Good Friday Service – hosted at MTMUMC, sponsored by the Milford Clergy Association

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer and meditation

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service - Sanctuary



SANCTUARY WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT



Our beautiful stained glass windows are in the process of being restored. This news was announced on February 7 and printed in the notices of February 14 and 21 as well as the March "Beacon." With increased visitors today through Easter, we ask

our congregation to help share this information about the project and to direct questions to those working directly with the project.

The congregation's strong support of our annual budget over the last several years has allowed our Board of Trustees to begin the work. It has been contemplated since at least 2011 and was unanimously approved on February 4, 2016. Doing the project now has allowed us to sign contracts for 2011 price. Eight of ten windows need restoration. The four windows now removed are undergoing restoration. We expect their return sometime in May. Four more will be restored in 2017. The "bowing" will be corrected and the top louvres will be repaired so that the top portion of the windows may be opened for ventilation. This is a deferred maintenance item and our inability to repair them before now has hastened the window deterioration.

The openings created by the removals are covered with ¼" mahogany luan caulked to insure no water leakage. Our contractor is Stained Glass Resources, Inc. of Hampden, Massachusetts. Worship will continue as usual during the restoration period.

Mr. Chris Paton is the project manager. You may direct any inquiries to him at 203.874.9390, Ms. Rachel Merva, Trustee President, at 203.641.5088, or any member of the Board of Trustees.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted today by Membership and Evangelism and next Sunday by the Gay/Straight Alliance committee.

THE LAST SUNDAY SOUP SALE by our United Methodist Women is held during Fellowship Time today with proceeds supporting their mission work. Choices are chicken noodle, potato leek, fiesta surprise, corn chowder, cabbage kielbasa, and tomato basil.

NAME TAGS ORDERED LAST WEEK are in the foyer by the Broad Street church entrance. **If you do not have a name tag**, please sign the clipboard at the serving station at Fellowship Time. **Please return name tags to the baskets in the foyer or the one in Dodd Hall.** Thanks to Shelly Lapadula and Sue Pitre for taking leadership to maintain this welcoming ministry.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE IS TODAY, graciously extended by our florist. Use the enclosed form and leave in the offering or at the church office today.

TRASH AND TREASURES Easter decorations are available for sale in Dodd Hall. 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!

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS are due to Council Secretary Joanne Platt by tomorrow, March 14. Please submit your report on time. The Council meets this Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the Dodd Hall alcove. Please submit agenda items, also by tomorrow, to Council Chair Shelly Lapadula at m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com or Pastor Brian at brian.bodt@yahoo.com.

TAIZÉ WORSHIP, a contemplative 30 minute experience of music, scripture and prayer, is offered in the sanctuary at noon on each Wednesday during Lent and on the third Thursday of each month at 8:30 p.m., which is this Thursday, March 17th at 8:30 p.m.

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

NEXT SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION, PALM SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for the children occurs during the Sunday School hour.
10:00 a.m. Luke's story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (19:28-40) and our children's joyful Palm Sunday procession begins this festal service.

"Hosanna!" is the Adult Choir's festive anthem. The reading of Philippians 2:5-11 and hymns on that theme turn us to the cross and a dramatic reading and musical presentation of the passion from Luke, concluding with the anthem "At the Foot of the Cross." After worship events include blood pressure screenings (sanctuary), Diabetes Alert screening (Dodd Hall), Spring Equinox Drum Circle (Wesley Center, 1st Floor) and Visitation Ministry (Wesley Center, Egan Room).

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MINISTRY INVITATIONS

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.

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.

LAURALTON HALL invites all 7th grade girls to spend a day as a shadow student March 14 - April 29. For further information, call the Admissions Office at 203-877-2786 ext. 144.

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

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.

Thursday, March 31: *United Methodist Women (UMW) potluck and "baby" shower*, 6:30 p.m. All women of the church are members of the UMW and invited to attend. See insert.

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. RSVP TO Eileen Potkay at 203.809.0188 or eileenmary68@aol.com.

Saturday, April 2: Summerfield United Methodist Men will sponsor a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner Fundraiser on April 2 from 4:00p.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$10 per person. Free parking in the church parking lot. The church is located at the corner of Ridgefield and Clermont Avenues in Bridgeport, one block south of Boston Avenue.

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. 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 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 March 6th:

Total worship attendance all services: 216; March 6th: 189; March 7th: 10; March 9th: 17; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for March 6th: \$13,086.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$1,781.33; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$801.34; Engaged in Small Groups: 142 (Office Volunteers: 11; Sunday School: 36; Confirmation: 14; Trash & Treasures: 6; UMW: 8; Lenten study, Mar. 8: 20; Mar. 9: 17; Praisemaker's: 2; Bell Choir: 10; Adult Choir: 16; Total persons received on profession of faith: 2; 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.