

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 “Adoration” R. Koury

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Halle, Halle, Halleluja”

*CALL TO WORSHIP John 20:19, 22-23, 27; Revelation 1:8, 5:13

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples on the evening of the Resurrection,

People: **“Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”**

Leader: To Thomas, struggling with faith, Jesus declared,

People: **“Do not doubt but believe.”**

Leader: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

People: ***Blessing and honor and glory and might be unto the Lamb!***

*HYMN #304 “Easter People, Raise Your Voices” Regent Square

THE COLLECT (*unison*) The Book of Common Prayer, 1928, ed.

Almighty God, who has given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same Son who has saved us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNG CONFESSION (*sung by all*) The Faith We Sing, #2138

***We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
we have wasted earth’s resources; want and suffering we’ve ignored;
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!***

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

SUNG WORDS OF ASSURANCE (*sung by all*) U.M. Hymnal #303, vs. 2

***Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own “All hail!” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.***

THE EPISTLE I Peter 1:3-9 Bible p.1103

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

HYMN #303 (*seated*) “The Day of Resurrection” Lancashire

*THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31 Bible p. 989

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON “A Healthy Uncertainty” The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink

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.***

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Alleluia” D. Lantz

(*The Adult Choir*)

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #308 “Thine Be the Glory” Judas Maccabeus

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

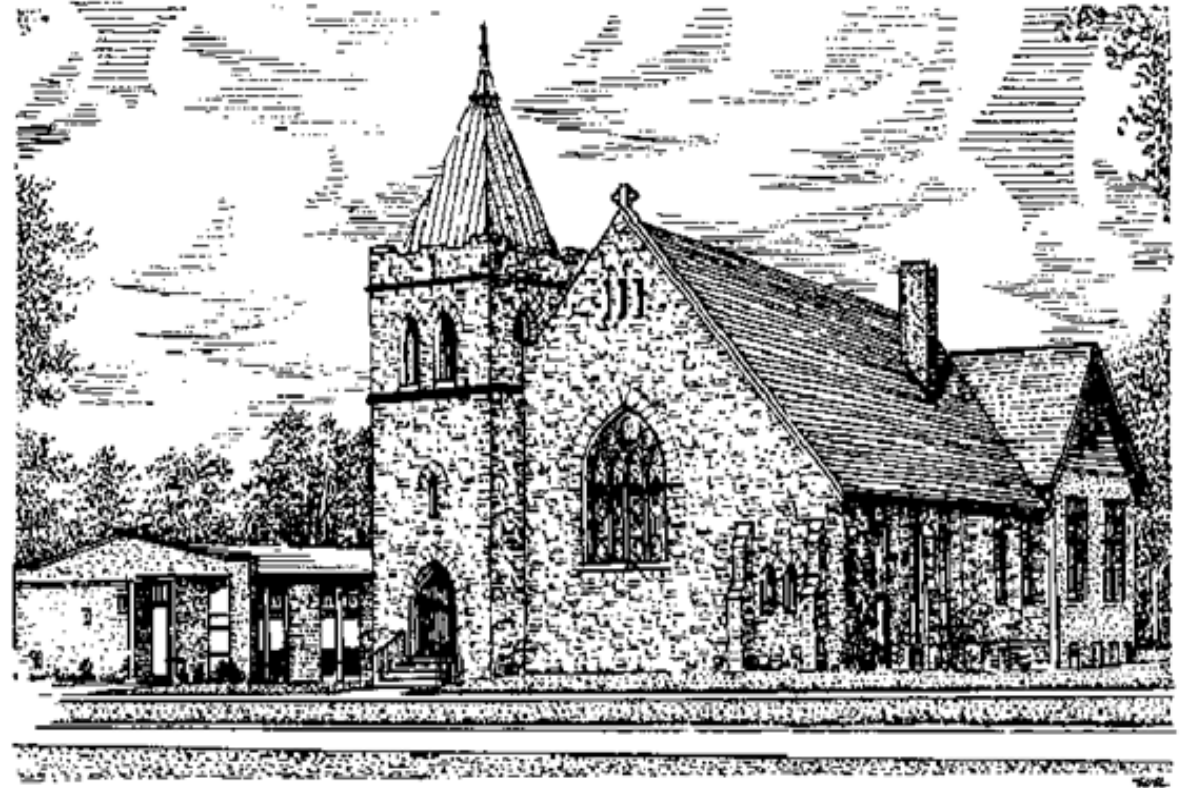
***“Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom.”***

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

POSTLUDE “Thine Is the Glory” B. Glyncannon

(*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.***

**EASTER II
April 23, 2017**

<i>Sunday, April 23</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Family Worship – Chapel</i>
	10:00a.m.	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time-Dodd Hall</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Blood Pressure Screenings by Carol Galloway - Sanctuary</i>
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Private Party – Dodd Hall – Mary Lou Hastings</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>MYF – Billiards and dinner- Paul Downing contact</i>
<i>Monday, April 24</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 25</i>	2:30 p.m.	<i>Milford Clergy Assn, UCC, Devon (pastor)</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 26</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Beacon Volunteers – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	Noon	<i>Taize service - Sanctuary</i>
	6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, April 27</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:45 p.m.	<i>Taize service – Sanctuary</i>
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, April 28</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, April 29</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Tres Dias Men’s Reunion Group - Chapel</i>
	4 - 6 p.m.	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC music rehearsal - Chapel</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Open Mic Café hosted by MYF – Dodd Hall – all are welcomed</i>
<i>Sunday, April 30</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Play rehearsal</i>
	10:00a.m.	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time-Dodd Hall</i>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Healthcare Decision Day Conversation/Luncheon-Dodd Hall</i>
	2:00 p.m.	<i>District Conference – 1st UMC, 15 Pleasant St., Meriden</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>MYF meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, May 1</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, May 2</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 3</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	2:30 p.m.	<i>Golden Hill Community Supper – Bridgeport</i>
	6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:45 p.m.	<i>Pastor-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s office</i>
<i>Thursday, May 4</i>	1:00 p.m.	<i>Bereavement Group-St. Mary’s Church Hall – Gulf St.</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Missions Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, May 5</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, May 6</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Tres Dias Men’s Reunion Group - Chapel</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
April 23, 2017*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Today is the 49th birthday of The United Methodist Church.

“But pastor,” wail years of Confirmation students, “we thought the Methodists started with Rev. John Wesley in the mid-1700’s.” “But pastor,” wail this year’s students, “wasn’t John Street Church that we visited in March, founded in 1766? Isn’t it the oldest continuous church in American Methodism?” Of course, both are correct.

Still, on April 23, 1968, The United Methodist Church was born of a union of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church. The latter were the descendants of German-speaking American Methodists who set up separate church organizations in the early 1800’s, in part to preserve German language and culture. At the 1968 Uniting Conference the leaders prayed “Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church.”

Whether the cost of union is too high in our day is a matter yet to be determined. As we did to Black Methodists for nearly 200 years—and current events make it clear that the struggle goes on—so today we do to lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual people. We discriminate, individually and organizationally. We enact rules to denigrate. We erect barriers to exclude.

This local congregation has been a leader in challenging those policies and in answering to a higher authority. That tradition will continue as your prayers support those of us attending the Judicial Council meeting this Tuesday in Newark, N.J. Pray that church law will not be a cover for hate. Pray that hardened hearts will be opened. Pray with St. Paul that “all are one in Jesus Christ” (Galatians 3:28) And that “all” means “all.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher –Dennis Darak

Greeters: Premila and Hector Arnold

Acolyte – Bryan Thompson

Liturgist: Barbara Ann Griggs

Cross Bearer – Shannon Thompson

Bible Bearer- Julia Shamansky

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in honor of Earth Day – praise God for the beauty of the earth, given by Sandy Morgan.

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.

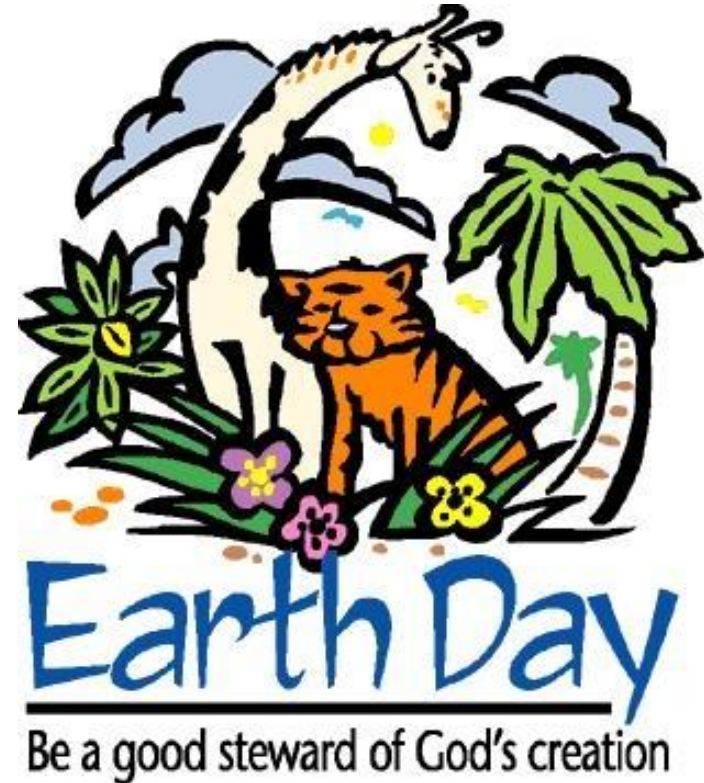
PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. **Please return them completed to an usher or to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them on the opening hymn.** Our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession 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 either the side aisle to your left or by the rear (Broad Street) doors. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar) and can be accessed either way. **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the Broad Street doors if weather and mobility allows.

TODAY’S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The Faith We Sing (2000).

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



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 April 30th and May 28th.**

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 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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR April 16:

Total worship attendance all services: 765; Easter Day, Apr.16: 77 (7 am), 115 (8:30 am) 234 (10 am); GEUMC, 55; Apr. 17: Healing and Wholeness worship:10; Maundy Thursday, April 13: 113; Good Friday Community, April 14: 83; Good Friday, 7:30 p.m.: 78. Donation to Beth-El Center: \$170.00; Total Offerings for Lenten services: \$1,436.00; Offerings for Easter services: \$8,845.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$3,134.67; Engaged in Small Groups: 83; No Sunday School or Methodist Youth Fellowship; Trash and Treasures: 9; Apr.12 Bell Choir: 10; Adult Choir: 16; Praisemakers: 2; Bible Study, April 18: 10; Bible Study, April 19: 15; April 19: Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 11; Office Volunteers: 3. 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.

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted in Dodd Hall by the Healing and Wholeness Committee. Next Sunday's hosts will be the United Methodist Women A-M.

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.

DENTAL SUPPLY DRIVE continues throughout April to ship needed dental supplies to Kids First Dental Services of Kentucky, part of our partnership with Friends of Appalachia (www.friendsofappalachia.org). We are collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and dental floss. Please leave them in the box in Dodd Hall, with our thanks. *Missions Committee*

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. HORACE A. HOUGH, new pastor of First Baptist Church, Milford, **today, April 23, 4 p.m.** at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 70 West River Street, Milford. All welcome. More at www.firstbaptistmilford.com.

THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will have an off-site activity this week- Billiards and Pizza. The MYF will be traveling to Yale Billiards (950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT), a family-friendly, large pool hall. We will play pool for 2 hours, and then have pizza afterward. We will leave the church parking lot at 2 p.m. (permission slips required- and will be available) or we will meet at Yale Billiards at 2:30 p.m. and return to the church by 6:30 p.m. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend! Cost for the event is \$10 per person (Scholarships available). Contact Paul Downing or Pastor Dani for information.

THIS WEEK

“**MIND**” **WITNESS AT JUDICIAL COUNCIL:** The Judicial Council, the “Supreme Court” of the United Methodist Church, will meet in Newark, New Jersey at the Hilton at Newark Penn Station, 1048 Raymond Blvd., Newark, NJ 07102 on **Tuesday, April 25 from 9 am to noon** to make declarations of church law on issues related to human sexuality and ordination. “Methodists in New Directions” (MIND) will have a witness there and invites all to join them. Pastor Brian Bodt and Eileen and David Doyle will be attending. Speak with them for more information.

“**ELDER ABUSE: RECOGNIZING, PREVENTING AND RESPONDING**” **Saturday, April 29, 9 am – 1 p.m.** at Memorial UMC, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY. Experts with experience in areas of elder abuse will share wisdom through panel discussion with plenty of time for questions and answers. Bring a sandwich; drinks and desserts provided. Register by sending name, address, e-mail address and church name to the Rev. Jim Stinson, 91C Penny Meadow Lane, Stratford, CT 06614 or e-mail Rev. Stinson at jstinson4242@aol.com.

FIRST-EVER OPEN MIC CAFÉ, **Saturday, April 29, 6:30 – 9 p.m.**, Dodd Hall. The Methodist Youth Fellowship will host an Open Mic Night. Come and share your talents and skills with the congregation. This is open to all ages and skill levels. Sign-ups for acts will be at the door. Come for a relaxed night featuring fun, laughter and fellowship! Stay tuned for more information.

NEXT SUNDAY, April 30th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The message “The Date on the Label” is based on I Peter 1:17-23 with other possible readings Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; and Luke 24:13-35. Healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymns. After worship the Caring Ministries team will meet in the Wesley Center, 1st Floor. There will also be a seminar “Decision Day for Health Care,” coordinated by Sheryl Hollyday for the Parish Health and Wellness team.

“**DECISION DAY FOR HEALTH CARE**” will be next Sunday, April 30, 11 a.m. in Dodd Hall following morning worship. This 60 minute presentation and discussion will focus on “Having the Conversation” and why it is important to discuss your values and wishes about your life and death with those who will handle these matters when you cannot. Sheryl Hollyday, FNP-BC, APRN, is a palliative care professional. **A light luncheon will be served.** **Please reserve your attendance** not later than Monday, April 24 with Mary Lou Kampert at 203.874.1982, ext. 110 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE, Sunday, April 30, 2- 4 p.m. First U.M. Church, 15 Pleasant Street, Meriden, CT. Pastor Brian will attend (3-4 car seats available!) as will the Doyles with an equal number of available seats. A choir from Ghana Emmanuel UMC, the congregation we “nest” in the Wesley Center each Sunday, will sing. This is our final Conference for our outgoing Superintendent, the Rev. Kenneth Kieffer. Rev. Kieffer will be the pastor of the Cheshire (CT) U.M. Church effective July 1, 2017.

SAVE THE DATES

METHODISTS IN NEW DIRECTIONS (“MIND”) SPRING MEETING, May 7

Methodists In New Directions, our regional affiliate of the Reconciling Ministries Network, will hold its Spring Meeting in multiple locations around the Conference.

Our local Connecticut gathering will be Sunday, May 7, 3 – 5 p.m. at the Cheshire United Methodist Church, 205 Academy Road, Cheshire. At this writing, at least two cars are going that can hold an additional 8 passengers total. Contact Eileen Doyle (ddoyle@aol.com/203.878.9049) or Pastor Brian (brian.bodt@yahoo.com/203.895.3753) to reserve one of the open seats. If others can drive we can take more. Please let Eileen, P.B., or Kelly O’Hara, GSA chair, know (yankee89@optonline.net).

If you have not been to a MIND meeting, you will find it a time of inspiration and encouragement as we work toward a United Methodist Church that truly lives its motto of “*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.*”

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET, Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., Dodd Hall. Our United Methodist Women invites all women, either with your female offspring or a woman you “adopt” as a “daughter for the day” to attend this fellowship meal. The entertainment will be “The Pitchpipers,” a women’s singing group. For more information, please contact Sue O’Shea at 203.494.5339 or sueoshea@optonline.net.

BISHOP’S DAY ON OUR DISTRICT: MAY 16, 2017. Bishop Bickerton will meet with **laity** at Waterbury United Methodist Church, 250 Country Club Road, with an invitation to dinner from 6 – 7:15 p.m. and “Questions and Answers” with the Bishop from 7:30 – 9 p.m. The dinner is open to laity and clergy but the evening session is **laity only**. Clergy have times earlier that day to meet with the Bishop.

THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will be holding an **ALUMNI DAY on Sunday, May 21st**. If you or someone you know is an alumnus of our MYF program, all former MYF members are invited! We look forward to an afternoon of fun and fellowship together! More information to come! **Pastor Dani.**

CHARLES WESLEY SINGERS HOST HOMES NEEDED, June 22

Charles Wesley Singers ON TOUR: New England 2017. The Charles Wesley Singers (Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus, Maryland) will be at MTMUMC on Thursday, June 22 for a concert at 7 or 7:30 p.m. Overnight hosts for the choristers and chaperones are needed. If you are interested in hosting a member of the choir, please call Pastor Brian at 203-895-3753 for details. The singers will present a concert *Of Prayer and Prophecy* featuring Mendelssohn’s *Hear My Prayer*, sacred anthems, selections for chamber ensemble, and organ improvisation and soloists.

OTHER MINISTRY MATTERS

DISCOVER LAURALTON: Lauralton Hall will host Discover Lauralton on Sunday April 30 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. for 5th, 6th and 7th grade girls. Register at www.lauraltonhall.org by Thursday, April 20. For further information, please call (203) 877-2786 ext. 144.

TRASH AND TREASURES currently has room for hardcover adult fiction books and the following clothing: boys, baby, adult dresses and skirts. Shortly we will not be able to accept any more books or clothing so bring your donations as soon as possible. While you are donating, treat yourself to a new experience and amble through our rooms filled with treasures. You’ll be surprised at what you might find!

Your donations are always welcome; bring them after worship on Sundays or almost every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until noon or later. Clothing donations should only be spring and summer items. Please save the winter items for the August Oyster Festival sale as storage space is limited. We no longer need paper or plastic bags. Call Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952, before you bring in large items. Thank you for all the many items already received.