

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 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“GAUDETE”

December 13, 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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” W. Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Lord of All Hopefulness”

*CALL TO WORSHIP **Philippians 4:4-7, NRSV**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

People: ***Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.***

Leader: Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

People: ***And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Joy
Bob, Stacy, Stephen, Emily, Alicia and Catherine Meszaros

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 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Hymnal p. 33

Evan James Poloski, son of Matthew and Andrea

Godparents: Mark Waters and Samantha Poloski Sponsor: Barbara Repetsky

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Zephaniah 3:14-20 Bible p.862

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

*THE GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18 Bible p.935

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

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

THE SERMON “Time to Act” 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: “Come Down, O Lord of Light” P. Liebergen

*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

www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail:

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Grace Notes
December 13, 2015

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Actions speak louder than words.

I have the privilege, weekly and sometimes more often, of being the messenger of holy words. Reading the words of scripture and preparing the words with which I imperfectly interpret scripture are privileges. Those words sometimes inspire you; and they sometimes inspire you to act.

But there are other words that are not holy. And there are holy words that are perverted for unholy acts. The San Bernardino shootings of two weeks ago are the latest acts of evil by people who either do not understand their own religion or have hijacked a religion as a cloak for brazen violence. Either way, the result is death and destruction.

Let us not be naïve as we consider what it means to be Christians in our time. We are called on to act; to be, in the words of Dr. King, “extremists for love.” Such action is inherently counter-cultural and sacrificial. So when we hear the pundits declaring that we should be “strong” and respond in kind, let us be sure that the Great Shepherd would be pleased with our words and our actions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian

P.S. The Magi have arrived in our Nativity tableau! Next week....stay tuned!

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Nick Bettencourt

Liturgist – Josh Carr

Bible Bearer – Carolyn Hollyday

Greeters – Phoebe and Jim Repetsky

Acolytes – Nate Carr and Stefano Cono

Cross Bearer – Lillia Downing

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Rev. Bodt and Josh Carr.

WELCOME BACK to Noel Fino, our altar server coordinator, from his recent surgery.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in honor of Millie Bartolomy, on her birthday December 16th, Given by Faith Reardon, Cheryl Griffin and Edie Reichard; and in memory of the twenty beautiful children and six dedicated educators who died in the horrific school shooting at Sandy Hook School on December 14, 2012. We will not forget. Given by Bob and Becky Virgalla.

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 taken from Holy Scripture and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). 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.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, December 13</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m. Worship and Sacrament of Baptism - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. Soup and baked goods sale – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 14</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. AA meeting/Health care workers – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Inaugural Holiday Sing-along - Chapel</i>
	<i>7:15 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 15</i>	JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE
	<i>5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class - Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 16</i>	<i>Noon Taize worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemaker's Children's Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 17</i>	<i>8:30 p.m. Taize worship – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, December 18</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center</i>
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<i>Sunday, December 20</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
	<i>9:45 a.m. Informal carol singing - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m. Soup and Sandwich Luncheon – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 21</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. “Blue Christmas” worship – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 22</i>	<i>6 – 8 p.m. “Living Creche” – outside the church, Broad Street</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 23</i>	<i>9:00 a.m. “Beacon” volunteers – Egan room</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m. Praisemaker's Children's Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6 – 8 p.m. “Living Creche” – outside the church, Broad Street</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, December 24</i>	CHRISTMAS EVE – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
	<i>4:30 – 6:30 p.m. “Living Creche” – outside the church, Broad Street</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve worship – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:45 p.m. Bell Choir carols – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion – Sanctuary</i>
<i>Friday, December 25</i>	CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
	<i>Read Luke 2:1-20</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) of pastoral care needs and hospitalizations:

Pastor Brian Bodt can be reached at 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.

Pastor Rachel Duncan can be reached at 203.874.1982 or 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 December 6th:

Total worship attendance all services: 176; December 6th: 166; Healing and Wholeness, December 7th: 10; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for December 6th: \$6,325.25; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$583.33; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$467.82; Engaged in Small Groups: 146 - (Adult Fellowship Party, Dec. 6th: 39; UMW: 20; Office Volunteers: 5; Sunday School: 45; Confirmation: 10; Praisemaker’s: 2; Bell Choir: 9; Adult Choir: 16). 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.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary), hosted today by Membership and Evangelism and next Sunday by the United Methodist Women.

SOUP SALE AND BAKED GOODS SALE follows worship in Dodd Hall. Soup is \$5 a pint; baked goods priced to sell. Proceeds go to the mission projects of the United Methodist Women.

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS are due today Maryann Petremont. Thank you for brightening Christmas for a child in need.

“LIVING CRECHE” 40th ANNIVERSARY SIGN-UPS are today in Dodd Hall or by contacting Rachel Merva (203.641.5088 or rmerva@optonline.net) or Priscilla James (203.804.0279 or 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.
- **Dismantle the crèche** after worship on Sun., Dec. 27. We need five or more people.

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.

MTMUMC CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS ARE SOLD OUT. If you’d like one, please reserve through the church office (203.874.1982). We will reorder with 25 reservations.

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. 20th.

Dennis Darak, Staff-Parish Relations Chair

ANNUAL REPORTS are available in the rear of the church. Please help yourself.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

THE CHRISTMAS LETTER was mailed this past Friday and should arrive early this week.

AN INAUGURAL HOLIDAY SING-ALONG will be offered tomorrow, 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!

JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE: Tuesday, Dec. 15 with articles sent to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or hand-delivered to the church office.

TAIZE WORSHIP, a contemplative 30 minute experience of music, scripture and prayer, is offered this week on Wed., Dec. 16, noon and Thurs., Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m., both in the sanctuary. This service is offered the third Wednesday and Thursday of each month.

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT IV/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY: Informal carol singing precedes worship at 9:45 a.m. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Firmender family. Our Stewardship Spotlight will be offered by Jim Repetsky. The message "Time to Travel" is based on Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-55. 2016 offering envelopes will be available. After worship, our Men's Club hosts their annual Soup and Sandwich luncheon. All invited. Blood pressure screenings follow worship in the sanctuary. Staff gifts due to Dennis Darak or any member of Staff-Parish Relations.

CHRISTMAS WEEK WORSHIP

A BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP: Monday, December 21, 7 p.m., sanctuary.

This quiet service of prayers, carols and candle lighting is especially tuned to those experiencing loss, moving past forced gaiety to place our whole lives, the sad as well as the glad, before the Christ Child whose birth heralds our salvation. This special service is part of our regular Healing and Wholeness worship on Mondays at 7 p.m.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24.

At 5:00 p.m. our service of carols and candlelight is for the young and young at heart with the traditional story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) and the story "When You Wish Upon a Star." Our Praisemakers Choir will provide choral music. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by the three generation Darak family.

At 10:45 p.m. our Bell Choir rings in to worship with carols of the Season. **At 11 p.m.** traditional carols, candlelight and Communion mark our late Christmas Eve service with music by the Adult and Bell Choirs. The message "Time to Marvel" is based on Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-5, 10-14. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by the extended Doyle family.

ADDITIONAL MINISTRY INVITATIONS

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. 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.

COMING IN JANUARY

ADULT STUDY WITH PASTOR HAL on the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations begins **January 5th and 6th, 2016.** You may attend this four week course **either** Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. **or** Wednesday mornings from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. See or contact Pastor Hal to attend (vinkhaljane@gmail.com/203.878.8977).

LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

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 or 203.874.1982, ext. 10.