

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*

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

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 6, 2015

**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

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

INTROIT “Purify My Heart”

\*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 “Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam’st to Men” rear cover of insert

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Preparation  
*Cathy, Gianni, Stefano and Matteo Cono*

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 Malachi 3:1-4 Bible p.874  
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

THE EPISTLE Philippians 1:3-11 Bible p.1068  
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

\*THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6 Bible p.934

THE SERMON “Time to Get Ready” Dr. Bodt

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

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: “Is It True?” C. Curry  
*(Lisa Gloates, Soloist)*

\*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!*

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

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

\*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

“Toccata on ‘Adeste Fideles’”

D. Hegarty

# Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam'st

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE, 1882-

KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS 87.87.887.  
LUDWIG M. LINDEMAN, 1812-1887

Unison

1. Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to men, Up - on a cross they  
2. O aw - ful love, which found no room In life where sin de -  
3. New ad - vent of the love of Christ, Shall we a - gain re -  
4. O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build In us thy new cre -

bound thee, And mocked thy sav - ing king - ship then  
nied thee, And, doomed to death, must bring to doom  
fuse thee, Till in the night of hate and war  
a - tion; Our pride is dust; our vaunt is stilled;

By thorns with which they crowned thee. And still our wrongs may  
The power which cru - ci - fied thee, Till not a stone was  
We per - ish as we lose thee? From old un - faith our  
We wait thy rev - e - la - tion. O love that tri - umphs

weave thee now New thorns to pierce that stead - y brow,  
left on stone, And all a na - tion's pride o'er - thrown  
souls re - lease To seek the king - dom of thy peace,  
o - ver loss, We bring our hearts be - fore thy cross,

And robe of sor - row round thee.  
Went down to dust be - side thee!  
By which a - lone we choose thee.  
To fin - ish thy sal - va - tion. A - men.

Alternate tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART

## MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: 203.874.1982

Fax: 203.877.8973

Website: [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org)

[www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)

E-mail:

[mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton
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	Outreach Pastor	Rachel Duncan
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

### Grace Notes December 6, 2015

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

*Little by little, we prepare for Christmas.*

*The second Sunday of Advent typically emphasizes "preparation," which is essential in any endeavor. Carol and I have been doing a lot of painting at home this fall. As anyone who has done the same will tell you, the majority of the time is preparation: filling cracks, sanding them smooth, taping the areas where you don't want paint to go, then "edging" and finally.....ahhh!!!!!! The roller!*

*Advent is the season of preparation. How are you preparing your life for Christ?*

*Sharp eyes will notice that our chancel Nativity tableau is growing in stages this year. Last week an angel was present to remind us of the announcements to Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-38). This week the shepherds are present, looking for the Christ Child (Luke 2:8-14). Next week....well, come and see!*

*Our Chrismon tree is adorned with Christian symbols made by members of this church, notably but not exclusively the former Naomi Circle. Those who helped erect and decorate the tree and chancel this year, in addition to this morning's children, include Joyce Haig, Priscilla James, Bob Lawrence, Brenda and Ed Pineau, Gretchen Soule, Bob and Becky Virgalla and Margery Zurko, assisted by Bruce Rumford and me. We thank Rich Perregaux for hanging the Advent banners as he has done for many years; and Karen Keane for assisting Priscilla James in decorating the window sconces.*

*May our religious rituals lead us to deeper preparation for Christ's coming.*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Brian*

## AT WORSHIP TODAY

**Head Usher** – Nick Bettencourt

**Greeters** – The Thompson family

**Liturgist** – Nancy Bennett

**Acolytes** – Sarah O’Brien and Olivia Kingston

**Bible Bearer** – Mary Repetsky

**Cross Bearer** – Callie Merva

**Communion Celebrants** – Pastors Brian and Hal, Leigh Bak and Nancy Bennett

**Communion Stewards** – Tara Volgmuth and Deb Dubien

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Rev. Bodt and Nancy Bennett

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Beth O’Brien today, assisting the acolytes as Noel Fino recovers from a procedure. We look forward to seeing Noel back with us next Sunday.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are in memory of Dudley Brown from Rita.

**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. 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. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.

**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](http://www.mtm-umc.org).

## ~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, December 6</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>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Adult Christmas party and Yankee Swap – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 7</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 8</i>	<i>5:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Gay-Straight Alliance meeting – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 9</i>		<b>POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE!</b>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Praisemaker’s Children’s Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 10</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Finance Committee – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, December 11</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, December 12</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Creche Assembly – In front of the church</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School Christmas pageant children report</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas pageant – sanctuary</i>
		<i>MYF dinner and dessert auction following – Dodd Hall</i>
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<i>Sunday, December 13</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship and Sacrament of Baptism - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Soup and baked goods sale – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>Visitation Ministries meeting – Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor</i>
<i>Monday, December 14</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>AA meeting/Health care workers – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Inaugural Holiday Sing-along - Chapel</i>
	<i>7:15 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 15</i>		<b>JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE</b>
	<i>5:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation Class - Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 16</i>	<i>Noon</i>	<i>Taize worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Praisemaker’s Children’s Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 17</i>	<i>8:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, December 18</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>

## OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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

**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. Also wet and dry dog food 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.

**CONTACTING THE PASTORS:** Please inform a pastor or the church office (203.874.1982, [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations:

**Pastor Brian Bodt** can be reached at [brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto:brian.bodt@yahoo.com); 203.874.1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753. He is typically in office **10 am – 1 p.m.**, Mon. – Thurs. Appointments scheduled in advance are always the best way to get his full attention.

**Pastor Hal Vink** can be reached at 203.878.8977 or [vinkhaljane@gmail.com](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com).

**Pastor Rachel Duncan** can be reached at 203.874.1982 or [rachel.e.duncan@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.e.duncan@gmail.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 29th:**

Total worship attendance all services: 185; November 29th: 178; Healing and Wholeness, November 30th: 7; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for November 29th: \$5,082; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$22,215; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$2,035.36; Engaged in Small Groups: 332 - (Thanksgiving Sunday dinner, Nov. 22: 106; Thanksgiving Day dinner, Nov. 26: 74; Intergenerational Ring and Sing, Nov. 29: 30; Office Volunteers: 2; Sunday School: 41; Church Conference [including Confirmation], Dec. 1: 49; Praisemaker’s: 2; Bell Choir: 10; Adult Choir: 18). 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

## ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary), hosted today by Don and Mary Lou Hastings and Sandy Morgan. Dec. 13 host is Membership and Evangelism.

“**LIVING CRECHE**” **40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SIGN-UPS** are today in Dodd Hall or by contacting Rachel Merva (203.641.5088 or [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net)) or Priscilla James (203.804.0279 or [pcjames60@gmail.com](mailto:pcjames60@gmail.com)). We need your support in these ways:

- **Be in the crèche** as part of the tableau of Holy Family, shepherds, magi. Times are **Tues., Dec. 22 and Wed., Dec. 23 from 6 – 8 pm** and **Thurs., Dec. 24 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm.**
- **Assemble the crèche** on **Sat., Dec. 12** or **dismantle the crèche** after worship on **Sun., Dec. 27.** We need a crew of at least five people.

**ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY** is tonight at 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall. This “fun and fellowship” event is for all adults. If your **last name begins A-O**, please bring an **appetizer**. If your **last name begins P-Z**, please bring a **dessert**. The Yankee Swap is a game of luck and dare! To participate, please bring a **wrapped gift of no more than \$10 value**. See you then!

**COMMEMORATIVE CHURCH PLAQUES** designed by Cat’s Meow are for sale at \$20 after worship in Dodd Hall from Jane Vink. Proceeds benefit Missions work.

“**THE ANGEL GIFT-GIVING GUIDE**” of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB) is available after worship in Dodd Hall. Our congregation became a member of CCGB earlier this year. Our delegates are Diana Cable and Deb Dubien. See Diana for this guide.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS** are due this Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. They are \$10 each. Please return the enclosed flier with payment to the church office.

**STAFF APPRECIATION AT CHRISTMAS:** We customarily give our staff a Christmas gift. Please see the enclosed notice and respond if you are able. Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

*Dennis Darak, Staff-Parish Relations Chair*

**SILVER SANDS STATE PARK RENOVATIONS:** Our Nov. 19 Church Council voted unanimously to support St. Gabriel’s Church’s request to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to re-examine the data used for proposed Silver Sands State Park renovations. If you would like to add your support, visit [deep.adjudications@ct.gov](http://deep.adjudications@ct.gov).

“**BLUE CHRISTMAS**” news articles in local papers are posted on the bulletin boards. “Blue Christmas” is our Mon., Dec. 21, 7 p.m. worship service designed particularly for those feeling “blue” at Christmas. Details in the “Beacon;” all welcome.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** from last Tuesday’s Church Conference are available in the rear of the church. Please help yourself.

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.**

### THIS WEEK

**THE FINANCE COMMITTEE** meets this Thursday, 7 p.m. in the Gunn Library. The main agenda item is reviewing a draft of the proposed 2016 Church budget. Committee members unable to attend please reply to Nancy Bennett at [nancy516@aol.com](mailto:nancy516@aol.com) or 203.874.6434.

**OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** is this Saturday, 5 p.m. in the sanctuary presented by the Sunday School. Please support our children and their teachers with your presence for this winsome and child-friendly presentation of the story of Jesus' birth. The annual dinner and dessert auction follows immediately in Dodd Hall, hosted by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

### NEXT SUNDAY

**ADVENT III/GAUDETE:** "Time to Act" is the sermon based on Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:7-19. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Meszaros family. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Evan James Poloski, son of Matthew and Andrea.

**SOUP SALE AND BAKED GOODS SALE** will follow worship in Dodd Hall. Soup is \$5 a pint with baked goods priced to sell. All proceeds go to the mission projects of the United Methodist Women. If you would like to support them by making soup or baked goods, please contact Sue O'Shea at 203.874.5136 or [sueoshea@optonline.net](mailto:sueoshea@optonline.net).

**BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS** will be due to Maryann Petremont next Sunday. Thank you for brightening Christmas for a child in need.

### ADDITIONAL MINISTRY INVITATIONS

**AN INAUGURAL HOLIDAY SING-ALONG** will be offered on Monday, Dec. 14, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. in the Chapel, preceding our regular Healing and Wholeness worship that will start at 7:15 and conclude at 8 p.m. Please see the enclosed flier. All are welcome!

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** the first Sunday of the month is hosted by church members or friends rather than a church committee. We hope to involve others in this hospitality ministry. **The next open Sunday is January 3.** An instruction guide is available and others will help you. To serve, sign up in the Dodd Hall kitchen or call the church office (203.874.1982, ext. 10)

**TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS**, contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or [bgobrien11@optonline.net](mailto: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.

### MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UMC TRANSPORTATION CAREGIVER PROGRAM

The intent of the Transportation Caregiver Program is to provide transportation to worship on Sunday mornings and at other days and times that worship is held (Ex: Good Friday). Transportation would also be available to church events that may occur at other times and days of the week (Ex: Club 80 Luncheon) and other needs that may arise.

To procure a ride, a member should call Don Hastings (203-877-4554) or Michelle Craig (203-877-4332) or Judy Darak (203-874-5881). If at all possible, at least a **24-hour notice** would be helpful, but an attempt will be made to deal with last minute situations or emergencies.

### ADVENT AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHURCH

*Advent is a busy time of ministry at Mary Taylor Memorial Church. **These special events** are offered in addition to weekly worship as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. We provide these events today for all, but especially those new to our church. Details can be found in the December "Beacon," available in the back of the church or on-line.*

**JANUARY "BEACON" DEADLINE:** Tuesday, Dec. 15 with articles sent to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or hand-delivered to the church office.

**SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON:** Sunday, Dec. 20, following worship, hosted by the Men's Club.

**LIVING CRECHE:** Tues., Dec. 22 and Wed., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Thurs., Christmas Eve, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., outside the sanctuary.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** 5 and 10:45 p.m. - Sanctuary

**NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON:** Dec. 31, 7 p.m. to Jan. 1, 7 p.m.

### COMING IN JANUARY

Come Mountain Climbing with Us!  
Complimentary lunch and Leadership Program  
Sunday, January 10, 2016  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in Dodd Hall

Peaking our readiness for God's call!

A creative and fun approach to planning the work and working the **Long Range Plan!**  
Beginner, intermediate and advanced hikers welcome to the team (Yodeling is optional).

To register or for more information, contact the church office at [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or 203.874.1982, ext. 10.