

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
(*Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing those items not published elsewhere.*)

INTROIT “My Lord, What a Morning”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Traditional Cherokee Nation Prayer

Leader: May the warm winds of heaven blow softly on our house.

People: *May the Great Spirit bless all who enter here.*

*HYMN #674 “See the Morning Sun Ascending” Unser Herrscher

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) Traditional Dakota Tribe Prayer
Grandfather, Great Spirit, you have always been, and before you nothing has been. There is no one to pray to but you. The star nations all over the heaven are yours, and yours are the grasses of the earth. You are older than all need, older than all pain and prayer. Grandfather, Great Spirit, fill us with light. Give us strength to understand and eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft earth as relatives to all that live. Help us, for without you we are nothing. Amen.

A VISION OF HOPE Wanda Lawrence, Chippewa, 20th century
We pray that someday an arrow will be broken, not in something or someone, but by each of humankind, to indicate peace, not violence. Someday, oneness with creation, rather than domination over creation, will be the goal to be respected. Someday fearlessness to love and make a difference will be experienced by all people. Then the eagle will carry our prayer for peace and love, and the people of the red, white, yellow, brown, and black communities can sit in the same circle together to communicate in love and experience the presence of the Great Mystery in their midst. Someday can be today for you and me. Amen.*

**An eagle in the Native American tradition is often a carrier of prayer*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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THE PSALTER Psalm 30 Hymnal p.762

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Acts 9:1-20 Bible p.1000

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

THE EPISTLE Revelation 5:11-14 Bible p.1120

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN with the Gospel, John 21:1-19 Bible p.989

(*You may remain seated for the Gospel today.*)

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

*HYMN #173 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies” Ratisbon

THE SERMON “Miracle on Straight Street” 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, *including the special offering for Native American Awareness Sunday*

Offertory: “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” arr. by J. Wilson

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #591 “Rescue the Perishing” Rescue

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #671

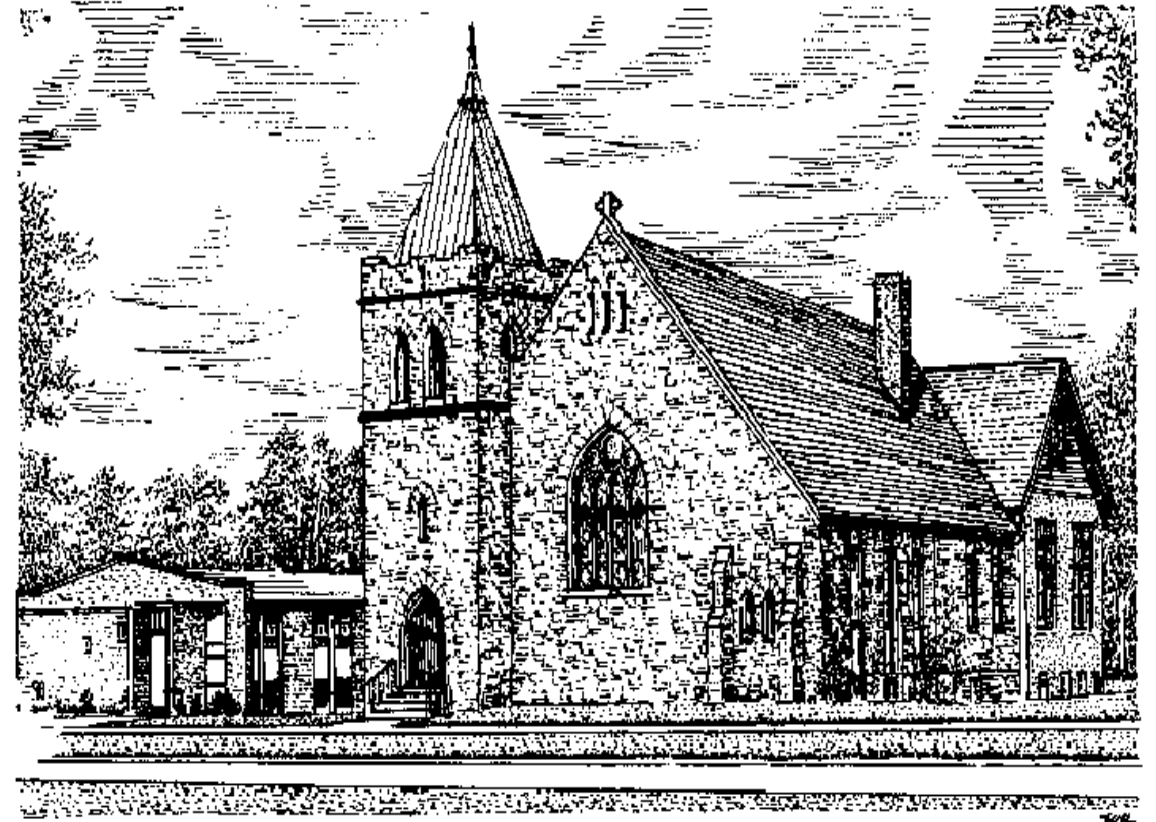
Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace; let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

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

*POSTLUDE “Christ Ist Erstanden” L. Smith

(*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

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

EASTER III

Native American Awareness Sunday

April 10, 2016

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, April 10</i>	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m. <i>Worship -Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:00 a.m. <i>Soup Sale – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:15 a.m. <i>FOTG Meeting – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
	2:00 p.m. <i>District Conference –West Hartford</i>
	4:00 p.m. <i>MYF Progressive Dinner-meet at MTMUMC Parking lot</i>
<i>Monday, April 11</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 12</i>	12:00 p.m. <i>United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center- 1st floor</i>
	12:00 p.m. <i>Greater Bridgeport UM Cluster-Wesley Center-Gunn Library</i>
	5:45 p.m. <i>Confirmation Class – Egan room – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 13</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>
<i>Thursday, April 14</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center – 1st floor</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, April 15</i>	BEACON INFORMATION DUE
	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, April 16</i>	8:30 a.m. <i>UMW Spring Day Apart in Wallingford – Joan Zauner 203-283-5643</i>
	<i>Bishop Middleton to the District, Nichols UMC, 35 Shelton Rd, Trumbull</i>
	10:30 a.m. <i>Clergy session; shared lunch at noon, laity session 1 – 2:30 p.m.</i>
	5:30 p.m. <i>Men’s Club “Surprise” Dinner – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>RSVP Jim Repetsky 203-530-4557</i>
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<i>Sunday, April 17</i>	9:00 a.m. <i>Sunday School - Wesley Center</i>
	9:45 a.m. <i>Informal hymn singing - Sanctuary</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>
<i>Monday, April 18</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Membership & Evangelism meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 19</i>	<i>NO Confirmation Class – Spring recess</i>
	7:00 p.m. <i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 20</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library – Wesley Center</i>
	Noon <i>Taize worship service – 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>
<i>Thursday, April 21</i>	7:00 p.m. <i>Worship Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor</i>
	8:30 p.m. <i>Taize worship service – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, April 22</i>	10:00 a.m. <i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
	5:00 p.m. <i>Wedding rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
<i>Saturday, April 23</i>	3:30 p.m. <i>Smaldone-Keller wedding - Sanctuary</i>

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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	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck		

Grace Notes
April 10, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

“When it rains, it pours.”

Probably not the best turn-of-phrase for this “Raining/snowing-again? When-will-this-winter-ever-end?” weather pattern of late. But, hey, good for soup sales! See the United Methodist Women’s table in Fellowship Time today.

What actually brought “when it rains, it pours” to mind was today’s program schedule. Lots of hustle and bustle and travel hither and yon. All for good purposes, of course. To those who have double and triple obligations, my special thanks.

But beware! Church can (sometimes) be hazardous to your spiritual health. The institution can block the inspiration. Something akin to not being able to see the forest for the trees. Just listen to Saul’s story in today’s reading from Acts (9:1-20). If there was ever a “stand up,” “go to” church guy (well, okay, synagogue guy, but don’t get picky), Saul was it.

Just one problem. He wasn’t paying attention to God. So God got his attention. That, and the implications for us, are the basis for today’s message “Miracle on Straight Street.”

Grace and peace,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dave Doyle

Liturgist – Amanda Repetsky

Cross Bearer – Ryan Lapadula

Greeters – Deb Dubien and Lydia Smith

Acolytes – Bryan and Shannon Thompson

Bible Bearer – Natalie Rendon

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Amanda Repetsky.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are for my April Boys, given by Sandy Morgan; and in honor of Bev Dean's 25 years of service to Kmart.

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.

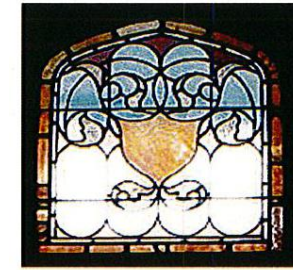
PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. Ushers collect them on the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. Prayers 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), The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000).

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.

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.

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.

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.**

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.

"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 April 3rd:

Total worship attendance all services: 143; April 3rd: 139; April 4th: 4; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for April 3rd: \$5,516.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$241.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$350.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 113 (United Methodist Women, March 31st: 40; Office Volunteers: 3; Sunday School: 31; Confirmation: 7; Trash & Treasures: 8; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 17; 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.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted today by the Education Committee. Next Sunday will be hosted by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SALE (including baked goods) is offered today in Dodd Hall by the United Methodist Women. The proceeds from these items support their mission work.

THE PALMS in the sanctuary from Palm Sunday are available for purchase at \$11.00 each. See Beth O'Brien today at Fellowship Time if you would like one.

"FAIR ON THE GREEN" MEETING: TODAY, April 10, immediately following worship in Wesley Center. Won't you help? **The Fair is all day Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4.** Come to the meeting or contact any Fair leader: Edie Reichard (203.650.5733), Christine Volgmuth (203.710.9835), Bob Virgalla (203.733.5006) or Becky Virgalla (203.788.2889).

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE: TODAY, April 10, 2-4 p.m. at West Hartford UMC, 1358 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. If you'd like a ride, see Pastor Brian.

MYF PROGRESSIVE DINNER: TODAY, April 10, 4-7 p.m. Meet at church at 4 p.m.; pick up at 7 p.m. at 29 Lake Street, West Haven. This is a **reminder** for those who pre-registered by the April 7 deadline. There may be space for those who did not register. See Shelly Lapadula this morning. **You will still need a permission slip signed by a parent to attend.**

DENTAL SUPPLY DRIVE for "Friends of Appalachia" **continues.** These supplies to assist in improved oral hygiene for impoverished children of central Appalachia are shipped to Kids First Dental services in Kentucky. We are collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes and dental floss. There will be a box in Dodd Hall for these items. This collection continues through April.

NAME TAGS MAY BE ORDERED by signing the clipboard at the serving station at Fellowship Time. **Please return name tags to the baskets in the foyer or Dodd Hall.**

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

MAY "BEACON" DEADLINE is this Friday, April 15. Articles may be submitted to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or hand-delivered to the church office before 2 p.m.

BISHOP'S DAY ON OUR DISTRICT: Saturday, April 16, 2016 Laity and clergy are invited to meet with Bishop Jane Allen Middleton in separate sessions with a shared lunch time. The theme is looking at the Church "as it is" and "as it is becoming" during transition her term ends and we prepare for a new bishop in September. The meeting will be held at **Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull. Lunch is Noon – 1 p.m. Laity session is 1 – 2:30 p.m. Clergy session is 10:30 a.m. – Noon. All welcome.**

MEN'S CLUB "SURPRISE" DINNER: Saturday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. As usual, there is no charge for the dinner, but it is **VERY HELPFUL** if you let Jim Repetsky know if you are coming and/or if you can help with this event. Please see him or call him at 203.530.4557.

NEXT SUNDAY

EASTER IV: Informal hymn singing begins at 9:45 a.m. The scriptures of Psalm 23 and Revelation 7:9-17 are the basis of the message "Knowing Where You Stand." We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Stephen William Frison, son of Scott and Sabina. We will have a Stewardship Spotlight by Holly Firmender and blood pressure screenings will be offered by Emily Bak, R.N. after worship in the sanctuary.

SAVE THIS DATE!

YOU'RE INVITED: Mary Taylor has the honor of hosting one of three **MIND** (Methodists in New Directions) General Meetings on Sunday, April 24th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Dodd Hall and the sanctuary. Light refreshments to follow. **MIND** is a grassroots organization of United Methodists working to end our denomination's doctrinal prejudice and institutional discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and is committed to living more fully into God's radical welcome right now and right here. It is a regional group, organizing on the conference level within the New York Annual Conference (NYAC) of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and it is affiliated with the national Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) of which MTMUMC is a member. For more information, contact Eileen Doyle, Gay/Straight Alliance Chair at 203-878-9049.

EXPANDING THE GOOD WORK OF "TRASH AND TREASURES"

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.

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Studies will resume with a 6 week study of "ROMANS" April 19 & 20 to May 24 & 25. Pastor Hal Vink will lead the usual Tuesday (7-8:30 p.m.), and Wednesday (10-11:30 a.m.) sessions in the Library. **Study books will be available after church on April 17th (\$12.00).** Tell Pastor Hal to sign you up, or email him at vinkhaljane@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you!

