

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**168 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460**

**Phone: 203.874.1982
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.*

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 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 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

*HYMN #250 “Once in Royal David’s City” Irby

THE BIDDING PRAYER *(by the pastor)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

BLESSING

Pastor: The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

People: **Amen.**

°°°
CAROL “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Hymnal #184

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 **Pastor Dani Levine**

God announces, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve’s punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

CAROL “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymnal #196

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18 **Kenneth Hawkins**

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hymnal #211, verses 1, 2, 4, 7

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 **Laura Perregaux**

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

CAROL “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Hymnal #216, verses 1 and 2

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-5a **Don Hastings**

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God’s creation.

CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymnal #230

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 **Sandy Morgan**

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God’s promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

ANTHEM “I Saw Three Ships On Christmas Day” F. Baldwin
(The Adult Choir)

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 **Paul Downing**

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CAROL “The First Noel” Hymnal #245, verse 1

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 **Christine Volgmuth**

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Hymnal #229

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 **Tom Beyer**

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

CAROL “On This Day Earth Shall Ring” Hymnal #248

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14 **Leigh Bak**

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

SOLO “This Must Be Christmas” M. Platt
(Mark Platt, guitarist and soloist)

MESSAGE “Christmas for a Mixed-Up World”

HYMN #217 (*seated*)

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a Manger

(The anointers come forward during the carol.)

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

*On the last Sunday of each month all are invited to come forward
to receive prayer and optional healing anointing **for oneself or on behalf of another.***

Please come by the center aisle and return by the side aisles as we sing.

Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer.

*This ancient Church practice expresses God’s love as a mysterious, caring expression of Christ’s
promise “I will be with you always.” Please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.*

HYMNS (*seated, as needed*) #242, 249, 234

*THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

(Greet each other with signs of Christ’s peace.)

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

People: ***Amen.***

Pastor: Go forth in peace and joy.

People: ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia!***

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

*POSTLUDE

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

G. Young

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

In 1880 E.W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King’s College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Blessing after the Lord’s Prayer, added by Milner-White, was first included in its present form in 1930. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King’s College. The service has been edited for United Methodist congregations.

from The Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church, 1992

~TWO WEEK CALENDAR AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL~

Sunday, December 25 NO Sunday School today
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
3:30 p.m. Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Chapel
Mon. – Fri., Dec. 26-30 DODD HALL CLOSED FOR FLOOR REFINISHING
Monday, December 26 7:00 p.m. Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Wednesday, December 28 9:00 a.m. Office volunteers – Egan Room, Wesley Center
Thursday, December 29 10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library
Friday, December 30 OFFICE CLOSED
Saturday, December 31 - 7:00 p.m. - Alcathon – Wesley Center
Sunday, January 1, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2017 NO Sunday School today
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall
3:30 p.m. Ghana Emmanuel UMC worship-Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Alcathon ends – Wesley Center
Monday, January 2 OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 p.m. Healing & Wholeness Worship – Chapel
Tuesday, January 3 5:30 p.m. Confirmation – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. “Ambassador” training, Gunn Library, Wesley Center
Wednesday, January 4 2:30 p.m. Golden Hill Community Supper-Bridgeport
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
6:45 p.m. Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s study
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
Thursday, January 5 5:30 p.m. Men’s Club dinner meeting – Dodd Hall
6:30 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room, Wesley Center
Friday, January 6 10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library



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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. 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
The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day
December 25, 2016

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

One of my Christmas surprises will be to see how many people are here this morning after two Christmas Eve services yesterday and special services last Monday and Thursday!

I am grateful that the many readers and healing anointers today have made the commitment to be here, along with a multi-generational team of altars servers in the Downing family and Flo Berrien. I hope this liturgy, nearly 100 years old from King’s College, Cambridge, England, will be a different experience of the “old, old story” of Jesus’ birth.

My prayer is that your Christmas may be a blessing to you in every way and that, having been so blessed, you are enabled to bless others.

“Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Bodt

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Tanner Georgelos

Greeters – Carol Frantz and Rich Prigge

Bible bearer – Flo Berrien

Cross Bearer – Bev Downing

Acolytes – Paul and Lillia Downing

Readers (in order of appearance) – *Pastor Dani Levine, Kenneth Hawkins, Laura Perregaux, Don Hastings, Sandy Morgan, Paul Downing, Christine Volgmuth, Tom Beyer and Leigh Bak*

Intercessor – Mary Lou Hastings

Healing anointers – Barbara Ann Griggs, Priscilla

James, Pastor Dani Levine, Sandy Morgan, Laura Perregaux and Mark Platt

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastors Bodt and Levine.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given with joy in honor of my “Christmas Carol,” my wife Carol Galloway; and my father, Milfred Andrew Bodt, by the Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt

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, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992). The “Service of Nine Lessons and Carols” is from King’s College, Cambridge, England.

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.

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. 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) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** 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. **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or 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 18th:

Total worship attendance all services: 216; December 18th: 148; GEUMC, 22; Dec. 19th “Blue Christmas” Healing & Wholeness worship: 46; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for December 18th: \$6,468.50; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$166; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$3,682.95; Engaged in Small Groups: 77; Gay-Straight Alliance Bowling Night, Dec. 16: 31; Caring Ministries Team: 8; Sunday School: 33; No Confirmation class; Dec. 21 Bell Choir and Adult Choir will be posted on January 1st; 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 or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY is “serve yourself” for any who may wish to linger on this Christmas Day. Thanks to Kelly O’Hara and Stacey Riccardi who prepared the beverages and the volunteers who stepped forward to bring goodies.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the rear of the sanctuary.

SOCKS FOR SENIORS continues under the leadership of Eileen Potkay, LPN a member of our Parish Health and Wellness team. There is a collection box Dodd Hall for your 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.

ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS FOR 2017 are now being accepted. Please contact Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or bgobrien11@optonline.net. Flowers are \$20 per vase.

THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE 2017 devotional books are still available from Don Hastings at \$10 each.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

THE CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE THIS WEEK is as follows:

- Closed tomorrow, December 26 and Friday, December 30th
- Open Tuesday – Thursday, December 27-29, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Wednesday noon deadline for submissions is unchanged

HELP CLEAR DODD HALL TOMORROW! If you are willing to come at **6 a.m.** to assist clearing, please contact Christine Volgmuth at 203.710.9835 or just come. **DODD HALL IS CLOSED THE ENTIRE WEEK** for floor refinishing. Please do not plan to access or conduct any activity in the hall. Questions: Rachel Merva, Trustee President, 203.641.5088.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet **Wed., 9 a.m. in the Wesley Center** to mail the Jan. “Beacon.”

PASTOR BRIAN is on vacation this week and will return for worship next Sunday. Please call Dennis Darak, Staff-Parish Relations chair, at 203.988.3554 to reach the pastor on call.

NEW YEAR’S ALCATHON Mary Taylor has been hosting the Thanksgiving and Christmas Alcathons for more than two decades. Each of these events runs for 24 hours, open to members of AA or anyone who has a desire to stop drinking alcohol. The most recent estimate of people who pass through during one of the Alcathons is in the range of 500-600. **These events are not open to the public. Doors open at 7:00 pm, Thursday December 31st until 6:00 pm, Friday January 1st.** Fun, Food, Fellowship which is open to all Alcoholics Anonymous member or anyone with a desire to stop drinking alcohol. **The Alcathon is kicked-off with a Beginners meeting at 7pm.**



NEXT SUNDAY, January 1st, 2017

EPIPHANY SUNDAY - We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and use the Wesley Covenant Service on the first day of 2017. The message "That Other Christmas Song" will be based on John 1:1-18 and Matthew 2:1-12. **No Sunday School New Year's Day.**

COMING IN JANUARY

AMBASSADOR TRAINING will be held on **Tuesday, January 3, 7 – 8 p.m.** in the Gunn Library. "Ambassadors" are MTMUMC members committed to greeting newcomers, introducing them to one of the pastors, and inviting them to Fellowship Time. While we hope that ALL MTMUMC members do this at times, these disciples make an intentional six-month commitment to do so. If you are interested in attending – you may attend the training without a commitment to become an Ambassador – please contact Pastor Brian at brian.bodt@yahoo.com or 203.895.3753.

NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT:
Wednesday, January 4th, 2:30 – 5 p.m. We prepare the meal, led by Maryanne Meehan Jordan and Bob Jordan. Golden Hill Church is 20 minutes away: I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector. **Golden Hill and Maryann Meehan Jordan would like to express their thanks to everyone who served in 2016. Thank you for making a difference.**

THE MEN'S CLUB will have their 2017 event planning meeting **this Thursday, Jan. 5th, 5:30 p.m.** in Dodd Hall. A catered dinner will be served. **All men** of the church please attend.

AN OPEN INVITATION FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Are you interested in participating in a mission and becoming more involved in our community? "CONNECT"- "Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut" - will present at the next Missions Committee meeting on **Thurs., January 5th, 6:30 p.m.** We meet in the Gunn Library, Wesley Center, 2nd Floor. We will discuss ways YOU and our committee can be more involved.

CONNECT is an organization made up of 25 religious and civic institutions, multi-faith, racially and ethnically diverse, in New Haven and Fairfield counties. They negotiate with business and government leaders about issues that affect their members. If we decide to join, a "core team" will need to be created to participate in the work of the organization. CONNECT has had an important impact on Health Insurance Premiums, Restraint and Seclusion, Police Reform and many other issues. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to be involved, please contact Maryann Petremont (203.877.0612, mapetremont@yahoo.com) or Lorraine Carr (203.931.0516; carrain@yahoo.com).

SANCTUARY WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT, Phase 2, will begin in mid-January. Five windows will be removed and returned after Easter. Details were in the December "Beacon," page 15 and reappear in a shorter form in the January issue.

"FAIR ON THE GREEN" ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: **Sunday, January 15,** immediately after worship in the Wesley Center.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SESSIONS will be held in January based on the availability of those interested. The sessions will either be Wednesdays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25 from 7-8 p.m. or Sundays, Jan. 8, 15 and 22 from 11:45-12:45 p.m. All will be in my office in the Wesley Center. You may attend the sessions without a commitment to join. If interested in considering church membership, please contact me at 203.895.3753 or brian.bodt@yahoo.com. **Pastor Brian**

"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).

MTM MEMBERS Yahoo Group Protocols

Mary Taylor Memorial Church (MTMUMC) has an internal e-mail communication link that we informally call the "Yahoo Group." It is a "closed" group, which means that one needs to request admission into the group by one of the moderators. The process of joining has been described monthly in the "Beacon" for many years and is reprinted below. You may also request membership by contacting Stacy Meszaros, Pastor Brian Bodt or Mary Lou Kampert. Questions may be addressed to them as well by contacting the church office: 203.874.1982.

The purposes of the group, as described when membership approval is granted, are (1) to share prayer concerns and joys and (2) to share information about MTMUMC-related ministries and activities. These are the only purposes for which this group is to be used.

If you would like to join our MTM Members Yahoo Group to receive prayer requests and other messages relevant to our life at Mary Taylor, please follow the directions below:

Type <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo> in your browser

1. Log in to your Yahoo account or create a Yahoo account
2. Select the **Search Groups** box and type **MTM-members** or **Mary Taylor Memorial UMC**

Select **Join Group** (Note: it should take a day or two for access to be granted.)

You may also send an e-mail to: mtm-members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

For this option an e-mail will be sent back to the person making the request with a link to sign in.

Once you are a member of the group, posting messages is as simple as sending an e-mail addressed to MTM-members@yahoogroups.com. You may also post messages to the group by signing in with your "Yahoo" username and password.

Thank you for your interest in the prayer and ministry life of MTMUMC.