

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
Nesting Ghana Emmanuel UM Church: 2016

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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 3, 2017

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” H. Haan

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

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
Chris and Tricia Hetherington and Olivia, Ryan and Sean Kingston

SUNG RESPONSE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Hymn #206, vs. 1

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

°°° THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (seated, unison)

Hymnal #201

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE *The children gather at the tree*
Unison prayer: **Holy Lord, with joy we celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ; that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 64:1-9 Bible p.680
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37 Bible p.925
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*HYMN #196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hyfrydol

THE SERMON “Advent: Growth Industry?” 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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
Offertory Anthem: “Come, Emmanuel” arr. by R. Sterling
*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.***

*HYMN #730

“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

St. Michael

*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

“Toccata on ‘Adeste Fideles’”

D. Hegarty

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973

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

E-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
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	Andy Thomas	Outreach Pastor	Danielle Levine
Child Care Coordinator	Laura A. Brennan	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
		Theologian-in-Residence	The Rev. Dr. Judith F. Bennett

**ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION
FOR 2018**

Different Books, Common Word

Muslims and Christians Together Building the Good Community

The Rev. Dr. Judith Bennett, MTMUMC Theologian-in-Residence, will offer a study on Christianity and Islam beginning in January, 2018 in response to requests for this kind of study. Her summary states:

Worship God and join nothing with him; and do good to parents, relatives, orphans, to the needy, to neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers. The Qu'ran (4:36)

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Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37-39

Given this “common word”, love of God and love of neighbor, how hard should it be for Christians and Muslims in America not only to live together in peace but to work together for the good of the communities in which we live? What keeps us apart? What is there in our separate histories that blinds us to this shared word? What is truly central to each faith and what is culturally determined?

This study will help us look at these questions and more, searching for a deeper understanding of Islam as we seek to deepen our understanding of our own faith. While there is no assigned text, we will turn to many other resources, including print articles, online materials, video and more.

The seven-week course will begin January 9th and 10th and follow our usual format of Tuesdays from 7 – 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30 a.m. The course will conclude on February 20/21. To register, please call (203.874.1982, ext. 110) or e-mail (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) the church office. Since there is no assigned text, the cost is to be determined. Whatever it is, scholarship help is always available.

*Grace Notes
December 3, 2017*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

What’s the rush? I wonder this as I watch the hurrying and scurrying that attends these weeks before Christmas. Last Wednesday I watched a near-accident unfold at the intersection of Route 63 and Clark Road in Woodbridge. An hour later, returning in the opposite direction from my errand, there was an accident at the same intersection! Police were present and no one was hurt but traffic was backed up well over a mile into Bethany. I later learned that there was also an accident on Route 69, the parallel state road, and traffic was being diverted onto Route 63!

What’s the rush?

Today begins the season of Advent, the start of the Christian year and a time for reflection as we prepare for the coming of Christ. We prepare for the birth of the Savior in a Bethlehem stable; and we also prepare for the return of Christ in glory at the end of the age. Much of the hurrying and scurrying of this season is wholly unrelated to these two central activities in the life of the Christian.

I like parties and gifts and pretty lights as much as the next person. But once the gifts are unwrapped and the living room strewn with paper – assuming we are so blessed to have gifts and those with whom to share them – what will be left?

May whatever Advent haste we make or feel be to the ends that we prepare for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts, knowing that he “comes to judge the earth... and the people with his truth.” (Psalm 96:13)

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor*

P.S. Special thanks to Becky Virgalla, covering office duties this past week Mon. – Wed. and Friday; and Flo Berrien covering on Thursday, for the vacationing Mary Lou Kampert.

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Dennis Darak **Liturgist:** Shelly Lapadula
Cross Bearer: Olivia Kingston **Greeters:** Michelle Craig and Karyn Doherty
Bible Bearer: Becky Virgalla **Acolytes:** Ryan and Sean Kingston
Communion Stewards: Donna Venditti and Joyce Haig
Communion Celebrants: Pastor Brian, Pastor Hal, Beth O' Brien, and Shelly Lapadula

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given in loving memory of my husband, Jack, who passed away one year ago, given by Michelle Connor.

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

WELCOME VISITORS! May you experience God's presence today. Please complete a red visitor's card (in the pew racks) and wear the "Visitor" peel-and-stick name tag to help us greet you. Our Ambassadors will look for you! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is in the Narthex.

PLEASE OFFER PRAYER CONCERNS using the "Blue Sheets" in the attendance pads in each pew; or obtain one from an usher. **Please return them completed to an usher or to the center aisle where the ushers will collect them on the opening hymn.** Our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. **You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.** Please obtain others' permission to share their concerns. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. **Please also consider joining our Yahoo e-communication group** (which was created for prayer concerns) to offer immediate posting of intercessory prayer requests. To sign up, contact the church office.

CHILD CARE for children five years old and younger is provided in the Wesley Center, the building to your left. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary since our child care is not staffed to provide for older children.

IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE SANCTUARY DURING WORSHIP, please exit by either the side aisle to your left or by the rear (Broad Street) doors. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar) and can be accessed either way. **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the Broad Street doors if weather and mobility allows.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), and "Creative Communications for the Parish."

SERMON COPIES from previous Sundays are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MTMUMC, continued

<i>Wed., December 13</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sanctuary carpet cleaning</i>
	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Parkinson's Support Christmas Party - St. Mary's Church</i>
	<i>6:40/7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thurs, December 14</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>SPRC – Gunn Library (if needed)</i>
<i>Friday, December 15</i>		<i>Beacon information due</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office volunteers</i>
<i>Saturday, December 16</i>	<i>8:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Construction of the Creche in front of the sanctuary</i>

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR OUR STAFF

As in previous years, your Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will be collecting monetary Christmas gifts for our staff.

If you wish to contribute, you can do so by cash or check. Present your gift to any SPRC member. Checks should be made out to Mary Taylor Memorial UMC with "staff x-mas gift" on the notation line. Cash should be in an envelope marked with your name and "staff x-mas gift."

The members of the SPRC are Tom Beyer, Chris Carveth, Eileen Doyle, Tina Gage, Shelly Lapadula (Co-Lay Leader), Kelly O'Hara, Jim Page, Becky Virgalla and myself. You may also give a gift to Co-Lay Leader Beth O'Brien.

We will collect your gifts until **Sunday, December 17th**. At this joyous and giving time of the year, we thank you.

Edie Reichard, SPRC Chairperson

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR November 26:

Total worship attendance all services: 179 Nov. 26: 148; GEUMC: 20; Taize Nov. 22; 2 Nov. 23: 9; Nov. 27 Healing and Wholeness worship: 11; Total Offerings for Nov. 26: \$5,527.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$612.50; Engaged in Small Groups: 83 No Sunday School; "Growing Up Together Spiritually" (GUTS) Youth Group: 5; Confirmation 4; Disciple 4 13; Sanctuary decorating, Nov. 29: 13; Bell Choir: 6; Adult Choir: 19; Visitation Committee 8; Office Volunteers: 4; Golden Hill Community Supper, Nov. 1: 11. Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 0. *Small Groups – please contact the church office mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

TWO-WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

TODAY

<i>Sunday, December 3</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Holy Communion– Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Mail at MTM – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Missions Equal Exchange – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>SPRC meeting – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>3:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Church Conference – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>GEUMC Emmanuel UMC Worship - Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Fellowship and Yankee Swap – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 4</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Disciple 4 Class – Gunn Library (note date change)</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 5</i>	<i>5:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Egan Room</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bishop Bickerton consult at Golden Hill UM Church, GPS 345 Golden Hill Street, Bridgeport</i>
<i>Wed., December 6</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s study</i>
	<i>6:40/7:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 7</i>	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Bereavement Support Group – St. Mary’s Church</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Gay-Straight Alliance meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, December 8</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, December 9</i>	<i>3:30p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (sanctuary)</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant, Dinner and Dessert Auction – Sanctuary/Dodd Hall</i>
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<i>Sunday, December 10</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>UMW 2nd Sunday Soup Sale – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>GEUMC Emmanuel UMC Worship - Chapel</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ring and Sing – meet in Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting - participate in Ring & Sing</i>
<i>Monday, December 11</i>		<i>Poinsettia orders due today</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Finance Committee – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 12</i>		<i>BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFTS DEADLINE</i>
	<i>5:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation class – Egan room</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Disciple 4 Class –Gunn Library</i>
	<i>6:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Youth Advisors – Pastor Dani’s office</i>

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by Holly Firmender and her many friends from Membership and Evangelism. Next Sunday’s hosts are the Board of Trustees.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE ORDERS will be taken today after worship, with proceeds to benefit Missions. Please see Christine McGregor.

2018 BUDGET REQUESTS from church committees are due today, Sunday, Dec. 3 to Nancy Bennett at nancy516@aol.com or to 26 High Street, Milford, CT 06460.

DEADLINE FOR THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES, 2018 ORDERS is today. See Don Hastings (203.877.4554 or nctwash@aol.com). This daily devotional uses lectionary scriptures (the same used in worship). Cost is \$10 for regular or large print (scholarship help available).

BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFT TAGS STILL AVAILABLE for clothing items for the youth residing at BGV. Please help a child have a great Christmas? See Deb Dubien today or contact her (debrad246@yahoo.com/ 203.449.4601). **Return gifts to her by Tues., Dec. 12.**

CHRISTMAS MAIL AT MTMUMC: Send Christmas cards to your MTMUMC friends **and** support mission work through January 7th, 2018 by using the internal mailbox found today in Dodd Hall under the Rev. Ford plaque. Consider making a donation equivalent to postage saved to the United Methodist Women for mission work to Joyce Haig (203.302.0210), Sue O’Shea (203.494.5339) or Deb Dubien (203.449.4601); or contribute through the offering with checks payable to the United Methodist Women (UMW) with the memo “Christmas mail.” **Donations are strictly voluntary and the mail system may be used by all, whether or not you choose to donate.** To know more contact Lodemia Lopes at 203.572.0618 or llopes4@optonline.net.

CHURCH CONFERENCE is today, 3, 3-4:30 p.m., sanctuary, open to all, with vote reserved to members of MTMUMC. **ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY** immediately follows at 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall. **See enclosed insert. CHILD CARE provided for both events.**

LIVING CRECHE SIGN-UPS CONTINUE! Our church presents a Nativity tableau outside, reminding Milford of “the Reason for the Season.” Members and friends represent the Holy Family, shepherds, and Wise Men in 20 minute shifts on Fri., Dec. 22 and Sat., Dec. 23 between 6 and 8 p.m.; and Christmas Eve between 4:45 and 6:10 p.m. **To sign up, please see today Marcia Winter or call/text 203.640.5941 or e-mail mcbwinter@att.net.** **WE ALSO NEED** people to erect the crèche (Saturday, Dec. 16, 8 a.m.), prepare the costumes, help people to get in costume, and offer refreshments. Please let Marcia know how you’ll help.

“G.U.T.S” – “GROWING UP TOGHER SPIRITUALLY” – IS THE NEW NAME FOR YOUTH GROUP. We meet 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, 1st Floor. Each week we have a discussion topic and different topic leader. Come join us for GUTS! All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! Tonight’s program topic: “*Group(I)ness*” led by Dawn Bettencourt.

TODAY, continued

PLEDGES FOR 2018 are encouraged. Please find Commitment Cards at the back of the Sanctuary and return them in the offering plate; to Eileen Doyle or Lisa Sobolewski; or to the church office. May God bless all who have responded. Matt. 6:21 NIV.

THE DECEMBER “BEACON” was mailed Monday, Nov. 27. Copies at rear of sanctuary.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

BISHOP BICKERTON’S PRESENTATION will be *this Tuesday, Dec. 5th*. If you are carpooling, please be ready to depart from MTMUMC at 5:40 p.m. Dinner for those with reservations is at 6:30 p.m. Others are welcome to join Bishop’s “2018 and Beyond” conversation at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary of Golden Hill U.M. Church, Bridgeport. Use “345 Golden Hill Street” for your GPS address. Golden Hill is handicapped accessible.

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE of MTMUMC will meet *Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.* in the Wesley Center, Gunn Library. We will discuss adding a Social Justice component to the GSA. Check out your Personal Bias Assessments through a screening device called the “Implicit Association Test”. The web address is: www.implicit.harvard.edu, choose “Project Implicit Social Attitudes” and you can either create a profile or click the American flag to continue as a guest.

OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, DINNER AND DESSERT AUCTION is *this Saturday, December 9th*, pageant beginning at 5 p.m. Rehearsal begins at 3:30. The traditional story of Christ’s birth is told by the children and, immediately after, the “Growing Up Together Spiritually” – “GUTS” youth group will host their annual lasagna dinner and dessert auction to raise funds for their mission projects. **If you will donate desserts to auction please contact Shelly Lapadula** at m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com (preferred) or 203.874.4446 (H) or 203.368.2515 (O).

NEXT SUNDAY, December 10

“ISAIAH THE ENGINEER” will be the sermon based on Isaiah 40:1-11; II Peter 3:8-15a and Mark 1:1-8. The Advent wreath will be lit by Jeff, Sarah and Pemberley Brockett. Our Mission Minute by Deb Dubien will be on Boys’ and Girls’ Village and The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport’s “Angel Offering, 2017.” **After worship**, Fellowship Time in Dodd Hall includes the “Second Sunday Soup Sale,” raising mission funds for the United Methodist Women through the sale of soup (\$5/pint) and home-made baked goods.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING will begin at *3:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall* for a brief “rehearsal.” Then we’ll head out by carpool to ring and sing at local facilities and return to Pastor Dani’s at the Parsonage, 47 Commodore Place, Milford, for appetizers, refreshments and fellowship. If you would like to contribute to the refreshments, please call Holly Firmender at 203.530.2621 or e-mail her at holly.firmender@gmail.com. **See the enclosed flier for additional information.**

SCHEDULE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet *Monday, Dec. 11, 6 – 6:55 p.m.* in the Gunn Library, concluding before Healing and Wholeness Worship.

NO MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MEETING *on Dec. 11.* The committee will meet again on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6 p.m.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS: *Monday, Dec. 11* submitted to the church office.

FOR BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFTS: *Tuesday, Dec. 12*, to Deb Dubien.

FOR THE JANUARY BEACON: *Friday, Dec. 15*, electronically to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or print copy to the church office.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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

DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS. *Beth O’Brien (203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net) is now taking orders for 2018.* Flowers are \$20. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to support missions are honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for both are payable to MTMUMC, mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460.

FOOD BASKET: Please place non-perishable food items in the basket located in the back of the church and monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat food is needed for seniors with pets and for the canine facility. Towels and blankets are needed. Animal Control will not take peoples’ released pets but will spay and neuter feral cats. Please leave your donations in the designated basket in the back of the Sanctuary. The Youth Fellowship brings these items to Animal Control each week. Bless you for caring for God’s children with fur. **If you and your animals are in need please help yourself to the available donations.**

CONTACT THE PASTORS directly or through the church office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 111 or 203.895.3753. He is typically in office **10 am – 1 p.m.**, Mon. – Thurs. **Pastor Hal Vink:** 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@gmail.com. **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or Danielle.levine@mail.com.

“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: During a medical or other emergency the Head Usher or a designee will call #911. Please do not call on your cell phone as multiple calls may delay response.