

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*

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

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**  
December 21, 2014

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

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

INFORMAL CAROL SING (9:45 a.m.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” J. Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
*(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing only items not in the bulletin.)*

CONCLUSION OF OUR 2015 “*Extravagant Generosity*” CAMPAIGN  
Tina Gage, Campaign Chair  
Kelly O’Hara, Stewardship Co-Chair

INTROIT “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (unison) Sung to “Good King Wenceslas”  
*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;*  
*There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.*  
*Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?*  
*Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

\*HYMN #228 “He Is Born” Il est ne  
*(Il est ne, le divin Enfant)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (seated) The Candle of Love

SUNG RESPONSE “People, Look East” Hymn #202, vs. 4  
*Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.*  
*Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.*  
*People, look east and sing today, Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

ooo  
THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison) from a service of *Las Posadas*  
*God all-powerful, grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness, and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light in this life, to which your son, Jesus Christ, with great humility came to visit us. In the final day, when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead, may we rise to eternal life through him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Bible p.278  
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

HYMN #242 (seated) “Love Came Down at Christmas” Gartan  
*(Let the children come forward on the final verse for their message.)*

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

\*HYMN #215 “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” Annunciation

\*THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-55 (*King James’ Version*) Bible p.931  
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON “The Nazareth Beachhead” Dr. Bodt

HYMN #198 (seated) “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” Morning Song

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  
Offertory Anthem: “He Is Born” arr. by R. Wetzler  
\*Presentation: “Sing We Now of Christmas” Hymnal #237, vs. 5  
*Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;*  
*there was never a stable so like paradise.*  
*Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!*

*Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!*

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN #249

“There’s a Song in the Air”

Christmas Song

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.*

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

\*POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Good King Wenceslas”

G. Young

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

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

*Grace Notes*  
*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 21, 2014*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

*This is the irrational season  
When love blooms bright and wild.  
Had Mary been filled with reason,  
There'd have been no room for the child.*

Madeline L'Engle, *The Irrational Season*  
(New York: Seabury Press, 1977)

*May our Christmas be a time when the irrationality of God's love inspires us to greater aspirations and actions of human love, fashioned after the image of Christ.*

*Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Pastor Brian*

**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  
Lay Leaders Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak  
Prayer Chain Stacy Meszaros  
Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Kampert  
Sexton Bruce Rumford  
Child Care Coordinator Nicole Ellerbeck

Interim Bishop The Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Lyght  
Bishop-elect The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton  
Superintendent The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer  
Pastor The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt  
Pastoral Assistant The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink  
Music Director Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

**AT WORSHIP TODAY**



**Head Usher** – Bill Katt

**Acolytes** – Julianna Patterson and Ryan Kingston

**Liturgist** – Laura Perregaux

**Greeters** – Winter-D’Andrea family

**Cross Bearer** – Kayleigh Patterson

**Bible Bearer** – Addyson Perregaux

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Pastor Brian and Laura Perregaux.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to Pastor Brian and Pastor Hal! Merry Christmas!

A **MISSION CROSS** has been placed and a donation has been made to UMARMY in celebration of Terry and Diana Titus’ 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on December 16.

**OUR SANCTUARY WAS DECORATED** by Flo Berrien, Liz Dillon, Priscilla James, Shelly Lapidula and son Ryan Lapidula, Ann Loesch, Beth O’Brien, Shauna Paton, Rich Perregaux, Brenda and Ed Pineau, Bruce Rumford, Joan Zauner and Pastor Brian Bodt and Carol Galloway.

**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 United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

**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.

*Sunday, December 21*

*ADVENT IV/Christmas Sunday*

*No Sunday School*

*9:45 a.m. Informal Hymn Singing - Sanctuary*

*10:00 a.m. Worship*

*11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall*

*11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings- Sanctuary*

*11:30 a.m. Men’s Club Soup & Sandwich Luncheon – Dodd Hall*

*3:00 p.m. MYF Christmas Party at Leigh Bak’s home, 15 Seaside Ct., Milford*

*Monday, December 22*

*9:00 a.m. Beacon Volunteers*

*6:00 p.m. Living Crèche 6 - 8pm, front of church*

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

*Tuesday, December 23*

*No Confirmation Class this week or next week*

*6:00 p.m. Living Crèche 6-8 pm, front of church*

*7:00 p.m. NO Disciple 3 – Wesley Center*

*Wednesday, December 24*

*Church Office Hours 9 am - noon*

*5:00 p.m. Living Crèche 5 - 7 pm, front of church*

*5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - Sanctuary*

*10:45 p.m. Carols by the Bell Choir - Sanctuary*

*11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion – Sanctuary*

*Thursday, December 25*

*Christmas Day – Church office is closed*

*Read Luke 2:1-20*

*5:30 p.m. Community Supper – Dodd Hall*

*Friday, December 26*

*Church Office is closed*

*Sunday, December 28*

*No Sunday School*

*10:00 a.m. Worship*

*11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall*

*11:30 a.m. Caring Ministry-1<sup>st</sup> floor Wesley Center*

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

*Monday, December 29*

*Tuesday, December 30*

*No Confirmation Class this week*

*7:00 p.m. NO Disciple 3 – Wesley Center*

*Wednesday, December 31*

*Church Office Hours 9 am – noon*

*10:00 a.m. Office volunteers*

*Thursday, January 1*

*New Year’s Day - Church office is closed*

*Friday, January 2*

*Church office is closed*

## **OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION**

**HOME VISITATION** by Pastor Brian is available to become better acquainted. 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 still needed for seniors with pets, but the Animal Control is not allowed to take in peoples' released pets. However, they do take care of kittens and will spay and neuter feral cats as has been the policy for years. 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 DECEMBER 14th:**

Total worship attendance all services: 216 (Dec. 14th, 207; Healing and Wholeness, Dec. 15th: 9) Total Offering (minus “Lift Us Up) for Dec. 7: \$8,692.00; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$4,498.33. Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$4,730.79; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 102 (Office Volunteers 6; Sunday School: 47; Disciple 3: 10; Confirmation: 11; Praisemakers: cancelled; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir: 19). Total 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.

**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!

**FELLOWSHIP TIME WITH SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). The luncheon is free, hosted by our Men’s Club. Fellowship Time hosts are the United Methodist Women. Join us for a few moments of fellowship and conversation. Next week’s hosts are Missions.

**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** follow worship in the sanctuary today.

**LIVING CRECHE SIGN-UPS** conclude today in Dodd Hall. The Living Crèche is a Nativity tableau with live people posing as the Holy Family in 20-22 minute shifts. Creche times 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 today with the announcement of results. Please pick up your envelopes from the rear of the sanctuary. If you do not have envelopes and desire them, please call the church office (203.874.1982).

**“LIFT US UP!” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** continues for handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center. See the info table in Dodd Hall with our new brochure. For more information please speak with 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)).

**OUR MYF CHRISTMAS PARTY** is today at 3 p.m. at the home of Leigh Bak, 15 Seaside Court, Milford. All youth are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

**A “BLUE CHRISTMAS” WORSHIP** will be held at 7 p.m. today at Woodmont UCC, 1000 New Haven Ave., Milford. This service especially ministers to those grieving or “down” at Christmastime. Call the Woodmont Church (203-878-3885) for further information.

**A SEASONAL REMINDER:** *“Nursing the beginning of a cold (or suffering from a full-blown one)? Please pass “The Peace” virtually with the sign of the “V.” Let’s all do our best to keep each other healthy.”* Sheryl Hollyday, R.H., Health and Wholeness Coordinator

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY DINNER**

Jim and Phoebe Repetsky will host our monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday dinner which this year falls on **Christmas Day, December 25 at 5:30 p.m.** What a blessing! We welcome our members and friends, as well as folks from the community, to eat with us. If you can assist Jim and Phoebe, speak with them this morning or contact them at 203.874.8688.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE, Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 p.m.** This family service of carols and candlelight is designed for the young, and young at heart, as we hear the traditional story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) and the story-message "The Blessing Bell" written by Steve Burt. Our Praisemakers Choir will provide choral music. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by the Hollyday family.

**10:45 p.m.** Our Bell Choir calls us to worship with carols of the Season.

**11:00 p.m.** Carols, candlelight and Communion are the hallmarks of our late Christmas Eve service with music by the Adult and Bell Choirs and brass. The message "Live from Bethlehem..." will be based on Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-5, 10-14. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by Don and Mary Lou Hastings.

**CHRISTMAS PUBLICATION AND OFFICE SCHEDULE**

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>:** Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, noon

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015:** Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, noon

**OFFICE SCHEDULE**

**DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> and 23<sup>RD</sup>:** Regular hours – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>:** 9 a.m. to noon; then closed through December 28<sup>th</sup>.

**DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> and 30<sup>TH</sup>:** Regular hours – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>:** 9 a.m. to noon; then closed through January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**CHRISTMAS I** – The message "The Solution" will be by Paul Downing, Local Lay Servant minister. The readings are Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:22-40. Beth O'Brien is our liturgist. The order of worship will be the Wesley Covenant Service in its current 1780 form from an older 17<sup>th</sup> century version. Healing anointing will be offered.

**ON-GOING MINISTRIES**

**THE JANUARY "BEACON"** (our monthly newsletter) will be mailed tomorrow, Dec. 22. If you are not receiving The Beacon, please contact the church office (203.874.1982).

**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.



**A  
Very  
Merry  
Christmas,  
the joy of a rich  
Christmastide and  
a happy and healthy  
New Year to all our members,  
friends and visitors; from your staff at  
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church:**

-

**Rick,  
Bruce,  
Nicole,  
Mary Lou and  
Pastors Brian and Hal**