

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**“GAUDETE”**

December 11, 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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT “God Almighty, We Are Waiting”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP **James 5:7-10, CEB, edited**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord.

People: ***Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth.***

Leader: You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don’t complain about each other so that you won’t be judged.

People: ***Look! The Judge is standing at the door!***

Leader: Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

ALL: ***IN PATIENT EXPECTATION, LET US WORSHIP GOD.***

\*HYMN #184 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Divinum Mysterium

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Joy  
*Dave, Lorraine, Josh and Nate Carr*

SUNG RESPONSE “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” Hymn #206, vs. 3

***“I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of 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 COLLECT (*unison*)

***O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to thy wisdom, that we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, one God, world without end. Amen.***

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Blessed Lord, we too often watch for what we want rather than what you give. Forgive our undue love of the world; our distracted faith; our ineffectual service. Save us from hungers that are too easily satisfied. Help us to live for holy purpose, that we may not be ashamed, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.***

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 35:1-10 Bible p.649

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

\*THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11 Bible p.887

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

\*HYMN #214 “Savior of the Nations, Come” Nun Komm

THE SERMON “Removing the Cataracts” 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: “Open My Eyes That I May See” arr. by H. Hopson

\*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

Hymnal #217, vs. 1

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.*

*The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

\*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.**

**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. 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***  
***Gaudete, the Third Sunday of Advent***  
***December 11, 2016***

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

*“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”*

*The questioners were John the Baptist’s disciples, sent by him to ask if Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah or not. Jesus’ ministry of healing and relationship building (11:4-6) didn’t quite match John the Baptist’s expectations of a Messiah who was going to whip people into shape, or else (3:11-12).*

*God works like that sometimes. In ways and through people we don’t expect.*

*Today is Gaudete, the joyful Sunday in Advent. After two weeks of “Get Ready” and “Change,” we hear the promise of redemption. Although not yet realized, it is coming, in ways that might surprise us.*

*Our ability to see possibility with clarity is theme of today’s message, “Removing the Cataracts.”*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Brian Bodt*

**~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~**

<i>Sunday, December 11</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
<i>BOYS AND GIRLS</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
<i>VILLAGE GIFTS</i>	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>DUE TODAY</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>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Sing-Along- Healing &amp; Wholeness-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 &amp; Pizza Party-MYF and friends’</i>
<i>Saturday, December 17</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Crèche set up – Rachel Merva contact</i>
<i>Sunday, December 18</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School-Wesley Center</i>
	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Informal Hymn Singing - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Men’s Club Soup and Sandwich Luncheon – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Blood Pressure Screenings - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Caring Ministries – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>3:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel</i>
	<i>4:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF Christmas Party – 4-6:00p.m. at the Downing’s home</i>
<i>Monday, December 19</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Blue Christmas Service – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 20</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>St. Mary Job Search Support Group – 70 Gulf St. Milford</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 21</i>	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir rehearsal/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday, December 22</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Living Crèche-Rachel Merva Contact</i>
	<i>6:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Taize Service – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, December 23</i>		<i>THE OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Living Crèche-Rachel Merva Contact</i>
<i>Saturday, December 24</i>	<i>4:45 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.</i>	<i>Living Crèche-Rachel Merva Contact</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m. and 10:45 p.m.</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Services – Sanctuary</i>

**AT WORSHIP TODAY**

**Head Usher – Tanner Georgelos Greeters – Joan Braun and Joan Zauner**

**Liturgist** – Beverly Downing

**Bible bearer** – Avery Shamansky

**Cross Bearer** – Shannon Thompson

**Acolytes** – Bryan Thompson and Amanda Repetsky

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Pastor Brian Bodt and Bev Downing.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** today are and in memory of the 26 Angels who were murdered at Sandyhook school on December 14, 2012; 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

**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).

**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).

**ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS FOR 2017** are now being accepted. Please contact Beth O'Brien at 203.877.8668 or [bgobrien11@optonline.net](mailto:bgobrien11@optonline.net). Flowers are \$20 per vase.

### **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](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.

**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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** [brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com). **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or [Danielle.levine@mail.com](mailto:Danielle.levine@mail.com).

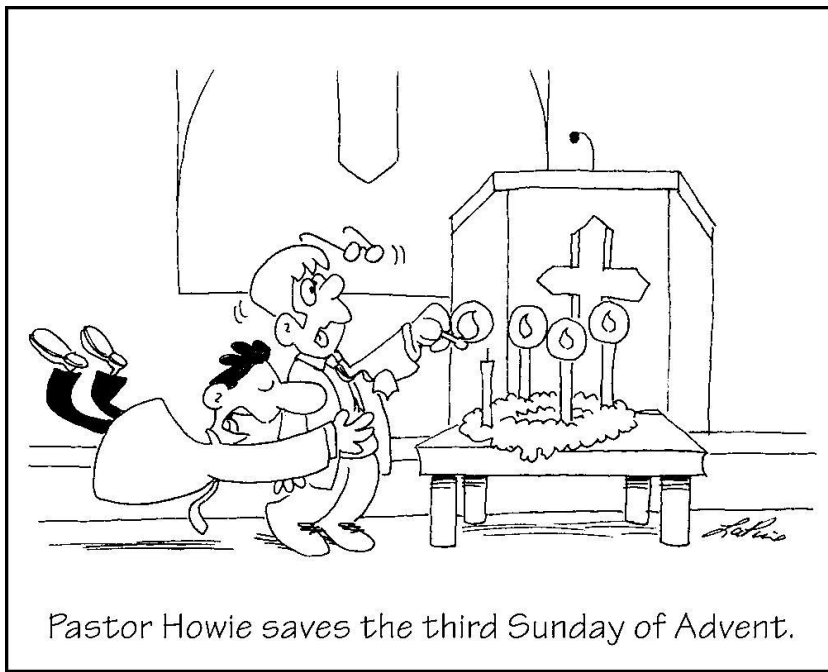
"**FIX IT BOX**" is in Dodd Hall. See a need? Drop a completed form in the box.

**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 December 4th:**

Total worship attendance all services: 252; December 4<sup>th</sup>: 172; GEUMC, 20 ; Love Feast, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>: 45; Dec. 5th Healing & Wholeness: 15; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for December 4<sup>th</sup>: \$5,312.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$306.00; Love Feast: \$200.01; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$5,160.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 141; Sunday School: 42; MYF Holiday concert: 12; Adult Fellowship & Yankee Swap: 34; United Methodist Women: 12; Board of Trustees, Dec. 6: 8; Confirmation class: 6; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 15; Office volunteers, 5; 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.



**TODAY**

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted by the Trustees. **Next Sunday's host** will be the Men's Club with their Soup & Sandwich Luncheon.

There is no charge and all are welcome

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

**INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLERS AND MYF** will meet **today 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

**SIGN UP FOR LIVING CRECHE in Dodd Hall today** with Rachel Merva (203.641.5088 / [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net)) or Priscilla James (203.804.0279 / [pcjames60@gmail.com](mailto:pcjames60@gmail.com)). A Nativity tableau in front of our church reminds Milford of "the Reason for the Season." Members and friends represent the Holy Family and traditional "others" (angels, 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.

**THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE 2017** books will continue to be distributed after church in Dodd Hall. Additional copies were ordered this week and hopefully will be available today. The price is \$10 cash or check payable to "MTMUMC" memoed "Upper Room Disciplines." Please see Don Hastings if you have questions.

**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**

**SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY SING-ALONG AND HEALING AND WHOLENESS WORSHIP** is **tomorrow, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8 p.m.** in the Chapel, Wesley Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The Chapel is handicapped accessible. Musical accompaniment by Pastor Hal Vink, Mark Platt, Ken Wilhelm and Wayne Kenyon.

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

**JANUARY "BEACON" DEADLINE** is **this Thursday, December 15**. Please submit articles to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

**THIS WEEK, continued**

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

**CRÈCHE SET UP** is Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. If you can help with the set up or take down, please contact Rachel Merva at 203-641-5088 or [rmerva@optonline.net](mailto:rmerva@optonline.net).

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**ADVENT IV/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY** - An informal carol sing precedes worship at 9:45 a.m. The Advent wreath will be lit by Kelly O'Hara. The message "Fashioning the Crib of Christ" is based on Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25. 2017 offering envelopes will be available. Blood pressure screenings follow worship in the sanctuary by Eileen Potkay, LPN.

**THE MYF CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held at the Downing's home on December 18<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHRISTMAS WEEK, December 18-25**

**"A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE,"** Monday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This service of Christian worship is for all, but especially for anyone for whom the joy and gaiety of the Christmas season is muted by sadness, loss or grief. Fellowship time follows in Dodd Hall.

**COMMUNITY SUPPER,** Thursday, December 22, 5:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. To assist, please contact Deb Dubien 203-449-4601 or Jim Repetsky 203-874-8688.

**TAIZE WORSHIP** follows Community Supper at 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. This 30 minute contemplative service is a fitting ending to the day.

**CHRISTMAS EVE,** Saturday, December 24

- **5 p.m.** Family service of carols and candlelight
- **10:45 p.m.** Carols of the Season by the Bell Choir
- **11 p.m.** Candlelight service of Holy Communion

**CHRISTMAS DAY,** Sunday, December 25

- **10 a.m.** Service of Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, UK

**OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**"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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)).



**BOWLING & PIZZA PARTY**



**ALL MYF MEMBERS & FRIENDS ARE INVITED!!!**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016**



**7:00PM – 8:45PM**

**Devon Duckpin Bowling STRIKE!!!**

**Bowling & Pizza - FREE**

Join members of the Gay/Straight Alliance and Diversity Clubs from Foran HS, Law HS, and Platt Tech for FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

**DEVON DUCKPIN BOWLING**  
551 Naugatuck Ave  
Milford, CT 06460

Questions - please contact Eileen Doyle at 203-878-9049 or [ddoyle51@aol.com](mailto:ddoyle51@aol.com)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**  
**SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON –**  
**SPONSORED BY THE MEN'S CLUB**

Have a good lunch before you brave the crowds to finish up that Christmas shopping!  
The Men's Club will hold their annual soup and sandwich luncheon after worship service  
on **Sunday, December 18th.**

Want to help? See Jim Repetsky at Fellowship Time or call him at 203-874-8688.

### **SOCKS FOR SENIORS**

Eileen Potkay, LPN who is on our Parish Health and Wellness team is holding our second annual Socks for Seniors sock drive. There will be a box in Dodd Hall to leave your donations **starting next week.** She will be collecting new and gently used Adult size (any color ) socks for local seniors in need. Any questions please contact her directly at 1-203-809-0188 or email her at [Eileenmary68@aol.com](mailto:Eileenmary68@aol.com).

**BOWLING & PIZZA PARTY**