

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
CHRISTMAS SUNDAY**

December 22, 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 Meditation on “O Little Town of Bethlehem” J. Southbridge

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing only items not in the bulletin.)

INTROIT “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*unison*) Sung to “Good King Wenceslas”

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.*

*HYMN #202 “People, Look East” Besancon

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Love
The Darak families

SUNG RESPONSE “Advent Song” The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 4

*Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*)

from a service of *Las Posadas*

God all-powerful, grant that we may rid ourselves of the works of darkness, and that we may invest ourselves with the weapons of light in this life, to which your son, Jesus Christ, with great humility came to visit us. In the final day, when he returns in majestic glory to judge the living and the dead, may we rise to eternal life through him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 7:10-16 Bible p.623
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

HYMN #204 (*seated*) “Emmanuel” McGee
(Sing twice: let the children come forward on the second singing for their message.)

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN #230 (*seated*) “O Little Town of Bethlehem” St. Louis

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25 Bible p.877
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN “Righteous Joseph, Spouse of Mary” Irby

*Righteous Joseph, spouse of Mary, mid-wife of Emmanuel
Called by God to be the blood line of the King of Israel
Troubling message how it came
Birth of Christ revealed in shame.*

*Righteous Joseph, not the father of the child of God’s embrace
Quietly resolved he humbly not his Mary to disgrace
Saddening message how it came,
Mary’s child without a name.*

*Righteous Joseph, full of compassion, heard the voice of God in sleep
In the dream, the angel speaking: “Do not fear your promise to keep.”
Healing message how it came
Painful passions God would tame.*

*“Righteous Joseph, Mary’s child is fathered by the Holy Ghost
And his name shall be called ‘Jesus,’” sayeth all the heavenly host.
Saving message how it came,
Our redemption from the Lamb!*

Righteous Joseph, God is with you, in the Christ, Emmanuel.

So with us our God is living in the news he came to tell.

Gladdening message comes today:

God will always find a way.

Text: Matthew 1:18-25

Tune: Irby

Copyright Brian Bodt, 2001

THE SERMON

“Christmas: Only for the Rich?”

Dr. Bodt

HYMN #242 (*seated*)

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Gartan

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

“A Tiny Child Will Come”

D. Besig and N. Price

*Presentation:

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Hymnal #237, vs. 5

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;

there was never a stable so like paradise.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #249

“There’s a Song in the Air”

Christmas Song

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joy to the World

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

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

*POSTLUDE

Toccata on “Good King Wenceslas”

(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, December 22</i>	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship – Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Hour – Dodd Hall</i> 11:15 a.m. <i>Soup & Sandwich Luncheon sponsored by Men’s Club</i> 3:00 p.m. <i>MYF Christmas Party at the Merva’s home</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>Living Crèche set up/refreshments-Dodd Hall</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Living Crèche</i>
<i>Monday, December 23</i>	2:00 p.m. <i>“Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Living Crèche</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>“Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 24</i>	<i>Church Office is Closed</i> 5:00 p.m. <i>Family Candlelight Christmas Eve worship</i> 5 – 7 p.m. <i>Living Crèche</i> 10:45 p.m. <i>Carols by the Bell Choir</i> 11:00 p.m. <i>Festival Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day- Church Office is closed</i>
<i>Thursday, December 26</i>	<i>Church Office is closed</i> 5:30 p.m. <i>MTMUMC Community Supper</i>
<i>Friday, December 27</i>	<i>Church Office is closed</i>
<i>Sunday, December 29</i>	CHRISTMAS I 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship – Sanctuary</i> 11:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Hour-Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, December 30</i>	2:00 p.m. <i>“Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – The Chapel</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>“Christmas is not your Birthday” study – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Tuesday, December 31</i>	<i>New Year’s Eve – The Church Office is closed - no classes</i>
<i>Wednesday, January 1</i>	<i>New Year’s Day– The Church Office is closed - no classes</i>
<i>Thursday, January 2</i>	6:00 p.m. <i>Pastors/Lay Leaders meeting</i> 6:00 p.m. <i>Missions Committee meeting</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Trustees Meeting</i>
<i>Saturday, January 4</i>	11:30 a.m. <i>MYF Furcy, Haiti – January 4-11</i>

Grace Notes
Advent IV/Christmas Sunday
December 22, 2013

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

*“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet.”*

William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2

Yet for Juliet and Romeo their names WERE important, so in conflict with each other were the Capulet and Montague families.

For us, too, names are important. Just try finding a notepad, pen or other trinket for a niece named “Skylar!”

One name for the Savior is “Emmanuel:” literally “With us, God” or, more commonly “God with us.” Christmas means that God is in the saving business, and we are the objects of the rescue.

And by “we” I mean “all of us:” young and old, male and female, gay and straight, wealthy and not-so-wealthy, formally educated and educated by life, with names like “Skylar” and “Pink Bugg” and Joseph and Mary.

This baby with the unusual name, “Emmanuel,” comes to give us abundant life now, a foretaste of that eternal life that this child seals for us forever. Extending that abundant life to others, in the words of the carol “fits us for heaven to live with Thee there.”

Merry Christmas!

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 – Ryan Lapadula

Acolytes – Allison Bennett & Amanda Repetsky

Greeters – Nita Prior & Viola Burke

Cross Bearer – Nicholas Bettencourt

Bible Bearer – Joe Wessinger

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP is Dr. Bodt at the Narthex door and Ryan Lapadula at the Dodd Hall door.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in celebration of Paul Downing's birthday yesterday, given by Bev and Lillia.

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, and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The hymn before the sermon 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

NORMAL 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 15:

Total worship attendance all services: 86 (Dec 15, 78; Healing and Wholeness Dec.16 :8)
Total Offering: \$2,770.00 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$414.40; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups 52; (Bell Choir 10, Adult Choir 19; Sunday School: cancelled; “Christmas is Not Your Birthday.” 9; Wrestling with Angels, Tues. cancelled and Wed 10; Confirmation cancelled; Disciple 1; 4). 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. Membership and Evangelism hosts today. Next Sunday our hosts are the Trustees.

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.

LIVING CRÈCHE structure erected today after church. Please come out front and help. It displays tonight, tomorrow and Christmas Eve in front of our church. **Please 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.

SEE THE CALENDAR FOR THE WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: we are open tomorrow only, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and closed the remainder of the week for Christmas and the Wesley Center floor renovations.

NO ADDITIONAL BULLETIN NOTICES can be received this week. Notices for this Sunday were due Friday. We regret any inconvenience. Deadline for Jan. 5 bulletin notices remains unchanged: Wed., Jan. 1, Noon.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. with carols by the Bell Choir at **10:45 p.m.** Details elsewhere in this issue. Worship Christ, the newborn King!

MTMUMC COMMUNITY SUPPER served this 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 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.

NEXT SUNDAY

WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY at 10 a.m. is the Wesley Covenant Service (by the Rev. John Wesley, founder of Methodism) concluding with healing anointing led by Pastor Hal. Sandy Morgan, Certified Lay Speaker will preach “Truth or Dare?” with Laura Perregaux, liturgist. Visitation Ministry meets after worship. No Sunday School.

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.

OTHER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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 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.

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVER training on more effective home visitation techniques for church and other visitors, *Sunday, January 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.* taught by the Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling and sponsored by our Caring Ministries team. See the January “Beacon” for details.

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.

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.



**A
Very
Merry
Christmas,
the joy of a rich
Christmastide and
a happy and healthy
New Year to all our members,
friends and visitors; from your staff at
Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church:**

-
**Hal,
Bruce
Rick, Nicole
Mary Lou and Brian**