

*HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me”

(Tune: Hymn #191)

*Jesus loves me when I'm young, when my life has just begun
When at work, or when at play, He is with me every day.*

Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me when I'm grown, when I think I'm all alone.
Busy running, full of care, when I stop.....I find he's there. Refrain:*

*Jesus loves me when I'm old, when my story's almost told.
The truth I learned when I was small is still the sweetest truth of all! Refrain:*

(Words by Denise Clegg Bennett, Chaplain
The Hermitage [United Methodist Homes], Richmond, Virginia
Used with permission.)

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

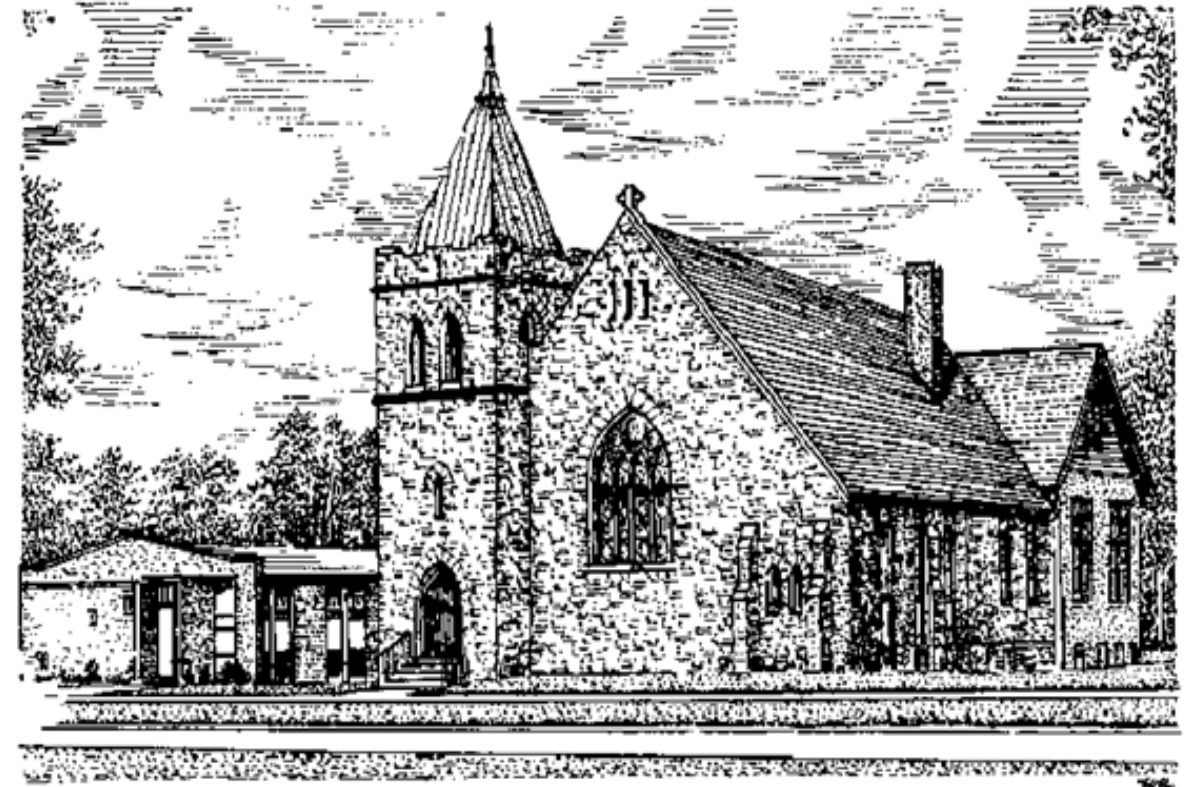
*“Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.”*

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

POSTLUDE “Toccata Eroica” E. Broughton

(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 XIII
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
September 3, 2017**

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 “Our Father Who art in Heaven” J.S. Bach

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

*CALL TO WORSHIP from The Abingdon Worship Annual

Leader: God declares, “I AM WHO I AM.”

People: *The God of our ancestors is with us today.*

Leader: God is our God, from generation to generation. Let us worship God on this holy ground!

People: *Let us worship God on this holy ground!*

*HYMN #2101 “Two Fishermen” insert

OPENING PRAYER (*seated, unison*)

Surprising God, you have an uncomfortable habit of showing up where we least expect you: in a burning bush, in the face of an enemy, in a livestock feed trough, on a rough wooden cross. Turn our lives upside down with your radical love. Help us fully embrace your surprises, even as we revel in the joy of being fully embraced by your all-encompassing grace and mercy. We pray in the name of your most amazing surprise of all: your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of Mystery, we are constantly amazed by the depth and breadth of your love. Over and over again, you turn our expectations inside out and upside down. And still we don't understand the radical nature of your grace. We play by our own rules of justice, even when it means excluding those we are called to love and defend. In our darkest moments, we doubt if we are worthy of your trust. God, help us remember that you give us all the tools we need; that through the solid foundation of your love, we find the strength to follow your call as true disciples of Jesus Christ. Surprise us again, O God. Surprise us again. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN #468 (*seated*) “Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See” Hursley
°°°

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Exodus 3:1-15 Bible p.49

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

THE EPISTLE Romans 12:9-21 Bible p.1034

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

*HYMN “I Would be True” insert

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28 Bible p.894

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

THE SERMON “Here We Go Again” The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

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: “Come to Jesus” C. Rice

Rick Riccardi - soloist, Stacey Riccardi- signer

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE (Setting A) Hymnal p.17

*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 #623, 644, 624, 630 and 632.

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.

STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and November 7 and 14, 7 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 24 and Nov. 1, 8 and 15, 10 – 11:15 a.m.

Our seasonal fall Bible study will be on the Gospel of Mark. This study is especially designed for students who are newer to, or inexperienced in, Bible study. We will use the Immersion Bible study series guide for Mark. I will be the teacher. We will meet Tuesdays from 7 – 8:15 and Wednesdays from 10 – 11:15 a.m. on the dates noted above. Participants will choose Tuesdays or Wednesdays but may alternate if needed.

Why this study? Offering this study for those less familiar or comfortable with Bible study is a fine compliment to our “Disciple 4” study, led by Don Hastings, for those with more Bible study experience. It makes the Bible accessible to newer learners.

Why Mark? For three reasons: it is the **oldest** Gospel, it is the **shortest** Gospel, and it is **the Gospel we will read in worship** in the new liturgical year that begins on Dec. 3. Students will leave with an understanding of the Gospel that can be applied to daily life, as well as prepare them to experience Mark in worship by being familiar with it in study.

If you desire to register, please contact Mary Lou Kampert at the church office at 203.874.1982 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net **Please give her your name, preferred telephone number and e-mail address (if available) when you register.** We will notify you as soon as books arrive and provide a schedule of readings.

If you have questions that you desire answered before you register, please reach me at my contacts below. I look forward to this time of study and spiritual growth.

Pastor Brian Bodt
brian.bodt@yahoo.com
203.895.3753

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. 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

September 3, 2017

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

It is a privilege to have the Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett preach and celebrate the Holy Communion today. Rev. Bennett – “Judy,” to most of us – has had a long and distinguished pastoral record in the New York and Virginia Conferences (regions) as a pastor, preacher and teacher. She was one of the pioneers of women into ordained United Methodist ministry and, as such, influenced two generations of women who found that they had a calling from God to serve just as men did.

Rev. Bennett served with distinction in the Virginia Council of Churches and at Richmond Theological Seminary prior to her retirement. She returned to live in Shelton and near her son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Nancy Bennett, both well-known to many in connection with Stephen’s music and Nancy’s leadership in church and at the Milford Boat Works. I am excited for you to hear Judy and for her leadership in worship today.

Carol and I are recuperating after yesterday’s marriage of my son and (now!) daughter-in-law, Daniel and Melisa (Cagar) Bodt. It was a deep privilege to preside at their ceremony at Golden Hill U.M. Church, Bridgeport, as well as to be “father of the groom.” I have no doubt that my parents are smiling in that place “where there are no tears anymore.” Thanks to many for your prayers and good wishes. I look forward to returning to the office on Tuesday and the pulpit next Sunday.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Ethan Weed

Liturgist: Pastor Dani Levine

Greeters: Repetsky family

Communion stewards: Deb Dubien and Donna Venditti

Communion celebrants: Pastor Hal, Pastor Dani, Pastor Judy and Shelly Lapadula.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in honor of Daniel Andrew Bodt and Melisa Safiye Cagar, married yesterday at Golden Hill United Methodist Church in Bridgeport where Daniel grew up into Christ. The flowers are given by his father and step-mother, Pastor Brian Bodt and Carol Galloway. Pastor Brian conducted the wedding.

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 Methodist Hymnal (1964), The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The Faith We Sing (2000) and with prayers from internet sources.

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

<i>Sunday, September 3</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship/Holy Communion – 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, September 4</i>		<i>The Office is closed in observance of Labor Day</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Wednesday, September 6</i>	<i>2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Golden Hill Community Supper-Bridgeport</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor Brian's office</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Nominating Committee – Pastor's study</i>
	<i>6:40 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, September 7</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Missions Committee meeting - Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, September 8</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Sunday, September 10</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Rally Day</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Dedication of Donor Tree – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour – Ice Cream Social – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC Worship – Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Installation of District Superintendent Rev. Alpher Sylvester at Nichols U.M. Church, 35 Shelton Rd. Trumbull</i>
<i>Monday, September 11</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Membership and Evangelism committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 12</i>	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Disciple 4 Class – Gunn Library – Don Hastings Contact</i>
<i>Wednesday, September 13</i>	<i>6:40/7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, September 14</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Shawl meeting – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
<i>Friday, September 15</i>		<i>Beacon Information Due</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, September 16</i>	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Relay for Life – Jonathan Law High School</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Taste of Haiti Fundraiser – Wethersfield UMC 150 Prospect St. Wethersfield, CT</i>

PLEASE LET PASTOR DANI KNOW TODAY IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE CELEBRATION BELOW.

Celebrate the Appointment of Connecticut District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester



Join fellow Connecticut District clergy and laity as we welcome the Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester celebrate his appointment as our District Superintendent and welcome him and his family into our district.

WHEN: Sunday, September 10, 2017, beginning at 4 p.m.

WHERE: Nichols UMC
35 Shelton Road
Trumbull, CT 06611

If you are interested in attending the celebration, please contact Pastor Dani Levine, (203) 927-9077 or danielle.levine@mail.com



TODAY

SUMMER PUNCH BOWL TODAY is hosted by Lisa Gloates and Holly Firmender. Next Sunday's host is the Sunday School.

COPIES OF THE SEPTEMBER "BEACON," our monthly newsletter, are available in the rear of the church.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON MONDAY in observance of Labor Day and will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 5th. Regular office hours resume which now include Fridays, 9 am – 2 pm.

COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT: this Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2:30 – 5 p.m. We prepare the meal, led by **Maryanne Meehan**. Golden Hill Church is about 20 minutes away: I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector. If you'd like to help, contact Maryanne (maryannej43mm@gmail.com or 203.610.4936.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE meets this Wednesday, Sept. 6, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Pastor's study to begin the process of nominating church leaders for 2018. See the detailed article on page 3 in the September "Beacon" if you'd like to know more or offer yourself to serve.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS are due this Friday, September 8, to Secretary Joanne Platt at jocbs@aol.com. Requests for action items (items requiring Church Council approval) are also due at this time to Chair Dennis Darak (wingridrs@optimum.net) or Pastor Brian Bodt (brian.bodt@yahoo.com). The next Church Council meeting is Thursday, Sept. 21, 7 p.m. in the Dodd Hall alcove.

NEXT SUNDAY, September 10

RALLY DAY! Sunday School for all ages resumes at 9 a.m. Our Ambassadors will greet you as we welcome children, adults and staff back to structured spiritual formation. **Worship returns to its regular 10 a.m. time**, the Adult Choir resumes singing, we will dedicate our Sunday School teachers and hear a Mission Moment. The message will be based on Matthew 18:15-20 and is entitled "Tuesdays with Morrie" from the book of the same title. Worship will end by adjourning to the Wesley Center for a brief ceremony of dedication for the Donor Tree, recognizing supporters of the 2014-16 handicapped accessible campaign. We will then have an all-church ice-cream social hosted by the Sunday School for everyone! *"Life is uncertain: eat dessert first!"*

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 September 24th and Sundays thereafter.**

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 August 27th:

Total worship attendance all services: 149; Aug.27th: 123; GEUMC: 22; Aug.28th: Healing and Wholeness worship: 4; Total Offerings for Aug. 27th: \$5,312.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$25.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 3. 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.

SEPTEMBER MINISTRY DATES AND EVENTS

(Page reference is the September "Beacon")

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER, SEPT. 6, 2:30 – 5 p.m. (p. 18)

CHOIRS RESUME, SEPT. 6, 6:40 p.m. (Bell) and 7:45 p.m. (Adult) (p. 4)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE, SEPT. 6, 6:30 p.m., Pastor's study

RALLY DAY, SEPT. 10: Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Worship returns to 10 a.m. , "Donor Tree" dedication, Ice Cream Social (pages 2, 4, 10-12)

CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTMENT, SEPT. 10, 4 p.m., Nichols UM Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull (p. 8)

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY RESUMES, SEPT. 14, 7 p.m., Wesley Center (p. 10)

"RELAY FOR LIFE," SEPT. 16, 1 pm - 11 pm, Jonathan Law High School, www.relayforlife.org and search for "Milford" (p. 10)

"CLUB 80" LUNCHEON, SEPT. 19, Noon

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS, SEPT. 19 (p. 3)

CHURCH COUNCIL, SEPT. 21, 7 p.m. (p. 3)

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING, SEPT. 24 AND OCTOBER 1 (choose one of two dates at family convenience), after worship (p. 7)

ANNUAL YOUTH KICK-OFF, SEPT. 24, 4 – 6:30 p.m. (p. 5) All youth grades 6-12 invited to attend and bring a friend.

TAIZE WORSHIP RESUMES: Wed, Sept. 27, noon; Thurs., Sept. 28, 6:45 p.m. (p. 17)

AND JUST PAST THE "BEACON" DEADLINE....

On Sunday, September 17 from 2-5 p.m. at The Unitarian Society of New Haven (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT 06517), there will be another accompaniment training. This training will also offer some of the lessons those in our network have learned over the past 6 months in accompanying undocumented immigrants facing the possibility of deportation. For more information contact Christine McGregor at cjmgregor50@hotmail.com or 203-932-0792.