

Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church

168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

Order of Worship 9:30 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)
(Please remember to mute or turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Our Hymn of Grateful Praise” J. Rasley

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

People: *Pray that the Lord of the vineyard will send laborers into the harvest.*

ALL: WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD SO THAT WE MAY BE SENT TO SERVE IN THE WORLD GOD CAME TO SAVE.

*HYMN #139 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” Lobe den Herren

THE COLLECT (*seated, unison*)

Lord of the harvest, whose Son likens your Kingdom to good seed planted in a field, grant that we, being the seed, be protected from the choking weeds of the world, that we may yield an abundant harvest of kindness, charity and good will, to the honor and glory of your Holy Name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*) England, 20th cent., alt.

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not the people we like others to think we are. We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves, what lies in the depths of our souls. But we cannot hide our true selves from you. You know us as we are, and yet you love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge. Teach us to respect ourselves for your sake. Give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who, through long habit, find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

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THE PSALTER Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 Hymnal p.854

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Genesis 28:10-19a Bible p.24

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

HYMN #418 (*seated*) “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” Jacob’s Ladder

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Bible p.890

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #694 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” St. George’s Windsor

THE SERMON “Weeding in the Garden” 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 Solo: “Lord, We Pray Thee” F. Morlachi

Barbara Repetsky soloist

*Presentation: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #565 “Father, We Thank You” Rendez a Dieu

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #666

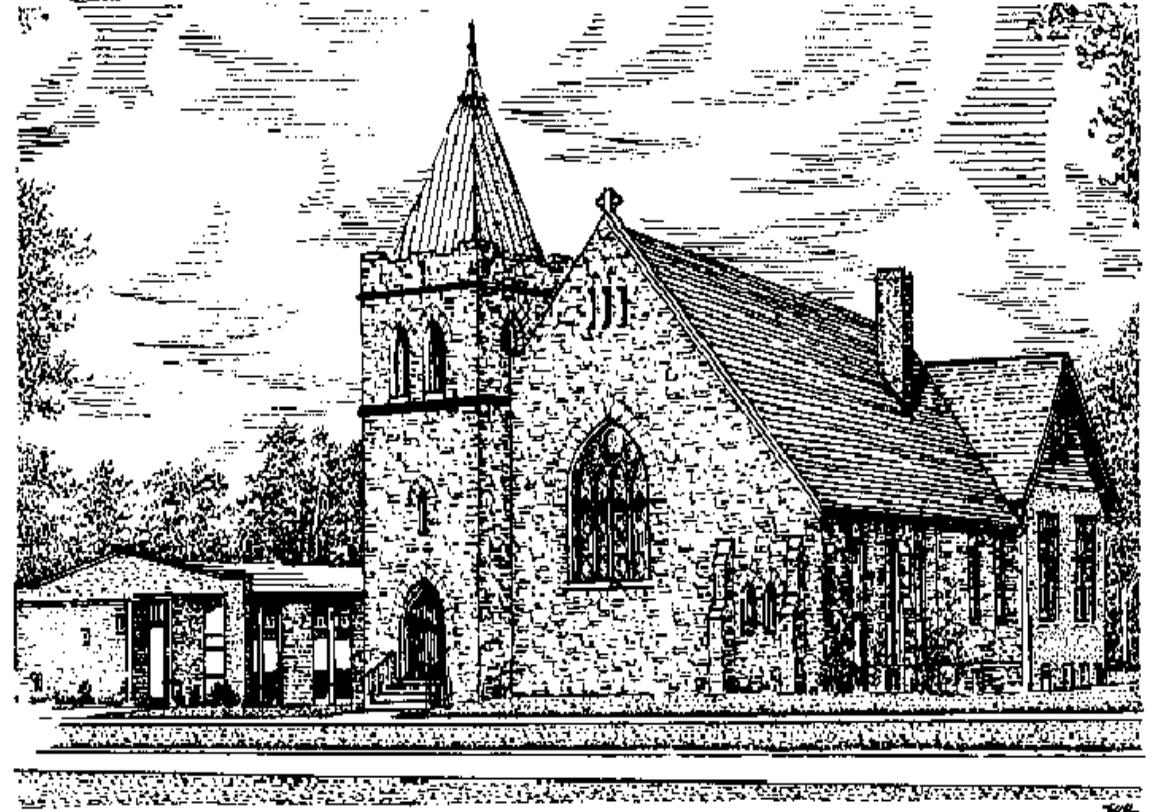
Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.

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

*POSTLUDE “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” P. Manz

(*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.*

PENTECOST VII

July 23, 2017

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

**MEN'S CLUB SEEKS VOLUNTEERS
FOR THE OYSTER FESTIVAL**

The Milford Oyster Festival is on *Saturday, August 19th* from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and *The Men's Club* of **Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church** will be serving breakfast and lunch at the church campus.

This event is the Men's Club's largest fundraiser for missions and would not be possible if it weren't for the volunteering support of our sisters and brothers in Christ.

We have many volunteer positions available in short shifts:

- Friday evening set-up and prep
- Saturday morning set-up and prep
- Breakfast grill, sandwich makers, servers, cleaners and cashiers
- Lunch grill, sandwich makers, servers, cleaners and cashiers
- Saturday afternoon clean up

All volunteers will receive meal tickets for breakfast or lunch. High school students can earn community service credit.

Sign-up sheets are available after worship during Summer Punch Bowl. You may also speak with or contact the Co-Presidents, John Leum (203-932-5995; jleum197@gmail.com) or Steve Wasko (203-997-2213; steve.j.wasko@gmail.com).

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Alpher Sylvester
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

July 23, 2017

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Personal responsibility. We hear a lot about it. While some things to happen "to" us, how we choose to respond is a personal decision.

This has been on my mind this week. In one instance, one of our families who moved away still sought us out with a request for offering envelopes to provide financial support to our ministries. In another instance, someone who stopped attending and participating during a prior pastorate has not attended worship since the new pastorate began. In another instance, a family in need was helped through a coordinated effort of multiple volunteers directed by a volunteer. In another instance, a relationship strained has not been mended because one party doesn't desire it and because relationships are two-way streets.

It is easy, of course, to observe the actions of others and draw conclusions. Those conclusions may be correct, or they may presume to know things that we really don't know.

In the final analysis, personal responsibility is personal. We have to be willing to look inward to answer a fundamental question, expressed in a variety of ways but essentially asking "Do my deeds match my creeds?" or "Does my walk match my talk?" Methodists have a fancy word for it: "sanctification," the process of growing daily in grace and godliness.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, "The Times" newspaper of London ran a series of articles under the theme "What's Wrong with our World Today?" Eminent writers were asked to reflect on this question. Gilbert K. ("G.K.") Chesterton, well-known in that era for both poetry and prose, was one of the writers. In response to the question "What's Wrong with our World Today?" his article said simply "I am."

Something to think about.....

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Ed Pineau

Liturgist: Tom Beyer

Greeters: Faith Reardon and Steve Wasko

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are given in honor of Beth O'Brien, who faithfully serves each week as our Altar Flower Coordinator, given by a grateful congregation.

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 United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). The Collect was written by the Pastor.

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](tel: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 July 9, 23 and 30 and all of 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 July 16th:

Total worship attendance all services: 169; July 15th: 139; GEUMC: 20; Healing and Wholeness worship: 10; Total Offerings for July 15th: \$6,038.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$0; Engaged in Small Groups: 40. Book Discussion: 29; Trash & Treasures: 8; 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

SUMMER PUNCH BOWL TODAY is hosted by Stacey Kronk and Barbara Repetsky. Next Sunday's host is Edie Reichard.

A WORD OF THANKS:

- **To Michelle Connor**, her daughter **Jennifer Magdon**, and all who assisted her on the July 15th can and bottle drive. Over \$150 was raised for United Methodist Women mission projects
- **To Holly Firmender, Sandy Morgan** and all who assisted them for last Sunday's Church Picnic on the church grounds. We had great weather, great food and great fellowship
- **To Stacy Meszaros**, UMARMY coordinator, and all the adults and youth who completed work in Wethersfield, CT the week of July 9-15.

OYSTER FESTIVAL SIGN-UPS! Our Men's Club seeks your support for their annual presence at the Oyster Festival, this year on **Saturday, August 19**. Sign up sheets are available after worship. You may also speak with or contact the Co-Presidents, John Leum (203-932-5995; jleum197@gmail.com) or Steve Wasko (203.997.2213; steve.j.wasko@gmail.com).

TRASH & TREASURES: Donations can be made on Sundays and every Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., until and including August 10. We are only accepting winter clothing. Please remember that **August 10 is the last day to donate.** We can use the following **plastic bags:** grocery size, medium, large and extra large bags. It would be a real treat for us if donated grocery size bags are received flattened and other bags are flattened and folded. **Packing paper and bubble wrap** are also needed. Please call Dolly Bonisch, 203.783.9952, before donating large items. Thanks for your continued help to make our sales successful!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS for both college (Kelsey-Worley Educational Fund) and vocational school (“Jimmy” scholarship) are in the back of the sanctuary. **The deadline for applications is Sunday, August 20th. This is a firm deadline.**

SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC is now nearly scheduled through Sept. 3. If you'd like to offer music, please contact Rick Riccardi at riccardir1@southernct.edu or 203.562.6508.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet **this Wednesday, July 26, 9 a.m.** in the Egan Room, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor to mail the August “Beacon.”

COMMUNITY SUPPER is served at MTMUMC **this Thursday, July 27, 5:30 p.m.** Volunteers to assist are welcomed for set-up, serving and clean-up **any portion of 2 – 6:30 p.m.** If you can help, please contact Deb Dubien at 203.8774959.

NEXT SUNDAY, July 30th

PENTECOST VIII: Pastor Dani's message "Legends of the Hidden Temple" will be based on Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. "Weeding in the Garden" will be based on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 with Genesis 28:10-19a. Special music will be provided by an ensemble coordinated by Steve Wasko. Healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymns.

SAVE THE DATE!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES is scheduled to meet **Thursday, August 3rd, 7 p.m.** in the Egan Room, Wesley Center. Meeting notice and agenda will be forthcoming.

CONO'S 25th ANNIVERSARY: All are cordially invited to join us on **Saturday, August 5th, 10 a.m.** in the sanctuary to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal service followed by a brunch reception in Dodd Hall. *Cathy and Gianni Cono*

MILFORD OYSTER FESTIVAL: **Saturday, August 19th!** See the appeal for support under "Today" and the larger article on the rear cover of this issue.

DISCIPLE 4 STUDY ENROLLING: Disciple 1 graduates are eligible for this 32 week study beginning September 12th. The O.T. Writings (Ruth, Esther, Chronicles, Lamentations, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, Job, Song of Solomon), along with St. John, James and Revelation are the Bible books studied. **If you are interested in joining the class please talk to Don Hastings** (203.877.4554 or nctmwash@aol.com) or call the church office. **The class will be on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm.**

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, July 23</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Summer Punch Bowl – Courtyard</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
<i>Monday, July 24</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, July 25</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Book Discussion – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Wednesday, July 26</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Beacon Volunteers – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Thursday, July 27</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library (closed Friday)</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall</i>
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<i>Sunday, July 30</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Summer Punch Bowl – Courtyard</i>
	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Winkleman/Myroniuk wedding – Sanctuary and Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Monday, July 31</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, August 1</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Book Discussion – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, August 3</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library (closed Friday)</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, August 5</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Cono 25th Anniversary renewal of vows and brunch</i>



Thank you to our wonderful church family for the outpouring of love and support throughout George's illness and passing. Your prayers made this difficult time easier for the family and provided much needed comfort. A special thank you to Pastor Brian for his presence in our home and guidance with the service and other arrangements. And we are so grateful to our United Methodist Women volunteers that donated drinks and desserts and provided hospitality during the post- funeral reception. Your thoughtfulness and kind words were overwhelming. We truly are united in Christ's love,

Sincerely,
Fran Merva and family