

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.*

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**
December 23, 2012

**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 “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.)

INTROIT “Like a Child”

*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 #202 “People, Look East” Besancon

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Love
The Georgelos family

SUNG RESPONSE “Advent Song” The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 4
*Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

°°°

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 and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Micah 5:2-5a Bible p.849
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN #230 (*seated*) “O Little Town of Bethlehem” St. Louis
(Let the children come forward on the final verse for their message.)

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #198 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” Morning Song

*THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55 Bible p.932
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON “The Waitstaff” Dr. Bodt

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN #216 (*seated*) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Es ist ein Ros

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 “Come, Emmanuel” T. Paris
*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

(You are invited to join hands with those near you as we sing.)

***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 “Exultation” C. Wallace

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

LITURGY TODAY comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989),
The Faith We Sing (2000) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

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.

Grace Notes
December 23, 2012

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

Today's Gospel tells a portion of Mary's story, which upends the world's usual way of determining who is important and how God acts in the world.

The entrance of Christ into our world is as counter-intuitive today as it was over 2,000 years ago. It takes an open heart to see Him; and open mind to receive Him; an open door to follow Him.

Speaking to seekers long ago and seekers today, George MacDonald wrote:

*They all were looking for a king
To slay their foes and lift them high:
Thou cam'st, a little baby thing
That made a woman cry.*

*O Son of Man, to right my lot
Naught but Thy presence can avail;
Yet on the road Thy wheels are not,
Nor on the sea Thy sail!*

*My how or when Thou wilt not heed,
But come down Thine own secret stair,
That Thou mayest answer all my need—
Yea, every bygone prayer.*

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

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
Child Care Coordinator	Betty Laferriere	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Administrative Assistant	Suzanne Miko	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Sexton	Bruce Rumford		

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

*Sunday, December 23 The Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Sunday
10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary*

*Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve – Church office closed
5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
5 – 7 p.m. – Living Creche – outside church
7 p.m. AA meeting/Healthcare workers
10:45p.m. Christmas Eve Bells
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship*

*Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day- Church office closed
Read John 1:1-18*

Wed., December 26th NO choir rehearsals

*Thursday, December 27th 9 a.m. Office volunteers – Beacon mailing – Wesley Center
5:30 p.m. Community Supper – Dodd Hall*

*Sunday, December 30 The First Sunday of Christmas
10 a.m. Worship – Wesley Covenant Service - Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. – Caring Ministries Team – Wesley Center, 1st Fl.*

*Monday, December 31 7 p.m. Meeting Healthcare workers
7 p.m. Healing and Wholeness Service*

*Tuesday, January 1, 2013^h New Year's Day – Church office closed
Read Revelation 21:2-7*

*Wed, January 2 NO Choir rehearsals
6:30 p.m. Choir Party – Location TBD*

*Thursday, January 3 6 p.m. – Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Ctr.
7 p.m. – Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Ctr.*

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Liturgist – Priscilla James

Greeters – Sue and Erin O’Shea and Tom Griggs **Cross Bearer** – Tanner Georgelos

Acolytes – Kaylyn Bettencourt and Jamie Georgelos **Bible Bearer** – Taylor McFadden

- **TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS** are given in memory of Richard W. Hubbell by Carol Hubbell.

WELCOME VISITORS! We pray you experience God’s presence among us. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or greeters.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall, hosted today by the Membership and Evangelism Committee. Next Sunday’s hosts are the Trustees.

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

OFFERING PRAYER CONCERNS: Please use the "Blue Sheets" to share your prayer concerns. You will find them in the attendance pads at the end of each pew or may obtain one from an usher. The ushers collect these during the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. If you offer intentions on behalf of others, please be sure you have their permission to share their information. Prayers offered via the Blue Sheets are included in our on-line prayer chain and at our Monday night Healing Service. You may also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

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 these children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

INFORMATION: All informational sheets are available in the back of the church.

SERMON COPIES: December 16th was preached without manuscript in response to the recent crime in Sandy Hook, Newtown, Connecticut. Notes are available in print in the Narthex and on the web at www.mtm-umc.org.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS (Names in donor alphabetical order)

Given by

Christopher Carveth family
Paul, Bev and Lillia Downing
Carol Galloway and Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt
Debbie Godeski
Michael and Maureen Groves
The Meszaros family
Sandy and Brec Morgan
Sue and Tee O’Shea
Rev. Hal and Jane Vink

Given by

Carol Alex

Debbie Andrews and family
Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt and Carol Galloway
Rita Brown
Jo Caruso

Christopher Carveth family
Carole Degnan
The Fino family
Debbie Godeski
Anna Henry
John Henry
The Richard Hubbell family

Caroline Koch
Loving family
Susan Mathews and Dot Law
The Meszaros family
Sandy and Brec Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Morse and family

Sue and Tee O’Shea
Anne Pall
Christopher, Shauna, Jackie and Josh Paton
Iris C. Peckham family
Lisa Sobolewski
Ann and Bill Sullivan
Rev. Hal and Jane Vink
Bernie Wilhelm, husband
Joan Zauner

In Honor of

Arthur B. & Hazel E. Carveth (*parents*)
Connie Micks
Sarah and James Galloway
Ed Leuchtner
Doris and Arthur Groves
Bev and Jim Pierpoint
Madge Kelsen
Our Dads: Tom Griggs and Tom O’Shea
Carol and Pastor Brian

In Memory of

Marilyn Cable Rogers (*sister*)
Betty and Elmer Cable (*parents*)
Nilda and Alvin Guilmart
Yvonne Atkinson Bodt
Dudley Brown
James V. Caruso, “My True Love”
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dautrich, my foster parents
Kristin Ann Carveth (*daughter*)
Cipriano and Rome families
Violet and Claude Roy & Eleanor and Tony Fino
My Guardian Angel, Alex; and Millie
Jim Dirienzo (*brother*)
Robert and Alice Henry (*parents*)
Mr. and Mrs. George Hubbell; Mr. Richard W. Hubbell; and Mr. and Mrs. William Porter
Loved Ones
Robert and Gertrude Foster
Loved Ones
Mimi and Pa (Dot and Berkley Bray)
Our parents and grandparents
Mrs. Gloria Fitzgerald
Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Morse
Our Moms: Judie Griggs and Rosalie O’Shea
James Pall
Clarence Dick and John D. Paton, III
Edward J. Peckham, Jr.
James and Marion Stark
Loved Ones
Mom
Lucy Wilhelm
Loved ones

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **LIVING CRECHE:** At this writing we did not have enough volunteers for tonight. If you are interested in serving for 30 minutes from 5-7 p.m., speak with Laura Perregaux this morning. The Creche is *outside* the church comprised of people representing angels, Mary and Joseph, the Magi and shepherds. Participants change every ½ hour.
- **PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES** from the table in the rear of the church. Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of Christ at Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church.
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS.**

THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES tomorrow at 5 and 11 p.m., with carols by the Bell Choir at 10:45 p.m. Details in the Christmas letter sent this week. Invite a neighbor or friend to join you as we *“Worship Christ, the newborn king!”*

THE CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY. We are open the remainder of the week 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wednesday – Friday. If Wesley Center is locked, call Sue Miko (203.874.1982) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753).

BULLETIN NOTICES are due by Noon Wednesday: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet ***this Thursday, 9 a.m. in the Wesley Center*** to mail the January “Beacon.” Thanks to Bev Lebel and her crew, including our extra volunteers.

COMMUNITY SUPPER is ***this Thursday in Dodd Hall***. Dave and Lorraine Carr are the hosts. Please contact them at 203.931.0516 or via email davlorz@yahoo.com. Cooking and set up begins about 2 p.m.; serving from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and clean-up following. This supper is sponsored by Carol Gantter.

PASTORAL COVERAGE THIS WEEK: Pastor Brian and Carol will be away Thursday – Saturday visiting his father and brothers in Maryland. Pastor Vink is on call: vinkhaljane@yahoo.com or 203.878.8977.

NEXT SUNDAY

- **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS** we will use the Wesley Covenant Service designed by the Rev. John Wesley, founder of Methodism. The message will be “Which Way is Your Compass Pointing?” based on Colossians 3:15-16 and Luke 2:45-51. Our preacher is Laura Perregaux, Certified Lay Speaker with Pastor Brian as liturgist. Healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymn. The Caring Ministries Team will meet in Wesley Center after worship.
- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:**
 - No Sunday School or Sunday Confirmation Dec. 30th.
 - No Tuesday Confirmation Christmas Day or New Year’s Day.
 - Sunday School resumes January 6; Confirmation Jan. 8 and 13.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: Flower orders are always taken for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers,” which is an additional opportunity for giving to United Methodist Church Missions (UMCOR or UMArmy and many others – please see info. table in back of church for list) and may be ordered at any time during the course of the year. **When a donation is made in lieu of altar flowers, the cross with a miniature mission scarf will be displayed on the altar in place of flowers.* Please contact Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or by email at bgobrien11@optonline.net or mail: Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT: December 16: Total Worship Attendance all services: 230 (223+ 7 H&W); Total Offering: \$14,645; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$2,374; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 50; 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) the number of persons that met.*

PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

WESLEY CENTER ACCESS: All 12-Step, Support Group & Meetings are able to use the upstairs and downstairs of Wesley Center. Contact Paul Downing at 203.876.8540 or Bill Petremont at 203.415.9982 for further information.

**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:**
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**Sue,
Rick, Betty
Bruce, Hal and Brian**