

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone 203.874.1982
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.*

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2015

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 “Wachet Auf” J.S. Bach

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 80:1-3, CEB (edited)

Leader: Shepherd of Israel, listen! Show yourself, wake up your power!

People: ***Come to save us! Restore us, God!***

All: ***Make your face shine so that we can be saved!***

*HYMN #211 (*verses 1,2,6, 7*) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Veni Emmanuel

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Hope
Mark and Joanne Platt

SUNG RESPONSE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Hymn #206, vs. 1

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

°°°
THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*)

Hymnal #201

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory

of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 2:1-5 Bible p.618

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

THE EPISTLE Romans 13:11-14 Bible p.1034

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44 Bible p.903

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

*HYMN #720 “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” Wachtet Auf

THE SERMON “The Unexpected Guest” 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.***
(Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, *including the special offering for
UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY*

Offertory Anthem: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” G. Holst

*Presentation: “What Child Is This” Hymnal #219, vs. 3

***“So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.”***

*Prayer of Dedication

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

The last Sunday of each month, all are invited to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles as we sing hymns #626, 196, 216 and 214. As able, stand or kneel at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church practice expresses Christ’s promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.

*HYMN #202

“People, Look East”

Besancon

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymnal #204

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.*

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

*POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

R. Haan

(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 27</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Visitation Ministry – Wesley Center, 1st 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>
<i>Sunday, December 4</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School Pageant rehearsal-Sanctuary-lunch provided</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF meeting today- Youth Lounge</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Fellowship and Yankee Swap-Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 5</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 6</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 7</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal</i>
<i>Friday, December 9</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, December 10</i>	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant-Sanctuary/Dinner follows</i>



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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
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

Grace Notes
The First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

From the German Reformer Martin Luther
 The First Sunday of Advent, 1522

Behold thy King.
 He comes; He comes to thee.
 Yea, thou goest not to him, neither does thou fetch him.

He is too high for thee and too far away.

All wealth and wit, thy toil and labor,
 will not bring thee near him,
 lest thou pride thyself that thy merit
 and worthiness have brought him unto thee.

Here comes together man in his poverty
 and the Lord in his unsearchable riches.

Therefore, learn here what happens when God
 begins to build us into the likeness of God.
 There is no other beginning
 than that thy King comes to thee,
 and begins his work in thee.

Thou dost not seek him; he seeks thee.

Thou dost not find him; he finds thee.

Behold thy King.

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Liturgist – Lydia Smith

Cross Bearer – Lillia Downing

Intercessor – Mark Platt

Healing Anointers – Barbara Ann Griggs, Mary Lou Hastings, Priscilla James, Pastor Danielle Levine, Sandy Morgan, and Pastor Hal Vink.

Greeters – Christine McGregor and Diana Titus

Bible bearer – Mary Repetsky

Acolytes – Natalie Rendon and Carolyn Hollyday

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian Bodt and Lydia Smith.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in loving memory of Myrtle Fields 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

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.

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 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) 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 November 20th:

Total worship attendance all services: 207; November 20th 10am: 174, GEUMC, 5pm: 20 ; Nov. 21st, Healing & Wholeness: 13; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for November 20th: \$7,742.00; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$121.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$2,253.41; Engaged in Small Groups: 213; MYF: 32; Sunday School: 39; Office volunteers, Nov. 21: 7; Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 20: 112; Worship Committee: 8; Trash & Treasures: 8; Parish Wellness: 4; No Confirmation class, Bell Choir or Adult Choir; Office volunteers, Nov. 23: 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 or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.



BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

There is **still time** to help brighten Christmas day for the children of **BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE**. 20 children are supported through our annual commitment. Please visit the Missions Table during Fellowship Time to make a selection from our gift tags for one of the children. There is a tag for clothing, pajamas and toys for each of the children. Directions, new this year from Boys and Girls Village, are provided.

Please buy what you can afford. If you choose to get everything, consider partnering with a friend to reduce cost. **PLEASE LEAVE THE GIFTS UNWRAPPED.** Get gift receipts and staple or tape to the tag on the clothing item. Place **clothing** items in a box and tape the name label on the package. Put all items for the child in a large bag (a kitchen bag) so that the gifts will stay together. **TOYS** – Do the same. Leave unwrapped, place the name label on the box or item; place in a large bag. **RETURN BY DECEMBER 11**

SAVE THESE DATES – details in the December “Beacon”

- **Christmas pageant and MYF dinner:** Saturday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m.
- **Intergenerational Ring and Sing:** Sunday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.
- **2nd Annual Holiday Sing-Along and Healing and Wholeness Worship:**
 - Monday, Dec. 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m.

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted by the Education Committee. **Next Sunday’s host** will be the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

VISITATION COMMITTEE meets **today, 11:30 a.m.** in the Wesley Center, 1st floor.

BOYS AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFT TAGS may still be available from Deb Dubien (203.877.4959 or debrad246@yahoo.com). Please contact her if you’d like to support this effort. Gifts are due back to Deb on Dec. 11. See detailed article under the cartoon.

DECEMBER “BEACON” was mailed last Monday, Nov. 21. Extra copies in the sanctuary.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

A **“LOVE FEAST” WORSHIP** will be held on **this Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m.** in the sanctuary using John Wesley’s historic Methodist liturgy. The theme “God Is Love” will be expressed in hymns, scripture, prayer and testimony. A fellowship time will follow in Dodd Hall.

BUDGET SUBMISSION DEADLINE is **this Thursday, Dec. 1,** 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. Please call Nancy with questions at home (203-874-6434) or on her cell (203-530-0176).

COOKIE WALK BAKERS are welcomed to join our usual crew. Please **contact Joan Zauner** (203.283.5643) to let her know you’ll be baking. **Cookies can be dropped off on Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.** in Dodd Hall or the following morning at 9 a.m.

THE COOKIE WALK is **this Saturday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.** in Dodd Hall. Patrons fill cans of different sizes with home-made cookies from our MTMUMC bakers. Funds benefit the mission projects of the United Methodist Women. Come early – cookies go fast!

NEXT SUNDAY, December 4th

ADVENT II – 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 Edie Reichard and we will bless our Chrismon tree. The message “Repent? Who, me?” will be based on Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL will follow worship. Lunch will be provided. For questions or comments, please speak with Cathy (203.645.2362) or Holly (203.530.2621).

THE ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held in Dodd Hall beginning at 5 p.m. Child care provided. See the detailed flier enclosed on what to bring.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

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

REPORT ON PASTOR'S MINISTRY will be submitted this week to the District Superintendent. Thoughts may be shared with any member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee **today**. The annual report follows 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 6-8 p.m. **To sign up or assist with costumes or refreshments, contact Priscilla James at 203.804.0279 or pcjames60@gmail.com.**

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP UPDATES:

- Youth and advisors thank all who supported the Annual Food Drive Distribution with donations of food, time, and/or vehicles to make this missional outreach program a success. Special thanks to Stacy M. who coordinated and prepared our meal together.
- **MYF will not** meet tonight for the Thanksgiving break.
- **MYF will** meet 11 am - 1 pm **next Sunday, December 4th** to help prepare for the lasagna for after the Christmas Pageant. Any youth member not involved in the pageant, please let us know if you are coming, please email **Pastor Dani** (danielle.levine@mail.com).
- **MYF** will be serving dinner after the Christmas Pageant, **December 10th**. Please see next week's Grace Notes and watch for an email with more information regarding arrival times.

"JOURNEY THROUGH IRELAND" will be a ten-day pilgrimage May 29-June 7, 2017 organized by the Rev. Jim and Mary Ellen Midgley of First UM Church, Ansonia. The trip will include visiting sites where John Wesley himself preached and ministered. For cost and accommodation details contact Mary Ellen Midgley (203.313.4179 / mem12337@gmail.com). **A detailed overview of the trip will be provided on Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.** at First UMC, 47 Franklin Street, Ansonia. See fliers on the bulletin board in Dodd Hall.



Start the Holiday Season on a Joyful Note !

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



Monday, December 12th

6:30 – 8:00 pm

In The Chapel in Wesley Center

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