

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
168 South Broad Street Phone: 203.874.1982  
Milford, Connecticut 06460 FAX: 203.877.8973

*First Methodist Church in Milford: 1836*  
*Current building dedicated: 1893*  
*Merged with Myrtle Beach Community Church: 1969*  
*Nesting Ghana Emmanuel UM Church: 2016*

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

**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**  
**THE REIGN OF CHRIST, THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**November 20, 2016**

**Order of Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**

(\* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

INFORMAL HYMN SINGING (9:45 a.m.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Praise and Thanksgiving” G.F. Handel

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Praise God for This Holy Ground”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 65, verses 9-13, paraphrased

Leader: O God, visit the earth, ask her to join the dance! Drench the plowed fields with rainfall as earth produces blossoms and fruit!

People: *You crown the year with goodness and your paths drip with fatness. The hills rejoice; the abundant valleys shout and sing for joy! Let us worship and praise God!*

\*HYMN #694 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” St. George’s Windsor

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT (*unison*)

*Almighty God, by whose appointments the seasons come and go, by whose word earth yields its increase and by whose hand we receive blessings: grant that your benevolence will inspire us to live from an attitude of gratitude for all you have done for us, most especially in giving us the gift of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION “For the Spirit of Truth” Hymnal #597  
*From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the laziness that is contented with half-truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver me. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES Cathy Cono, Supt. and Dr. Bodt

Third graders: *Coltin Darak, Carolyn Hollyday, Natalie Rendon*

2016 Confirmands: *Allison Bennett, Josh Carr, Nate Carr, Lillia Downing, Elizabeth Kim, Olivia Kingston, Amanda Repetsky*

Response: *We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your church school classes and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God’s word.*

HYMN #598, verse 1 (*seated*) “O Word of God Incarnate” Munich

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 23:1-6 Bible p.711

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

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH Luke 1:68-79 Hymnal #208

\*THE GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43 Bible p.963

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

\*HYMN #718 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” Helmsley

THE SERMON “From Beginning to End” Dr. Bodt

\*HYMN #57 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” Azmon

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.*  
(*Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.*)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT Sheryl Hollyday

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, *including food offerings for Milford neighbors, Christian Community Action (New Haven) and AIDS Project New Haven*

Offertory Anthem: “All Things Bright and Beautiful” J. Rutter  
(*Adult Choir*)

\*Presentation: “Now Thank We All Our God” Hymnal #102, vs. 3  
***“All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.”***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Eternal God, we ask you to bless these gifts: of tithes and offerings for the ministry of the church; of food for people in need; of song that hearts may be lifted in praise. Bless all who give time, talent and treasure for the up-building of your Kingdom. Help us to live from a profound sense of gratitude for all you have done for us, most especially in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN #102 “Now Thank We All Our God” Nun Danket

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE 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 “Fantasia on ‘St. George’s Windsor’” E. Broughton  
(*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, November 20</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
<i>Shoebboxes &amp; Feed the Hungry</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Bags are due today</i>	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Blood Pressure Screenings – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Gift Tags are available for</i>	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Men’s Club Congregation Thanksgiving dinner-Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Boys &amp; Girls Village</i>	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship - Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF meeting –Annual food drive distribution – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, November 21</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Red Cross Blood Drive at MTMUMC – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Beacon Volunteers/Office Volunteers – Egan Room</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness worship - Chapel</i>
	<i>8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Worship Committee meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 22</i>		<i>NO Confirmation Class – attend Community Thanksgiving worship</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Choir warm-up for Community Thanksgiving worship</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Community Thanksgiving Worship –St. Mary’s Church-Gulf St.</i>
<i>Wednesday, November 23</i>	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Taize Worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Alcathon – Wesley Center classrooms</i>
		<i>NO Bell or Adult Choir rehearsals this evening</i>
<i>Thursday, November 24</i>		<i>THANKSGIVING DAY – THE OFFICE IS CLOSED</i>
		<i>Alcathon – Wesley Center classrooms</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper</i>
	<i>6:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Taize Worship Service – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, November 25</i>		<i>THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY</i>
<i>Sunday, November 27</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Visitation Ministry – Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>NO MYF meeting today</i>
<i>Monday, November 28</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness worship - Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, November 29</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wednesday, November 30</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Lay Leaders transition meeting –Pastor’s study</i>
<i>Thursday, December 1</i>		<i>BUDGET SUBMISSION DEADLINE – see notice</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Love Feast – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Friday, December 2</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Prepare for Cookie Walk – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, December 3</i>	<i>9:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Cookie Walk – Dodd Hall</i>

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Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973  
Website: [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org) [www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)  
E-mail: [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

*Grace Notes*  
*November 20, 2016*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

*I don’t spend much time looking in the rearview mirror. It makes it hard to keep my eyes on the road ahead. Our preacher at last Sunday’s Covenant Celebration Service, the Rev. David Gilmore, mentioned his love of baseball. It brought to mind Satchell Paige, the late, great pitcher of the Negro leagues who was denied entrance to all-white Major League Baseball until 1948 when he was 42 years old, the oldest major league rookie. Still, Paige’s outstanding baseball career in both the Negro and major leagues earned him induction as the first Black player to Major League Baseball’s Hall of Fame. He could have been bitter but instead famously opined, “Don’t look back, something might be gaining on you.”*

*So while I don’t look back much, I have to say that last Sunday’s Covenant Celebration Service with our Ghana Emmanuel UM Church neighbors was a high point for me and for many. Thanks to all for making the afternoon and evening a joy. We’ll find new and more ways to share worship and fellowship in times to come.*

*In his personal remarks at that service, Superintendent Kieffer shared the story of attending an anniversary service where the pastor said that the “heyday” of that church was 150 years ago. May this never be said of us! As we conclude the Christian year on this Sunday of the Reign of Christ, let us give thanks for all of God’s mercies. Let us remember that we truly are blessed. Let our national day of Thanksgiving remind us that every day is a day to express gratitude to Almighty God. And let us look ahead to Advent, to the new Christian year, and to the truth - as my late Uncle Lowell used to say – that “the best is yet to be!”*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt*  
*Pastor*

## AT WORSHIP TODAY

**Head Usher** – Dennis Darak

**Greeters** – Marie Marczak and Eileen Potkay

**Liturgist** – Sarah O'Brien

**Bible bearer** – Tyler Walsh

**Cross Bearer** – Amanda Repetsky

**Acolytes** – Olivia Kingston and Allison Bennett

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Pastor Brian Bodt and Sarah O'Brien.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** today are to Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.

**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 and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989).

**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](http://www.mtm-umc.org).

## 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](mailto: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 ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW**, according to Paul Downing's contact with the animal shelter. "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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** [brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com). **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or [Danielle.levine@mail.com](mailto: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 November 13th:**

Total worship attendance all services: 253; November 13<sup>th</sup> 10am: 154, 5pm: 87; Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>: Healing & Wholeness: 12; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for November 13th: \$6,348.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$236.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$39.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 141; MYF: 16; Golden Hill: 9; Prayer Shawl: 3; Sunday School: 38; Staff-Parish: 9; Trash & Treasures: 8; UMW: 25; Confirmation class: 7; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 16; 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

## BUDGET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

To allow the Finance Committee adequate time to prepare its proposed 2017 budget, all committee chairs are asked to please submit their budget requests by **Thursday, Dec. 1.**

Please give them to Nancy Bennett, Finance Chair. You can hand them to her in church, put them in her church office mailbox or email them to her at [nancy516@aol.com](mailto:nancy516@aol.com). Please call Nancy with questions at home (203-874-6434) or on her cell (203-530-0176).



**A THANK YOU** from Maureen Groves: I thank God for sending us to Mary Taylor Memorial Church and thank my Mary Taylor Memorial Church family for all the visits, cards and prayers that have gotten me through my recovery this far. *Maureen.*

## TODAY

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) in the form of the **ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER** hosted by the Men’s Club. There is no charge for this event and all are encouraged to stay. Thanks, men! **Next Sunday’s host** will be Education.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** will be given in the sanctuary **after worship** by Carol Galloway, M.S., P.T.

**BOYS AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFT TAGS** are available **after worship** in Dodd Hall from Kate Georgelos. Gifts are due back on Dec. 11 to Deb Dubien in Dodd Hall.

**WE WILL SET UP OUR CHRISMON TREE** in the sanctuary after the Thanksgiving Dinner. If you would like to assist, **see Worship Chair Priscilla James this morning.**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES** are due **today.** See Cathy Cono.

**THE THANKSGIVING FOOD BAGS** blessed at today’s offering will be distributed this afternoon by our **METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**. **MYF meets from 4-7 p.m.** in Dodd Hall to sort and distribute food to AIDS Project New Haven, Christian Community Action and MTMUMC families. **YOUTH MUST** have a permission slip for this event. Slips, along with a detailed cover letter, were mailed last Tuesday. Please turn yours in to Pastor Dani Levine or see her if you need a new one. Afterward we will share dinner coordinated by Stacy Meszaros. **Parent pick-up is at 7 p.m. at Dodd Hall.**

**THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE, 2017 RESERVATION DEADLINE IS TODAY.** See Don Hastings this morning. **No money is needed at this time and scholarship help is available, but we do need an accurate count.** This daily devotional is based on the lectionary, the source of the scriptures used in Sunday worship. Cost will be \$10 for regular or large print.

**UNITED METHODIST HOMES: 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE TREES** and Wesley Village Craft Fair concludes today at 3 p.m. at Wesley Heights, 580 Long Hill Avenue, Shelton.

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.**

## THIS WEEK

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS** meet **tomorrow, 9 a.m.** in the Egan Room, Wesley Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor to mail the December “Beacon.”

**BLOOD DRIVE AT MARY TAYLOR** is **tomorrow, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. You may schedule an appointment at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or register online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), or take a chance and just drop in.

**EARLY DEADLINE** for next Sunday’s notices is **Tuesday at noon.** The church office is closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov. 25.

## THIS WEEK, continued

**MILFORD COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE** will be held Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2016, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. Church, 70 Gulf Street. **The preacher will be the Rev. Kimball Cartwright**, Interim Pastor of the Woodmont United Church of Christ, Milford. The combined interfaith choir will gather at 6 p.m. for warm-up. The offering will be the energy assistance fund of Milford's Department of Human Services. Please do plan to be present to join our community in giving thanks.

**THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER** will be Thursday, Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. This annual event for MTMUMC members, friends and community will be held in Dodd Hall. **If you plan to attend to eat, and/or willing to assist in preparing or serving**, please contact Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959 or Jim Repetsky at 203.874.8688. Taize worship will follow dinner at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## NEXT SUNDAY, November 27<sup>th</sup>

**ADVENT I /UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY.** The Advent wreath will be lit by Mark and Joanne Platt. The message "The Unexpected Guest" will be based on Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44. We will receive a special offering for United Methodist Student Day which supports college and seminary scholarships in The United Methodist Church. Prayer and healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymns. **NO MYF** meeting next Sunday.

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

**CUSTODIAN VOLUNTEERS** are still needed. See **Dennis Darak (203.988.3554)**.

**REPORT TO THE D.S.:** I invite you to share thoughts about my ministry with any member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee prior to Mon., Nov. 28. SPRC submits an annual report to our District Superintendent following a prescribed form inquiring about the spiritual, financial and physical health of our church, my ministry effectiveness, and areas to improve. **Contact:** Dennis Darak (874-5881), Wil Wright (877-5021), Rich Perregaux (283-5758), Tom Beyer (526-2265), Tina Gage (877-1924), Edie Reichard (822-0683), Eileen Doyle (878-9049), Becky Virgalla (788-2889), Leigh Bak (877-4807) or Kelly O'Hara (283-4676). **Pastor Brian**

**LIVING CRECHE:** This annual tradition presents a Nativity tableau in front of our church to remind the Milford community of "the Reason for the Season." Members and friends represent the Holy Family and traditional "others" (shepherds, Wise Men) in several shifts on Thurs., Dec. 22, Fri., Dec. 23 and Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve times are between 4:45 and 6:10 p.m. to be present before and after the 5 p.m. worship. Thursday and Friday times are usually 6-8 p.m. but will soon be determined. If you are interested in participating or learning more, contact Rachel Merva at 203.641.5088 or [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net).

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST, continued

A "LOVE FEAST" WORSHIP will be held on Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The theme for this historic Methodist liturgy is "God Is Love" using hymns, scripture and testimonies. A time of fellowship will follow. Other details are in the planning stages at this writing. Speak with Pastor Brian, Judy Darak or Eileen Doyle if you'd like to know more.



### Start the Holiday Season on a Joyful Note !

Don't miss the chance to sing time-honored, loved, traditional Christmas carols at MTMUMC's **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Sing-Along and Healing and Wholeness Service**



Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

**6:30 – 8:00 pm**

In The Chapel in Wesley Center

Music accompaniment by:  
Pastor Hal Vink, Mark Platt,  
Ken Wilhelm, Wayne Kenyon