

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*

INFORMAL HYMN SINGING (9:45 a.m.)

PRELUDE “Be Thou My Vision” Traditional Irish Melody

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 55:6-7

Leader: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

People: *Let us return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on us;
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

All: *Let us worship God.*

*HYMN #297

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

St. Christopher

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) “A Prayer of St. Patrick”

Ireland, 5th cent.

*Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us,
Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us,
Christ on our right, Christ on our left
Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise,
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of us,
Christ in every eye that sees us,
Christ in every ear that hears us.
Salvation is of the Lord,
Salvation is of the Christ,
May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cecil Kerr, Northern Ireland, 20th century

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way of peace. Come into the brokenness of our lives and our land with your healing love. Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which separate us. Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear, and bind us together in that unity which you share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE PSALTER

Psalm 121

Hymnal p.844, R.1

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1-4a

Bible p.9

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Bible p.968

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #500

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Morecambe

THE SERMON

“Things I Love about Lent”

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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory:

“Londonderry Air”

Irish Folk Song

Presentation:

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #356

“Pues Si Vivimos”

Somos del Senor

(“When We Are Living”)

*THE BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*seated*) “Irish Blessing”

Old Gaelic blessing

(Barbara Ann Welker, soloist)

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

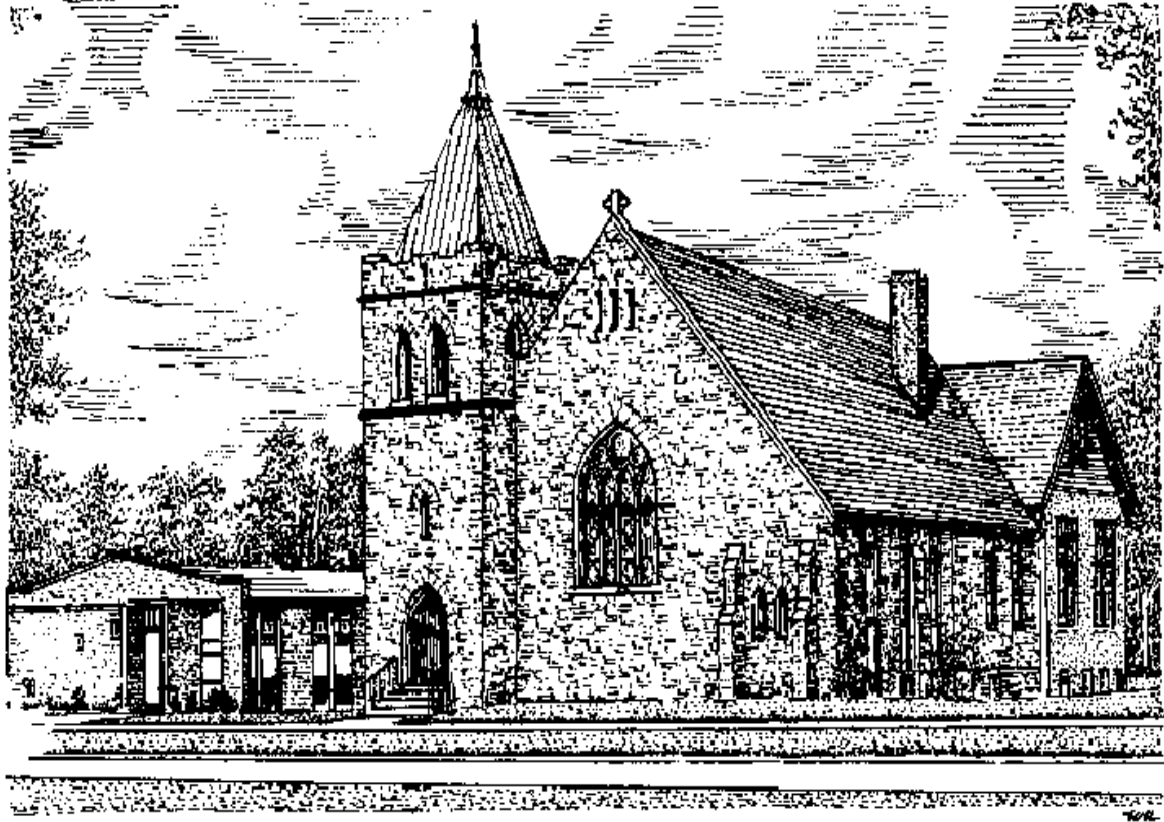
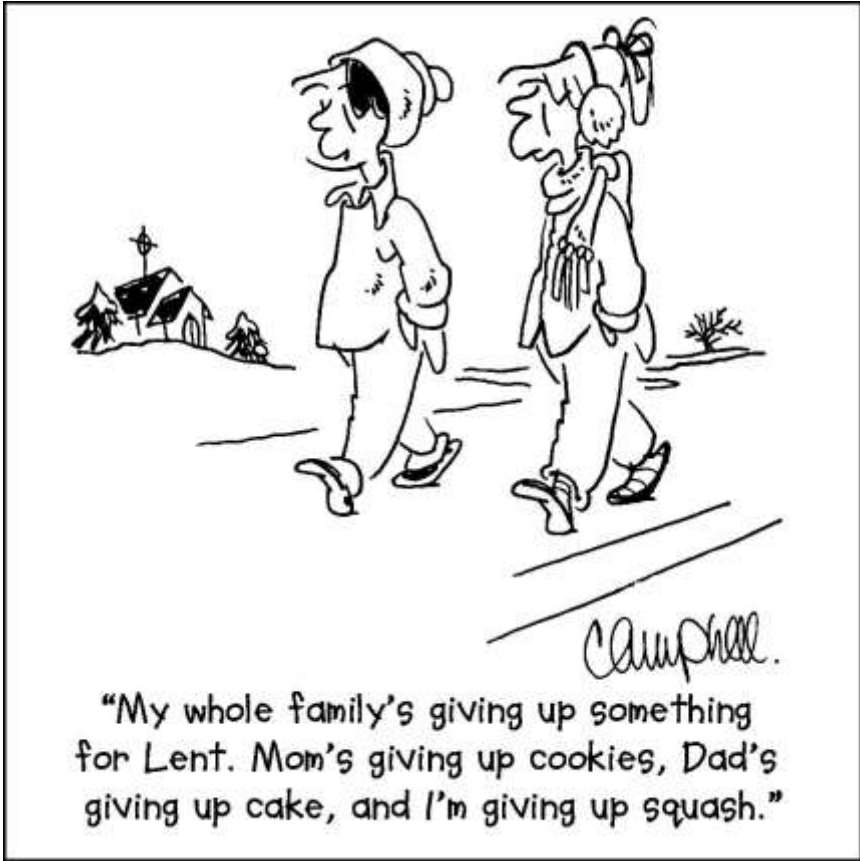
*POSTLUDE

“The Wearing of the Green”

18th Century Irish Folk Song

(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: 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 II
March 16, 2014

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, March 16 LENT II 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Fasting Covenant Group-Wesley Center
9:45 a.m. Informal Hymn singing - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall
11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure screenings-Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. Covenant of Conscience Cottage meeting – Doyle’s

Monday, March 17 6:45 p.m. “The Way” Adult Study – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel
7:00 p.m. Milford Historical Society Meeting – Dodd Hall

Tuesday, March 18 10:00 a.m. Covenant of Conscience Cottage meeting – Lib. or Sanct.
5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. “Parables and Passion” Adult Study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, March 19 10:00 a.m. “Parables and Passion” Adult Study – Gunn Library
5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20
Saturday, March 22

Sunday, March 23 LENT III 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
8:30 and 9:00 a.m. Fasting Covenant Group-Wesley Center
10:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall
11:15 a.m. Caring Ministries Meeting – 1st floor, Wesley Center
4:15 p.m. MYF Middle School Only 6-8th graders-church parking lot

Monday, March 24 6:45 p.m. “The Way” Adult Study – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel

Tuesday, March 25 5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. “Parables and Passion” Adult Study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, March 26 10:00 a.m. Incubator Training – Egan room, Wesley Center
10:00 a.m. “Parables and Passion” Adult Study – Gunn Library
2:30 p.m. Golden Hill Community Supper - Bridgeport
5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

Thursday, March 27 5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Long Range Planning Committee – Egan Room

Friday, March 28 6:30 p.m. “Shrek the Musical”- meet in the church parking lot

Saturday, March 29 10:00 a.m. . Covenant of Conscience Cottage meeting-at Darak’s home
21 Kay Street, Milford
1:45 p.m. “The Way” Adult Study – Gunn Library

Grace Notes
March 16, 2014

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

We are pleased to have two guest musicians gracing today’s worship. Carol Osgood, no stranger to our organ console, is leading us for the vacationing Rick Riccardi. Rick and the Adult Choir return next Sunday. Barbara Ann Welker, our benediction soloist, is Tom Griggs’ fiancé and sings the “Irish Blessing” on this day before St. Patrick’s Day. Barbara Ann will be joining our church on March 30th. Please extend a warm welcome to them both.

An historic “just resolution” was achieved in the case of Dr. Thomas Ogletree, retired Dean of Yale Divinity School, as announced last Monday. You may read the details of the resolution at www.nyac.com/newsdetail/96157 or obtain a copy of that report in the rear of the church. It represents a step forward in our ability to discuss different points of view regarding human sexuality, a pastor’s ability to offer the rituals of the Church without discrimination, and a pastor’s freedom to extend pastoral care. You are invited to attend this afternoon’s 2 p.m. cottage meeting at the Doyle’s home, 14 Andover Drive, Milford, to learn more about this and Mary Taylor Memorial Church’s conversation about signing the Covenant of Conscience.

Today is a relatively quiet Sunday in the life of our church. However, please see the “Next Sunday” article regarding the United Methodist Women Soup Sale and the “Clean Water Project” of the United Methodist Committee on Relief being championed by our Girl Scouts. Thank, too, for all who contributed to the recent Methodist Youth Fellowship “Rock-a-Thon,” raising \$1,030 for missions. What a fine church! What a mighty God we serve!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck		

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Nick Bettencourt

Greeters – Vi Burke and Joan Zauner

Liturgist – Kayleigh Patterson

Acolytes – Elizabeth Pierce and Josh Carr

Cross Bearer – Anna Pierce

Bible Bearer – Carolyn Hollyday

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Dodd Hall and Kayleigh Patterson at the Narthex door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of my grandmother, Jeanette Maloney Blakeslee, given by Kelly O'Hara. Happy St. Patrick's Day! and given by Maureen Groves to thank God for good outcomes and her two helping angels.

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 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. 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.

TODAY'S LITURGY is from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

SERMON COPIES from last Sunday are available in the rear of the church. Previous messages are available there and on-line: www.mtm-umc.org.

CHURCH INFORMATION is available in the racks in back of the church.

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 older children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. If Wesley Center is locked, call Mary Lou at 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are *due by noon each Wednesday* for the following Sunday bulletin.

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.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: **Wet and dry cat food is desperately needed for seniors with pets.** Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: Orders are taken at any time for Altar Flowers OR "In Lieu of Flowers" to support missions (UMCOR, UM Army and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). **A donation in lieu of altar flowers is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar.* Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net or Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460

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 Vink** can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com. Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations.

"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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR MARCH 9:

Total worship attendance all services: 168 (Mar. 9, 161; Healing and Wholeness, Mar. 10, 7;)
Total Offering Ash Wednesday \$624.00; Total Offering Mar. 9: \$4,744.18 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0 ; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 141 (Sunday School: 36; Covenant of Conscience discussion, March 6: 10; Long Range Planning 6; MYF event, 15; Trustees, 7; UMW 22; Missions: 4; Disciple 1: 8; Confirmation: 9; Adult Bible Study Tuesday: 5; Adult Bible Study Wednesday: 15; Office volunteers: 4; No choir rehearsal last week (Ash Wed.) 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) with your attendance.*



NEXT SUNDAY

LENT III – “Gatorade for the Soul” is based on Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42. A Mission Minute will feature the “Clean Water Project” of the U.M. Committee on Relief. Healing anointing concludes worship. A Soup Sale and new member class follows.

SOUP SALE, original creations by our own MTMUMC members, follows worship in Dodd Hall: split pea with ham, broccoli cheese and veggie bean with sausage. More soups on March 30th. First come, first served.

MYF EVENT - MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY: meet in church parking lot at 4:15 p.m. (only 6th – 8th graders). We will travel to Huntington U.M. Church for a cluster event with other local UM churches. A 5 p.m. opening with introductions/games until will be followed by a magic show from 5:30-6:30. Pizza from 6:30-7 pm, then we will carpool back to the church parking lot for arrival at 7:30. The magician is Jim Lang, a member of the Nichols UMC. His website is: www.wizardjim.com. Please contact Rachel Merva, rmerva@optonline.net for further information.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God’s presence with us. Please complete a red visitor’s card (in the pew racks) and wear the “Visitor” name tag to help us greet you warmly. Our Ambassadors will look for you!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall. Education Committee (Sunday School leaders) hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are the Staff Parish Relations Committee.

“FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY” INVITATION CARDS are available today. Friends and Family Sunday is March 30th. I am pleased to say that one of our attendees will be our District Superintendent, the Rev. Kenneth Kieffer. See Michelle Craig or the table in Dodd Hall; and the detailed notice in “Coming Soon.”

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS follow worship in the sanctuary, given today by Karyn Doherty, R.N.

NEW MEMBER CLASS follows worship, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Pastor’s study. Our next new member class will convene in May. If you are interested in becoming a member please let Pastor Brian know at brian.bodt@yahoo.com or 203.874.1982, ext. 11.

A **“COVENANT OF CONSCIENCE” DISCUSSION** will be held this afternoon at 2 p.m. at the home of **Eileen and David Doyle, 14 Andover Drive, Milford**. This discussion process was unanimously endorsed by the Feb. 20th Church Council meeting. Copies of the Covenant and “Frequently Asked Questions” are available at the Table in Dodd Hall, where you may sign up to attend one of the conversations in the homes of MTMUMC members. Groups are generally limited to 15-20 attendees. Individuals who desire to sign the Covenant may do so at the table as well or at www.mindny.org. For more information contact Marcia Winter at mcbwinter@att.net or 203.878.0814. Other planned conversations include this Tuesday, March 18th, 10 a.m. at the church (Library or sanctuary) and Saturday, March 29th, 10 a.m. at the Darak’s home, 21 Kay Avenue, Milford

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

THE MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets tomorrow, 7 p.m. in our Dodd Hall with a presentation on Connecticut’s Civil War “Irish Regiment.” All welcome.

ADULT LENTEN STUDY – “The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus,” a six session study Adam Hamilton, explores the life and ministry of Jesus: from Jesus’ baptism, the temptations, the people he loved, and the healing he brought, to the parables he taught and the enemies that he made. Sessions continue Monday evenings at 6:45 pm and Saturday afternoon at 1:45pm in the Gunn Library, Wesley Education Center. Please let Kelly know of your interest by calling 203.283.4676 or by email at yankee89@optonline.net.

ADULT LENTEN STUDY – “Parables and Passion,” a six session Lenten study by the Rev. John Indermark, will examine the parables of Jesus in light of his betrayal and death on the cross, applying the truths and significance of the parables to our daily life. Pastor Hal Vink will teach this in two weekly sessions: **Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10 a.m., from March 11/12 – April 15/16** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Last call for new attendees: vinkhaljane@yahoo.com or 203.878.8977.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets **this Thursday, March 20th, 7 p.m.** in the Dodd Hall alcove. Committee reports are due to Paul Downing (paul.downing@snet.net) by the end of tomorrow. Action items for the Council agenda are due on the same deadline to Chair Shelly Lapadula (m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com) or Pastor Brian Bodt (brian.bodt@yahoo.com). Submitted reports and an agenda will be e-mailed Tuesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING is **Saturday March 22 at 9 a.m.** in the Sunday School office. We will be discussing the ideas from our February 19 meeting as well as solidifying our plans for Palm Sunday.

COMING SOON

OUR NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH will be **Wed., March 26th, 2:30 – 5 p.m.** Please contact Maryanne Meehan Jordan to assist: maryannej@charter.net or 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home). We prepare the meal for 100+ people. Golden Hill is about 20 minutes away, right off I-95.

MTMUMC COMMUNITY SUPPER: will be **Thursday, March 27th, any portion of 2 – 6:30 p.m.** If you can help, please contact Debbie Dubien at 203.877.4959.

“FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY” is **Sunday, March 30th**. Its purpose is to invite friends, neighbors and family who may not have a church home to worship with us. We are not responsible to “get them here” but simply to extend an invitation. Special elements during and after worship will especially make visitors feel welcome. Business card-sized invitation cards with a simple message and basic church information are available from the Dodd Hall table to give to those you invite. Please plan to be in worship on March 30th and to extend an invitation to others to experience God’s love, warmth and good news in Jesus Christ.

OUR NEXT LONG-RANGE PLANNING COTTAGE MEETING will be **Sunday, March 30th, 4 p.m.** at the home of Sandy and Brech Morgan, 39 Orland Street, Milford. Please reserve your place to discuss our church’s future ministry dreams with them at sgmorgan@aol.com or 203.874.4374.

ADDITIONAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PALM SUNDAY RECITERS WANTED: We will again, as part of our Palm Sunday (April 13) worship, present a dramatic reading of the Passion narrative. If you are interested in being part of the team that memorizes and presents the story of Jesus’ sacrificial love, please see me immediately. ***Pastor Brian***

ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP: Parents are welcome to participate in our Adult Discussion Group which meets every week during Sunday School hours in Wesley Center, 2nd floor. The group uses a weekly study guide to direct their meeting. This is a great opportunity to share time and reflections with other parents while your children participate in Sunday School.

NEW ACOLYTE ROBES have been purchased to replace the current robes, worn with time and difficult to repair. We have two donors and need four more at \$100 each to underwrite this expense. If you are interested in so doing, please contact Pastor Brian.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION SERVICES are held at the Milford Senior Citizen Center, 9 Jepson Drive, by scheduling an appointment: 203.736.5420, ext. 206.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO SERVE AS AN ACOLYTE, CROSS-BEARER OR BIBLE BEARER? Contact Noel Fino at 203.877.3005.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ SCRIPTURE IN 2014? Contact Priscilla James at 203.874.2742 or pcjames60@gmail.com.

CHAIRS FOR SALE: we have 26 chairs for sale at \$10 each that are being stored in Jesse Lee Hall. Please see me today or email me if you are interested in purchasing: rmerva@optonline.net Thanks. ***Rachel Merva, Trustee Vice-President***

NEW CRIB, CHANGING TABLE AND MATTRESS: Bill Katt has this available for a young family who might be able to use it. billkatt@sbcglobal.net or 203.376.9176

LAURALTON HALL invites 7th grade girls to spend a day as a shadow student **March 19 - April 30.** For more information call the Admissions Office at 203-877-2786 ext. 144.