



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.***

PENTECOST XVI

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

September 4, 2016

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark 8:34b-35

Leader: Jesus said, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

People: *For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.”*

ALL: **LET US WORSHIP THE GOD WHOSE VERY SACRIFICE IN JESUS CHRIST HAS SEALED OUR REDEMPTION.**

*HYMN #415

“Take Up Thy Cross”

Germany

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY (*unison*)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleans the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION (*by the Pastor*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Almighty God, we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation. We have failed in our calling to be your holy people, a people set apart for your divine purpose. We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope. We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice. We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice. We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories, without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace. Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you. Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-35

Bible p.952

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON

“Family Values”

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.*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory:

“Come To Jesus”

C. Rice

Dr. Riccardi, soloist Stacey Riccardi, signer

*Presentation:

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #623

“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee”

Penitential

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 #618, 629, 632 and 628 (thrice).

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 #77

“How Great Thou Art”

How Great Thou Art

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Thank You, Lord”

Hymnal #84

“Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you, Lord.

*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.

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, September 4</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>Monday, September 5</i>		<i>LABOR DAY – Church office closed</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 6</i>		<i>REGULAR OFFICE HOURS RESUME - Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Nominating Committee – Pastor’s study</i>
<i>Wednesday, September 7</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>The Great Bible Experiment – Niebuhr Hall, Yale Divinity School, 409 Prospect Street, New Haven-Pastor Brian contact</i>
	<i>7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, September 8</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
<i>Friday, September 9</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Saturday, September 10</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness team meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Sunday, September 11</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
<i>RALLY SUNDAY</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship returns to 10:00 a.m. -Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Ice Cream Social - Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, September 12</i>	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Membership & Evangelism meeting – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Historical Society meeting –Dodd Hall – Marcia Winter contact</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 13</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Greater Bridgeport UM Cluster – off site</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>United Methodist Women Meeting – Dodd Hall – Potluck & World Thank Offering</i>
<i>Wednesday, September 14</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>“Lift Us Up” meeting – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, September 15</i>		<i>BEACON Information Due</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Church Council meeting – Dodd Hall Alcove</i>
<i>Saturday, September 17</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Relay For Life Kickoff – Jonathan Law High School</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. Thomas J. Bickerton
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		Outreach Pastor	Danielle Levine
Interim Child Care Coordinator	Amanda Pitre	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

Grace Notes
September 4, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

It is no secret that our church community has sustained considerable loss through members’ deaths this summer. There are two bereavement support groups in our area – Thursday daytimes in Milford beginning September 29, Wednesday evenings in West Haven beginning September 14 – that are highlighted in these notices. These can be helpful not only for those recently bereaved, but also for those for whom grief has not healed.

I’ve always felt a sense of new beginnings in September. A big part of that is the start of school, of course, coupled with the end of vacation time for many. I hope the new rhythm of September finds you ready for renewed service and commitment to Christ and the Church. You can tell the pace is picking up: there is no room for a cartoon this week, and the calendar is only two weeks, not three weeks, long!

Part of that new beginning is the assignment of a new bishop for our New York Conference. You may read about Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton at www.nyac.com. Another example is that last Tuesday our Church Council unanimously approved “nesting” a new church start of Ghanaian Methodists, following our Board of Trustees unanimous approval of space use. They will be worshipping in our chapel with some use of space for Christian education from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. Details of a shared ministry covenant and specifics (“the devil is in the details”) are being prepared for the Church Council’s review on September 15.

May Christ, who “makes all things new” inspire and refresh us in this new season of ministry and service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Nick Bettencourt

Greeters – Judy Bennett and Donna Venditti

Liturgist – Barbara Repetsky

Communion stewards: Sandra Marren and Phoebe Repetsky

Communion celebrants: Pastors Brian and Hal, Barbara Repetsky and Kelly O'Hara

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Barbara Repetsky.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given as a Prayer for Peace.

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. **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.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

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.

COMING THIS WEEK AND MONTH!

"The Great Bible Experiment" is an initiative by the Massachusetts Bible Society in which our church has been invited to participate. I have accepted the invitation and hope you will join in. It is based on surveys conducted by the American Bible Society and the Barna Group (a highly respected survey organization) that determined that four cities in the Northeast are the least "Bible-minded" in America: New Haven, Albany, NY, Providence, RI and Boston.

The "Experiment" has three components. First, "town-hall" style meetings will be held in each of these cities. The New Haven meeting is **Wednesday, September 7, 7 pm** at Yale Divinity School. I invite you to attend with me. Register at www.massbible.org/experiment where you may also view a 4 minute video about this program. If you are not web-savvy, let me know and I will register you. We will also arrange carpooling (please let Mary Lou in the church office know if you'd like a ride: 203.874.1982).

Second, I will teach the first of three units of material prepared for this Experiment. What is the Bible? is an introductory study to the Bible by the Rev. Anne Robertson. I have reviewed these materials and am highly impressed by them. They are excellent for the person who says or thinks "I really don't know much about the Bible and don't want to be embarrassed by attending a class with others who do." Even so, there is also material in the study that would be informative even for those who have taken Disciple Bible Study or some other in-depth study of the scriptures. This study will follow our typical **Tuesday at 7 p.m./Wednesday at 10 a.m. format** (students typically chose one or the other). **The six session study will run Sept. 20-21 and 27-28 and resume Oct. 11-12 through Nov. 1-2.** Please register through the church office.

Third, this study will be advertised by the Massachusetts Bible Society so that others in our community who may not belong to our church may attend. What a wonderful welcome to newer people to be immersed in scripture!

May God be glorified through our study of the Bible and our commitment to holy living.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Brian

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. **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 28th:

Total worship attendance all services: 143; August 28th: 133; August 29th, Healing & Wholeness: 10; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up") for August 28th: \$5,635.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$558.34; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$1,350.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 2; 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.

TODAY

SUMMER PUNCH BOWL follows worship in the courtyard hosted by the Cable family. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** resumes next Sunday in Dodd Hall with the Sunday School hosting its annual Ice Cream Social.

LORRAINE THORPE has moved to 46 Crosby Commons, Shelton, CT 06484. Those who desire are welcome to visit her there or contact her at 203.225.5151. Lorraine does not intend to continue driving, so we will miss seeing her in worship. However, she continues to hold membership here and will be cared for by the pastors and our pastoral care team, as are others who move locally. Please keep Lorraine in your prayers for this new chapter in her life.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be **closed tomorrow** in observance of Labor Day. On Tuesday, Sept. 6 it returns to our regular schedule of Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR ALL MEETINGS THIS WEEK.

NEXT SUNDAY, September 11th

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** with music again provided by the Adult Choir. The message "Who'd You Invite to the Rally?" will be based on Luke 15:1-10. After worship an all-church ice-cream social will be hosted by the Sunday School for "Sunday School children of every age!" (Everyone!). "Life is uncertain: eat dessert first!"

RESPONSES ARE DUE NEXT SUNDAY for youth intending to attend the Methodist Youth Fellowship Kick-Off Picnic on Sept. 18. All youth entering grades 6-12 are welcome. Please see the detailed article on page 15 of the September "Beacon." Let Dawn Bettencourt know you will attend at stevedawn@optonline.net or 203.876.1123. The party is at 144 Timber Trail, Milford.

AN UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

RUNNING WATER FOR AFRICA, a 5k Race and Walk, will be held **Saturday, October 1, 9:00 a.m.** at the Walnut Beach Pavilion, 242 East Broadway, Milford

Sue O'Shea (203.494.5339; sueoshea@optonline.net) intends to run and invites others to join her. The proceeds of the event will be used to expand the water project in the village of Nganiko, Uganda and provide thousands of people with running water, including a school and medical clinic. Contact race director Marty Schaivone at msrunningproductions@yahoo.com for more information or to register for the race.



TRASH AND TREASURES (T&T) IS HIBERNATING!

FREE: ALL CLOTHING, SHOES AND BOOTS
ALL BOOKS PRESENTLY DISPLAYED

PLEASE: do not take any cartons. We need every small box for future needs and hauling away. Please do not donate any large cartons; none of us have gotten any younger or stronger. After cleaning up the basement and recycling some of our treasures, the T&T team is taking a long, much needed rest.

**DONATIONS FOR THE 2017 FAIR ON THE GREEN
WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8.**

MTMUMC Missions Committee



First United Church of Christ in Milford is running a wonderful program to help feed schoolchildren that do not have enough food. The CT Food Bank offers a special weekend backpack food program delivering food packages to 3,300 children, but they can't help all the hungry kids. There are 37,600+ kids in New Haven County facing food insecurity. From Friday afternoon until they return to school on Monday, some kids don't know if, or how much they will get to eat at home.

Our Missions Committee will be sponsoring two children for an entire year right here in Milford.

There are other ways to help. You could volunteer to help stuff bags or organize a food drive. Packing Events are Thursdays at either 9:00 AM or 6:00 PM. Contact Rev. Ashley Grant – revashley@firstchurchofmilford.org or Michele Steinlauf – milfordfood2kids@gmail.com

Sign up for to Pack Food Bags: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4cada922aaf58-packing>

Thank you!

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

OUR LADY OF VICTORY-WEST HAVEN

A 10-week bereavement support group will meet on **Wednesdays from September 14 through November 16, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Rectory (600 Jones Hill Rd, West Haven, CT) from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

The group forms at the opening session and follows the "New Day" process. Many have found this to be a helpful way to move from grief to healing. Manuals: \$10. For further information or to register, please call Sr. Bea at (203) 934-6357. Please register by September 7, 2016. All are welcome.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH-MILFORD

St. Mary's Bereavement Support Group is offering a "New Day" 10 week program on **Thursday, September 29th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in St. Mary's church hall, 70 Gulf Street, Milford.** Anyone coping with the loss of a loved one whether recent of years ago is welcome. For more information or to register call Margaret at 203-874-2376.