

*All: I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.*

L: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

*All: O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile or reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright. And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father.*

*Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer.*

*Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power has turned my heart from sin to God.*

*O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *You are invited to sign your covenant.*

\*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 Covenant Prayer" A. Pote

\*Presentation: "In the Bleak Midwinter" Carol #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.*

\*HYMN #221 "In the Bleak Midwinter" Cranham

A RITUAL OF PRAYER AND HEALING ANOINTING

*Each last Sunday of the month, all are invited to receive prayer and optional healing anointing for oneself or on behalf of another. Please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Stand or kneel (as able) at the Communion rail and speak name and need to the anointer. This ancient Church practice of God's love is a mysterious, caring expression of Christ's promise "I will be with you always." As always, please remain in prayer until all have returned to their seats.*

\*HYMN #249 "There's a Song in the Air" Christmas Song

\*THE BENEDICTION

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

\*POSTLUDE "Carillon on 'Come, All Ye Shepherds'" G. Young  
(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

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.*

**CHRISTMAS I**

December 31, 2017

**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 "The First Noel" W. Held

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

INTROIT "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us dance with delight in the Lord and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,

ALL: *For eternal salvation has appeared on the earth. Alleluia!*

\*CAROL #227 "The Friendly Beasts" Orientis Partibus

PRAYER OF THE DAY (seated, unison) "Christmas" Hymnal #231

THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal #895

°°°

\*THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40 Bible p.933

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

\*HYMN #226 "My Master, See, the Time Has Come" Morning Song

THE SERMON "Looking Forward" Dr. Bodt

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND PETITION

## WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE

HYMN #606 (*seated*)

“Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine”

Kingsfold

PROCLAMATION (*by the leader*)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God. Through baptism, we have entered this life and have been admitted into the new covenant of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator. He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last forever.

On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ, the Source and Perfecter of our faith. On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God, especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant and gather at the Lord’s table. Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met, to renew the covenant that binds us to God. Let us make this covenant of God our own.

INVITATION (*responsive*)

L: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable; others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

***All: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.***

L: Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

***All: Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.***

L: Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant. To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God’s special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already

freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters; see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God’s covenant, rely upon God’s promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God’s power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

COVENANT PRAYER

***All: O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I bow before you.***

***Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.***

L: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

***All: I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my own righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.***

L: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

***All: Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.***

L: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

***All: Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own worthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.***

L: Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

***All: I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall. Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.***

L: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Telephone: 203.874.1982 Fax: 203.877.8973

Website: [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org) [www.facebook.com/MTMUMC](http://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC)

E-mail: [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)

Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bickerton
Lay Leaders	Shelly Lapadula & Beth O'Brien	Superintendent	The Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
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	Andy Thomas	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

**ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION  
FOR 2018**

*Different Books, Common Word*

*Muslims and Christians Together Building the Good Community*

**The Rev. Dr. Judith Bennett, MTMUMC Theologian-in-Residence, will offer a study on Christianity and Islam beginning in January, 2018 in response to requests for this kind of study. Her summary states:**

*Worship God and join nothing with him; and do good to parents, relatives, orphans, to the needy, to neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers. The Qu'ran (4:36)*

- - - - -

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37-39*

Given this “common word”, love of God and love of neighbor, how hard should it be for Christians and Muslims in America not only to live together in peace but to work together for the good of the communities in which we live? What keeps us apart? What is there in our separate histories that blinds us to this shared word? What is truly central to each faith and what is culturally determined?

This study will help us look at these questions and more, searching for a deeper understanding of Islam as we seek to deepen our understanding of our own faith. While there is no assigned text, we will turn to many other resources, including print articles, online materials, video and more.

**The seven-week course will begin January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and follow our usual format of Tuesdays from 7 – 8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30 a.m. The course will conclude on February 20/21. To register, please call (203.874.1982, ext. 110) or e-mail ([mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) the church office. Since there is no assigned text, the cost is to be determined. Whatever it is, scholarship help is always available.**

*Grace Notes  
December 31, 2017*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

*I was curious about this year of 2017 that began (January 1<sup>st</sup>) and now ends (December 31<sup>st</sup>) on a Sunday. What I learned – having never noticed it before – is that most years begin and end on the same day of the week. They are called “Common Years” as distinguished from “Leap Years.”*

*That said, the last time a year began and ended on a Sunday was 11 years ago (2006) and it won't happen again for another 6 years (2023).*

*So this Common Year of 2017 not only begins and ends on a Sunday but began and now ends with our celebration of the Wesley Covenant Service. Today's service uses the 1780 version developed over many years by the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., founder of the Methodist movement in 18<sup>th</sup> century England. This service was influenced by, and based on, the late 17<sup>th</sup> century writing of Richard Alleine, a Puritan.*

*The service, serious but not solemn, reminds us that being a disciple of Christ is no small matter and not for the faint of heart. It also reminds us of our historic commitments to purity and discipline among the laity as well as the clergy; and the origins of Methodism as a predominantly lay movement. Ultimately, it reminds us of the depth and breadth of our promises to God, and God's to us.*

*May you find it, as Mr. Wesley wrote in his journal (October, 1765) “...as usual, a time of remarkable blessing.”*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,*

*Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor*

## AT WORSHIP TODAY

**Head Usher:** Dennis Darak

**Liturgist:** Al Dubien

**Cross Bearer:** Marshall Firmender

**Greeters:** Sandra Short and Flo Berrien

**Bible Bearer:** Elise Pitts

**Acolytes:** Mary Repetsky and Carolyn Hollyday

**Intercessor:** Sandy Morgan

**Anointers:** Barbara Ann Griggs, Mary Lou Hastings,

Pastor Dani Levine, Mark Platt, Pastor Hal Vink and Steve Wasko

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are offered with *“Glory to God! Blessings in the coming year!”* given by Sandy Morgan; and in memory of her dad, Thomas Calabrese, and in honor of her husband, Rick Riccardi, celebrating their mutual birthday today, December 31<sup>st</sup>, given by Stacey Riccardi.

**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

**WELCOME VISITORS!** May you experience God’s presence today. Please complete a red visitor’s card (in the pew racks) and wear the “Visitor” peel-and-stick name tag to help us greet you. Our Ambassadors will look for you! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is in the Narthex.

**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.

**CHILD CARE** for children five years old and younger is provided in the Wesley Center, the building to your left. Please note that children over five are expected to remain in the sanctuary since our child care is not staffed to provide for older children.

**IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE SANCTUARY DURING WORSHIP**, please exit by either the side aisle to your left or by the rear (Broad Street) doors. **RESTROOMS** are in Dodd Hall (behind the altar) and can be accessed either way. **PARENTS are respectfully urged to accompany their children** as required by our Safe Sanctuary policy. **PLEASE RE-ENTER** the sanctuary by the Broad Street doors if weather and mobility allows.

**TODAY’S LITURGY** is based on Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989 and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

**SERMON COPIES** from previous Sundays are in the rear of the church or at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org).

## VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR December 24

Total worship attendance all services: 567; Dec. 24: 559; Dec. 24 10 a.m.: 164; 5 p.m.: 174; 11 p.m.: 200; GEUMC: 21; Dec. 27 Taize worship: 8 Total Offerings for Dec. 24: \$14,977.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolence \$550.00; Engaged in Small Groups: 12; No Sunday School, Confirmation, Disciple 4, “G.U.T.S” (youth group) or Choir rehearsals; Dec. 27 Office Volunteers: 12; 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.



<i>Sunday, December 31</i>		<b>CHRISTMAS I - NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship– Sanctuary (NO Sunday School today)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall
		NO GEUMC Worship
	4 - 7 p.m.	Youth Group Party – 47 Commodore Place
	6:00 p.m.	Alcathon 6 pm today through 7 pm January 1st
<i>Monday, January 1</i>		The Office is Closed
	7:00 p.m.	Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel
<i>Tuesday, January 2</i>	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation class – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	Disciple 4- Egan Room
	7:00 p.m.	Church Security Task Force – Gunn Library
<i>Wednesday, Jan. 3</i>	11:00 a.m.	Chrismon Tree dismantled - Sanctuary
	2:30 p.m.	Golden Hill Community Supper- Bridgeport
	5:15 p.m.	Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Party – 70 Morningside Drive, Stratford
<i>Thursday, Jan. 4</i>	6:30 p.m.	Missions Committee meeting – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Trustees meeting – Egan Room
<i>Friday, January 5</i>	10:00 a.m.	Office Volunteers – Gunn Library
<i>Saturday, January 6</i>	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel
	2:00 p.m.	Memorial Service – Leonora Wilhelm – Sanctuary- Reception to follow in Dodd Hall
<i>Sunday, January 7</i>	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School – Chapel Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Worship– Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time- Dodd Hall
	11:30 a.m.	Christmas Jar recap- Wesley Center
	3:30 p.m.	GEUMC Worship – Chapel
	4:00 p.m.	“GUTS” Youth Group meeting – Youth Lounge
<i>Monday, January 8</i>	6:00 p.m.	Membership and Evangelism meeting – Wesley Center
	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting – Wesley Center
	7:00 p.m.	Healing and Wholeness Worship- Chapel
<i>Tuesday, January 9</i>	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation class – Gunn Library
	7:00 p.m.	Disciple 4- Egan Room
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library
<i>Wednesday, Jan. 10</i>	10:00 a.m.	Adult Study: Christianity and Islam – Gunn Library
	6:40/7:45 p.m.	Bell Choir/Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall
	6:45 p.m.	Youth Leaders meeting – Pastor Dani’s office
<i>Thursday, January 11</i>	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl meeting – Wesley Center 1 <sup>st</sup> floor
	7:00 p.m.	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting – Wesley Center
<i>Friday, January 12</i>	10:00 a.m.	Office Volunteers – Gunn Library
<i>Saturday, January 13</i>	9:00 a.m.	Men’s Tres Dias reunion group – Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Private Party – Laura Perregaux

**FELLOWSHIP TIME TODAY** is hosted by the United Methodist Women – N-Z. Next Sunday’s host will be Bev Downing.

**2018 ENVELOPES** are available on the tables near the Broad Street entrance to the sanctuary. If you desire envelopes and do not find yours, please contact Eileen Doyle or Lisa Sobolewski.

**YOUTH GROUP PARTY TONIGHT, 4-7 p.m.** at the Parsonage *47 Commodore Place, Milford*. **Growing Up Together Spiritually (G.U.T.S)** will enjoy a holiday and New Year's party. There will be a grab bag gift exchange (\$10 or less) and games. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share. **Permission slips are required for this off-site event.** Please RSVP to Shelly Lapadula ([m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com](mailto:m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com)).

**THE JANUARY “BEACON”**, our monthly newsletter, was mailed this past Wednesday. Extra copies are in the literature racks by the Broad Street entrance of the church.

**CHRISTMAS MAIL AT MTMUMC:** Please check the internal mailbox in Dodd Hall under the Rev. Ford plaque to pick up and send Christmas cards to your MTMUMC friends. The mailbox will close next Sunday. If you’d like to make a donation in lieu of the postage you might have paid, please make checks payable to the United Methodist Women (UMW) with the memo “Christmas mail.” **Donations are strictly voluntary and the mail system may be used by all, whether or not you choose to donate.**

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR for regular meetings and activities.**

**THIS WEEK**

**THE CHURCH SECURITY TASK FORCE** reconvenes Tuesday, Jan. 2, 7 p.m. in the Gunn Library. Many thanks to all who have given oral and written feedback to the preliminary steps implemented on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We welcome your continued responses as we begin to develop policies and procedures for this important work. Please contact any member of the Task Force: *Steve Bettencourt, Pastor Brian Bodt, Laura Brennan, Michelle Connor, Cathy Cono, Dennis Darak, Dave Doyle, Deb Dubien, Holly Firmender, Sheryl Hollyday, Pastor Dani Levine, Shelly Lapadula, Lee Littrell, Kelly O’Hara, Mark McAvoy, Chris Paton, Maryann Petremont, Becky Virgalla and Bob Virgalla.*

**THE CHRISMON TREE** in the sanctuary will be taken down on Wednesday, January 3rd beginning at 11 a.m. Anyone is welcome to volunteer. The task generally takes about an hour.

**A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Leonora Wilhelm**, mother of Ken, will be held this Saturday, January 6, 2018, 2 p.m. in the sanctuary with reception following. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Ken Wilhelm, 31 Arlington Street, West Haven, CT 06516. Memorial contributions may be made to MTMUMC, memoed “Music Fund.”

## INAUGURAL 2018 MEETINGS

MISSIONS, Thursday, Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m. in the Gunn Library.

TRUSTEES, Thursday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m. in the Egan Room. Election of Trustee officers.

FINANCE, Monday, Jan. 8, 6 p.m. in the Egan Room. Finalizing the 2018 budget.

MEMBERSHIP AND EVANGELISM, Monday, Jan. 8, 6 p.m. in the Gunn Library.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS, Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m. in the Gunn Library. Organizing for 2018. **New members** are Stacey Cronk, Alison Pitts and Ethan Weed; joining **continuing members** Chair Edie Reichard, Eileen Doyle, Becky Virgalla, Jim Page, Chris Carveth, Tom Beyer, Kelly O'Hara and Shelly Lapadula.

CHURCH COUNCIL, Thursday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. in the Dodd Hall alcove. Adoption of the 2018 church budget.

MTMUMC FOUNDATION, Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m. in the Gunn Library. Election of officers.

WORSHIP, Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. Lenten planning.

## NEXT SUNDAY, January 7

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** – We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The message, "I'm Watching the Sunrise" recalls Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:4-11 along with the promises of Psalm 29, Genesis 1:1-5 and Acts 19:1-7.

**CHRISTMAS JARS CONVERSATION** will be held next Sunday, January 7, immediately after worship. Come share your story and your feelings from participating in the Christmas Jar sharing!  
*Becky Virgalla & Don Hastings*

**GROWING UP TOGETHER SPIRITUALLY (G.U.T.S)** -- is the new name for the Youth Group. January 7, 4 – 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge, Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Each week we will have a discussion topic and a different topic leader. Come join us for the Youth Group! All youth, grades 6-12, are welcome! Topic for 1/7: "Hitting the Reset Button" led by Pastor Dani Levine.

## JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL SERVICE

**Loretta Kelly**, mother of Lamar, will be held on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. in the sanctuary with reception following. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to LaMar and Eileen Kelly, 1 Mansfield Grove Road, Unit 309, East Haven, CT 06512. Memorial contributions may be made to MTMUMC, memoed "Memorial Fund."

## OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

**BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by noon Wednesday for the weekly bulletin.

**DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS OR A MISSION CROSS.** *Beth O'Brien (203.877.8668 or [bgobrien11@optonline.net](mailto:bgobrien11@optonline.net)) is now taking orders for 2018.* Flowers are \$20. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to support missions are honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf on the altar. Checks for both are payable to MTMUMC, mailed to Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 06460. **Altar flowers are needed for January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net)) with pastoral care needs and hospitalizations: **Pastor Brian Bodt:** [brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com). **Pastor Dani Levine:** 203.927.9077 or [Danielle.levine@mail.com](mailto: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.