

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 NATIVITY OF THE LORD,
CHRISTMAS EVE**
December 24, 2013

Order of Worship
5:00 p.m.

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

GATHERING MUSIC *(A time of prayer and meditation)*

PRELUDE "Cradle Hymn" G. Young

LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" No. 234 *(Verses 1,2,3,6)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! I bring you good news of great joy: Christ the Lord is born!

People: *We are happy because God's love is shown in Jesus.*

Leader: So let us sing God's praises for this wonderful news.

People: *In Jesus, everyone shall see the Lord's salvation.*

All: *O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *(seated)* *The James and Kingsley families*

SUNG RESPONSE "Advent Song" The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 5

*Light the Christmas candle, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.*

*Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

°°°

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECT *(unison)*

O God, whose Son born in Bethlehem is the Savior of the world: be born again tonight in our hearts, so that as we live the love Jesus showed us, we may shed his light and all may see Your salvation, who is Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL "Away in a Manger" No. 217

THE BIRTH OF JESUS St. Luke 2:1-7

CAROL "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS St. Luke 2:8-14

CAROL "Angels, We Have Heard on High" No. 238

MARY AND THE SHEPHERDS GLORIFY GOD St. Luke 2:15-20

CAROL "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

THE MESSAGE "The Inn that Missed Its Chance" Dr. Bodt
(The landlord speaks, A.D. 28)
(Prose by Amos R. Wells, recited by Dr. Bodt.)

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*THE CHRISTMAS 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: "May My Light Shine" L. Bailey and B. Mayo
(The Praisemaker's Choir)

*Presentation: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Hymnal #221, vs. 4
*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give my heart.*

*CAROL "The Snow Lay on the Ground" rear cover of insert

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(seated, unison)*

O God, this is the night for giving gifts. We thank you that you already gave us the greatest gift, Jesus Christ. Because you first loved us, we offer these gifts with thanks to you, and we join with saints on earth and saints above in praying as Jesus taught:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 10-14

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The light will be passed from the Christ candle to the acolytes. They will pass it to the ushers to bring among the people. Please dip the unlit candle to receive the light.)

CAROL

“Silent Night”

No. 239

(All rise as able on the final verse, and lift your candle up.)

****Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.***

*THE BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE

“God Rest You Merry”

W. Held

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

A Christmas Eve Welcome

December 24, 2013

5 p.m.

THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST

2093 The Snow Lay on the Ground



1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, when
2. 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh-ter pure of ho - ly Anne, that
3. And thus that man-ger poor be - came a throne; for



Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. Ve -
brought in - to this world the God made man. She
he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.* Ve - ni - te a - do -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the ass and ox - en
come, then, let us join the heaven-ly host; to praise the Fa - ther,

Refrain



re - mus Do - mi - num.
shared the roof with them. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

*Venite adoremus Dominum = Veh-nee-teh ah-doe-reh-moos Doe-mee-noom

WORDS: Anglo-English carol (Luke 2:1-20)

MUSIC: English melody; adapt. by Charles Winfred Douglas

VENITE ADOREMUS
10 10.10 10 with Refrain

Dear church family, friends and neighbors,

Merry Christmas to all! I trust God has blessed you this Christmas.

If you are a visitor, we thank you for being in worship with us. If you do not have a spiritual home, we invite you to consider this church and learn more about us at www.mtm-umc.org. Our active congregation welcomes and supports people of all races, genders, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, nationalities, ethnicities, abilities and socio-economic situations.

If you are a member who has been away for a while, welcome back! May this Christmas be an opportunity to renew a vital relationship with Christ.

If you are an active member, seek out someone tonight whom you do not know and ask, "Are you new, or new to me?" May the welcome we promise be incarnate in you!

May God, who is rich in mercy, enfold us all with the love that came down at Christmas.

Christ the Savior is born!

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 Assist.	Mary Lou Kampert	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Sexton	Bruce Rumford	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck		

AT WORSHIP TONIGHT

Head Usher – John Henry

Greeters – The Downing family

Liturgist – Lia Bonfietti-Csvihinka

Cross Bearer – Cassie Bennett

Acolytes – Anna and Elizabeth Pierce

Bible Bearer – Anna Wessinger

Aisle acolytes – Barbara and Elizabeth Repetsky

TO ASSIST YOU IN WORSHIP, see our ushers for:

- Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins
- Hearing Assist Devices

NOTICES

OUR SANCTUARY WAS DECORATED by Rick and Laura Perregaux, Brenda Pineau and Beth O'Brien.

A FESTIVAL SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS AND COMMUNION will be held tonight. The Bell Choir plays carols at 10:45 p.m. and the formal service begins at 11 p.m. Please consider returning for this different service.

CHRISTMAS DAY there is no worship service. The church office is closed for the remainder of the week to accommodate our floor replacement in the Wesley Center. We re-open on Monday, Dec. 30.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES are on the rear table. Please take yours. If you do not have envelopes and desire them, e-mail Mary Lou Kampert at mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST WITH OUR MONTHLY COMMUNITY SUPPER? We serve our hungry neighbors tomorrow 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.

RECENT SERMONS are in the rear of the church or at www.mtm-umc.org.

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.

PASTORAL COVERAGE will be provided Dec. 25-28 by the Rev. Doug Osgood, retired District Supt. and pastor. Contact Dennis Darak at 203.874.5881 to reach Rev. Osgood. Dec. 29 – Jan. 1 is covered by the Rev. Hal V.W. Vink, 203.878.8977. Pastor Brian will be off and return to the office on Thurs., Jan. 2, 2014.



**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:**

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