

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

A WORD FROM STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS Becky Virgalla

INTROIT “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Traditional Monastic Liturgy

Leader: The hills and the mountains will be singing praise to God.

People: *Every tree in the forest will be clapping its hands.*

All: *The Lord will come and rule forever. Alleluia.*

*HYMN #202 “People, Look East” Besancon

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Preparation
Jeff, Sarah and Pemberley Brockett

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 follow 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 PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, unison*) The Book of Worship, 1944, alt.

Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of your Son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Book of Worship, 1992, alt.

Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence but the contrast with your goodness in great, indeed. Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness, we have often denied the better angels of our nature and refused to hear your voice calling us to rise to our best. Forgive those times we choose to walk in darkness; those times we do not care to look within; those times we are unwilling to look beyond ourselves to those who need our help. Be with us, O holy God, as a strong and wise friend, and teach us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 40:1-11 Bible p.653

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

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

THE EPISTLE II Peter 3:8-15a Bible p.1109

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

*THE GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8 Bible p.910

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

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

THE SERMON “Isaiah the Engineer” 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.)

MISSION MOMENT “Boys’ and Girls’ Village, Milford” and Deb Dubien
“Angel Giving Guide” of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “And the Glory of the Lord” from “Messiah” G.F. Handel

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

*THE BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE “Tocatta on ‘Savior of the Nations, Come’”
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated.)

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.



SECOND SUNDAY

OF

Advent

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 10, 2017*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Our fall Church Conference was held last Sunday. Copies of the report booklet are found on the table and in the literature racks at the Broad Street end of the sanctuary.

One of the emphases of our District Superintendent was the importance of inviting and recognizing new people. The “life cycle” of congregations is directly connected to this practice.

The good news is that many of our people invite and welcome new people. The good news is that we have visitors every week. The good news is that these visitors often return. This is good news of which not every congregation can boast.

It only remains good news when each of us reaches out with words like these: “Hi, I’m _____. Are you new, or new to me?”

At this time of year, recalling the birth of Christ, we often lament the perceived inhospitality of the innkeeper: “[Mary] laid him (Jesus) in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” The Holy Family were pilgrims, even transients, as they arrived in Joseph’s ancestral home in Bethlehem. Are you and I making room at the inn called Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church by welcoming the pilgrim and the transient?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher: Dennis Darak

Cross Bearer: Josh Carr

Bible Bearer: Elise Pitts

Liturgist: Sandy Morgan

Greeters: Sandra Marren and Joyce Haig

Acolytes: Nate Carr and Mateo Cono

A MISSION CROSS HAS BEEN PLACED and a donation has been made to Missions in honor of Rick and Stacy Riccardi with gratitude for the very many blessings they offer each and every one of us, given my Holly Firmender and Lisa Gloates.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in celebration of my daughter's 35th birthday, given by Steve Wasko; and for Lucy.

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 The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

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

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 December 3

Total worship attendance all services: 210 Dec. 3: 178; GEUMC: 21; Dec.4 Healing and Wholeness worship: 11; Total Offerings for Dec. 3: 7,014.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$721.21; Engaged in Small Groups: 211; Sunday School: 28; "Growing Up Together Spiritually" (GUTS) Youth Group: 8; Confirmation: 4; Disciple 4: 8; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 20; Security Task Force: 18; Worship Committee: 9; Cookie Walk: 20; Church Conference: 39; Adult Fellowship Christmas Party: 25; United Methodist Women Potluck: 23; Office Volunteers: 2; 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~

<i>Sunday, December 10</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>UMW 2nd Sunday Soup Sale – Dodd Hall</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>GEUMC Emmanuel UMC Worship - Chapel</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>Ring and Sing – meet in Dodd Hall</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting - participate in Ring & Sing</i>
<i>Monday, December 11</i>		<i>Poinsettia orders due today</i>
	6:00 p.m.	<i>Finance Committee – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Healing and Wholeness Worship – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 12</i>		<i>BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ VILLAGE GIFTS DEADLINE</i>
	5:45 p.m.	<i>Confirmation class – Egan room</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Disciple 4 Class –Gunn Library</i>
<i>Wed., December 13</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers-Gunn Library</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Sanctuary carpet cleaning</i>
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Parkinson’s Support Christmas Party - St. Mary’s Church</i>
	6:45 p.m.	<i>Youth Advisors – Pastor Dani’s office</i>
	6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thurs, December 14</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1st floor</i>
<i>Friday, December 15</i>		<i>Beacon information due</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office volunteers</i>
<i>Saturday, December 16</i>	8:00 a.m.	<i>Construction of the Crèche in front of the sanctuary</i>
<i>Sunday, December 17</i>	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	9:45 a.m.	<i>Informal hymn sing- sanctuary</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Worship– Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Soup and Sandwich luncheon by Men’s Club – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Blood pressure screenings - sanctuary</i>
	3:30 p.m.	<i>GEUMC Emmanuel UMC Worship - Chapel</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge</i>
<i>Monday, December 18</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Blue Christmas worship – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 19</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Disciple 4 Class – Gunn Library</i>
		<i>No Confirmation Class</i>
<i>Wed., December 20</i>	6:40/7:45 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 21</i>		<i>No meetings scheduled</i>
<i>Friday, December 22</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
	6-8:00 p.m.	<i>Living Crèche- front of church</i>
<i>Saturday, December 23</i>	6-8:00 p.m.	<i>Living Crèche- front of church</i>

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is hosted by the Board of Trustees. Next Sunday’s hosts will be Missions.

“**SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SALE**” raises mission funds for the United Methodist Women through the sale of soup (\$5/pint) and home-made baked goods during Fellowship Time.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING begins at 3:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall for a brief “rehearsal.” 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 contribute to the refreshments, please call Holly Firmender at 203.530.2621 or e-mail her at holly.firmender@gmail.com. **Additional info on the enclosed flier.**

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.

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.

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.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.

THIS WEEK

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) will not meet this week, instead, G.U.T.S will be joining the intergenerational Ring & Sing for carols and the following fellowship time at the parsonage. See information from Membership & Evangelism under "Today" for the details.

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

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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet Wednesday, December 13th to mail the Christmas letter.

DEADLINES THIS WEEK:

- **POINSETTIA ORDERS:** tomorrow, Dec. 11 submitted to the church office.
- **BOYS' AND GIRLS' VILLAGE GIFTS:** Tuesday, Dec. 12, to Deb Dubien.
- **JANUARY BEACON:** Friday, Dec. 15, electronically to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or print copy to the church office.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 17

ADVENT III / GAUDETE SUNDAY – An informal carol sing precedes worship at 9:45 a.m. The Advent wreath will be lit by Bob, Lorraine, Christine and Tara Volgmuth. The message "Billboards for God" will be based on Isaiah 61-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8 and 19-28. 2018 offering envelopes will be available. After worship, the Men's Club will host their annual complimentary Christmas luncheon for the congregation and blood pressure screenings will be offered in the sanctuary by Beth Hanson, R.N.

GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S) -- is the new name for the Youth Group. December 17th, 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, 1st floor. Each week we will have a discussion topic and a different topic leader. Come join us for the Youth Group! All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome! Topic for 12/3: "Fingertips & Tippy Toes" led by Shelly Lapadula. Thank you, Pastor Dani

MONDAY, December 18

A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE will be offered in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. as part of our regular Monday night "Healing and Wholeness" worship. Christmas, despite its innate joy, can be a difficult time for some. This service allows us to worship God through more reflective prayers, even prayers of lament, as we move past forced gaiety to place our whole lives, the sad as well as the glad, before the Christ Child whose birth heralds our salvation. Pastor Dani will offer a brief meditation. After worship, fellowship and conversation will be offered for those desiring to receive these.

COMING IN JANUARY

Do You Want to See A Show?

AMAZING GRACE

Saturday, January 20, 2018

2 p.m. Shubert Theater in New Haven, CT

Join the Connecticut District for a matinee performance of Amazing Grace. This sweeping musical--centering on the life of repentant former slave trader John Newton, the hymn's 18th century author-- tells the inspiring story of how the beloved song came to be.

The Connecticut District has reserved a block of discounted tickets for \$46 each. To reserve your seat(s), please make out a check to: Connecticut District Council on Ministries and contact Michelle Connor at 203-306-7506 or m.connor357@gmail.com.

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.