

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1843
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.*

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

The Reign of Christ, the last Sunday after Pentecost
November 24, 2013

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 “Our Hymn of Grateful Praise” J. Rasley

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing those items not published elsewhere.)

INTROIT “Give Thanks”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 65, vss 9-13, paraphrased

Leader: O God, visit the earth, ask her to join the dance!

People: ***Drench the plowed fields with rainfall as earth produces blossoms and fruit.***

Leader: You crown the year with goodness and your paths drip with fatness.

People: ***The hills rejoice; the abundant valleys shout and sing for joy!***

ALL: LET US WORSHIP AND PRAISE GOD FOR ALL GOD’S MERCIES!

*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

Lord, we confess that we have been blessed abundantly in things but are impoverished in spirit. Too often we look upon what we lack rather than what we have. Too often we look with envy at our neighbor, never aware that our neighbor is looking in envy at us. Grant that our desire to draw close to you is infused with a fresh spirit of gratitude for all your mercies. We pray this in the name of the one who has guaranteed your mercy and our salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Jeremiah 23:1-6 Bible p.711
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God.***

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDEN

*THE GOSPEL Luke 1:68-79 Hymnal #208
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON “Rip Van Winkle’s Secret Wish?” Dr. Bodt

HYMN #131 *(seated)* “We Gather Together” Kremser

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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS with the U.M. Student Day offering

Offertory: “For the Beauty of the Earth” J. Rutter

*Presentation: “Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow” Hymnal #94

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Eternal God, we ask your blessings on 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 (*insert, seated*) “Count Your Blessings” Blessings
HYMN #102 (*seated*) “Now Thank We All Our God” Nun Danket

You are invited to come forward to receive a healing anointing for yourself or on behalf of another. Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This practice from the earliest days of the Church expresses God’s love as a mysterious, caring expression of Christ’s promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

*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 Chorale Prelude on “Nun Danket alle God” S. Karg-Elert
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, November 24

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY/THE REIGN OF CHRIST

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center

10:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Annual Thanksgiving Dinner-Dodd Hall-Men's Club

11:15 a.m. Operation Shoeboxes due today-see Cathy Cono

Noon Presentation by Rev. Richard Deam-Sanctuary

12:30 p.m. "Shopping" in Wesley Center – see "Today" notice

4:00 p.m. MYF Thanksgiving food sort & dinner- Dodd Hall

Monday, November 25

10:30 a.m. Milford Blood Drive – Dodd Hall & Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel

7:30 p.m. "Extravagant Generosity" team, Blue Sky Diner,
273 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford

Tuesday, November 26

NO Confirmation or Disciple classes – Happy Thanksgiving!

7:00 p.m. "Wrestling with Angels" adult study – Gunn Library

7:00 p.m. M&E Meeting-Wesley Center

Wednesday, November 27

10:00 a.m. "Wrestling with Angels" adult study – Gunn Library

5:00 p.m. Community Supper-Golden Hill-Bridgeport

7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service-St. Mary's-Gulf Street

Thursday, November 28

5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Community Supper-Dodd Hall (office closed)

Friday, November 29

11:00 a.m. MYF Holiday treat-making – Dodd Hall (office closed)

Sunday, December 1

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall

11:00 a.m. MYF Treat-making – lunch provided

4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Christmas caroling starts at Dodd Hall

Monday, December 2

2:00 p.m. "Christmas is not your Birthday" study – Gunn Library

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Egan Room

7:00 p.m. "Christmas is not your Birthday" study – Gunn Library

Tuesday, December 3

5:45 p.m. 2014 Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study

7:00 p.m. "Wrestling with Angels" adult study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 a.m. "Wrestling with Angels" adult study – Gunn Library

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

6:00 p.m. Pastors-Lay Leaders – Pastor's study

6:00 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room

Saturday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk - Dodd Hall

Grace Notes

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 24, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

I am grateful for this congregation and our vital witness for Christ. A VERY brief and incomplete list of recent occasions for giving thanks includes:

- Your generous response last Sunday of \$2,646.40 to Typhoon Haiyan relief (you may give a gift today if you were unable to last week).
- All who attended last Thursday's Church Conference and our newly-elected officers and committees. Extra report booklets are in the Narthex.
- The Men's Club annual hosting of today's Thanksgiving feast.
- The volunteers who will make possible meals on Thanksgiving Eve and Day (see articles under "This Week" and, if you are coming Thursday to eat, please let us know in Dodd Hall today).
- Director of Music, Rick Riccardi, giving music leadership to choristers and worshippers coming to this Wednesday's Community Thanksgiving Eve service, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 70 Gulf Street, Milford. Over 300 attended last year.
- Everyone, from office volunteers to authors, who met our December "Beacon" deadline. Your copy should have arrived Friday or Saturday but extras are in the Narthex. Lots of fun and worthwhile things to do in Advent!
- Our staff, and notably Pastor Hal's teaching ministry.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

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| Ministers | All the People of God | Bishop | The Rev. Dr. Martin D. McLee |
| 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 | Bruce Rumford | Music Director | Dr. Richard L. Riccardi |
| Child Care Coordinators | Betty Laferriere and Nicole Ellerbeck | | |

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Liturgist – Sue O’Shea

Acolytes – Lia & Jaden Bonfietti-Csvihinka

Greeters – Dot & Bruce Long

Cross Bearer – Olivia D’Andrea

Bible Bearer – Anna Wessinger

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Narthex door and Sue O’Shea at the Dodd Hall door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of Myrtle Hawkins, given by Ken and Elaine Hawkins.

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

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in each pew or obtain one from an usher. Ushers collect them on the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. Please obtain others’ permission to share their concerns. These prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. Please also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

TODAY’S LITURGY is from Holy Scripture, The Book of Worship (1964) and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Call to Worship is a paraphrase of Psalm 65 using the King James and New Revised Standard versions of the Bible and “The Message” paraphrase. The unison prayers of confession and dedication were written by the Pastor.

SERMON COPIES from November 17 and previous messages are available in the rear of the church and on-line: www.mtm-umc.org.

CHURCH INFORMATION is available in the racks in back of the church.

CHILD CARE: *For children 5 and under* is provided in Wesley Center, building next door to sanctuary – OR – the service may be heard in Dodd Hall, if you wish to use it for restless children during service. *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 a parent or guardian.*

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. –2 p.m. If Wesley Center is locked, call Mary Lou at 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753).

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church & monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: **Wet and dry cat and dog food is desperately needed for seniors with pets.** Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: **Beth is now accepting orders for 2014.** Orders are taken at any time for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers” to support missions (UMCOR, UM Army and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). **A donation in lieu of altar flowers is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar.* Please contact Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net or Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: **Pastor Brian** (brian.bodt@yahoo.com: 203.874-1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753) is typically in office 9 – Noon, Mon. – Thurs. **Pastor Hal Vink** can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@yahoo.com. Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations.

“**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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 17:

Total worship attendance all services: 175 (Nov. 17, 166; Healing and Wholeness Nov. 18: 9) Total Offering: \$9,368.15 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 128; (Sunday School, 37; Fall Prevention Workshop, 8; Confirmation, 15; Disciple, 10; Wrestling with Angels, Tues. 9 and Wed. 11; Bell Choir 8, Adult Choir 17; UMW Tuesday evening Nov. 12: 13). Total number persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0. **Important! Small Groups – please email the church office (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or call (203.874.1982) with your attendance.*

PLEASE NOTE: Should there be a medical or other emergency during the worship service, someone designated by the head usher will call #911. Do not call on your cell phone. Multiple calls may delay response. Thank you.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

THE LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY IS READY! We have sent it out via our Yahoo member group. You may also find the link for the survey on our Mary Taylor Memorial Church website: www.mtm-umc.org. Hard copies (traditional paper copy) are also available in the rear of the church. The survey will take between 20-40 minutes. We ask all members, age high school and up, who attend MTMUMC to participate. If completing on-line, you may begin and go back if you don't complete it at one time. We ask for surveys to be completed by November 30th. Thank you for your participation.

Sue O'Shea, Long-Range Planning Chair

THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE: orders are being taken for the 2014 Upper Room Discipline, a daily devotional based on the lectionary upon which Sunday morning scripture choices are usually based. Cost is \$10 for either regular or large print. If paying by check please make it out to "MTMUMC." To order, contact Don Hastings at 203.877.4554 or mctmwash@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR THE 38th ANNUAL LIVING CRÈCHE ON DEC. 22ND DEC. 23RD (6-8 p.m.) and 24th (5-7 pm). Volunteers dress in costume as members of the Nativity tableau, serving in roughly 20 minute shifts, remaining still and looking at the baby Jesus. This public witness is well-known in Milford for nearly forty years. In addition, we need volunteers to assemble (Dec. 15th) and dismantle (Dec. 29th) the crèche structure. If you would like to be a part of the living crèche team, contact Rachel Merva at 203-641-5088 or rmerva@optonline.net. Consider making this your new tradition in witness to Christ's love!

TUTORS NEEDED! The Literacy Center is partnering with Bridges and West Shore Middle School in an after school tutoring program and activity time. They need volunteers to help with homework time, reading time, activity after homework – ideas needed, family nights. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Literacy Center at 203-878-4800.

WANT TO SERVE:

as a Bible bearer, acolyte or cross bearer? Please contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.

as a Liturgist? Please contact Laura Perregaux: 203.520.8183.

NEED A NEW OR REPLACEMENT NAME TAG? Contact (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 10) with your request please. **PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS** on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **WELCOME VISITORS!** May you experience God's presence with us. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" name tag to help us greet you warmly. Our Ambassadors will look for you!
- **TODAY'S SPECIAL OFFERING** is a United Methodist denominational offering supporting national student scholarships as described on the insert.
- **THANKSGIVING SUNDAY POT LUCK DINNER** sponsored by the Men's Club follows worship in Dodd Hall. All are invited – it's free. **FELLOWSHIP HOUR next week** will be hosted by the Finance Committee.
- **THE REV. RICHARD DEAM**, financial planner, will present a noon seminar in the sanctuary on "Alternative Gifting Resources:" ways to gift that help reduce taxes without using current cash resources. Rev. Deam was with us in the spring and his counsel found useful by several of our members.
- **A SHOPPING OPPORTUNITY AWAITS IN THE WESLEY CENTER** as we thin out items in preparation for floor re-tiling in December. You may purchase items stored in two designated rooms that are marked with green tags. The rooms will be open from 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. See Rachel Merva for more information.
- **THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY SUPPER SIGN-UPS** are in Dodd Hall. The traditional dinner will be Thurs., Nov. 28th, 5:30 pm, open to all. If you plan to attend please sign up or see Laura Perregaux (misslmp@yahoo.com/203.520.8183) or Debbie Dubien (debrad246@yahoo.com/ 203.877.4959) so we have enough food. You may also contribute food or sign up to help serve.
- **SHOEBOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** are due today. Please see Cathy Cono with yours.
- **BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** Let's brighten Christmas day for the children of Boys and Girls Village. There are 29 children being supported this year through our annual support to Boys and Girls Village. Please see Maryanne Petremont during Fellowship Hour to make a selection of a gift tag for one of the children. There will be a tag for clothing and toys for each of the children. **The gifts should be returned, wrapped and with the child's name, December 15.**
- **BIBLES FOR PAST CONFIRMANTS REQUESTS ARE DUE TODAY.** If your child was confirmed prior to 2012 and desires a Confirmation presentation Bible, please contact Pastor Brian at brian.bodt@yahoo.com or 203.874.1982, ext. 11.
- **SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.**

THIS WEEK

THE MILFORD BLOOD BANK will hold their annual Blood Drive in the MTMUMC Sanctuary and Dodd Hall **TOMORROW** from 10:30 am- 3:45 pm. To make an appointment to donate, please call the Red Cross at 1-800-redcross (800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org.

BULLETIN NOTICES for next Sunday, December 1st are due **TOMORROW at 9 a.m.** due to the “short” week. Please submit hard copy to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. **THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY AND FRIDAY, NOV. 29.**

“**WRESTLING WITH ANGELS**” is our mid-week adult study led by Pastor Hal. Unlike some courses, you may attend as many or few as you wish. This week’s theme is “How Do I Forgive and Get On With My Life?” Session are **Tuesdays from 7-8:30 and Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Just Come!

OUR NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH will be **this Wed., Nov. 27, 2:30 – 5 p.m.** Please contact Maryanne Meehan Jordan to assist: maryannej@charter.net or 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home). We prepare the meal for 100+ people. Golden Hill is about 20 minutes away, right off I-95.

THE MILFORD COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.** at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, 70 Gulf Street, Milford. Dr. Riccardi will lead the combined community choir (rehearsing at 6 p.m.) and Pastor Brian will bring the children’s message. The offering will support Milford’s fuel assistance fund.

OUR THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY SUPPER is **Thursday, Nov. 28 at 5:30 p.m.** Details for reservations, volunteering and donations under “Activities and Info Today.”

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT 1: The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will use a liturgy set to the tune of familiar carols. The Advent wreath will be lit by Brenda and Ed Pineau. The message “The Christ Patch” will be based on Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14 and Matthew 24:36-44.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING will be held after worship to do Christmas pageant planning (Dec. 14) and planning for the upcoming floor renovation.

MYF TREAT MAKING will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Dodd Hall, lunch provided.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING will begin at 4 p.m. We will meet at Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) and carpool to Milford Healthcare Center. Anyone of any age and musical talent, or none at all, is welcomed! Refreshments and fellowship follows at the Gage’s house, 210 Tanglewood Circle. Please speak with Tina if you would like to contribute to the refreshments being served. 203-877-1924 or tinagage@optonline.net.

COMING SOON

ADULT STUDY: CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY – led by Kelly O’Hara. There will be two classes offered beginning **Monday, December 2: Mondays, 2-3:30 pm** or **7-8:30 pm** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Education Center, 2nd fl. This 5 week study will cast a vision of how we can experience the joy of living and giving like Jesus. Sign up with Co-Lay Leader Kelly O’Hara at 203-877-2517 or yankee89@optonline.net.

COOKIE WALK: Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m. our United Methodist Women open their annual Cookie Walk in Dodd Hall. Come and buy your holiday homemade cookies. You may purchase a small, medium or large can. **If you would like to donate homemade cookies for the Walk,** please drop them off on Fri., Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. and noon; or Saturday morning, Dec. 7 after 8:30 a.m.

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE is **Sunday, December 8.** See enclosed flier. Please print clearly.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be **Sunday, December 8, 5 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. A full flier with details is in today’s program. Bring a dish to share and, if you wish, a gift for the Yankee Swap (\$10 limit and appropriate for either gender, please). **If you would like to help, contact Anna Henry** at annamhenry@gmail.com or 203.339.5091 or **Cathy Cono** at spikkio@optonline.net or 203.645.2362.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER: Saturday, Dec. 14, 5 p.m. If your children would like to participate in the pageant, please contact Sylvia Elliott at 203.877.7567 or elliottb2@mac.com. The MYF dinner and auction follows the pageant with a free-will offering supporting one of the MYF’s missions. Please support our children and youth.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE that appeared in the November “Beacon.” It appears again in December’s issue which was mailed this past Wednesday. Deadline for donations is **Sunday, December 15.**