

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 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 1, 2013

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 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” R. Haan

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

INTROIT “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 122:1,6,9, NRSV

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

People: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!*

All: *For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.*

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (seated) The Candle of Hope
Brenda and Ed Pineau

SUNG RESPONSE “Advent Song” The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 1

Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;

We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas day.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

°°°

THE ADVENT COLLECT (seated, unison) Hymnal #201

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION Hymnal #893

SILENT PRAYER 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.*

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44 Bible p.903
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON “The Christ Patch” Dr. Bodt

HYMN #206 (seated) “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Houston

PRAYERS OF PETITION AND INTERCESSION
Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, People: **Hear our prayer.**

*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: “A Litany for Advent” S. McRae
*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.”*

*THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION Adeste Fideles
L: The Lord be with you. P: *And with you, God’s servant.*
L: O Come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.
P: *With hearts uplifted, thanks to God we render:
With joy we come before God, in gratefulness implore God,
With thankful hearts adore God, evermore!*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pastor) Greensleeves

*THE SANCTUS (unison) Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
*Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest the one who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to you!*

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (all seated, spoken by the pastor)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

*Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come! Your will be done on earth - in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need; forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead: from evil set us free.*

*Yours is the kingdom, unto you in grateful love we bow,
And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.
The glory yours; your praise be sung by angel hosts again
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen.*

*THE COMMUNION

*(The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive
or refrain from receiving. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.)*

PRAYER FOR LAY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS (*unison*)

*Gracious God, we remember the apostolic Church which sent representatives from
the Lord's table to those unable to be present. Bless and assist these lay visitors who
continue this ministry. Nourish and strengthen those to whom this sacrament is brought,
that they may know the comfort of your presence and the love of this community of faith.
This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, to give
ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*RESPONSORIAL BENEDICTION

Adeste Fideles

L: The Lord bless and keep you, look with love upon you.

Be gracious, and cause your face to shine with peace!

All: *Glory to God, Son and Holy Spirit! The Savior close beside us,*

God's love from harm to hide us, the Spirit's pow'r to guide us evermore!

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

*POSTLUDE

Voluntary on "Adeste Fideles"

G. Young

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, December 1

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion – Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall
11:00 a.m. MYF Treat-making – lunch provided
4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Christmas caroling starts at Dodd Hall

Monday, December 2

2:00 p.m. “Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Egan Room
7:00 p.m. “Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library

Tuesday, December 3

5:45 p.m. 2014 Confirmation Class – Egan Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. “Wrestling with Angels” adult study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, December 4

10:00 a.m. “Wrestling with Angels” adult study – Gunn Library
5:30 p.m. “Praisemakers” Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal- Dodd Hall
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall

Thursday, December 5

6:00 p.m. Pastors-Lay Leaders – Pastor’s study
6:00 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room

Saturday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk - Dodd Hall

Sunday, December 8

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall
5:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship Christmas party- Dodd Hall

Monday, December 9

2:00 p.m. “Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library
7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel
7:00 p.m. “Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library

Tuesday, December 10

5:45 p.m. Confirmation – Egan Room
7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Bible Study – Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. “Wrestling with Angels” adult study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, December 11

10:00 a.m. “Wrestling with Angels” adult study – Gunn Library
5:30 p.m. Praisemakers Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal – Dodd Hall

Thursday, December 12

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting

Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m. Christmas pageant followed by MYF dinner (free-will offering) and dessert auction (mission fund-raiser)

Grace Notes

December 1, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

Happy new year! Surprised? The Christian new year begins on the first Sunday in Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ. The December scriptures invite us to reflect on his coming: on earth as a baby born in Bethlehem; in glory at the end of time (the Second Coming); and among us, being born in our hearts.

I encourage you to attend the Monday adult study, “Christmas is Not Your Birthday.” Kelly O’Hara will teach. The book is by the Rev. Michael Slaughter, highly effective pastor of the Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio. Sessions are at 2 and 7 p.m. for five Mondays in the Gunn Library beginning tomorrow.

Today is also World AIDS Day. The scourge of AIDS affects us all. Golden Hill UM Church, Bridgeport will display panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt through Dec. 8: call 203.336.0152 for hours. MTMUMC displayed similar panels in 2008. For more about AIDS: www.aids.gov. There are many other ways to “keep Christ in Christmas” detailed in these pages. One, this afternoon, is our intergenerational Christmas caroling at 4 p.m. Meet in Dodd Hall and we will carpool. I hope you will join us.

A discordant sound was heard at the Nov. 19th clergy trial conviction of United Methodist pastor Frank Schaefer for conducting his son’s wedding six years ago. His son is gay and the church rulebook (“The Discipline”) forbids clergy to conduct same-gender ceremonies. I am already committed to conducting such ceremonies and hope this will generate conversation among us to consider becoming a Congregational signer of the Covenant of Conscience. This seems to me a logical “next step” in our public commitment to welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in our congregation. A proposal and discussion opportunities for it will follow.

We prepare for the coming of the One who welcomed all; let us do the same.
In Christ,
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
Administrative Assistant	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Child Care Coordinators	Betty Laferriere and Nicole Ellerbeck		

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – John Henry

Greeters – Mary Lou Hastings & Lorraine Thorpe

Liturgist – Marcia Winter

Cross Bearer – Kayleigh Patterson

Acolytes – Julianna Patterson & Amanda Repetsky

Bible Bearer – Joe Wessinger

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Dodd Hall door and Marcia Winter at the Dodd Hall door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God.

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 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. These prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. Please also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

TODAY'S LITURGY is from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The Sung Communion is adapted from an original by "Creative Communications for the Parish."

SERMON COPIES from November 24 and previous messages are available in the rear of the church and on-line: 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, 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 older children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

NEED A NEW OR REPLACEMENT NAME TAG? Contact (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982, ext. 10) with your request please. **PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS** on for Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. If Wesley Center is locked, call Mary Lou at 203.874.1982 or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753).

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 and dog food is desperately needed for seniors with pets.** Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: **Beth is now accepting orders for 2014.** Orders are taken at any time for Altar Flowers OR "In Lieu of Flowers" to support missions (UMCOR, UM Army and others – please see info. table in back of church for list). **A donation in lieu of altar flowers is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar.* Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net or Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: **Pastor Brian** (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@yahoo.com. Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, 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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 24:

Total worship attendance all services: 198 (Nov. 24, 189; Healing and Wholeness Nov. 25: 9) Total Offering: \$4522.00 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 219; (Sunday School, 39; Wrestling with Angels, will be reported next week. Bell Choir 7, Adult Choir 30; Men's Club Dinner 117; MYF 26). 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) with your attendance.*

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.

COMING SOON

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER: Saturday, Dec. 14, 5 p.m. If your children would like to participate in the pageant, please contact Sylvia Elliott at 203.877.7567 or elliottb2@mac.com. The MYF dinner and auction follows the pageant with a free-will offering supporting one of the MYF's missions. Please support our children and youth.

THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE was published in the December "Beacon." Deadline for donations is Sunday, December 15.

WE NEED A CREW OF FIVE OR MORE PEOPLE to **ASSEMBLE THE CRECHE** outside church on Sun., Dec. 15 after worship. Volunteer to Rachel Merva: 203.641.5088.

JANUARY "BEACON" DEADLINE is Sunday, December 15. Articles received after this date will be published in February.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE STAFF is an annual tradition at Mary Taylor Memorial Church. You may respond by Sunday, December 15 with a check payable to "MTMUMC" or cash with a note saying "staff gift" to any member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Dennis Darak, Chair; Leigh Bak, Paul Downing, David Doyle, Bob Elliott, Tina Gage, Alicia Meszaros, Kelly O'Hara, Rich Perregaux, Edie Reichard or Wil Wright.

THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE: orders are being taken for the 2014 Upper Room Discipline, a daily devotional based on the lectionary upon which Sunday morning scripture choices are usually based. Cost is \$10 for either regular or large print. If paying by check please make it out to "MTMUMC." To order, contact Don Hastings at 203.877.4554 or mctmwash@aol.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEED FOR THE 38th ANNUAL LIVING CRÈCHE ON DEC. 22ND DEC. 23RD (6-8 p.m.) and 24th (5-7 pm). Volunteers dress in costume as members of the Nativity tableau, serving in roughly 20 minute shifts, remaining still and looking at the baby Jesus. This public witness is well-known in Milford for nearly forty years. In addition, we need volunteers to assemble (Dec. 15th) and dismantle (Dec. 29th) the crèche structure. If you would like to be a part of the living crèche team, contact Rachel Merva at 203-641-5088 or rmerva@optonline.net. Consider making this your new tradition in witness to Christ's love!

TUTORS NEEDED! The Literacy Center is partnering with Bridges and West Shore Middle School in an after school tutoring program and activity time. They need volunteers to help with homework time, reading time, activity after homework – ideas needed, family nights. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Literacy Center at 203-878-4800.

WANT TO SERVE:

as a Bible bearer, acolyte or cross bearer? Please contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.

as a Liturgist? Please contact Laura Perregaux: 203.520.8183.

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 HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall. Finance hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are the Missions Committee.

2014 ESTIMATES OF GIVING are welcomed, returning through today's offering or to the church office. Cards are available in the rear of the sanctuary.

UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE BOOKS will be distributed today. See Don Hastings.

THE LONG RANGE PLANNING SURVEY DEADLINE EXTENDS TO TODAY!

You may also find the link for the survey on our Mary Taylor Memorial Church website: www.mtm-umc.org. Hard copies (traditional paper copy) are also available in the rear of the church. The survey will take between 20-40 minutes. We ask all members, age high school and up, who attend MTMUMC to participate. *Sue O'Shea, Long-Range Planning Chair*

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING will be held after worship to do Christmas pageant planning (Dec. 14) and planning for the upcoming floor renovation.

MYF TREAT MAKING will be held from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Dodd Hall, lunch provided.

HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS PICTURING OUR CHURCH are available for purchase today and Saturday during the Cookie Walk. Two different views of the church are made by Betsy B. Wright, member and Artist and Owner of the Beach Gallery, 2 Broadway, Milford, with profits donated to the Missions Committee. Cost: 5 cards for \$8.00.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING begins at 4 p.m. We will meet at Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) and carpool to Milford Healthcare Center. Anyone of any age and musical talent, or none at all, is welcomed! Refreshments and fellowship follows at the Gage's house, 210 Tanglewood Circle. Please speak with Tina if you would like to contribute to the refreshments being served. 203-877-1924 or tinagage@optonline.net.

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Let's brighten Christmas day for the children of Boys and Girls Village. There are 29 children being supported this year through our annual support to Boys and Girls Village. Please see Maryanne Petremont during Fellowship Hour to make a selection of a gift tag for one of the children. There will be a tag for clothing and toys for each of the children. **The gifts should be returned, wrapped and with the child's name, December 15.**

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

ADULT STUDY: CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY – led by Kelly O’Hara. There will be two classes offered beginning **TOMORROW, Monday, December 2: Mondays, 2-3:30 pm** or **7-8:30 pm** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Education Center, 2nd fl. This 5 week study will cast a vision of how we can experience the joy of living and giving like Jesus. Sign up with Co-Lay Leader Kelly O’Hara at 203-877-2517 or yankee89@optonline.net.

BULLETIN NOTICES for next Sunday are due **Wed., Dec. 4 Noon** to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

“**PRAISEMAKERS,**” our choir for children Kindergarten through Grade 6, resumes rehearsals **this Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5:30 – 6: 15 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. We will also rehearse Dec. 11 and 18 and sing at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve. See Rick Riccardi or just come Wed.!

“**WRESTLING WITH ANGELS**” our mid-week adult study led by Pastor Hal, welcomes your attendance at any session. Sessions are **Tuesdays from 7-8:30 and Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30** in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. Just Come!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN meet **Friday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.** in Dodd Hall to prepare for the Cookie Walk.

COOKIE WALK: Saturday, December 7, 9:30 a.m. our United Methodist Women open their annual Cookie Walk in Dodd Hall. Come and buy your holiday homemade cookies. You may purchase a small, medium or large can. **If you would like to donate homemade cookies for the Walk,** please drop them off on Fri., Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. and noon; or Saturday morning, Dec. 7 after 8:30 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT II: “Those Pesky Roots” is the sermon based on Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12. The Advent wreath will be lit by the O’Brien family. We will bless our Christmas tree. Anna Henry will speak on Boys’ and Girls’ Village and Alternative Giving for Missions.

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE is **next Sunday, December 8.** See enclosed flier. Please print clearly.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be **Sunday, December 8, 5 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. A full flier with details is in today’s program. Bring a dish to share and, if you wish, a gift for the Yankee Swap (\$10 limit and appropriate for either gender, please). **If you would like to help, contact Anna Henry** at annamhenry@gmail.com or 203.339.5091 or **Cathy Cono** at spikkio@optonline.net or 203.645.2362.



Adult Fellowship Christmas 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 8, 2013 at 5:00 PM

WHERE: Dodd Hall, Mary Taylor Memorial UMC

WHY: For Fun & Fellowship

