

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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
“GAUDETE”
December 15, 2013

Order of Worship
10:00 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

INFORMAL CAROL SING (9:45 a.m.)

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 “Tell Out, My Soul”

*CALL TO WORSHIP “The Magnificat” Hymnal #199
(Read responsively, with sung opening and response)

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *(seated)* The Candle of Joy
The Gregory families

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

***“Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
Angels singing ‘Peace on earth’ at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.”***

°°°

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.***

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*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 “Got Hunger?” Dr. Bodt

*HYMN #209 “Blessed Be the God of Israel” Ellacombe
(Tune: Hymn #278)

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.)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT Kelly O’Hara, Stewardship Chair
Results of our *Extravagant Generosity* program

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" G. Young

*Presentation: "The First Noel" Hymnal #245, vs. 5

*"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 #246 "Joy to the World" Antioch

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #666

*Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

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

*POSTLUDE "Joy to the World" G. Young

(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 15

ADVENT III/GAUDETE

BEACON DEADLINE

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center

9:45 a.m. Informal hymn singing

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 I 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

9:00 a.m. Office volunteers to assemble Beacon & Christmas bulletins

Thursday, December 19

Sunday, December 22

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall

11:15 a.m. Soup & Sandwich Luncheon sponsored by the Men’s Club

3:00 p.m. MYF Christmas Party at the Merva’s home

6:00 p.m. Living Crèche

Monday, December 23

2:00 p.m. “Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library

6:00 p.m. Living Crèche

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 24

Church Office is Closed

5:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Christmas Eve worship

5 – 7 p.m. Living Creche

10:45 p.m. Carols by the Bell Choir

11:00 p.m. Festival Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day- Church Office is closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office is closed

5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Community Supper

Friday, December 27

Church Office is closed

Grace Notes
Gaudete Sunday
December 15, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

Gaudete Sunday is the joyful Sunday in Advent. In the midst of Advent’s penitential themes, today’s readings speak of the promised joy the Messiah brings.

“Gaudete” is a Latin word meaning “Rejoice.” It takes its name from the first word of the traditional Introit of the day in the Latin Mass. This joy is represented in the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath. In more liturgical churches, rose-colored vestments are worn by the clergy.

Joy is a funny thing. We often confuse it with happiness, but they are not the same.

We’re usually happy when things are going our way, when outward circumstances are favorable to our interests.

As Christians understand it, joy is more internal than external, connected to God’s love toward us and our response of love of God and neighbor. Joy can be exuberant or quiet, and both contain contentment in knowing that we are in right relationship with the Almighty and the neighbor God calls us to love.

That’s a gift we’d all welcome.

Expectantly,

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

Greeters – Judy Russell & Edie Reichard

Liturgist – Margery Zurko

Cross Bearer – Jillian Doherty

Acolytes – Sarah O'Brien and Olivia D'Andrea

Bible Bearer – Stefano Cono

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Dodd Hall door and Margery Zurko at the Dodd Hall door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of Millie Bartolomy with love from Faith, Edie and Cheryl.

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 Book of Worship (1944) and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Unison Prayer of Confession was written by the pastor.

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.*

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.

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TUESDAY: 5:00 p.m. This family service of carols and candlelight is designed for the young, and young at heart, as we hear the traditional story of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20) and the story-message "The Inn that Missed Its Chance."

Our Praisemakers Choir will provide choral music. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by the Kingsley and James families.

10:45 p.m. Our Bell Choir calls us to worship with carols of the Season.

11:00 p.m. Carols, candlelight and Communion are the hallmarks of our late Christmas Eve service with music by the Adult and Bell Choirs. "The Inn that Missed Its Chance" is the story-message 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 O'Shea and Griggs families.



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 8:

Total worship attendance all services: 177 (Dec 8, 172; Healing and Wholeness Dec.9: 5)
Total Offering: \$7,195.00 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: 0; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 146; (Bell Choir 10, Adult Choir 21; Sunday School: 25; Adult Fellowship Christmas Party: 31; “Christmas is Not Your Birthday:” 10; Cookie Walk 18; Trustees meeting 11; Trustees work day, 7; Wrestling with Angels, Tues. (cancelled) and Wed.13; Confirmation and Disciple 1 cancelled). 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.

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. United Methodist Women hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are Membership and Evangelism.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS follow worship in the sanctuary.

JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE is today, December 15, submitted to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. **We regret we cannot take articles after today.**

LIVING CRÈCHE: We assemble the crèche **today** after worship. Join us in front of the church to help. We could use a few more volunteers for Christmas Eve. Volunteers dress in costume as members of the Nativity tableau, remaining still and looking at the baby Jesus, in 20 minute shifts. Contact Rachel Merva at 203-641-5088 or rmerva@optonline.net.

Encourage friends and neighbors to drive by at the display times: Sun., Dec. 22, 6-8 p.m; Mon., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m.; and Christmas Eve, 5-7 p.m. This public witness is well-known in Milford for nearly forty years.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING CHOICES are due today. Make checks payable to Mary Taylor UMC, note in memo: “Christmas Catalog” and return to the Missions Table in Dodd hall during Fellowship Hour or mail to the church office.

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS are due today. 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 return your wrapped gifts.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT contributions are welcomed **today** 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.

2014 ESTIMATES OF GIVING are still welcomed. We announce program results today.

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.

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

BULLETIN NOTICES for next Sunday are due Wed., Dec. 18, Noon to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. **Notices for Sun., December 29 are due this Friday!**

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

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet Thursday, December 19 at 9 a.m. to prepare the Beacon and weekly bulletin with a volunteer appreciation luncheon following.

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT IV/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY - “Christmas: Only for the Rich?” is based on Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25. Advent wreath lit by the Darak families. **No Sunday School.**

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON sponsored by the **Men’s Club** will follow worship in Dodd Hall. All are invited. There is no charge for the luncheon.

MYF CHRISTMAS PARTY, 3-5 p.m. at the Merva home, 90 Dart Hill Road, Milford. Please bring a new pair of socks for the Beth-El Center; a wrapped gift (\$10 max.) if you want to participate in the grab bag; and an appetizer to share. MYF leaders bring desserts.

COMING SOON

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST WITH OUR MONTHLY COMMUNITY SUPPER?

We serve our hungry neighbors the day after Christmas, Thursday, December 26th in Dodd Hall. Preparation begins at 2:30 p.m.; serving at 5:30 and clean-up after. Please contact Deb Dubien (203.877.4959; debrad246@yahoo.com) or Phoebe Repetsky (203.874.8688; jimrepetsky@snet.net) to assist.

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

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT A TRULY WELCOMING CHURCH? Go to www.mindny.com and become a lay signer of the Covenant of Conscience, a statement welcoming all people regardless of sexual orientation or identity. If you would like a print copy of the Covenant and how to sign up using traditional mail, contact Marcia Winter at mwinter@optonline.net or 203.878.0814. If you’d like to know those 51 members from Mary Taylor Memorial Church who have signed, check the above website or request the list from the church office.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ SCRIPTURE IN 2014? Contact Priscilla James at 203.874.2742 or pcjames60@gmail.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER TO SERVE AS AN ACOLYTE, CROSS-BEARER OR BIBLE BEARER? Contact Noel Fino at 203.877.3005.