

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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD,
CHRISTMAS EVE**
December 24, 2012

Order of Worship

5:00 p.m.

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

GATHERING MUSIC (*A time of prayer and meditation*)

PRELUDE "Still, Still, Still" arr. E. Lorenz

LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 (*Verses 1,2,3,6*)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! I bring you good news of great joy: Christ the Lord is born!

People: *We are happy because God's love is shown in Jesus.*

Leader: So let us sing God's praises for this wonderful news.

People: *In Jesus, everyone shall see the Lord's salvation.*

All: *O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (*seated*) *The Perregaux family*

SUNG RESPONSE "Advent Song" The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 5

*Light the Christmas candle, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.*

*Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

°°°

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT (*unison*)

O God, whose Son born in Bethlehem is the Savior of the world: be born again tonight in our hearts, so that as we live the love Jesus showed us, we may shed his light and all may see Your salvation, who is Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL "Away in a Manger" No. 217

THE BIRTH OF JESUS St. Luke 2:1-7

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS St. Luke 2:8-14

CAROL "Angels, We Have Heard on High" No. 238

MARY AND THE SHEPHERDS GLORIFY GOD St. Luke 2:15-20

CAROL "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

(Let the children come forward on the last verse and gather around the Chrismon tree with Pastor Brian. Parents are welcome to accompany their children.)

THE MESSAGE "Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect" Dr. Bodt

(A story by Richard H. Schneider, illustrated by Elizabeth J. Miles.)

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*THE CHRISTMAS 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: "Every Child"

(The Praisemaker's Choir)

*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.*

*CAROL "The Snow Lay on the Ground" rear cover of insert

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*seated, unison*)

O God, this is the night for giving gifts. We thank you that you already gave us the greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Because you first loved us, we offer these gifts with thanks to you, and we join with saints on earth and saints above in praying as Jesus taught:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 10-14

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The light will be passed from the Christ candle to the acolytes. They will pass it to the ushers to bring among the people. Please dip the unlit candle to receive the light.)

CAROL

“Silent Night”

No. 239

(All rise as able on the final verse, and lift your candle up.)

****Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

*THE BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry”

W. Held

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2093 The Snow Lay on the Ground



1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when
2. 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne, that
3. And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne; for



Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. Ve -
brought in - to this world the God made man. She
he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.* Ve - ni - te a - do -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the ass and ox - en
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host; to praise the Fa - ther,



re - mus Do - mi - num.
shared the roof with them. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

*Venite adoremus Dominum = Veli-nee-tek ah-dee-ree-ni-ooos Dye-mee-noom

WORDS: Anglo-English carol (Luke 2:1-20)

MUSIC: English melody; adapt. by Charles Winfred Douglas

VENITE ADOREMUS

10 10.10 10 with Refrain

A Christmas Eve Welcome

December 24, 2012

5 p.m.

Dear church family, friends and neighbors,

Merry Christmas to all! I trust God has blessed you this Christmas.

If you are a visitor, we thank you for being in worship with us. If you do not have a spiritual home, we invite you to consider this church and learn more about us at www.mtm-umc.org. Our active congregation welcomes and supports people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, nationalities, ethnicities, abilities and socio-economic situations.

If you are a member who has been away for a while, welcome back! May this Christmas be an opportunity to renew a vital relationship with Christ.

If you are an active member, seek out someone tonight whom you do not know and ask, "Are you new, or new to me?" May the welcome we promise be incarnate in you!

May God, who is rich in mercy, enfold us all with the love that came down at Christmas.

Christ the Savior is born!

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		

AT WORSHIP TONIGHT

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Greeters – The Paton family

Ushers – Kelly O’Hara and Bill Katt

Liturgist – Elizabeth Repetsky

Aisle Acolytes: Jackie and Josh Paton

Acolytes – Cody and John McFadden

Bible Bearer – Taylor McFadden

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- Hearing Assist Devices

NOTICES

OUR SANCTUARY WAS DECORATED by Rick and Laura Perregaux, Brenda Pineau, Chris Paton and Beth O’Brien.

A FESTIVAL SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS AND COMMUNION will be held tonight. The Bell Choir plays carols at 10:45 p.m. and the formal service begins at 11 p.m. Please consider returning for this different service.

CHRISTMAS DAY there is no worship service and the church office is closed. We re-open on St. Stephen’s Day with a regular 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. schedule.

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the rear table. Please take yours. If you do not have envelopes and desire them, e-mail Sue Miko at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet Thursday, 9 a.m. to mail the January “Beacon,” our monthly newsletter.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST WITH OUR MONTHLY COMMUNITY SUPPER? We serve our hungry neighbors **this Thursday, December 27th** in Dodd Hall. Preparation begins at 2:30 p.m.; serving at 5:30 and clean-up after. Please contact hosts Dave and Lorraine Carr at 203.931.0516 or at davlorz@yahoo.com.

RECENT SERMONS are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY is at 10 a.m. Our liturgy will be the Wesley Covenant Service, designed by the Rev. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. The message, “Which Way is Your Compass Pointing?” will be based on Colossians 3:15-16 AND Luke 2:45-51 and preached by Laura Perregaux, Certified Lay Speaker. Pastor Brian will be present and serve as liturgist. No Sunday School or Confirmation classes.

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