

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
Nesting Ghana Emmanuel U.M. Church: 2016

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 4, 2016

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

A WORD FROM STAFF-PARISH Mr. Dennis Darak, Chair

INTROIT “Come, Emmanuel”

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Mark 1, CEB

Leader: Today we journey deeper into Advent and our preparation for Christ’s coming.

People: *We hear the good news about Jesus Christ, God’s Son as it was written in Isaiah:*

ALL: *“Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Let us worship God.*

*HYMN #203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Ellacombe

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Preparation
Edie Reichard

SUNG RESPONSE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Hymn #206, vs.2
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

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 COLLECT (*seated, unison*)

Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may hear, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of your holy

Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It can be a tense Season, O God. We prepare for the Prince of Peace but feel little peace. We prepare for a King and act like knaves. We prepare for a Wonderful Counselor and hardly listen to the counsel of your beloved Son. Grant that this worship help us be aware of our part in losing sight of “the reason for the Season.” By your power, help us to set it aright, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SILENT PRAYER 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 11:1-10 Bible p.627

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12 Bible p.878

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #209 “Blessed Be the God of Israel” Lancashire

THE SERMON “Repent? Who, me?” Dr. Bodt

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: “Rise Up, Come On and Get Ready!” P. Choplin

*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 #213 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Truro

*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 “Toccatà on ‘Adeste Fideles’” D. Hegarty
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

<i>Sunday, December 4</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>Sunday School Pageant rehearsal-Sanctuary-lunch provided</i>
	<i>11 am – 1 pm</i>	<i>Methodist Youth Fellowship prepare lasagna – Kitchen</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF meeting today- Youth Lounge</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Fellowship Party and Yankee Swap-Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 5</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Healing and Wholeness worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 6</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Board of Trustees meeting – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 7</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday, December 8</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
<i>Friday, December 9</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, December 10</i>	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Pageant-Sanctuary/Dinner follows</i>
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<i>Sunday, December 11</i>		<i>BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE GIFTS DUE TODAY</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>United Methodist Women Soup and Bakery Sale – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>1:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Private Party – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF and Ring and Sing Intergenerational Christmas Caroling-Dodd Hall/Milford Health Care facilities</i>
<i>Monday, December 12</i>		<i>POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TODAY-FIRM DEADLINE</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>2nd Annual Holiday Sing-Along and Healing & Wholeness Service in the Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 13</i>	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Greater Bridgeport United Methodist Cluster-off site</i>
	<i>2:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Milford Clergy Association meeting – UCC Devon</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Finance Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 14</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday, December 15</i>		<i>BEACON INFORMATION DUE TODAY</i>
<i>Friday, December 16</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Gay/Straight Alliance Bowling & Pizza Party-MYF and friends’ Devon Duckpin Bowling – 551 Naugatuck Ave. Eileen Doyle contact</i>
<i>Saturday, December 17</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Crèche set up – Rachel Merva contact</i>

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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. Thomas J. Bickerton
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		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

Grace Notes
The Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

The Confirmation Class and their mentors – adult guides who are not the parent of the particular student whom they mentor – met last Tuesday to do some community building.

The exercise was simple: get acquainted. The technique was also simple: learn each other’s name, the town in which they reside, where they work or go to school, a description of their family unit, what they do for fun and what their relationship is with this church. Then introduce your partner to the group.

I think it’s something we could do more of at MTMUMC. Speak to people we don’t know. Smile. Say “Hi.” Perhaps the adventure of inquiring “Are you new, or new to me?” Christian community, at its heart, is about relationships: building them and maintaining them.

This Advent, let’s repent of the impulse to sit only where we’ve always sat and to speak only to those to whom we’ve always spoken. Some of us do this already. What power would be unleashed for Christ and for good if we increased the number of people willing to trust the Holy Spirit that every face we meet – the ones we know and the ones we don’t – is a reflection of the face of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Tanner Georgelos

Greeters – Barbara Ann and Tom Griggs

Liturgist – Elizabeth Repetsky

Bible bearer – Zoe Browne

Cross Bearer – Olivia Kingston

Acolytes – Sean Kingston and Natalie Rendon

Communion stewards: Tara Volgmuth and Barbara Berglund

Communion celebrants: Pastors Brian and Hal, Elizabeth Repetsky and Leigh Bak

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian Bodt and Elizabeth Repetsky.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in memory of Joseph Burke, given by Cathy Liontas and Margaret Burke; and in memory of Kristin Ann, given by her family.

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

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.

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.

TODAY'S LITURGY is based on Holy Scripture and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Sung Communion is adapted from an original by "Creative Communications for the Parish." The Collect is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (1892). The Unison Confession was written by the pastor.

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

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

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

BULLETIN NOTICES are due by noon Wednesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS, contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net. Flowers are \$20. A donation in lieu of flowers to support missions is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for either are payable to MTMUMC and 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 ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW, according to Paul Downing's contact with the animal shelter. "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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR November 27th:

Total worship attendance all services: 190; November 27th 10am: 145, GEUMC, 18 ; Nov. 28th Healing & Wholeness: 11; Taize Nov. 23: 6; 24th: 10; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for November 27th: \$6,978.00; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$21.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$73.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 133; MYF Holiday concert: 12; Sunday School: 40; MTMUMC dinner, Nov. 24: 40; Confirmation class: 11; Bell Choir: 7 ; Adult Choir: 18; Office volunteers, 5; Total persons received on profession of faith: 0; Total Persons involved in local, national, and international missions: 8.) *Small Groups – please contact the church office mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.



SAVE THESE DATES – details in the December “Beacon”

- **January “Beacon” deadline, Thursday, December 15**. Please submit articles to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or hard copy to the church office. Due to the Christmas publication schedule with many special programs, no articles will be accepted after December 15.
- **Gay/Straight Alliance Bowling and Pizza Party, Friday, Dec.16, 7 p.m.**
- **“A Blue Christmas Service,” Monday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.** in the sanctuary.



TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted by the Methodist Youth Fellowship. **Next Sunday’s host** will be the Trustees.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL follows worship. Lunch provided. For questions or comments, please speak with Cathy (203.645.2362) or Holly (203.530.2621).

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP meets **11 am - 1 pm today** to prepare the lasagna for after the Christmas Pageant. Youth not involved in the pageant please participate. **We will not have a 4 pm meeting today.** Please let Pastor Dani know will help today or next Sunday.

THE ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held in Dodd Hall beginning at **5 p.m.** Child care provided. See the detailed flier enclosed on what to bring.

THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE 2017 books are “in.” Please see Don Hastings in Dodd Hall after worship to receive your order. \$10 cash or check payable to “MTMUMC” memoed “Upper Room Disciplines.” There are 3 extra books if you did not order one.

MTMUMC STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS may be given to any member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. See the enclosed flier for names and details on how to give.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be held **this Saturday, Dec. 10, 5 p.m.** in the sanctuary. **Children, parents and other adults** involved in the pageant **please arrive at 3:30 p.m.** Please help us fill our “Gift of the Magi” treasure chest with gently used Beanie Babies and costume jewelry to be donated to residents of the United Methodist Homes. **A special aspect** of this year’s pageant is having **Youth Directors Sarah O’Brien and Shannon Thompson!**

DINNER AND DESSERT AUCTION sponsored by the Methodist Youth Fellowship **follows the pageant in Dodd Hall.** A free-will offering for the dinner supports MYF missions and desserts are available to bid on. Come for this festive event. Want to help? Contact Paul Downing at 203.676.5582 or paul.downing@snet.net.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 11th

ADVENT III/GAUDETE - “Removing the Cataracts” is the sermon based on Matthew 11:2-11 and James 5:7-10. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Carr family.

BOYS AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFTS are due back to Deb Dubien **next Sunday**. Thanks to all who are helping provide a Christmas for these children.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP AND BAKED GOODS SALE follows worship in Dodd Hall. Soup is \$5/pint. All proceeds go to United Methodist Women missions. To support them by making these items, please contact Sue O’Shea at 203.874.5136 or sueoshea@optonline.net.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 11th - continued

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLERS AND MYF will meet *Sunday, December 11 at 4 p.m. in Dodd Hall* for a brief “rehearsal” before carpooling to ring & sing at local facilities where our members reside and/or are convalescing. **The Methodist Youth Fellowship’s meeting is to participate in this event.** After caroling, we’ll gather at the Bak’s home, 15 Seaside Court, for refreshments and fellowship. Please contact Leigh if you would like to contribute to the “refreshments” being served; 203.215-0470 or leighb619@gmail.com.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

“**JOURNEY THROUGH IRELAND**” will be a ten-day pilgrimage May 29-June 7, 2017 organized by the Rev. Jim and Mary Ellen Midgley of First UM Church, Ansonia. The trip will include visiting sites where John Wesley himself preached and ministered. For cost and accommodation details contact Mary Ellen Midgley (203.313.4179 / mem12337@gmail.com). **A detailed overview of the trip will be provided this Thursday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.** at First UMC, 47 Franklin Street, Ansonia. See fliers on the bulletin board in Dodd Hall.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS are due *Monday, December 12th*. No orders can be accepted after that date. See the enclosed order form and return to the church office.

THE MYF WILL HELP HOST THE GSA BOWLING at Devon Duckpin Bowling from *7-8:45 p.m. on Friday December 16th*. Please bring a bag of chips to share.

THE MYF CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held at the Downing’s home on *December 18th from 4-6 pm.* We will have pizza, bring a dessert to share! We will be doing a Secret Santa (\$10 limit). **Regular meetings will resume on January 8th.**

CUSTODIAN VOLUNTEERS are still needed. See **Dennis Darak (203.988.3554)**.

LIVING CRECHE: This annual tradition presents a Nativity tableau in front of our church to remind the Milford community of “the Reason for the Season.” Members and friends represent the Holy Family and traditional “others” (shepherds, Wise Men) in several shifts on Thurs., Dec. 22, Fri., Dec. 23 and Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve times are between 4:45 and 6:10 p.m. to be present before and after the 5 p.m. worship. Thursday and Friday times are 6-8 p.m. **To sign up or assist with costumes or refreshments, contact Priscilla James at 203.804.0279 or pcjames60@gmail.com.**

“**THE GREAT BIBLE EXPERIMENT**”, second unit, “Introducing the Old Testament,” will be taught in January. The study follows our typical Tuesday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m. format, with students choosing one or the other but with the option to alternate as personal schedules require. The six study session begins Jan. 17/18 and ends Feb. 21/22, the week before Lent begins. If you are interested in attending, please register through the church office (203.874.1982 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).



Start the Holiday Season on a Joyful Note !

Don't miss the chance to sing time-honored, loved, traditional Christmas carols at MTMUMC's **2nd Annual Holiday Sing-Along and Healing and Wholeness Service**



Monday, December 12th

6:30 – 8:00 pm

In The Chapel in Wesley Center

*Music accompaniment by:
Pastor Hal Vink, Mark Platt,
Ken Wilhelm, Wayne Kenyon*