

**COMING SOON!**

Page numbers reference the December "Beacon" available in the sanctuary.

**CANDIED APPLE PREPARATION** by high school Methodist Youth Fellowship members happens **Thursday, Dec. 11, 7-9 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. RSVP to Sheryl Hollyday at [doulee@aol.com](mailto:doulee@aol.com) to let us know you can help. (p. 14)

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Sat., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Dress rehearsal at 3:30. Want your child to participate? Contact Cathy Cono (203.645.232 or [spikkio@optonline.net](mailto:spikkio@optonline.net).)

**Dinner to follow hosted by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.** (p. 16)

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Sunday, Dec. 14, 4 p.m.**, traveling to Milford Health and Rehabilitation and Seacrest Nursing Homes. (p. 6)

**SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON: Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, after worship.** (p. 5)

**LIVING CRECHE: Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Wed., Christmas Eve, 6 - 7 p.m.,** outside the sanctuary (p. 14).

*Grace Notes*

*The First Sunday in Advent  
November 30, 2014*

**Behold thy King.**

**He comes; He comes to thee.**

**Yea, thou goest not to him, neither doest 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 doest not seek him; he seeks thee.**

**Thou doest not find him; he finds thee.**

**Behold thy King.**

*Martin Luther*

The First Sunday in Advent, 1522

**ADULT FELLOWSHIP PARTY**

**YANKEE SWAP**



**WHO:** Mary Taylor Adults & Guests

**WHAT:** Bring a **\$10 wrapped gift** for our Yankee Swap plus an **APPETIZER** (Last name beginning with A-K) or **DESSERT** (last name beginning with L - Z). Beverages will be provided.

**WHEN:** Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 5:00 pm

**WHERE:** Dodd Hall, Mary Taylor Memorial UMC

**WHY:** For **Fun & Fellowship** - We promise you will learn something about your fellow guests that you never knew before! Contact Michelle Craig at 203.877.4332 or [michellemtmumc@gmail.com](mailto:michellemtmumc@gmail.com) for additional information.



# MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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	Interim Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Lyght
Lay Leaders	Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak	Bishop-elect	The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Superintendent	The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

## AT WORSHIP TODAY

**Head Usher** – Dave Doyle

**Greeters** – Judy Russell and Bev Anderson

**Acolytes** – Julianna Patterson and Bryan Thompson     **Cross Bearer** – Shannon Thompson

**Liturgist** – Kelly O'Hara     **Bible Bearer** – Mary Repetsky

**Healing Anointers** – Barbara Ann Griggs, Mary Lou Hastings, Priscilla James, Bob Lawrence and Pastor Hal

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Pastor Brian and Kelly O'Hara.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in honor of Dudley A. Brown.

**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 the attendance pads 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. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.

**TODAY'S LITURGY** is taken from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The unison confession is from resources of the Reconciling Ministries Network.

**SERMON COPIES** from recent weeks are in the rear of the church or [www.mtm-umc.org](http://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, 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.

## ~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

*Sunday, November 30*  
**ADVENT I**

*Monday, December 1*  
*Tuesday, December 2*

*Wednesday, December 3*

*Thursday, December 4*

*Friday, December 5*

*Saturday, December 6*  
*Sunday, December 7*  
**ADVENT II**

*Monday, December 8*

*(Rescheduled)*  
*Tuesday, December 9*

*Wednesday, December 10*

*Thursday, December 11*

*Center*

*Friday, December 12*  
*Saturday, December 13*

*9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center*  
*10:00 a.m. Worship and Healing Anointing - Sanctuary*  
*11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall*  
*Noon – 3 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship Lunch and Christmas treat making event – Dodd Hall*

*7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel*  
*5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center*  
*7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center*  
*5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall*  
*6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall*  
*6:00 p.m. Pastors' – Lay Leaders' meeting – Pastor's study*  
*6:30 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center*  
*6:30 p.m. Chrismon Tree Decorating – Sanctuary*  
*7:00 p.m. MYF treat making – Dodd Hall*  
*7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center*  
*(subject to confirmation)*

*10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers - Wesley Center*  
*10:00 a.m. United Methodist Women Cookie Walk prep – Dodd Hall*  
*4:00 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship sale at JFK holiday treat sale*  
*9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk – Dodd Hall – all welcome*  
*9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center*  
*10:00 a.m. Holy Communion – Sanctuary*  
**POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE**  
*11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall*  
*Boys and Girls Village Gift Tags available*  
*5:00 p.m. Adult Christmas party and Yankee swap – Dodd Hall*  
*7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel*  
*8:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center*

*5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center*  
*7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center*  
*5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall*  
*6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall*  
*7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center*  
*7:00 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship Candied Apple Making – Dodd Hall*  
*7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley*

*10:00 a.m. Church office volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center*  
*5:00 p.m. Christmas pageant and dinner sponsored by the Sunday School and Methodist Youth Fellowship – Sanctuary and Dodd Hall*

## ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

### OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

**HOUSE-TO-HOUSE VISITATION** by Pastor Brian is always available. The purpose of these visits is to continue to get to know our members and friends. Visits may also occur in his office. Weekday, evening and Sunday appointments are available. If you would like to arrange for one, please contact Mary Lou Kampert at 203.874.1982, ext. 10.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** are Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please note that when only one staff person is in the Wesley Center during office hours the building is locked. If you find this, please call the office (203.874.1982) or ring the Broad Street doorbell. Thank you.

**BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by noon Wednesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

**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 food is needed for seniors with pets. They also request towels and blankets for the animals.** Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

**CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian** ([brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto: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@gmail.com](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com). Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

**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.

### **VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 23rd :**

Total worship attendance all services: 174 (November 23, 169; Healing and Wholeness, November 24: 5) Total Offering (minus “Lift Us Up) for November 23: \$5,656.44; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$635. Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$1,934.67; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Group 160; Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 23: 114; Office Volunteers 2; Sunday School: 44; Adult Bible Study-Tuesday and Wednesday Adult Bible Study-Will be reported next week; NO Disciple 3, Confirmation or Choir rehearsals. 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) or call (203.874.1982) with your attendance.

**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!

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). Join us for a few moments of fellowship and conversation. Today’s hosts are the Finance Committee. Next week’s hosts are the Board of Trustees.

**SOUP SALE** after worship in Dodd Hall. Soup made by our great MTMUMC chefs. Proceeds benefit missions sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

“**LIFT US UP!**” **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** resumes today for handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center. See the info table in Dodd Hall with our new brochure. A letter tomorrow is to those considering a pledge toward our remaining \$137,000 goal. See co-chairs T. Beyer (203.525.2265; [tom.beyer@cort.com](mailto:tom.beyer@cort.com)) or R.Merva (203.641.5088; [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net)).

**BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE GIFT TAGS** remain available from Maryann Petremont during Fellowship Time. These gifts brighten Christmas Day for the children. Please return gifts to the church on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, wrapped and with the gift tag attached. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING** offers many choices to bless others while providing that gift “for the person who has everything.” See the many options on the form in Dodd Hall or the Narthex. Please return your gift to the Mission table in Dodd Hall during Fellowship Time or mail it to the church office by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** meets today, Noon – 3 p.m. in Dodd Hall, for holiday treat making. These treats will be sold at the Cookie Walk and in the days ahead. Please buy them because if you don’t I end up eating and then having to buy them! – *Pastor Brian*

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FLIER** is in today’s bulletin and due Sun., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to the church office. This is an absolute deadline because the florist requires a “count” by Dec. 8.

**LIVING CRECHE SIGN-UPS** begin today in Dodd Hall. The Living Creche is a Nativity tableau with live people posing as the Holy Family in 20-22 minute shifts. Sign ups are Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23 from 6 – 8 p.m. and Christmas Eve from 5 – 7 p.m. Speak with Rachel Merva or reach her at [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net) or 203.641.5088.

**OUR “EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY” 2015 finance campaign** concludes Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. “**Estimate of Giving**” cards are available in the pews and from the ushers and may be submitted in the morning offering or mailed or delivered to the church office. Please read the Heart Cards displayed in the sanctuary and Dodd Hall.

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.**

### THIS WEEK

**TOMORROW IS THE 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD AIDS DAY.** We hold in prayer today all who have this dreaded disease and those who love and care for them. Today's unison confession and healing anointing hymns were chosen with this day in mind.

**HELP DECORATE THE CHRISMON TREE** this Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will set up the tree and decorate it with Chrismons, Christian symbols reminding us that Christmas celebrates Jesus' birthday. We also need volunteers to take down the tree on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. See or contact Brenda or Ed Pineau (203.783.9039 or [brendynewyou@yahoo.com](mailto:brendynewyou@yahoo.com)) if you can help.

**CANDIED APPLE MAKING** will be this Thursday, Dec. 4, 7 – 9 p.m. in Dodd Hall by the **Methodist Youth Fellowship**. Please reply by text (leave your name!) to Stacy Meszaros at 203.414.9235 or e-mail her at [stacymesz@gmail.com](mailto:stacymesz@gmail.com)

**THE ANNUAL COOKIE WALK** is this Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. in Dodd Hall. Have **fun** filling a can or two full of home-made, delectable treats from our exquisite Mary Taylor Memorial bakers while being a **fundraiser** for our United Methodist Women. From these funds they support the United Methodist Homes of CT, Milford's Beth-El Center (homeless shelter) and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. If you wish to help prepare for this day, come on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. Empty 48 ounce cans are still needed: leave them in Dodd Hall.

The Methodist Youth Fellowship will also have treats for sale at the Cookie Walk; and Christmas items from "Trash and Treasures" will be displayed at the Cookie Walk for purchase on Saturday, December 6 as well as after worship on Sundays, December 7 and 14, with all profits going to our Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF).

### NEXT SUNDAY

**WORSHIP THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, December 7<sup>th</sup>,** celebrates the Lord's Supper using a liturgy set to the tune of familiar carols. The Advent wreath will be lit by Elizabeth Dillon and Karen Keane and we will bless our Chrismon tree. The message "*Mike and Eddie and Patience*" will be based on Isaiah 40:1-11 and II Peter 3:8-15a

**ADULT FELLOWSHIP PARTY AND "YANKEE SWAP"** next Sunday at 5 p.m. See flier on the rear cover.

### ON-GOING MINISTRIES

**"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"** helps provide a happy Christmas for residents of Wesley Village at the United Methodist Homes of Connecticut in Shelton. See the article on page 5 in the December "Beacon." To help, see Joan Zauner or call her at 203.283.5643.

**2015 ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS** are now being received by 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 placed on the altar. Checks for either one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

**ACOLYTES, CROSS BEARERS AND BIBLE BEARERS WANTED!** Our children and youth make a positive contribution to our worship. See or contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.

**NEED HELP WITH YARD WORK** - help around the house – snow shoveling? Joe Hotaling is available. Contact him at 203-676-3410 or [JHotaling1@comcast.net](mailto:JHotaling1@comcast.net).

**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*

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

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

November 30, 2014

**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 “Picardy” arr. by A. Rowley

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

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  
*The Merva Family*

SUNG RESPONSE “People, Look East” Hymn #202, vs. 1

***People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.***

***Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.***

°°° ***People look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.***

THE ADVENT COLLECT (*seated, unison*) Hymnal #201

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, we confess our docility in the face of injustice and oppression. We acknowledge our complicity in discrimination in the church that tarnishes Christ’s witness to the world. Forgive us and grant us tender consciences, firm convictions and bold actions. We pray these things trusting in your grace revealed in Jesus the Christ. Amen.***

SILENT PRAYER AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE EPISTLE I Corinthians 1:3-9 Bible p.1038

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

\*THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 Bible p.925

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

\*HYMN #626 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Picardy

THE SERMON “The Little Music Ball” 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.)*

“LIFT US UP” CAMPAIGN RENEWAL MESSAGE Tom Beyer and Rachel Merva

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Days of Elijah” arr. by R. Mark

\*Presentation: “In the Bleak Midwinter” Hymnal #221, vs. 4

***“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;***

***If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.”***

\*Prayer of Dedication

AN INVITATION TO HEALING ANOINTING

*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 as we sing. 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.*

HYMN #2169 (*seated*) “God, How Can We Forgive” rear cover

HYMN #266 “Heal Us, Emmanuel, Hear Our Prayer” Grafenberg

HYMN #263 “When Jesus the Healer Passed through Galilee” Healer

\*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

“Festiva”

R. Hughes

*(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)*

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

GRACE

2169 God, How Can We Forgive

1. God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?  
2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of an - guish flow,  
3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn an - oth - er's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?  
how can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?  
when you, while know - ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu - man lov - ing fails and ev - ery hope is gone,  
The o - cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.  
No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

your love gives strength be - yond our own to face the dawn.  
A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.  
As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (Matt. 6:12-15; 18:21-35; John 8:2-11)

MUSIC: Hebrew melody, *Sacred Harmony*; harm. from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, alt.

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