

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.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Sarah O'Brien

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Led By Love, B, mod)

Leader: How good it is to approach the courts of our God!

People: Happy are those who live in God's house!

Leader: Here we welcome both friend and stranger.

People: We greet one another in Jesus' name. Together we extol the name of God.

Leader: Open your hearts to receive new strength and renewed understanding!

People: Surely God will equip us to face our world

and we will be ambassadors for God wherever we go!

Leader: Come! Let us worship the Lord together!

*HYMN #61

Come, Thou Almighty King

OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

(Led By Love, B, mod)

We come together in this house of prayer, trusting you, O God, to give us everything we need and to praise your name. As you provide for the birds of the air, you supply life's necessities for your children to share. We choose to respond to your promises by identifying ourselves as your servant people who seek to be guided by your word. Bless our efforts and guide our steps. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

(Led By Love, B, mod.)

God has called us – not to a set of beliefs – but to a relationship of trust. We are drawn to the Spirit whose will for us is life at its fullest, attuned to all that is good and true. We are embraced by the gospel of peace. Let us confess now when we have looked elsewhere for our guidance and fulfillment outside of God's grace.

UNISON PRAYER CONFESSION

(Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org , mod)

Holy God, we confess that we get off track. We come to worship You in a building but forget that You are also present in the community, within and beyond these walls. We forget to seek your way of compassion and justice for the sake of the world. We have allowed oppression and marginalization to continue because we fail to get involved. Forgive us,

God, for seeking our salvation instead of desiring to follow You in the world. Forgive us for not living for others. Turn us back to You, make our desire Your desire, and help us to follow You to the cross and beyond. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Rev. Mindi, rev-o-lution.org , mod)

Leader: There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is nothing we can do that will keep us from God. We are a forgiven people. The chains of guilt and shame have been broken and we are free – free to go and share the Good News!

People: Thanks be to God!

°°°

PSALTER

Psalm 84

(See Insert)

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 6:10-12

6¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 374

Standing On The Promises

*THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:13-15

10¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Let Me Tell You About Armor

Rev. Hansen

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: *Hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever. Amen.

*THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

BLESSINGS ON THE JOURNEY FOR GHANA EMMANUEL

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: "Love Devine, All Loves Excelling" arr. by Locklear/Seate

Pastor Dani Levine, soloist

*Presentation: "The Doxology" Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #410

I Want A Principle Within

(Let the anointers come forward during the hymn.)

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. 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.

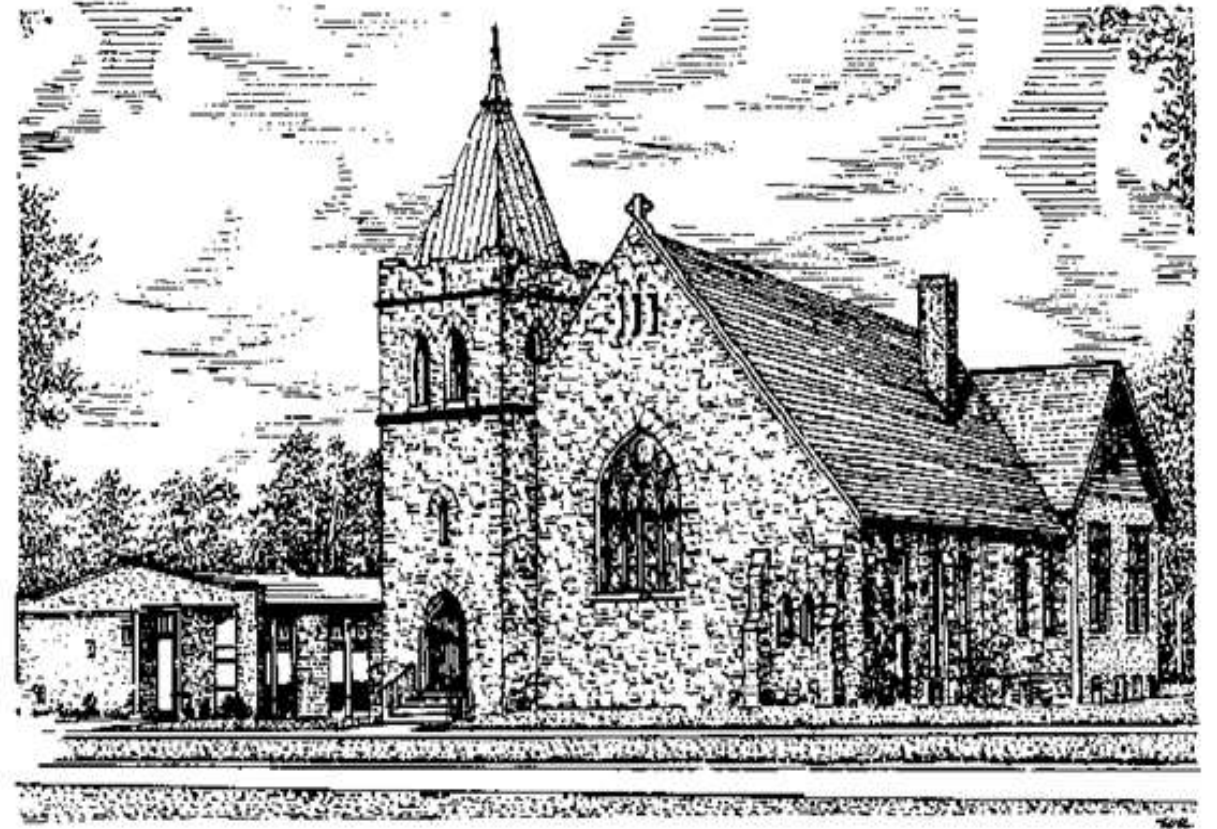
*THE BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

(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.***

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 26, 2018

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973

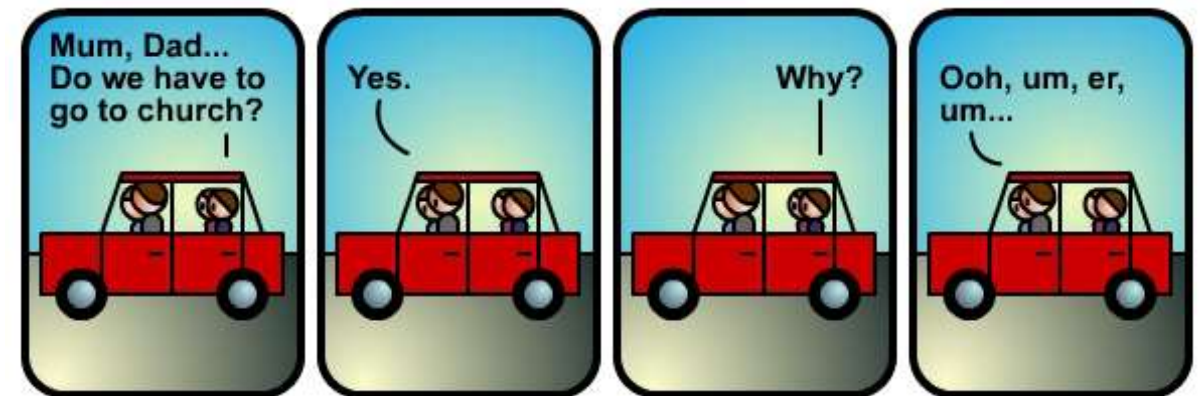
Website: www.mtm-umc.org www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bickerton
Co-Lay Leader	Shelly Lapadula	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
Co-Lay Leader	Beth O'Brien	Pastor	The Rev. Kristina Hansen
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Outreach Pastor	Dani Levine
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Sexton	Andy Thomas	Pastor of Healing Ministries	The Rev. Cynthia Dodd
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Theologian-in-Residence:	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
		Theologian-in-Residence:	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

Grace Notes
August 26, 2018

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church Community,



Why do you come to worship on Sundays?

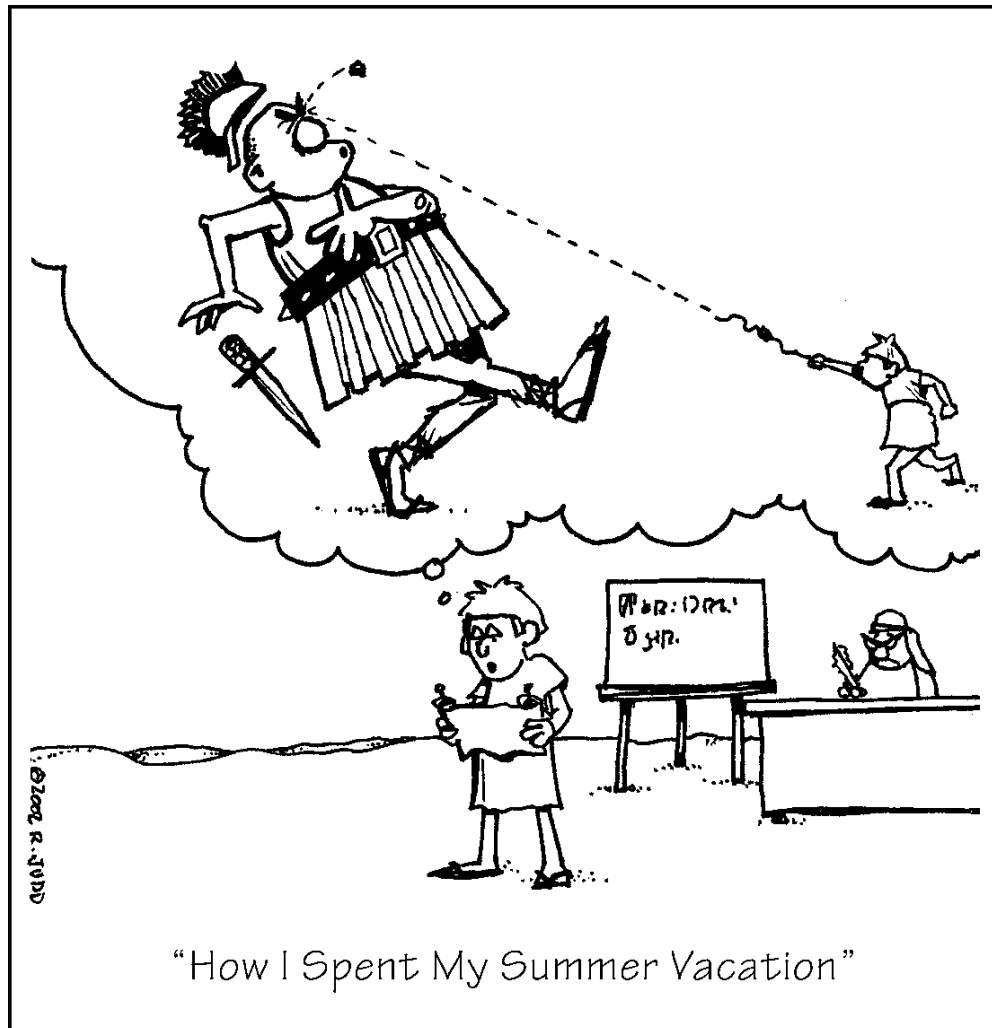
- Some come to praise God.
- Some come to be sustained for the week to come.
- Some come to be among a community of acceptance.
- Some come to pray.

We all come with our reasons – but what do we do when we leave here?

Do you apply what you receive? Do you tell others about it? If not, what keeps you from doing so?

Blessings on the journey,

Rev. Kristina Hansen, Pastor



AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Ethan Weed

Greeters: Lori Jean and Clay Seelgen

Liturgist: Lee Littrell

Intercessor: Pastor Cynthia Dodd

Healing Anointers: Pastor Kristina, Pastor Hal, Pastor Dani and Steve Wasko.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are to the Glory of God and in celebration of Faith Reardon's birthday on September 1st, given by Steve.

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 the east (left) side aisle. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar). **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the east side aisle.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and The Faith We Sing (2000), and as noted in the bulletin.

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

TWO NEW STUDIES TO CHOOSE FROM:

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A UNITED METHODIST will begin September 18-19th at **7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday morning** presented by Pastor Kristina. There are no study materials required for this **5 week program**. See Pastor Kristina if you are interested or call the office to register. Please designate which session you would attend.

BIBLE STUDY ENTITLED JESUS IN THE GOSPELS will also begin September 18 -19th **7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening and 10:00 a.m. Wednesday morning** if there is enough interest. It is a **30 week program** written by Reverend Leander Keck, who is known to some members of the congregation. Each session will be 90 minutes as per previous Tuesday - Wednesday studies. Study materials are part of the program. See Don Hastings or Sandy Morgan if you are interested or call the office to register. Please designate which session you would attend.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL

<i>Sunday, August 26</i>	9:30 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
	10:30 a.m.	Summer Punch Bowl – courtyard
	11:00 a.m.	Caring Ministry – Wesley Center
	3:30 p.m.	GEUMC Worship – Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	“SING” – Summer favorites at Shelton Methodist homes – all are invited to participate. Holly Firmender contact – Meet in Dodd Hall.
<i>Monday, August 27</i>	9:00 a.m.	Beacon Volunteers – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel
<i>Thursday, August 30</i>	10:00 a.m.	Office Volunteers – Gunn Library (Closed Friday)
<i>Sunday, September 2</i>	9:30 a.m.	Worship – Sanctuary- Our LAST summer 9:30a.m. service
	10:30 a.m.	Summer Punch Bowl – courtyard
	3:30 p.m.	GEUMC Worship – Chapel
<i>Monday, September 3</i>		The Office is closed in observance of Labor Day
	7:00 p.m.	Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel
<i>Wednesday, September 5</i>	2:30 p.m.	Golden Hill community Supper
	6:40/7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall
<i>Thursday, September 6</i>	6:30 p.m.	Missions meeting – Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center
<i>Saturday, September 8</i>	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Tres Dias reunion group-Chapel



TODAY

SUMMER PUNCH BOWL is hosted today by Faith Reardon and Steve Wasko. “Fellowship Time” becomes “Summer Punch Bowl,” with lighter fare and is located in the outside courtyard, weather permitting. Next Sunday’s host is the Downing family.

OUR GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCE (GSA), in its on-going work of education and advocacy, has produced a brochure designed to help educate our congregation on current terms used in discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity. The brochure is available in the spinner racks and from any GSA member wearing a rainbow-colored lanyard. These members also welcome conversation with you about this part of our ministry. Feel free to speak with them.

BEACON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We could use several more volunteers to help on a monthly basis with assembly and mailing of our monthly “Beacon” newsletter. We usually meet the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. to approximately 11:00 a.m. in Wesley Center.

This month we will meet on Monday August 27th at 9:00 a.m. in the Gunn Library.

Our long time volunteers, Gladys Hulse and Bev Lebel are “retiring” after many years of service in helping our Beacon get out the door and into your homes. A big “thank you” to them! **Please let Mary Lou in the office know if you are interested in joining the team.**

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES: The office is on summer hours: Mon. – Thurs., 9 am – 2 pm, and closed Fridays.

NEXT WEEK

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Memorial Day.

CHOIRS RESUME, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 6:40 p.m. (Bell) and 7:45 p.m. (Adult).



OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST



THE RED CROSS has issued a call for blood donors. They are asking for types A, B and O to fill the gap and prevent a summer shortage. Sign on to redcrossblood.org for the local blood mobile listings in our area.

Sue O'Shea's office is holding a blood drive on Wednesday, August 22nd, 9am-2pm at RE/MAX's Training room – lower level; 105 Technology Dr., Trumbull, CT. You can schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS or sign up online.

THE NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE TASK FORCE ON IMMIGRATION... ... hosts a Prayer Time weekly *Monday nights, 7:30 pm – 8 pm*, via Conference Call. Contact person is Pastor Ximena Varas, Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com. Join us for a time of prayer for our country and immigrant brothers and sisters. Call-in number: 641-715-3580; 780-843#

CONNECTICUT HOSPICE, INC. is recruiting transportation volunteers to drive homecare patients to and from doctor's appointments or to take families without cars to visit their loved ones at the inpatient hospice in Branford. Please call volunteer services at 203-315-7510 for more information.

MERCY LEARNING CENTER SEEKS VOLUNTEERS- Since 1987, Mercy Learning Center has provided basic literacy and life skills training to low income women in the Greater Bridgeport area. MLC is open Monday-Friday from 8:00a.m to 5:00p.m. The Center is seeking volunteers to teach English Language Learners as well as basic adult reading and math in its small group tutoring program. The commitment is twice per week for two hours. No experience necessary. Training and materials are provided.

New Tutor Training Dates: Friday September 14th; Friday, September 28th. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (lunch provided). Please contact Lynn Gabriel or Erica Hoffman to register for a training session at 203-334-6699. Mercy Learning Center is located at 637 Park Ave., Bridgeport, CT.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

There will be a **MONSTER TRASH AND TREASURES Tag Sale** on **Saturday, September 15th from 9:00 to 2:00.**
Most items will be on sale for half price!
Be sure not to miss it!



OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

BULLETIN NOTICES are *due by noon Tuesday* for the weekly bulletin.

DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS. *Beth O'Brien (203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net).* Flowers are \$20. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to support missions are honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for both are payable to MTMUMC, mailed to Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460. **September 2, 9, 23, and 30 are open for altar flower orders.**

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. 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 Kristina Hansen: NEW!** revkristina@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 111 or 203.895.3753 cell, or **Pastor Dani Levine:** dani.m.levine@gmail.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 115 or 203.927.9077 cell.

“**FIX IT BOX**” is in Dodd Hall. See a need? Drop a completed form in the box.

WE HOST Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and Recovery from Co-dependency (CODA) 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 August 19th

Total worship attendance all services:219; Aug. 19: 129; GEUMC: 8/12: 52; 8/19: 30; Aug.20: Healing and Wholeness:8; Total Offerings for Aug.19: \$4,861.50; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence: \$2,614.34; Engaged in Small Groups: 48: GUTS: 8; Trash & Treasures:6; Oyster Festival: 32; Office Volunteers: 2; 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.