

HYMN #421 (verse 4)

“Make Me a Captive, Lord”

(remain seated)

*“My will is not my own, till thou hast made it thine;
If it would reach a monarch’s throne, it must its crown resign.
It only stands unbent amid the clashing strife,
When on thy bosom it has leant, and found in thee its life.”*

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem:

“Jesus Loves Me”

Bradbury/Debussy/Bock/Larson

*Presentation:

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN 398

“Jesus Calls Us”

(See Insert)

*THE BENEDICTION

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

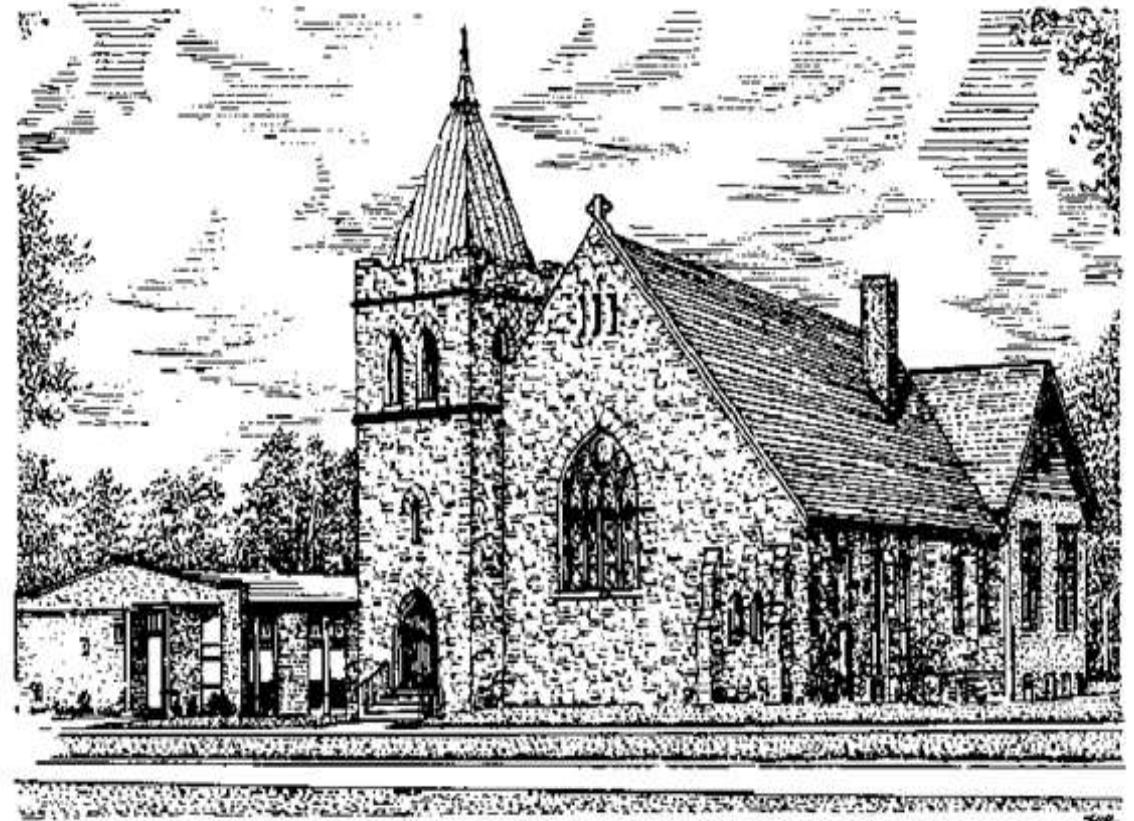
POSTLUDE

“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: 2016-2018

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

**18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 23, 2018**

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 “Children of the Heavenly Father” D. Hegarty

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Make Me a Servant”

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Chalice Worship, 103 & KDH, mod)

Leader: In the name of our God who shares divinity with us;

People: let us give our lives, our all!

Leader: In the name of our God who shares humanity with us;

People: let us offer our humility and our openness!

Leader: In the name of our God who unsettles and inspires us;

People: let us give our thanks and praise!

Leader: Here and now, let us praise God!

*HYMN #581 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

OPENING PRAYER (unison) (Chalice Worship, 179 & KDH, mod)

Faithful God, your mercies to us are new every morning! In your presence we gather to give you our thanks and praise. You know our hearts in their depths. You know the full scope of our worries and fears. We are grateful that your knowledge is not limited by human perspective. We thank you for the gifts you offer to us daily – especially the gift of your unconditional love. May our worship be pleasing to you this morning. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION (Gathered By Love, C, mod.)

We bring our flawed lives to God, not so much to be made perfect, but to be whole. Let us confess our sins to God, trusting the One who builds joy from our despair.

UNISON PRAYER CONFESSION (Sundays & Seasons, 284 & KDH)

Patient God, forgive us for the times when we have acted out of our fears rather than from our trust in You; when we have succumbed to competitiveness rather than sharing; when we have missed Your message and fixated on the trivial. Give us hearts to hear You and minds to discern Your will. Shape our wills to do Your will and open our souls that we may not be satisfied until our will and Yours are one. In Christ we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(Rev. Thom Shuman)

Leader: With gentleness, God speaks to us; with graciousness, God forgives us; with joy, God embraces us. In Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

°°°

*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.)

CHILDREN’S TIME

Pastor Kristina

THE PSALTER

Psalm 1

(See Insert)



*As the deer pants for streams
of water, so my soul pants
for you, O God.*

Psalm 42:1

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

9³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*HYMN #421 (verse 1-3) “Make Me a Captive, Lord”

THE SERMON

Unsettled, But Still Faithful

Rev. Hansen



To Benefit the Beth-El Center of Milford

The Beth-El Center is a recognized leader in caring for and meeting the needs of the hungry and homeless and strives to prevent and end homelessness. It serves individuals and families by providing temporary shelter and feeds up to 75 persons daily in the soup kitchen. To learn more, visit www.bethelmilford.org.

Join us for a Worthy Cause

- Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at Lisman Landing, Milford, CT
- Kids FUN RUN Begins at 8:45 a.m.
- Race Begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Wear your favorite Halloween costume, form a team
- Best costume prizes
- Breakfast after the race
- Music by the Elwoods
- Awards to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place male and female winners by age group
- Questions? Send an e-mail to info@milfordtrickortrot.com

Registration

\$27.00 pre-registration fee receives a race number and t-shirt.
 \$30.00 fee for same day registration.
 Please make checks payable to "Milford Trick or Trot".
 To register, please fill in the form below and mail to:
 Milford Trick or Trot
 P.O. Box 427
 Milford, CT 06460.
 Or Register online at www.milfordtrickortrot.com.

All participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to the Beth-El Center.

Sponsored by



7th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Run/Walk - Registration Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____
 Male Female Age: _____ Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Release: I know that participating in this fitness event is a potentially hazardous activity. I will not enter and compete unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks with participating in this event, including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants effects of the weather including high heat, humidity, traffic, and the conditions of the course. I legally waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against Beth-El and their representatives, successors, assigns and sponsors for any and all injuries suffered by me at this event. I also grant permission of photographs, video footage and other record of this event for legitimate purposes. I know that dogs, bicycles, and inline skates are not allowed on the course. Participants under the age of 18 require signature of parent or guardian. It is illegal to give your bib to anyone else. Only the registered person can use this bib. Transferring a bib will result in disqualification for both parties and will void all waiver language and insurance claims.

Print Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

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
 September 23, 2018

On the road to Capernaum Jesus' disciples argued among themselves: *Who among them was the greatest?* (See: Mark 9:30-37)

What started such a discussion? Without getting into all the details, the short answer is—their stress levels were over the top!



- When our stress level is ultra-high,
- When our anxiety is blinding us,
- When life is dealing unfairly with us,

it's sometimes hard to keep our focus on what is *really important*.

Hmmm...What is important?

May I suggest you put *your relationship with God at the top of your "Important" list?* Often it is the relationship we most neglect when the going gets tough. Does that happen to you? Let's talk...

Blessings on the journey,

Rev. Kristina Hansen, Pastor

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Bob Virgalla

Liturgist: Nancy Bennett

Cross Bearer: Zachary Scott

Greeters: Barbara Ann and Tom Griggs

Bible Bearer: Mark Petremont

Acolyte: Amanda Repetsky

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are to the Glory of God and in honor of Virginia McNair's 92nd birthday, with love from her family; and in memory of Ed Degnan III, given by his mother Carole.

A **MISSION CROSS** has been placed and a donation has been made in memory of David Horfichter who was killed in action in Korea on September 27, 1950, given by Allen and Flo Berrien.

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**. There is so much more to the United Methodist Church than our Mary Taylor Memorial UMC congregation!

DID YOU KNOW:

- **Methodists are credited for averting a civil war in England?**
- **President Lincoln specifically thanked the Methodists during the Civil War for their work in the hospitals?**
- **That Methodists were the first to give aid at Ground Zero, after Hurricane Katrina, and to the Gaza Strip (when humanitarian aid was blocked several years ago)?**

DO YOU KNOW:

- **What makes Methodists different from Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Baptists?**



If some of this is news to you, **then it's time to find out why you are United Methodist!** Call Mary Lou in the office to register (203-874-1982). 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**. 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.

TRES DIAS

This fall there are two weekends of Tres Dias of Fairfield County!

October 11-14 is the Men's Weekend. November 8-11 is the Women's Weekend.

Tres Dias is a full three-day (Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon) experience which includes worship, fellowship, music, and activities to help strengthen your relationship with your fellow Christians, the Church and Jesus Christ.

Over thirty members of Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church have attended these weekends in the past and many have served as leaders.

If you are interested in more details, please contact Beth O'Brien, 203-877-8668.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL

<i>Sunday, September 23</i>	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<i>Sunday School Jamboree – Chapel Sunday School – Wesley Center Worship- Sanctuary Fellowship Time– Dodd Hall Youth Families Cottage meeting at the Cono residence- 58 Crabtree Lane, Milford</i>
<i>Monday, September 24</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, September 25</i>	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<i>Bible Study with Pastor Kristina – Gunn Library Bible Study with Don Hastings – Egan Room</i>
<i>Wednesday, September 26</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00/6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Beacon Volunteers – Egan room – Wesley Center Bible Study with Pastor Kristina – Gunn Library Choir Dinner/Bell & Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, September 27</i>	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall MTMUMC Foundation meeting – Wesley Center Worship Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, September 28</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers- Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, September 29</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel</i>
<i>Sunday, September 30</i>	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	<i>Sunday School Jamboree – Chapel Sunday School – Wesley Center Worship- Sanctuary Fellowship Time– Dodd Hall Visitation Ministry meeting – Wesley Center Youth meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, October 1</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, October 2</i>	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<i>Bible Study with Pastor Kristina – Gunn Library Bible Study with Don Hastings – Egan Room</i>
<i>Wednesday, October 3</i>	10:00 a.m. 5:00/6:40/7:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>Bible Study with Pastor Kristina – Gunn Library Choir Dinner/Bell & Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall Pastors/Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s Study</i>
<i>Thursday, October 4</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, October 5</i>	6:30 p.m.	<i>Mindfulness Meditation – Dodd Hall – Paul Downing contact</i>
<i>Saturday, October 6</i>	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel Sunday School Teacher’s meeting – Sunday school office</i>

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME IS HOSTED by the Staff/Parish Relations Committee. Next week’s hosts are the Men’s Group.

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.

Please let Mary Lou in the office know if you are interested in joining the team. Our next mailing is Wednesday, September 26th in the Egan room in Wesley Center.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

BEACON VOLUNTEERS will meet on Wednesday, September 26th at 9:00 a.m. in the Egan room in Wesley Center. If you would like to help out with the mailing, please stop by.

NEXT SUNDAY

PENTECOST 19: We say the Lord’s Prayer every week but do we *pray* it? Is it possible that we are so familiar with this prayer that we might miss some of its deeper values? This service will include a thought-provoking “skit” as our message for the day. Healing anointing will be offered at the close of worship.

OYSTER FESTIVAL

The Men’s Club is happy to report the proceeds from the Oyster Festival totaled \$1,974.06. These funds help support the Men’s Club activities throughout the year which includes meals for the church community such as the Easter breakfast, Valentine’s Dinner Dance, and the Souper Bowl luncheon. Thank you Men’s Club!

USHERS NEEDED

Would you like to be a welcoming part of worship?
Consider joining the ushers. (It is a way to make new friends too!)
See or contact Stacey Riccardi at 203-415-5558 or stacey.riccardi@comcast.net.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

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#

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 Date: 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"FIRST FRIDAY MEDITATION GROUP". Kick-off will be *Friday, October 5 in Dodd Hall, 6:30-8:00pm*. The first Friday of each month, Paul Downing will facilitate an Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation. All are welcome, regardless of your experience, or lack of experience, with meditation. No RSVP required no need to bring anything, just show up with a curiosity, open-mind, and willingness. Bring a friend! Chairs and a limited number of floor cushions will be provided. (Paul is a presently a student of the Engaged Mindfulness Institute Accredited Training course). For questions or more information, contact Paul @ 203-676-5582.

MILFORD 7TH ANNUAL TRICK OR TROT 5K RUN/WALK on *Saturday, October 27th at 9:00a.m.* to benefit the Beth-El Center of Milford. Register on-line at www.milfordtrickortrot.com or pick up a registration form at the back of the church.

CHARGE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING –*Sunday, December 9th* – (time to follow-save the afternoon) will be held at Golden Hill Church in Bridgeport about 20 minutes away. Take I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector. This is a must attend meeting for everyone who calls MTMUMC their church. This will be a cluster wide charge conference. Our district superintendent will be there to lead it.

Charge conference is our annual meeting which tells us where we've been this year and where we're going next year. It also gives everyone an understanding of how people have served, how people have been involved and reminds us of the fun that we've had and the ministry that we have offered to our congregation, community and the world. Looking forward to seeing you there.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

BULLETIN NOTICES are *due by noon Wednesday* 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. **October 7, 14 and 28 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 September 16th

Total worship attendance all services: 143; Sept. 16: 133; Sept. 17: Healing and Wholeness: 10; Total Offerings for Sept. 16: \$6,760.85; Proceeds from Oyster Festival: \$1,974.06; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence: \$2,559.34; Engaged in Small Groups: 154; Golden Hill Supper: 14; Prayer Shawl: 7; UMW: 20; Club 80 Luncheon: 41; Jesus Bible Study: 10; Methodist Bible Study: Tues.:14; Wed.:7; Trash & Treasures: 11; Bell Choir: 8; Adult Choir: 16; Office Volunteers: 6; 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.