

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 8, 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 “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” J. Thompson

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

INTROIT “Savior of the Nations, Come”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isa. 49:6; Ps. 72:4, 7 paraphrased

Leader: God says “I will give you as a light to the nations

People: *My salvation to the ends of the earth.*”

Leader: Defend the needy and the poor;

People: *Let justice and peace abound.*

ALL: LET US WORSHIP THE GOD OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.

*HYMN #626 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Picardy

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(seated)* The Candle of Preparation
The O’Brien family

SUNG RESPONSE “Advent Song” The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 2

*Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who
Filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

°°°

THE COLLECT *(unison)*

*Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
grant that we may so hear, learn and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of
thy holy Word, we may embrace the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou has given
us in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON Hymnal p. 8

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.*

THE SERMON “Those Pesky Roots” Dr. Bodt

*HYMN #216 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Es ist ein Ros

*THE APOSTLES’ CREED Hymnal #881

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.)

MISSION MINUTE *Boys’ and Girls’ Village* and Alternative Giving Anna Henry

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “I Wonder As I Wander” arr. by J. Niles & L. Horton
Barbara Repetsky, soloist

*Presentation: “What Child is This” Hymnal #219, vs. 3

*“So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary.”*

*Prayer of Dedication

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

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Away in a Manger” Hymnal #217, vs. 3

*“Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray:
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.”*

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

*POSTLUDE Toccata on “Savior of the Nations, Come” P. Manz
(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 8

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

9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Pageant rehearsal

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 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting

7:00 p.m. Building Committee meeting-Dodd Hall

Friday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Office volunteers to mail Christmas letter and assemble bulletin

Saturday, December 14

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

Sunday, December 15

ADVENT III/GAUDETE

BEACON 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

11:00 a.m. Boys & Girls Village Christmas Gift and Alternative Christmas
Giving deadlines - see Missions table in Dodd Hall

11:15a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings-Sanctuary

Monday, December 16

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 17

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

7:00 p.m. M&E Meeting-Wesley Center

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 a.m. “Wrestling with Angels” adult study – Gunn Library

10:00 a.m. Incubator Training – Egan Room

5:30 p.m. “Praisemakers” Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Office volunteers to assemble Christmas bulletins

Grace Notes

December 8, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

The Chrismon tree graces our sanctuary as a reminder of the centrality of Christ in Christmas. Begun in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia in 1957, it has spread to many other churches. The evergreen tree is covered with signs of Christ and symbols of our faith, made by our church’s children and adults. We especially thank Brenda and Ed Pineau who erected and decorated most of the tree today, leaving room for our children to hang the remaining ornaments.

More decoration graces the sanctuary each week. Today the 2nd Advent banner is up and wreaths adorn our doors, put up by Rick and Laura Perregaux. Keep watching as Advent unfolds.

I hope you will be present at 5 p.m. for the Adult Fellowship Christmas party. I also hope you will make time to support the children next Saturday at 5 p.m. as they enact the Christmas pageant and its story of Christ Jesus. Afterwards, support our Methodist Youth Fellowship at their dinner (free-will offering) and dessert auction (to benefit missions) in Dodd Hall

May this be a season rich in sign and action as we prepare for Jesus.

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

Liturgist – Gwyneth D’Andrea

Acolytes – Shannon & Bryan Thompson

Greeters – Laura & Richie Perregaux

Cross Bearer – Kayleigh Patterson

Bible Bearer – Mateo Cono

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Dodd Hall door and Gwyneth D’Andrea at the Dodd Hall door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given for Lucy—five years in heaven.

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), The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000).

SERMON COPIES from last Sunday 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.*

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 DECEMBER 1:

Total worship attendance all services: 173 (Dec 1, 165; Healing and Wholeness Dec.2: 8)
Total Offering: \$5144.00 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$7,584.71; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 147; (MYF Treat Making, Nov. 29: 18, Dec. 1: 16; Sunday School: 26; Intergenerational Christmas Carolers 34 “Christmas is Not Your Birthday.” 12; Wrestling with Angels, Tues.12 and Wed. 11; Confirmation: 9 Disciple I: 9). 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

OUR NEXT MTMUMC COMMUNITY SUPPER is Thursday, Dec. 26th. How appropriate this falls on St. Stephen's Day, the feast day of the first deacon and martyr. We welcome workers to prepare, serve and clean-up anytime during the 2 – 6:30 p.m. time frame. Please see Deb Dubien or contact her at 203.877.4959.

CONSTRUCTION IN THE WESLEY CENTER: New tile floors will be installed in Wesley Center beginning Dec. 26. The Wesley Center and church office will be closed Dec. 24, 2013 – Jan. 1, 2014 with the exception of Sunday child care on Dec. 29 and Mon., Dec. 30. Deadline for Dec. 29 bulletin notices is Friday, Dec. 20. Deadline for Jan. 5 bulletin notices remains unchanged: Wed., Jan. 1, Noon.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE STAFF is an annual tradition at Mary Taylor Memorial Church. You may respond by next Sunday, Dec. 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: there are a few left of 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.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE \$110.00 AND PERHAPS A LIFE? CPR Training will be offered Saturday, January 11, 2014 from 8 a.m. to Noon in Dodd Hall. Would you know what to do in a cardiac, breathing or first aid emergency? The right answer could help you save a life. CPR training will be sponsored by the Parish Nurses and conducted by Bill Katt. Those completing the course will be CPR certified, valid for 2 years. If taken in a public venue this can cost over \$100; for our parishioners, it is free. Please reserve through Mary Lou in the church office by January 4, 2014. Class size is limited to 15, so please

reserve your spot now. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation can help save a life, please join us on January 11th.

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. Missions hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are the United Methodist Women.

2014 ESTIMATES OF GIVING are still being received. Cards are available in the rear of the sanctuary and may be submitted through the morning offering or dropped off at, or mailed to, the church office. **Please try to submit your card by Friday. We will announce the results of this year's program next Sunday.**

POINSETTIA ORDER DEADLINE is today. See enclosed flier. Please print clearly.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY is today, 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 annahenry@gmail.com or 203.339.5091 or **Cathy Cono** at spikkio@optonline.net or 203.645.2362.

LONG-RANGE PLANNING SURVEY MAY STILL BE COMPLETED at the link through our website, www.mtm-umc.org; or by hard copy available in the rear of the church. The survey takes 20-40 minutes to complete. Please return hard copies to the church office.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL WELCOMED FOR THE 38th ANNUAL LIVING CRÈCHE ON SUN., DEC. 22ND and MON., DEC. 23RD (6-8 p.m.) and CHRISTMAS EVE (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!

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 Maryann 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" continues *Mondays, 2-3:30 pm* or *7-8:30 pm* in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd fl. This 5 week study casts 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. 11, Noon* to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

"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!

"PRAISEMAKERS" choir for children K – grade 6 still welcomes singers at their *Wed., 5:30 p.m.* rehearsals in Dodd Hall. We rehearse the next two Wednesdays and sing at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Come, or speak with Rick Riccardi if you want to know more.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet *Friday, 10 a.m.* to prepare the Christmas letter and weekly bulletin.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER is *this Saturday, Dec. 14, 5 p.m.* The pageant is presented by the children of our Sunday School. 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.

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT III/GAUDETE - An informal carol sing precedes worship at 9:45 a.m. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Gregory families. The message "Got Hunger?" is based on Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11. Tom Beyer's Stewardship Spotlight concludes our "Extravagant Generosity" campaign. 2014 offering envelopes will be available. Blood pressure screenings will follow worship in the sanctuary.

WE ASSEMBLE THE CRECHE outside church *next Sunday after worship.* We need at least five workers. Volunteer to Rachel Merva: 203.641.5088.

DEADLINES NEXT SUNDAY

➤ **THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING CATALOGUE** – see insert



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



or Deb Dubien.

- **BOYS' AND GIRLS' VILLAGE** Christmas gifts – see Maryann Petremont
- **JANUARY “BEACON” COPY** – to church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net
- **CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR STAFF** - to any Staff-Parish Committee member (see “Other Ministry Opportunities”)