

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*

PRELUDE “An Easter Prayer” H. Macklin

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “O Breath of Life”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Proverbs 17:22

Leader: A cheerful heart is a good medicine

People: *But a downcast spirit dries up the bones.*

All: *Let us worship our God, a God of joy and love!*

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated, unison)* “The Clown’s Prayer”

*Lord, as I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more happiness than gloom and spread more cheer than despair. Never let me become so indifferent that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy and forget, at least for a moment, all the unpleasant things in their lives. And, Lord, in my final moment, may I hear you whisper: “When you made my people smile, you made me smile.” Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Holy, awesome and loving God, we are too aware of our mistakes. Though there is greatness in us and a deep longing for goodness, we have too often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, showing us a better way and teaching us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Hymnal p.39 and #881

*Damien Jeffrey Monigle,  
Son of Amber and Jeffrey*

THE PSALTER Psalm 16:5-11 Hymnal p.748, R.1

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

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

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

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

\*HYMN #317 *(verses 1 and 6-9)* “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” O filii et filiae

THE SERMON “Now What?” 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 Anthem: “Resurrection Chorus” Hayford/Schrader

\*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

\*Prayer of Dedication

HYMN #306 *(seated)* “The Strife is O’er, the Battle Done” Victory

HYMN #314 *(seated)* “In the Garden” Garden

*You are invited to come forward to receive a healing anointing for yourself or on behalf of others. Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles.*

*Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak the name and need to the anointer.*

*This practice from the earliest days of the Church 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.*

THE BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

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

POSTLUDE “The Trumpet Shall Sound” G.F. Handel

*(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)*

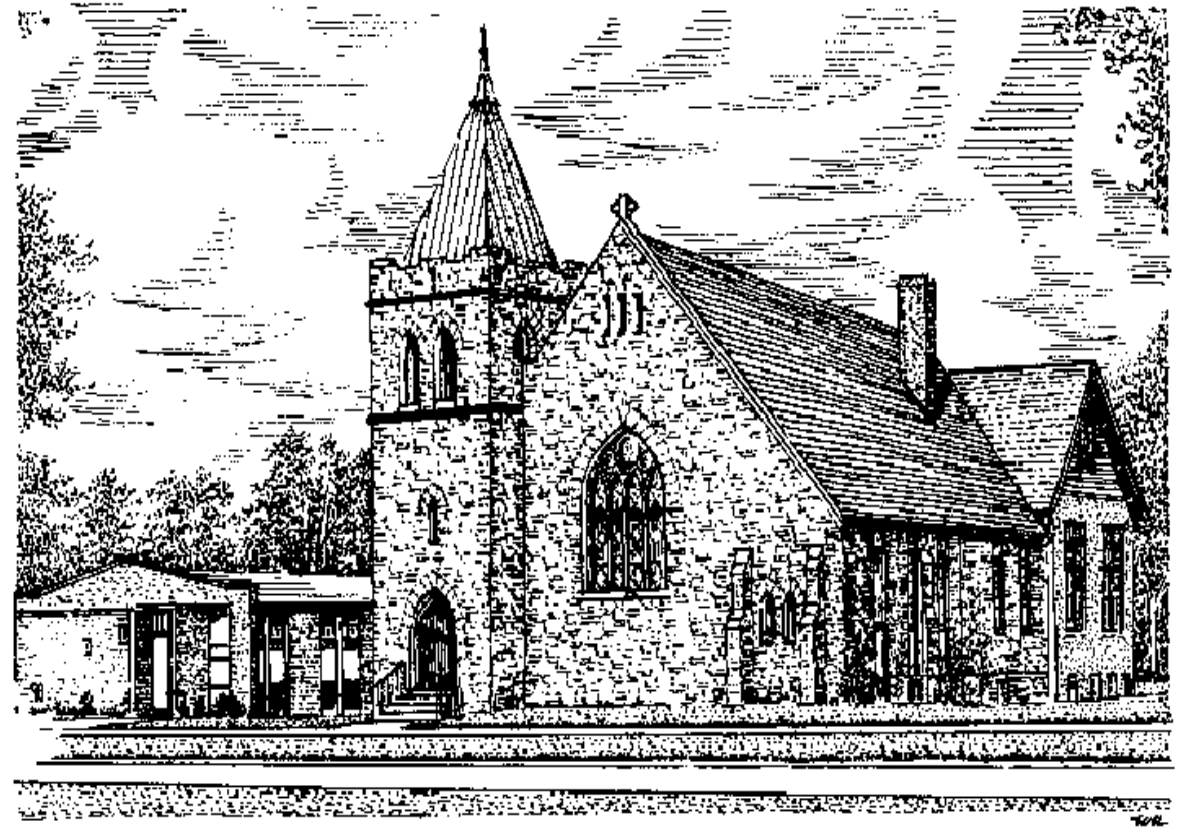
**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**



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## 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.*

**EASTER II  
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY  
April 27, 2014**

*~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~*

*Sunday, April 27*

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY – EASTER II**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center**

**10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacrament of Baptism – Sanctuary**

**11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall**

**11:15 a.m. MYF lunch/Earth Day project – River Crest Farm**

**11:30 a.m. Covenant of Conscience conversation – Sanctuary**

**7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel**

**5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Memory work due**

*Mentors are to attend*

**7:00 p.m. Disciple I – Wesley Center**

**10:00 a.m. Incubators - Wesley Center**

**5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall**

**6:30 p.m. Bell Choir – Dodd Hall**

**7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall**

**6:30 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center**

**7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center**

**10:00 a.m. Private function – Dodd Hall**

*Monday, April 28*

*Tuesday, April 29*

*Wednesday, April 30*

*Thursday, May 1*

*Saturday, May 3*

*Sunday, May 4*

**EASTER III**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center**

**10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacrament of Baptism – Sanctuary**

**11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall**

**11:15 a.m. Fair on the Green meeting – Wesley Center**

**3:00 p.m. MIND Organizing meeting – White Plains, NY**

**5:00 p.m. Cinco de Mayo Party-All welcome – Dodd Hall**

**7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel**

**7:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher's Meeting – Wesley Center**

**8:00 a.m. Lauralton Hall – Take-a-Look Tuesday Tour**

**11:00 a.m. Advance Care Planning Seminar – Sheryl Hollyday**

**5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Review for final exam**

**6:30 p.m. UMW Mother-Daughter Banquet – Dodd Hall**

**5:30 p.m. Aging Seminar - Wesley Vil. 580 Long Hill, Shelton**

**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. New Member Class – Pastor's Study – Wesley Center**

**7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

**3:00 p.m. Tentative – Pinewood Derby – Dodd Hall – Cathy Cono**

*Monday, May 5*

*Tuesday, May 6*

*Wednesday, May 7*

*Thursday, May 8*

*Friday, May 9*

*Grace Notes*  
*Holy Humor Sunday*  
*April 27, 2014*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,*

*St. Francis of Assisi: "Leave sadness to the devil, who has reason to be sad."*

*Martin Luther: "God is not a God of sadness, but the devil is. Christ is a God of joy. It is pleasing to God whenever you laugh or rejoice from the bottom of your heart."*

*John Wesley: "Sour godliness is the devil's religion."*

*Indeed! Christ is raised from the dead, death is vanquished, and the "risus paschalis" – "the Easter laugh," the ancients called it – echoes through our faith and our lives. The Rev. Donald Strobe describes Easter as "God's supreme joke played on that old imposter, death."*

*In observing Holy Humor Sunday we not only resurrect the ancient tradition of Bright Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) but we live Jesus' exhortation given his disciples the night before his own death: "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world." (John 16:33). As those who know how the story turns out, how can we do less?*

*Joyfully,*

*Pastor Brian*

**MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Website:** [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org)

[www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)

**E-mail:** [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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** – Bill Katt

**Greeters** – Iris Peckham and Diana Titus

**Liturgist** – Cathy Cono

**Acolytes** – Anna and Elizabeth Pierce

**Cross Bearer** – John Leum

**Bible Bearer** – Mateo Cono

**Healing anointers** – Rev. Hal Vink, Mary Lou Hastings, Priscilla James and Faye Zeiner

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Rev. Bodt at the Narthex door and Cathy Cono at the Narthex door.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** have been given in memory of Bob Zeiner on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his going home to the LORD, given by his wife; and Happy Birthday Holly! Love, your friends, Susan and Amanda.

**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 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 from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

**SERMON COPIES** from last Sunday are in the rear of the church and on the web at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://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** 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](mailto:bgobrien11@optonline.net) or Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460

**CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian** ([brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:vinkhaljane@yahoo.com). Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 APRIL 20:**

Total worship attendance all services: 810 (Easter, Apr.20: 125 [7 am], 140 [8:30 am], 230 [10 am]; Maundy Thursday, 88; Good Friday, 139 [Noon], 83 [7:30]; Healing and Wholeness, Apr.21: 5) Total Offering April 20: \$7,478; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$144.95; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 205 (No Sunday School; Men's Club Easter breakfasts: 84 (7:30), 48 (8:30), 24 (11:15); Confirmation: 8; Disciple: 8; Office volunteers: 8; Praisemakers: 2; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir: 14) 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) or call (203.874.1982) with your attendance.*

## 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!

**THE MYF WILL CELEBRATE EARTH DAY** immediately after worship. Lunch is provided at church and then we will travel to River Crest Farm, 524 Oronoque Road, Milford, owned by our members, the Macris. We will be planting and providing general help around the farm. Pick up is at 2:30 p.m. Permission forms are required. Leigh Bak is the lead adult for this event.

**A FINAL "COVENANT OF CONSCIENCE" CONVERSATION** will be held directly following worship in the sanctuary. All are invited to stay for this conversation, part of a larger process detailed in a letter to the congregation dated April 8 and designed to discern if we are ready for marriages for all people to be performed in our sanctuary. Kelly O'Hara will lead today's conversation. Please hold **Thurs., May 15, 7 p.m.** for a vote by the congregation. If you would like to know more, please contact Marcia Winter (203.878.0814) or any member of the Gay-Straight Alliance listed on the letter, copies of which are in the rear of the church.

**FRIENDS OF APPALACHIA 2014 DENTAL SUPPLY DRIVE:** to provide dental supplies to assist the dire need of improved oral hygiene for impoverished children in Central Appalachia where regular dental care is inaccessible. FOA is collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, and cash donations for additional dental supplies and/or shipping. Please leave your donations in the FOA box in Dodd Hall.

**THE MAY "BEACON,"** our monthly newsletter, was mailed this past Wednesday. Extra copies may be obtained in the rear of the sanctuary.

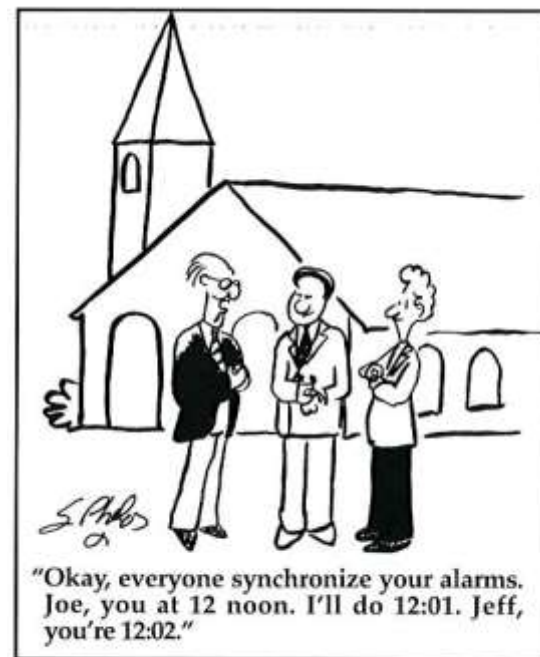
**"LIFT US UP"** is the name of our campaign to fund the Wesley Center Renovations for which architectural drawings are in Dodd Hall. Congratulations to Maureen Groves for her winning submission as selected by the Building Design Committee. More to follow as plans unfold.

**ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP:** Parents are welcome to our Adult Discussion Group which meets **each Sunday, 9 – 9:45 a.m., 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.

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR MEETING SCHEDULE.**



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## THIS WEEK

**CONFIRMATION:** Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. All memory work is due this Tuesday at our 5:45 p.m. class. Mentors are expected to attend this week's session. Memory work can be recited to Pastor before or after worship, before or after Confirmation class, or at other arranged times as has been previously communicated. We will review the membership vows and learn about human trafficking. This information, and the schedule of classes from now until June 1, was communicated by e-mail this past Wednesday.

**BOOK SIGNING:** The Rev. Jim Stinson, Director of Spiritual Life at the United Methodist Homes in Shelton, will have a signing for his newly-published book Just Because I Am Old this Thursday, May 1, 2 p.m. at the Wesley Village portion of the Homes. Contact the Homes at 203.925.4952 for more information.

**PASTOR BRIAN** will be on vacation May 1-5. Pastor Hal will cover pastoral duties. He may be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com.

## NEXT SUNDAY

### **EASTER III – May 4th**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper using Setting A. The message, "Taste the Good Life" is based on Psalm 116 and Luke 24:13-35. Our preacher will be the Rev. Dr. John Sandel, Executive Director of the Milford Pastoral Counseling Center. After worship, the Fair on the Green Committee will meet. See notice below.

**FAIR ON THE GREEN SPIRIT DAY:** Please wear an **orange Fair on the Green STAFF T-shirt** (or any MTMUMC T-shirt) to Church. Help inspire others to **CATCH THE SPIRIT** and volunteer. After worship please plan to attend an **IMPORTANT MEETING** in Wesley Center. We have some decisions to make and need to finalize plans for our **Fair. Please hold Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, 2014 for the Fair.**

**METHODISTS IN NEW DIRECTIONS** organizing meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, New York. Chat with Kelly O'Hara for more details or see page 10 in the May "Beacon."

**CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION:** 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall hosted as a mission fundraiser by MYF. Featuring a variety of Mexican fare: "hot" to "not," there's something for everyone. Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children not to exceed \$30 per family. Reservations are helpful but not required: Shelly Lapadula (203.874.4466 or [m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com](mailto:m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com)) or Stacy Meszaros (203.876.2875 or [stacymez@gmail.com](mailto:stacymez@gmail.com))

## COMING SOON

**ADVANCE CARE PLANNING:** a "lunch and learn" discussion, will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., led by Sheryl Hollyday, APRN on behalf of the Parish Nurses. The discussion will include (a) preparing for the inevitable, (b) advance directives to alleviate family distress, (c) who will make decisions if you can't, (d) will they do what you want and (e) write it down! Bring your lunch; we will supply the beverages and dessert. The presentation will include video clips as well as in depth discussion Please RSVP to Mary Lou in the church office. Questions? Contact Sheryl at [Doulee@aol.com](mailto:Doulee@aol.com).

**MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET:** Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall, sponsored by the United Methodist Women (UMW). All women are invited to this annual dinner celebrating the women of our church. Women without daughters or moms may "adopt" another woman to be your "mother-daughter" combination. Contact Joan Zauner, UMW President, at 203.283.5643 for more information.

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED IN MAY:** this series will be offered Wednesdays 7 – 8 p.m., May 7, 14 and 21, with reception of new members either **May 25 or June 8.** Gatherings are in the Pastor's study, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Wesley Center. We will get to know one another and the membership commitment (May 7), the history of Methodism (May 14) and the opportunities for mission and service at MTMUMC (May 21). You may attend these sessions to learn and inquire without making a commitment to join. If you are interested in knowing more, please speak with Pastor Brian.

**UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION CONCERT:** Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull. Come hear sacred and secular music from this Methodist-affiliated university that has performed world-wide. The concert is **free!**

**MYF PROGRESSIVE DINNER HOSTS needed, Sunday May 18th.** Are you willing to host a group of *the most fabulous youth* for a course in our Progressive Dinner??? We need four (or 5) host homes:

- one for appetizers
- two (or 3) for the main course
- one for dessert

Please see Leigh Bak (or contact at 203.215.0470 or [davidbak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidbak@sbcglobal.net)) if you are able to host one of the courses.