

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 “The King of Glory” D. Wells

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all peoples!

People: *Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

Leader: God has gone up with a shout,

People: *Sing praises to God, sing praises!*

ALL: *Let our praise tell the great story of our God!*

*HYMN #155 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Diadem

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) Based on Ephesians 1:15-23

Our most gracious God, Creator of glory, we approach you humbly asking that you grant us each a spirit of wisdom and revelation as we continue to seek and build a relationship with you. Grant that we may more clearly see the hope that you have called each of us to; that we may spread your love, your glory, your mercy, and your greatness throughout the land. Help us to use this wisdom to be faithful witnesses to the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and forgiving Lord of all, you have called each of us to seek a closer relationship with you, to seek your most perfect will. We confess that we have fallen short of that call you have placed on our lives. We confess that we have not loved you with our whole self. We have casually driven or walked by the least, the last, the lost, the downtrodden and discouraged, and the oppressed. We come before your throne of grace, asking for forgiveness. Open ears, our hearts, our minds, and our doors to your children, our beloved siblings; that our actions may be a witness to your mercy and grace in a world which can often seem cruel and unwelcoming. We ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ooo

COMMISSIONING OF “UM ARMY” VOLUNTEERS

Pastor: All who take the name of Christ are called into ministries of love and service by Christ’s example. *Samantha Bennett, Paul Downing, Hayley Lapadula, and Laura Perregaux* leave today to work with the United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (UM ARMY). As they prepare for this departure, we pray God’s blessing on them and those they serve.

BLESSING (*prayed by all*)

O God, we ask you to bestow on these ambassadors of this church in ministry with the people of Amityville, Long Island, where this UM ARMY cohort will serve. As we dedicate them to service in the name of Jesus Christ, we ask that this prayer unites us with them in their work and that you richly bless their labor; in the name of the carpenter’s son from Galilee, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

*HYMN #2137 “Would I Have Answered When You Called” insert

*THE GOSPEL Luke 24:44-53 Bible p. 965

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

THE SCRIPTURE Acts 1:1-11 Bible p. 991

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

THE SERMON “A Divine Subpoena” Pastor Levine

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. People: *And also with you.*

(*Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.*)

MOMENT OF WITNESS Paul Downing

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Crown Him With Many Crowns” arr. by J. Raney

(*The Adult Choir*)

*Presentation: “Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #402 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” I Want to Be a Christian

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 #428, 437, 375, 377, 408. 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.*

*HYMN #569 "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations" Message

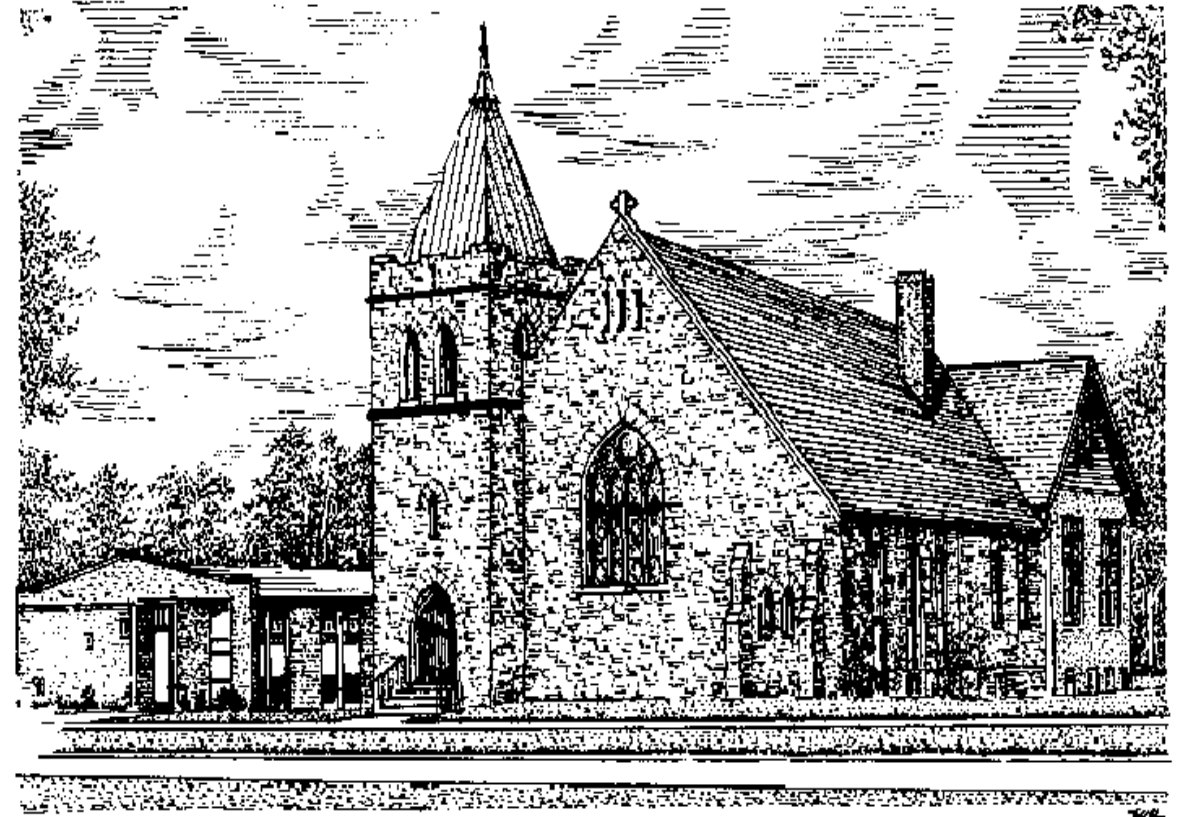
*THE BENEDICTION

*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, Christ be your shalom.

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

*POSTLUDE "God of Majesty and Hope" B. Miller
(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.*

**ASCENSION SUNDAY
MEMORIAL DAY
May 28, 2017**

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

Sunday, May 28	9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center
	10:00 a.m. Worship– Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time-Dodd Hall
	11:15 a.m. UMCOR Health Kit Drive – see Stacey Riccardi
	11:30 a.m. Visitation Ministry - Wesley Center
	3:30 p.m. Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel
	4:00 p.m. MYF meeting – Dodd Hall
Monday, May 29	OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY
	7:00 p.m. Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Tuesday, May 30	5:30 p.m. Confirmation rehearsal - Sanctuary
Wednesday, May 31	9:00 a.m. Biscuit making for FOTG – Dodd Hall kitchen
	6:40/7:45 p.m. Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall
Thursday, June 1	9:00 a.m. Strawberry Preparation – Dodd Hall kitchen
	10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers - Gunn Library
	5:30 p.m. Set-up for the FAIR ON THE GREEN
Friday, June 2	9:00 a.m. Trash and Treasures opens
	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. FAIR ON THE GREEN
Saturday, June 3	9:00 a.m. Men’s Reunion Group – Chapel
	9:00 a.m. Trash and Treasures opens
	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. FAIR ON THE GREEN
Sunday, June 4	9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center
	10:00 a.m. Worship/Holy Communion– Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time-Dodd Hall
	3:30 p.m. Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel
Monday, June 5	7:00 p.m. Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Wed. – Sat., June 7-10	New York Annual Conference, Hempstead, NY
Thursday, June 8	6:30 p.m. Mission Committee meeting – Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1 st floor
	7:00 p.m. Board of Trustee meeting – Wesley Center
Friday, June 9	10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library
Saturday, June 10	9:00 a.m. Men’s Reunion Group – Chapel

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
May 28, 2017**

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Well, the past few weeks have been a roller coaster for me. Many of you know that my family and I experienced a house fire on Friday May 19th. My mother, sister, and I would like to offer our appreciation and gratitude for the abundance of prayers and generosity of this community. It has truly been a blessing to serve here, and not just professionally.

The low that the fire brought to us has in no way masked all the highs that have occurred throughout the past few weeks. The most memorable of which was that I celebrated my graduation from Gateway Community College this past Thursday, completing an Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences. I look forward to returning to Southern Connecticut State University in the fall to complete the coursework for a Bachelor of Arts in History. None of this would have been possible without your support and encouragement as a community of faith and love. Again, I am grateful.

All of this is a testimony, or a witness, to the faithfulness of this community in its commitment to supporting its members and staff. The hospitality and love expressed here, at Mary Taylor Memorial UMC, is genuine and in response to Jesus’ call to serve the least, the last, the lost, the hurting, the suffering, and the oppressed. This commitment has created an atmosphere of hope and inclusion. Here, all are invited; all are welcomed with open arms. The love here is palpable; I felt it the first day I arrived, over 9 months ago.

I hope that today’s “Divine Subpoena” is one that will empower you, encourage you, and inspire you. You all - the hands, feet, mind, mouth, ears, and eyes – are the body of Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Dave Doyle

Cross Bearer: Stefano Cono

Bible Bearer: Zoe Browne

Intercessor: Sandy Morgan

Healing Anointers: Pastor Hal Vink, Barbara Ann Griggs, Priscilla James, Laura Perregaux, Mark Platt, and Steve Wasco.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today: Happy Birthday to Gail Longley, whose first birthday in heaven was May 26. Love, Stacey and Rick.

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). The Prayer of the Day and Unison Confession were written by Pastor Dani Levine.

Liturgist: Ryan Lapadula

Greeters: Nancy Kardos and Joan Zauner

Acolytes: Mateo Cono and Carolyn Hollyday

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



**FAIR ON THE GREEN
THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, June 2 and 3**

SIGN UP TO SERVE

Visit the sign up table in Dodd Hall to sign up for serving at the various activities at scheduled times.

See the Virgallas or contact them at Bob (203.733.5006 or virgalla615@yahoo.com) or Becky (203.788.2889 or bvirgalla@yahoo.com).

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE PREP

To help, contact Priscilla James at 203.804.0279 or pcjames60@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m.

Biscuit prep in Dodd Hall, 6 – 7 people needed.

Thursday, June 1, 9 a.m.

Strawberry prep in Dodd hall, 10-12 people needed.

TAKE A FLIER FOR YOUR CAR

Or office bulletin board – or work lounge – or...
These are also available at the table in Dodd Hall.

LAWN SIGNS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN LARGE TRAFFIC AREAS

CREATE A THEME BASKET

Please make a Theme Basket for the Fair on the Green! Just fill a basket with new items valued at \$25 or more; shop sales and our "Trash and Treasures" thrift store. Drop off your completed basket to Mary Lou during church office hours (9am – 2 pm, Monday through Friday) or after worship, or leave it in Dodd Hall and we will wrap it for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the contents. All baskets will be priced at \$25. Be creative! And thank you in advance for filling a basket. Be sure to go to the Fair and buy one for yourself!

SET-UP

ALL HANDS ON DECK – THURSDAY, JUNE 1ST, 5:30 P.M.

CLEAN-UP

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, beginning around 4 p.m.
See Pastor Brian or Carol Galloway to be on our team!**

Bob and Becky Virgalla

(203) 733-5006

Co-Chairs of Fair Operations

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. **Flower donations now needed for June 4 and 25th**, and all Sundays in July and August.

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 May 21st:

Total worship attendance all services: 190 May 21: 151; GEUMC: 25; Healing and Wholeness worship: 5; Taize: 9; Total Offerings for May 21st: \$8,936.25; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$2,651.67; Engaged in Small Groups:131 Sunday School: 31; Methodist Youth Fellowship: 25; Confirmation: 5; Men's Club "Chili Night": 18; Trash and Treasures: 4; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir:12; Tues. Bible Study: 7; Wed. Bible Study:11; Office Volunteers: 9. 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 Staff Parish Relations committee. Next Sunday's hosts will be Sandy Morgan, Holly Firmender and friends.

VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM meets *today, 11:30 a.m.* in the Wesley Center, 1st Floor.

NEW MEMBER PREPARATORY SESSIONS begin **TODAY** after worship from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Pastor's study, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. The three required preparatory sessions are TODAY and June 4 and 11. New members will be received on Father's Day, June 18. You may attend the sessions to learn more without a commitment to join. If you are interested in knowing more, please see Pastor Brian this morning.

MILFORD'S MEMORIAL DAY PARADE will be *today, May 28th at 2:00 p.m.* in and around the Milford Green.

OUR ANNUAL "HEALTH KIT DRIVE" concludes *today* with your monetary donations and Bed, Bath and Beyond coupons to purchase supplies needed to complete the kits. **Please make checks payable** to "MTMUMC," memoed "Health Kit." Please place checks or cash if you prefer (in a marked envelope) in the offering. BB&B coupons may be given to Stacey Riccardi.

"DRAWERS FOR DRAWERS" concludes *this Wednesday, May 31*. It is a collection to benefit Beth El and Boy's and Girl's Village **sponsored by the Methodist Youth Fellowship**. You may have noticed the lovely dresser in Dodd Hall and wondered what was up. **How can you help?** Bring in new underwear or panties for Men, Women or Children and MYF will take care of the rest. Any size is fine. Help us fill drawers with drawers!! Need more info? Contact Shelly Lapadula: 203-874-4466 or m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com.

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP *meets today, 4 p.m.* in Dodd Hall. Fair prep and fun! The adult advisor is Dawn Bettencourt.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION FORMS are in today's program. Please return them to the church office by *Monday, June 5th* to have your graduate recognized on Sunday, June 11.

COPIES OF THE JUNE "BEACON," our monthly newsletter, are available in the rear of the church. They were mailed by USPS on Wednesday and sent to those on the electronic mail distribution the same day.

COPIES OF THE MTMUMC 2017-18 CHURCH PROGRAM CALENDAR, approved at the May 18th Church Council meeting, are available in the rear of the church or through the office.

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 regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED TOMORROW in observance of Memorial Day and will reopen on Tuesday, May 30th at 9 a.m.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL is Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Mentors are expected unless excused; parents are welcome.

ALL WEEK: FAIR ON THE GREEN! Many hands make light work! Can you do just one thing? See the full page, inside rear cover, and the weekly calendar for details.

THE TRASH AND TREASURES TEAM hopes to see you all this week at 9 am on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3. Early birds are welcome! We have a myriad of items, new, old and vintage, that will pique your interest. Look around, maybe you'll even want to buy back something you donated!

NEXT SUNDAY, June 4th

THE DAY OF PENTECOST – Please wear something RED, the traditional color of the Holy Spirit. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Setting A) and the Order for Confirmation as we confirm the 2017 Confirmation class. The message "Christians are Crack(ed) Pots" will be based on Acts 2:1-21 and John 7:37-39. Also after worship, the 2nd new member preparatory class will be held in the pastor's study.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

"FILE OF LIFE" cards will be available, with guidance to complete them, after worship on Sunday, June 11. These brief medical summaries are posted in your home in a conspicuous place with vital information should emergency medical care be needed. See page 14 in the June "Beacon" for the full write-up.

A FOOD DRIVE on Sunday, June 11 will benefit "*The Great ThanksGiving Project*" of the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. **Please bring cans of cut green beans.** A representative will be here that day to give a Mission Moment and we'd like to give them 250 cans for this effort.

MILFORD'S PIRATES DAY CELEBRATION is Sunday, June 11. This will be our 2nd year participating in this fun and wildly successful outreach (1,500 visitors last year!). It runs from Noon – 5 p.m. If you can offer an hour or two to help welcome our neighbors, please contact Holly Firmender (203.530.2621; holly.firmender@gmail.com) or Susan Pitre (203.435.7031; soupytrus@yahoo.com)

HOST HOMES ARE NEEDED FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 22nd after the Charles Wesley Singers concert. 50 high school youth and 10 adults offer an inspirational evening of traditional and contemporary music and congregational singing. The choir will stay in our

homes before resuming their New England tour. If you can host a youth or adult, please contact Michelle Connor at m.connor357@gmail.com.

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC is now being scheduled. Our Adult Choir rests from the last Sunday in June until the second Sunday in September. If you have a musical talent you'd like to share on summer Sunday, please e-mail Rick Riccardi at riccardi1@southernct.edu or call him at 203.562.6508.

SAVE THE DATES

UMARMY PRE-SITE DAY, Saturday, June 17th, 9 am – 1 pm. at Wethersfield UM Church, 150 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. For more information contact Pastor Dani at danielle.levine@mail.com.

2018 CONFIRMATION PLANNING MEETING: Tuesday, June 20, 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. in the Chapel, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Interested youth entering grade 8 in the fall, and at least one parent or guardian, as asked to attend this brief but important meeting to set the fall class time and review the expectations for Confirmation. The date of Confirmation will be Mother's Day, Ascension Sunday, May 13, 2018.

BROWNSTONE OUTDOOR WATER PARK TRIP for the Methodist Youth Fellowship will be Sunday, June 25, after worship. \$15 per youth (50% subsidized by MYF). See Shelly Lapadula: 203-874-4466 or m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com.

AND MORE!

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS UPDATE: Restoration is proceeding on a slower delivery schedule due to the difficulty of color matching damaged glass. We now hope for an early September return date. If you have any questions about the windows restoration project, please contact Chris Paton, Trustee President, and project manager at 203-874-9390.

MILFORD HOSPITAL SEEKS VOLUNTEERS: morning, afternoon and evening shifts available, generally 3-4 hours. An orientation and information session will be held on Tuesday, June 13th, 9 am – Noon at the hospital, Auditorium B. For more information or to register, please call 203.876.4062.

DID YOU KNOW

Our MYF members clean the refrigerators and freezers to prep for the fair?

Our MYF members help as runners and tent sitters on fair days?

Key Club members from Foran and Jonathan Law High Schools volunteer on fair days with set-up, clean-up, and other odd jobs?

The Boy Scouts stay overnight on Friday to clean the green and watch over the vendors' tents?

LET'S THANK OUR GREAT YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL THEY DO!

Becky & Bob Virgalla, Co-chairs, “Fair on the Green”