

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 “We Gather Together” G. Sewell

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Let All Things Now Living”

*CALL TO WORSHIP (rev-o-lution.org, based on Psalm 100)

Leader: Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving!

People: We enter God’s courts with praise!

Leader: Give thanks to God and bless God’s name!

People: God is Good, and God’s love endures forever!

Leader: God is faithful to all generations!

People: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN #694 (1,2,4) “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

OPENING PRAYER (unison) (rev-o-lution.org, mod)

Creator God, we lift up our prayers to You, giving thanks for all You have done in creation. We thank You for all the gifts You have given us—gifts of love, friendship and family—and ask for your help to share these greater gifts to those who are without. We pray that we might be Your hands and Your feet on earth. We pray that You will call us to live in ways that are mutually fulfilling and sustaining of others around our globe and of all creation. In the name of Christ, hear our prayer of thanksgiving. 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. Let us confess now when we have looked elsewhere for our guidance and fulfillment outside of God’s grace.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (rev-o-lution.org, mod)

Living God, we thank You for the bounty of harvest and the beauty of the earth. Forgive us, when we have been short-sighted and have used the earth for our own gain, rather than caring for the earth as Your creation. Forgive us, when we have made our own worries and frets greater problems for others, rather than lifting up our concerns to You. Guide our lives that we may help to sustain the earth. Help us to seek Your vision for our lives. Lead us to share and give and to reach out in vital ways that show Your love and care to others. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith we know we know God’s reconciliation and peace. By faith we know we are forgiven, renewed, and called to serve in this world!

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Joel 2:21-27 (see insert)

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-33 NRSV

6 ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

*HYMN #131 “We Gather Together”

THE SERMON AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Look at the World” J. Rutter

Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #94

*Prayer of Dedication

HYMN #102 “Now Thank We All Our God”

THE BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” S. Karg-Elert
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated)

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS

REFRAIN: AI – le – lu – ia! AI – le – lu – ia!
Praise the everlasting King!

²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!
²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the LORD your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

REFRAIN: AI – le – lu – ia! AI – le – lu – ia!
Widely yet God's mercy flows!

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the LORD, am your God
and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

REFRAIN: AI – le – lu – ia! AI – le – lu – ia!
Praise with us the God of grace!

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The Council of Greater Bridgeport ~ leveraging hope, changing lives



35th Annual ANGEL APPEAL!

We invite you to participate in our annual ANGEL APPEAL by making a gift to The Council of Churches in honor or in memory of one or more of the "ANGELS" in your life who has inspired, encouraged, or partnered with you in making a difference in our community.

The challenges faced by our poorest neighbors are significant, but hope abounds! We at The Council are acutely aware of the unmet needs throughout Greater Bridgeport, and with your help are making a difference.

See Diana Cable after service or contact her at 203-878-9002 or rcable1@optonline.net for a brochure.

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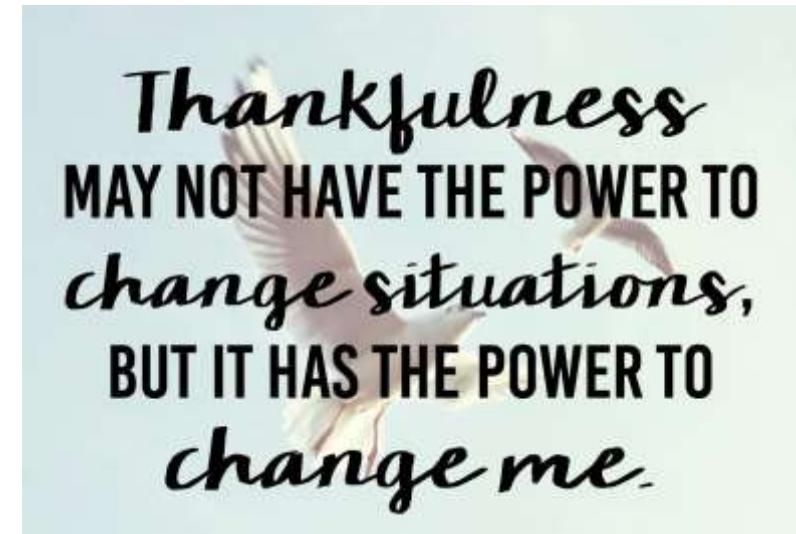
Website: www.mtm-umc.org www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

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

November 18, 2018



20th century writer, Aaron N. Meckel gave this advice, "Keep gratitude alive in your heart. Try living on 'Thanksgiving Street.' Reckon up your mercies and you will feel an inner kindling of soul. People will be glad at the sight of you. And who knows? Perhaps even the heart of the infinite Giver of every good and perfect gift will rejoice."

On a scale from 1 to 10, how thankful are you today?

Blessings on the journey,

Rev. Kristina Hansen

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Dave Doyle

Liturgist: Missy Hackett

Cross Bearer: Josh Carr

Greeters: Amanda Repetsky and Zach Scott

Bible Bearer: Avery Shamansky

Acolytes: Nathan Carr and Julia Shamansky

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are to the Glory of God and in memory of the Rome and Cipriano families, given by Pat and Carole Degnan.

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 during 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 last week are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

We will be holding our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018 at 5:30 in Dodd Hall. Thanksgiving is not only about being thankful to God for our bountiful blessing, but it is also about giving service to those in our community and church family. **ALL** are welcome to come and join in for a time of fellowship and food as we give thanks together. We will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings. Also, the dinner offers a great opportunity to come together as a faith community.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Desserts – baked goods needed

Set-up of tables – beginning at 3:30

Greeter – be at the door to Dodd Hall at 5:00

Serving the food – beginning at 5:15

Serving the drinks – beginning at 5:15

Clean-up – beginning at 6:30



Dinner items are provided by the Missions Committee. If you plan on attending the dinner or volunteering, please sign up with Debbie Dubien today during Fellowship Hour.

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS – Please see Beth O'Brien to share an address of a special student who may be studying hard in college or boarding school! Mary Taylor Memorial UMC loves ❤️ our students. We will send a fun care package on behalf of the church that they will love! Just in time for exams! **Please provide information to Beth no later than November 18th.** See Beth at church or contact her at 203-877-8668, bgobrien11@optonline.net.

CHARGE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, December 9th – 4:00 p.m. at Monroe UMC. This is a must attend meeting for everyone who calls MTMUMC their church. This will be a cluster wide Charge Conference. The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, our district superintendent will be there to lead us. Details and directions to follow at a later date.

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. See you there!

TRASH & TREASURES HELP WANTED:

Someone with a paper cutter to **cut cards for mounting jewelry**. Someone to **mount the jewelry, on pre-cut cards**, at your own leisure. **A replacement for Dolly:** Ideally, Dolly would like a trainee to shadow her for a year. Dolly will continue to serve on the T&T team but wants to cut back on her responsibilities. Please prayerfully consider taking over the leadership of the Trash and Treasures team. Please continue to **save donations** of clean, working household items and clothing throughout the fall and winter. We will accept new donations in March 2019.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL

<i>Sunday, November 18</i>	8:45 a.m.	<i>Sunday School Jamboree – Chapel</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Java for the Journey (Adult Class with Coffee!) – Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship- Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time– Dodd Hall</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Blood pressure screenings-Sanctuary-Sheryl Hollyday, RN</i>▪ <i>Boys and Girls Village gift tags available today-see Maryann Petremont</i>
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Congregational Thanksgiving Luncheon sponsored by the Men’s Club</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>Quest youth meeting – Annual food drive distribution & dinner</i>
<i>Monday, November 19</i>	11:00 a.m.	<i>Sally Chapin Memorial Service – Sanctuary</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Historical Society meeting – Dodd Hall</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
	7:30 p.m.	<i>Worship Committee meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 20</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Bible Study with Don Hastings – Egan Room</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Ecumenical Thanksgiving service at St. Mary’s church (Gulf St.)</i>
		<i>Pastor Kristina will offer the sermon</i>
<i>Wednesday, Nov. 21</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
		<i>NO Choir Dinner/Bell & Adult Choir rehearsals today</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Alcathon 6pm through 7pm Thursday Nov. 22-Wesley Center</i>
<i>Thursday November 22</i>		<i>Thanksgiving – the Office is closed today</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC Community Dinner – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Friday, November 23</i>		<i>The Office is closed today</i>
<i>Saturday, November 24</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group-Chapel</i>
<i>Sunday, November 25</i>	8:45 a.m.	<i>Sunday School Jamboree – Chapel</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Java for the Journey (Adult Class with Coffee!) – Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship- Sanctuary</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time– Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, November 26</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Beacon Volunteers – Wesley Center, Egan Room</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Nominating Committee meeting – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 27</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Bible Study with Don Hastings – Egan Room</i>
<i>Wednesday, Nov. 28</i>	5:00/6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Choir Dinner/Bell & Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, November 29</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Gay/Straight Alliance meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, November 30</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>UMW Cookie Walk set-up Dodd Hall 10am – noon</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, Dec.1st</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Men’s Tres Dias reunion group-Chapel</i>
	9:30 a.m.	<i>UMW Cookie Walk – Dodd Hall</i>

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME IS HOSTED by the Men’s Club with our Thanksgiving Luncheon – all are welcome. Next week’s hosts will be the Education Committee.

COAT DRIVE & WARM CLOTHING for Bridgeport Rescue Mission will be collected today. See Maryann Petremont for donations.

BOYS & GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

It’s almost that time of year! We are again sponsoring children from Boys and Girls Village this Christmas. **Starting November 18, gift tag selections will be available** - just in time for black Friday shopping! Sponsor a child by providing a gift of clothing, pajamas, or a wish list item. This is a fantastic idea for an alternative gift for those on your list that just have everything. Please stop by the Missions table during Fellowship Hour to make a selection from the available gift tags for one of the children. Let’s brighten Christmas day for the children of Boys and Girls Village.



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.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

SALLY CHAPIN MEMORIAL SERVICE will be held in the Sanctuary on Monday, November 19th at 11:00 a.m.

November 20: ECUMENICAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE at Precious Blood Parish, St. Mary’s Church (Gulf Street) at 7pm. Rev. Kristina Hansen will offer the message “A Teacup, A Bucket, or a Wagon Pull” based on Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, 15.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be operating on an abbreviated schedule due to Thanksgiving. Please submit notices for the bulletin NO LATER THAN Tuesday, November 20th at noon.

THE THANKSGIVING ALCATHON begins Wednesday at 6 p.m. and continues Thanksgiving Day until 7 p.m. in the Wesley Center. Please keep our brothers and sisters in prayer who are wrestling with addictions, especially at this holiday time.

NEXT SUNDAY

November 25 **PENTECOST 27: Last Sunday of Pentecost/Christ the King**

- Pastor Dani Levine will offer the message "LORD OF THE KINGS?" based on Revelation 1:4b-8 and John 18:33-37.
- Healing anointing will be offered at the close of worship.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR ✓

PLEASE NOTE: BEACON Volunteers will meet on MONDAY, November 26th at 9:00 am in the Egan Room.

MARY LOU KAMPERT will be on vacation November 26th through November 30th. Becky Virgalla will be filling in for her in the church office.

It's that time of year again. **YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE WORKING ON OUR 2019 BUDGET and we need your input. Work area and committee chairs, please submit your budget requests to Nancy Bennett** either by putting it in her church mailbox, via email to Nancy516@aol.com, mail to 26 High Street, Milford, CT 06460 or you can even easier, you can hand it to her in church! Thanks.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will have their annual **Cookie Walk** on **Saturday, December 1st at 9:30am** in Dodd Hall. Cookies may be dropped off on Friday November 30th between 10am and noon, or between 8:30 and 9:30am Saturday morning.



UMCOR EQUAL EXCHANGE coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate bar orders will be taken Sunday, December 1st in Dodd Hall. See Christine McGregor for more information.



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. **December 9th, is 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:** 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, Gam-Anon, and Recovery from Co-dependency (CODA) WEEKLY. Please call the church office at 203-874-1982 for the schedule or see it posted on the bulletin boards, our Yahoo Groups and on Facebook @mtmumc.

PLEASE NOTE: During a medical or other emergency the Head Usher or a designee will call #911. Please do not call or text #911 on your cell phone as multiple calls may delay response.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR November 11th

Total worship attendance all services: 142; Nov.11th130; Nov.12th Healing and Wholeness:12; Total Offerings for Nov. 11th: \$7,706.75; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence: \$3,497.97; Engaged in Small Groups: 113; Golden Hill Supper: 11; UMW: 15; Sunday School: 35; Adult Sunday School: 14; NO Quest:; Jesus Bible Study: 6; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir:18; Office Volunteers: 5; 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.