

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 “There Is A Fountain” R. Hughes

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Bless His Holy Name”

*CALL TO WORSHIP U.M. Service of Healing I

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 from the pit and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

People: *God satisfies us with good as long as we live so that our youth is renewed like the eagle’s.*

*HYMN #178 “Hope of the World” Vicar

THE COLLECT (*seated, unison*) U.M. Service of Healing I
Almighty and everlasting God, who can banish all affliction both of soul and of body, show forth your power upon those in need, that by your mercy they may be restored to serve you afresh in holiness of living, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that it is hard to manage our own pain and suffering. It is even harder to enter the pain and suffering of others. We confess that, at times, we have spoken half-truths to keep others’ suffering at a distance. As we hear your Gospel today, may the story of the man born blind open our eyes to the needs of others so that, repenting of our indifference, we, too, may have our sight restored and be healed. We pray this in the name of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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WOMEN’S HISTORY MOMENT Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

THE PSALTER Psalm 23 Hymnal #137, R.1

*THE GOSPEL John 9:1-41 Bible p.976

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #60 “I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath” Old 113th

THE SERMON “True Vision” Dr. Bodt
(The script for “True Vision” is an original composition of the pastor.)

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, People: *Hear our prayer.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

PRAYER RESPONSE “This Is My Song” Hymnal #437, vs. 3

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth’s kingdoms:

Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done.

Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one. O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

*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.)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT Cathy Cono

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, *including the special offering for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, formerly One Great Hour of Sharing*

Offertory Anthem: “I Surrender All” arr. by V. Johnson
(The Adult Choir)

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #265 “O Christ, the Healer” Tune: Old 100th (Hymnal #95)
(Let the anointers come forward during the hymn.)

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

On the last Sunday of each month all are invited to come forward to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles as we sing hymns #263, 581, 452 and 453. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church practice expresses God’s love as a mysterious, caring expression of Christ’s promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

*CLOSING HYMN #451 “Be Thou My Vision” Slane

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Thank You, Lord” Hymnal #84

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you, Lord.

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

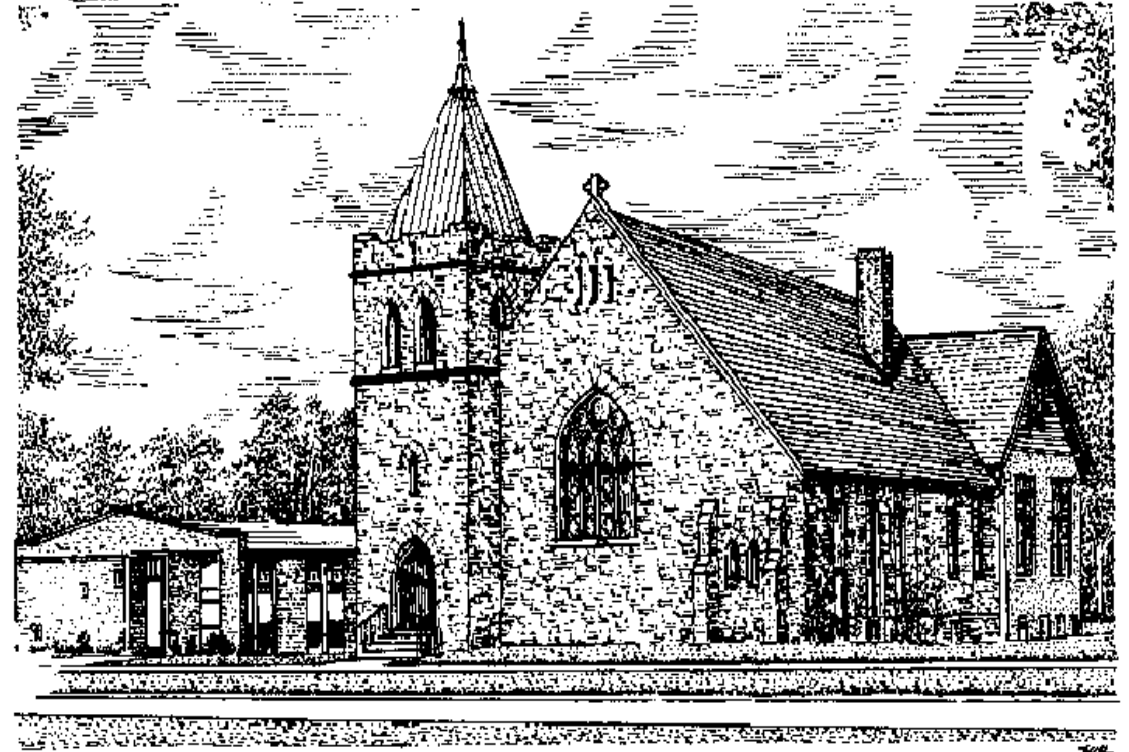
*POSTLUDE

“Voluntary on ‘Old 113th’”

G. Martin

(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: 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.*

**GAUDETE
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
U.M.C.O.R. SUNDAY
March 26, 2017**

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, March 26</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
<i>Laetare/One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Visitation Ministry – Egan Room, Wesley Ctr, 2nd Floor</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Fair on the Green meeting – Wesley Center, 1st floor</i>
	<i>Noon</i>	<i>New member preparatory session #2 – Pastor’s study</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
		<i>NO Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting</i>
<i>Monday, March 27</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office volunteers – Egan Room (April “Beacon” mailing)</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 28</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Men’s Club meeting – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 29</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>6:40/7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Friday, March 31</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, April 1</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>United Methodist Women General meeting – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Sunday, April 2</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friends and Family Sunday</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship/Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>Noon</i>	<i>New member preparatory session #3 – Pastor’s study</i>
	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF meeting – Easter service planning- Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, April 3</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 4</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 5</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>“Half-Truths” study – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>6:40/7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, April 6</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Missions Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, April 7</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, April 8</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>CPR Class – Dodd Hall – Register with Mary Lou at 203.874.1982, ext. 110 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net</i>

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 26, 2017

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

My treatment of today’s Gospel in the script entitled “True Vision” is something I wrote almost 30 years ago to the day. With a few small changes for clarity, it is the script I first presented in Glendale, Queens on March 29, 1987. While I have used it other places, this is my first rewriting. I hope you like it.

I also hope it provokes some thinking about how we treat the “other:” that person who is different. Whether the difference is found in a handicapping condition, in gender identity, in skin color or culture, in wealth or lack thereof, in career, in sexual orientation, in political affiliation, in faith background, in country of origin: whatever the difference, I hope we will see again that such differences are ways that the glory of God might be revealed.

Next Sunday is “Friends and Family Sunday.” I hope you have invited at least one person to join us in worship and for the light fellowship meal following. Share the joy of your faith community with a friend or neighbor. Whether they attend or not is up to them, but the invitation is up to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Pastor

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O’Hara

Greeters – Carol Frantz and Rich Prigge

Liturgist – Christine McGregor

Acolytes – Natalie Rendon and Addyson Perregaux

Cross Bearer – Shannon Thompson

Bible Bearer – Mary Repetsky

Intercessor – Mark Platt

Healing Anointers – Barbara Ann Griggs, Priscilla James, Pastors Hal Vink and Dani Levine.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of true love, given by Stacey Cronk.

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 United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). The Prayer of Confession was written by Pastor Brian.

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

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR March 19:

Total worship attendance all services: 171; Mar. 19th: 150; GEUMC, cancelled; Mar. 20th: Healing and Wholeness worship: 9; Taize Service Mar. 22: 12; Total Offerings for March 19th : \$5,469.05; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence 0; Engaged in Small Groups: 126; Sunday School: 33; Methodist Youth Fellowship: 8; Confirmation class: 7; Adult Bible Study Tues: 16; Wed: 16; Trash & Treasures: 8; Bell Choir Mar. 15: 8; Mar.22.cancelled: Adult Choir Mar 15: 17; Mar. 22: 11; 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.



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.

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 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. **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 Missions Committee. Next Sunday's hosts will be Membership and Evangelism.

"FAIR ON THE GREEN" COMMITTEE meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center, 1st Floor.

VISITATION MINISTRY meets at 11:30 a.m. in the Egan Room, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS will continue today at noon in the pastor's study, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. The remaining preparatory session will be held at noon on April 2. New members will be received on Palm Sunday, April 9. You may audit these sessions without a commitment to join. Please speak with Pastor Brian this morning!

TRAIN THE TRAINER AND ACCOMPANIMENT TRAINING is today, March 26 from 3-5 p.m. It equips volunteers to accompany people to immigration hearings. Training will be held at Spring Glen Church, 1825 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT. If interested, please contact Christine McGregor at 203-932-0792 or cjmcgregor50@hotmail.com

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WILL NOT MEET TODAY.

"INTRODUCTION THE NEW TESTAMENT" BOOKS are available at \$10 each from Pastor Brian. This is our next adult Bible study, now starting April 18/19 and continuing through May 23/24. This six-week series follows a 7 p.m. Tuesday/noon Wednesday format. Attendees choose one or the other but with the opportunity to alternate days if needed. This is the 3rd of a three-part series on "Exploring the Bible." **You need not have taken the first two studies to take this one.** To register please contact Mary Lou Kampert in the church office at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 110.

EASTER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER and beautiful Easter decorations are right in Dodd Hall offered by **Trash and Treasures.** What a great way to shop easily, early and economically! Our items will be offered today, April 2 and April 9. Shop early to get the best deals! Your donations are always welcome; bring them after worship on Sundays or almost every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until noon or later. Spring and summer clothing are accepted now, save your winter items for the August Oyster Festival Sale. We no longer need paper or plastic bags. Call Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952, before you bring in large items. Thank you for your continued support.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE will be next Sunday, April 2nd. This is a **firm deadline** to obtain our flowers in time for Easter. See enclosed flier.

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.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet tomorrow, 9 a.m. in the Egan Room to prepare the April “Beacon” for mailing.

THE MEN’S CLUB will have a **Fellowship Night** this Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. **All men of the church are invited** and corned beef and cabbage will be served. Please reserve your place (so we have adequate food) by contacting Steve Wasko (203.997.2213) or John Leum (203.988.0148).

TAIZE (“TAY-ZAY”) WORSHIP continues Wednesday at Noon during Lent. It 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 will be Pastor Brian.

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).

SOCKS FOR SENIORS UPDATE: I would like to thank you to ALL that donated to "Socks for Seniors". We collected 140 pairs! We were able to give socks to the Beth El Center and two local Nursing Homes. Great job and much appreciation to my Church family for supporting our Annual sock drive.

Eileen M. Potkay LPN

Mary Taylor Parish Health & Wellness Committee Member

NEXT SUNDAY, April 2nd

LENT V/”FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY” – We encourage everyone to invite friends and family to join them in worship. **We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (Setting C).** The message “Spoiler Alert” will be based on Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45 with Psalm 130 and Romans 8:6-11. A fellowship meal will follow worship, hosted by Membership and Evangelism. Easter items will be offered for sale by Trash and Treasures.

CPR TRAINING EVENT REGISTRATION DEADLINE is next Sunday, April 2. The training is for adult only (not infant) CPR and is free (normally valued at \$75+). Our trainer is Bill Katt, a former member and friend of MTMUMC. Training 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.**

SAVE THE DATES

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.

The METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will be hosting church-wide blanket making on April 9th from 4-5:30 pm in Dodd Hall. All ages and skill levels welcome! See Pastor Dani for details.

