

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 “Arioso” J.S. Bach

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “There Is a Higher Throne”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Syrian Orthodox Church

Leader: Glory to the Father, who has woven garments of glory for the resurrection.

People: *Worship to the Son, who was clothed in them at his rising.*

ALL: *Thanksgiving to the Spirit, who keeps them for all the saints.*

*HYMN #103 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” St. Denio

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*) U.M. Clergywomen’s Consultation, 20th cent., alt.

Like the sun that is far away and yet close at hand to warm us, so God’s Spirit is ever present and around us. Come, Creator, into our lives. We live and move and have our very being in you. Open now the windows of our souls. Amen.

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THE PSALTER Psalm 67 Hymnal p.791

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 16:6-15 Bible p.1009
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

THE EPISTLE Revelation 21:1-10, 22-27; 22:1-5 Bible p.1132
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

*HYMN #723 “Shall We Gather at the River” Hanson Place

THE SERMON “A Destination City” Dr. Bodt
(*Concluding with Hymn #722.*)

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION (*by the Pastor*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O mighty God, you alone order our unruly wills and affections. We confess we too often love that which does not satisfy and turn away from that which gives life. Help us yearn for you, so that in the midst of uncertain and changing days, we may fix our hearts on you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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: “Easter Medley” arr. by M. Platt
(*The Adult Choir*)

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE (Setting B) Hymnal p.18

*THE COMMUNION

The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive or refrain from receiving. We use gluten-free bread and grape juice. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

During the distribution we will sing hymns #79, 638, 629 and 634.

PRAYER FOR LAY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS (*unison*)

Gracious God, we remember the apostolic Church which sent representatives from the Lord’s table to those unable to be present. Bless and assist these lay visitors who continue this ministry. Nourish and strengthen those to whom this sacrament is brought, that they may know the comfort of your presence and the love of this community of faith. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #706 “Soon and Very Soon” Very Soon

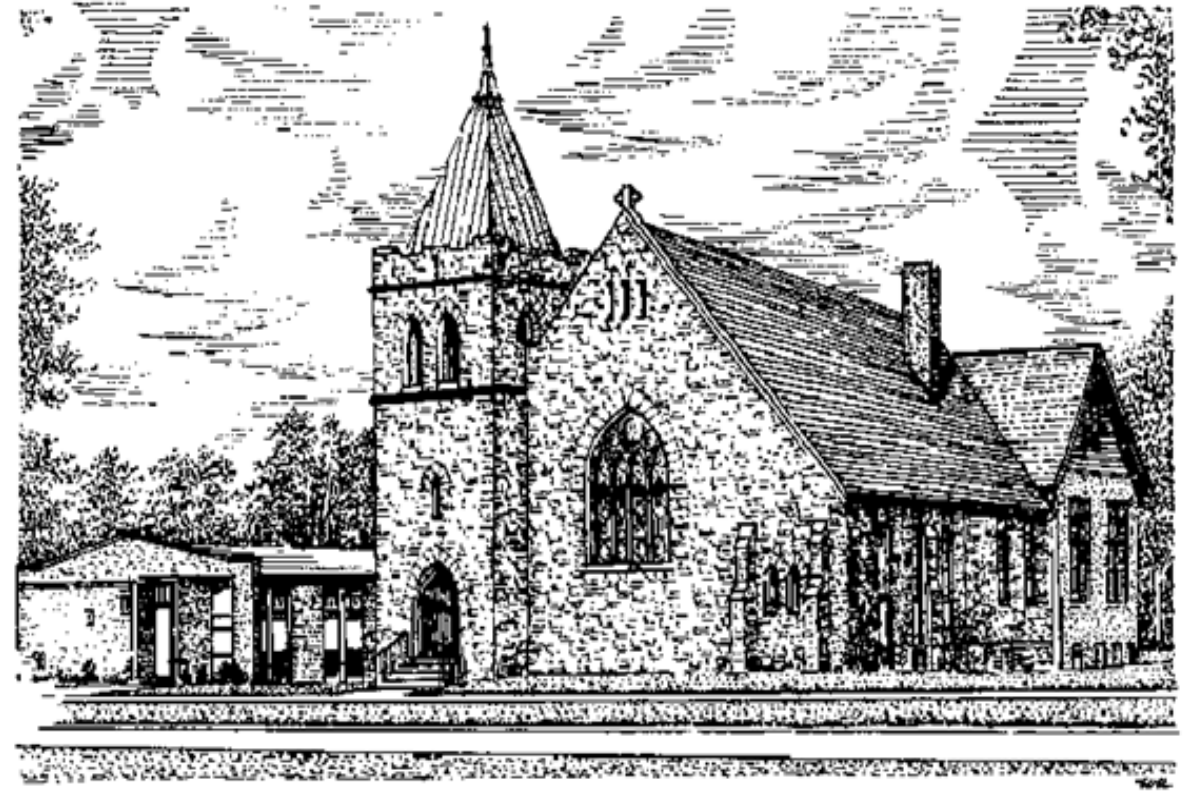
*THE BENEDICTION

*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 “He Lives” R. Koury
(*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 VI

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

May 1, 2016

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, May 1</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>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Methodist Youth Fellowship/Intergenerational “Earth Day” event at Rivercrest Farm (see notice – pick up at church at 4 p.m.)</i>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Membership & Evangelism luncheon –Milford Green Pizza – all welcome</i>
<i>Monday, May 2</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, May 3</i>	5:45 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Class – final exam – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Stewardship meeting – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 4</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	2:30 p.m.	<i>Community Supper – Golden Hill U.M. Church, 210 Elm St., Bpt.</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, May 5</i>	6:30 p.m.	<i>Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor</i>
<i>Friday, May 6</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
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<i>Sunday, May 8</i>		<i>NO Sunday School today</i>
<i>MOTHER’S DAY</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>
<i>Monday, May 9</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation Rehearsal – Sanctuary</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Sunday School teacher’s meeting-Sunday School office</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, May 10</i>	6:30 p.m.	<i>UMW Mother-Daughter Banquet – Dodd Hall</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, May 11</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</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, May 12</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Trash and Treasures is open today until 2:00 p.m.</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting –Pastor’s office, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Staff Parish Relations Comm. meeting – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr.</i>
<i>Friday, May 13</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers- Gunn Library</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. 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
May 1, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

The General Conference (GC) of the United Methodist Church (UMC) begins in ten days, May 10-20, in Portland, Oregon. General Conference is the supreme legislative body of the UMC meeting once every four years. The UMC is a world-wide church, so GC is comprised of delegates from around the world. Delegates are chosen by Conferences in proportion to church population. If this sounds like Congress, don’t be surprised: our church organization was formed in 1784 and the Constitution of the U.S. adopted in 1787-88. The ideas of that era influenced both church and state.

GC’s primary responsibility is to review the governing protocols of our Church, published as the Book of Discipline (BOD). The BOD provides rules governing nearly all of church organization. As many know, some of those rules prohibit ordaining and marrying gay people. Many churches, ours included, resist those prohibitions. Although we do not expect radical change from GC 2016, there is hope that compromise may grant greater regional autonomy on these matters. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, the UMC continues to be a leading church in missions, with “No More Malaria” and Africa University being seminal accomplishments. The UMC was also recently lauded for leading Protestant denominations in new church starts.

“Our own” Lydia Smith has again been selected to be part of the music leadership for worship at GC. Please keep her, the delegates and the deliberations of General Conference in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Stacey Riccardi

Greeters – Barbara Berglund and Diana Titus

Liturgist – Leigh Bak

Acolytes – Sarah O'Brien and Olivia D'Andrea

Cross Bearer – Lillia Downing

Bible Bearer – Avery and Julia Shamansky

Communion stewards: Maryanne Meehan Jordan and Deb Dubien

Communion celebrants: Pastors Brian Bodt, Hal Vink, Leigh Bak and Kelly O'Hara.

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Leigh Bak.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in celebration of our children, grand, and great children, given by Ken and Elaine Hawkins.

A **MISSION CROSS** has been placed and a donation made to UMARMY in honor of Mateo Cono's 10th birthday on May 7th.

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. **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.

TODAY'S LITURGY is taken from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). The Prayer of Confession was written by the pastor based on a collect from the (Episcopal) Book of Common Prayer (1928).

TODAY'S ANTHEM, "Easter Medley," is an original arrangement by Mark Platt, a member of our congregation and leader in our Monday evening Healing and Wholeness worship.

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.



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.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION

The article on the restoration previously appearing here has been well-publicized, especially through Holy Week and Easter, to inform our many guests. The restoration is proceeding well. More details are in the May issue of the “Beacon.” Questions may be addressed to Chris Paton, project manager, at 203.874.9390 or Rachel Merva, Trustee President, at 203.641.5088.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS : Please give Pastor Brian notices to be spoken. “Same day” notices will receive special attention. **Please read our printed notices.** Leaders are encouraged to continue to submit printed notices to the church office. Activities and events needing extended coverage will be planned in advance and included as part of the liturgy as has been done for some time. The goal of this change is an enhanced worship experience for all.

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted today by the United Methodist Women. Next Sunday will be hosted by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

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.**

ALLY 101 WORKSHOP: A **sign up table** is in Dodd Hall, staffed today by Marcia Winter for the May 22nd training event on how to combat bullying. Please see the enclosed flier for details.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP/INTERGENERATIONAL: today, May 1st, immediately after worship we will honor Earth Day at Rivercrest Farm. **This year's MYF event is open to people of all ages who would like to participate and get to know our youth.**

The mission, if you choose to accept it, is to transfer 200 little Christmas trees in pots that need to get into the ground. Gloves and shovels provided. Afterwards, the Macri's will generously provide pizza and beverages to the participants, and you are welcome to see the rest of the farm. Wearing a hat is recommended. We will depart from the church at 11:00 am. The youth will return to the church for pick up at 4:00 pm. Permission slips for youth are required.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON TODAY following Fellowship Time at Milford Green Pizza; the Membership and Evangelism Committee hosts a fellowship lunch at Milford Green Pizza today, May 1st following Fellowship Time. It's a wonderful way to meet new people and catch up with old friends. It's a short walk to Milford Green Pizza, prices are quite reasonable plus their food is delicious. We hope you will be able to join us. See Sandy Morgan

THE MAY “BEACON” (newsletter) was mailed last Wednesday; extra copies in the narthex.

FAIR ON THE GREEN UPDATE: see the enclosed insert.

CELTIC “FLAVORED” CD: CDs are available for \$10 each from Mary Lou Kampert at Fellowship Hour. All proceeds will be divided between Lift Us Up and the Virtual Food Drive.

THE GLASS VASE IN THE NARTHEX receives your loose change or bills for the **Virtual Food Drive** of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport. **The drive will conclude NEXT SUNDAY on Mother's Day, May 8.** Please bring your change (or bills) and make a difference in the lives of hungry people in our region by next Sunday.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

ADULT BIBLE STUDY ON ROMANS continues Tuesdays (7-8:30 p.m.) and Wednesdays (10-11:30 a.m.) in the Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Pastor Hal Vink teaches and welcomes new attendees. See or email him at vinkhaljane@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing you!

COMMUNITY SUPPER at Golden Hill U.M. Church: **Wednesday, May 4, 2:30 – 5 p.m.** The church is located at 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, 20 minutes away at Exit 2 off the Routes 8/25 connector. **Contact Maryanne Jordan** (203.268.8850) to learn more or offer to serve.

NEXT SUNDAY

ASCENSION SUNDAY/MOTHER'S DAY: Informal hymn singing at 9:45 a.m. moves to this Sunday this month. The sermon "Are We There Yet?" will be based on Psalm 47, Acts 1:1-11 and Luke 24:44-53. In addition to our regular Adult Choir, the "Praisemakers" children's choir will sing. We will have a Mission Minute by Stacey Riccardi on Health Kits. We will bless the special offerings received through our Glass Vase for the Hunger Outreach Ministry of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport. Our Men's Club will continue their tradition of flowers for the women present.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MOTHER'S DAY. Bring Mom breakfast in bed and then bring her to church!

COMING SOON

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING: **Monday, May 9, 6 p.m.** in the Superintendent's office. We will plan for Christian Education Sunday on June 12th.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET: **Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. You need not have a biological daughter to attend this event. Women are welcome to "adopt" other women as their "daughters" for this special occasion. **Please bring a pot-luck dish to share.** Our entertainment will be an original skit performed by members of our United Methodist Women, and written by the women of the First and Wesley United Methodist Church, West Haven. The humorous skit is entitled "Women of the Bible." **If you would like to participate in the skit,** contact Barbara Repetsky (203.931.4363). **If you would like to know more about this event,** please speak with Joan Zauner (203.283.5643; joanzauner@gmail.com) or Sue O'Shea (203.494.5339; sueoshea@optonline.net).

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.

TRASH AND TREASURES: Thank you for bringing your donations early, we are filling up quickly! We can still use children's books, clothing for men, babies, girls, summer dresses, slacks and skirts for women but space is dwindling at a rapid pace. We have no more room for women's blouses, coffee mugs (we have over 100) or Christmas and Easter items. **To see what we need or what you may need, you can visit us after church or on Thursdays, May 5, 12 and 19 from 9 am to 2 pm.** Early birds are welcome and encouraged! **PLEASE NOTE:** We are not allowed to sell any size fuel tanks, with or without gas in them. Please recycle these and other hazardous items at the proper places.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR April 24th:

Total worship attendance all services: 149; April 24th : 141; April 25th: 8; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for April 24th : \$4,103.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$91.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$2,463.09; Engaged in Small Groups: 189; Office Volunteers: 9; Adult Bible Study Tues:11; Wed:15; Sunday School: 35; Confirmation 9; Trash & Treasures: 15; Methodists in New Directions CT meeting: 68; Praisemakers: 2; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir: 16; 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.