

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

December 9, 2012

**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 Come, O Come Emmanuel” H. Haan

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*(In order to keep our service time focused on the worship of God, thank you for sharing only those items which are not already in the bulletin or on the flyer table.)*

INTROIT “All Earth is Waiting”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP The Book of Worship, 1965, alt.

Leader: Praise be to God!

People: *Blessed by the Lord God of Israel, who has visited and redeemed the people.*

All: *Let us praise and worship God!*

\*HYMN #214 “Savior of the Nations, Come” Nun komm, der heiden heiland

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Preparation  
Ty and Tina Gage

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

*Light the Advent candle, two: Think of humble shepherds, who  
filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.  
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*) The Book of Worship, 1944, alt.  
*Eternal God, in your providence you made all ages a preparation for the kingdom  
of your Son. Make ready our hearts for the brightness of your glory and the fullness of  
your blessing in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISMON TREE

*(The children gather with Pastor Brian around the tree.)*

Unison prayer: *Holy Lord, with joy we celebrate the birth of your son, who rescued us from  
the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in  
splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the  
new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Malachi 3:1-4 Bible p.874

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: *Thanks be to God.*

\*THE GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6 Bible p.934

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

THE SERMON “Taking Out the Trash” Dr. Bodt

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

\*THE APOSTLES’ CREED Hymnal #881

\*HYMN #204 “Emmanuel” McGee

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.)*

MISSION MINUTE “Community Supper” Deb Dubien, Missions Co-Chair

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem “Come, O Come To Us We Pray” Carter

\*Presentation: “What Child is This” Hymnal #219, vs. 3

*“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 #206                      “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”                      Houston

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE    Away in a Manger

*(You are invited to join hands with those near you as we sing.)*

***Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.***

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

\*POSTLUDE                      “Savior of the Nations, Come”                      arr. P. Manz

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

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

*Liturgy today comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The Faith We Sing (2000) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).*

## **MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**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. 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   |
| Child Care Coordinator   | Betty Laferriere         | Pastoral Assistant | The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink    |
| Administrative Assistant | Suzanne Miko             | Music Director     | Dr. Richard L. Riccardi      |
| Sexton                   | Bruce Rumford            |                    |                              |

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, December 9

**The Second Sunday in Advent**

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

10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

4 p.m. Confirmation – Wesley Center

5 p.m. Adult Fellowship Christmas party – Dodd Hall

Monday, December 10

7 p.m. Service of Healing & Wholeness – Dodd Hall

Tuesday, December 11

6 p.m. Confirmation Class – Wesley Center (Quiz)

7 p.m. Disciple II – Wesley Center

7 p.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

Wed., December 12

10 a.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

5 – 5:45 p.m. Praisemakers Choir practice – Dodd Hall

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir – Dodd Hall

7:45 p.m. Adult Choir – Dodd Hall

Thursday, December 13

7 p.m. Church Council – Dodd Hall alcove

Saturday, December 15

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Pictorial directory photos – Wesley Center

3 p.m. MYF prepares dinner/dessert – Dodd Hall

5 p.m. Christmas pageant and dinner – Sanctuary/Dodd Hall

Sunday, December 16

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

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

10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Soup and Sandwich luncheon – Dodd Hall

4 p.m. Confirmation Class – Wesley Center (quiz)

Monday, December 17

9 a.m. Office volunteers – Christmas letter mailing

7 p.m. Meeting Healthcare workers

7 p.m. Healing and Wholeness Service

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

NO Confirmation Class

7 p.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

7 p.m. Disciple II – Wesley Center

Wed, December 19<sup>th</sup>

10 a.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center

5 p.m. Praisemakers choir practice-Dodd Hall

6:30p.m. Bell Choir

7:45p.m. Adult Choir

**Grace Notes**  
**December 9, 2012**

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

*Fifty-four of us “rang and sang” to the residents of the United Methodist Homes of Connecticut (Shelton) and Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center last Sunday. What fun to bring gladness to home-bound folks. Thanks to all, notably Leigh and David Bak who hosted us after; and Rachel Merva for organization and communication.*

*Today’s Chrismon tree, a sign begun in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia in 1957, has spread to many other congregations, including our own. This evergreen tree is covered with signs of Christ and symbols of our faith, made by our church’s children and adults. We especially thank Brenda and Ed Pineau who are responsible for preparing the tree for us today through Christmas.*

*As more decorations grace the sanctuary we are reminded that we are closer to the coming of Christ. Let these visuals “draw us in the Spirit’s tether” (Hymn #632). Thanks to Worship Chair Laura Perreghaux and husband Rich for their preparation.*

*Tonight at 5 p.m. is our Adult Fellowship Christmas party for which further details are in this program. Thanks to Judy Darak and Eileen Doyle who are assisted in their leadership by Karen Keane and Stacey Riccardi. We look forward to seeing you.*

*Ken Hawkins changes our front signboard each week and recently added our Reconciling Congregations logo. The bulletin board at the Broad Street entrance to Wesley Center has been artfully decorated by Eileen Doyle. This publication (along with others) is assembled weekly by Gladys Hulse, Bev Lebel, Dot Law and Ed Leuchtner.*

*Church doesn’t “just happen.” Many hands attend to the customs we often take for granted; and many more names could—and certainly should—be added to these. Feel free to tell me what they are. See a need? Let me or a leader know. Better yet, add a solution. This season is a special time for us to share our communal life. Please give a word of thanks to all who serve.*

*In the spirit of preparation,*

*Pastor Brian*

**AT WORSHIP TODAY**

**Head Usher** (December) – David Doyle

**Liturgist** – Dave Bak

**Greeters** – Cheryl Griffin & Charles Mebane

**Cross Bearer** – Anna Pierce

**Acolytes** – Elizabeth Pierce & Kayleigh Patterson

**Bible Bearer** – Julianna Patterson

**TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS** - are given in memory of Alex, my guardian angel, by Debbie Godeski; and for Lucy – four years in heaven.

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We pray you experience God’s presence among us. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or greeters.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR** follows worship in Dodd Hall, hosted today by the Missions Committee. Next Sunday’s hosts are the United Methodist Women.

**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

**OFFERING PRAYER CONCERNS:** Please use the "Blue Sheets" to share your prayer concerns. You will find them in the attendance pads at the end of each pew or may obtain one from an usher. The ushers collect these during the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. If you offer intentions on behalf of others, please be sure you have their permission to share their information. Prayers offered via the Blue Sheets are included in our on-line prayer chain and at our Monday night Healing Service. You may also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

**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 these children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

**INFORMATION:** All informational sheets are available in the back of the church.

**SERMON COPIES:** December 2nd is available, in print in the Narthex and on the web at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org).



**\*Christmas Poinsettias**

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. The plants may be picked up after the 11:00 PM service on Christmas Eve. **Please remember our church members who are confined to their homes or hospitals and distribute them yourself on Christmas day or after.** If you wish to order, the plants are still \$10, and a check may be made to the Flower Fund. You may mail this form and your check to the church office.

**The deadline for ordering plants is Monday—December 17th**  
**However we would like to have an estimate by December 10th**

I wish to supply \_\_\_ plant(s) at \$10 each. Please PRINT legibly:

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

## THIS WEEK

**PRAISEMAKERS CHORISTERS SOUGHT:** Children in grades 1-5 are encouraged to join our Wednesday, 5 p.m. rehearsals with a plan to sing at 5 p.m. on Christmas. See Dr. Rick Riccardi 203.392.5232 or [riccardir1@southernct.edu](mailto:riccardir1@southernct.edu) or Leigh Bak.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND DINNER** is **this Saturday, December 15 at 5 p.m.** See our children enact the Christmas story. Dinner (free will offering) and dessert auction follows in Dodd Hall. Dinner includes sausage and peppers, meatballs, baked ziti, salad and bread. Proceeds benefit the program “Mountains of Hope for Haiti:

**MYFers!** We host the Christmas pageant dinner and dessert auction this Saturday! **Prep help for dinner appreciated at 3 p.m.** Please see or speak (203.414.9235) with Stacy Mezaros. **Signature desserts also needed for auction:** contact Leigh Bak (203.215.0470). Proceeds benefit Mountains of Hope for Haiti “Seeds of Change.” This supports seed and fertilizer for the Farmer’s Association for the next growing season.

**PICTORAL DIRECTORY:** Thanks to the 80 families and volunteers who participated in our photo sessions! Any who were not photographed can still participate by submitting an existing photo by **this Saturday, December 15.** Please place the photo, which will **not** be returned, in an envelope with names, address, phone number as you’d like them to read in the directory. **Or,** have a photo taken **this Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Wesley Center.** See Cathy Cono (203.645.2362 or [spikkio@optonline.net](mailto:spikkio@optonline.net)) to submit a photo or sign up to have one taken.

“**THE BEACON**” **DEADLINE** for January, 2013 is **this Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.** Due to heavy publication production in December, this is a firm deadline. Thank you.

**ADDITIONAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS** are sought for **Monday, Dec. 17, 9 a.m.** (Christmas letter) and **Thurs., Dec. 27, 9 a.m.** (January “Beacon”). If you are willing to volunteer, speak with Pastor Brian or Bev Lebel or call Sue Miko at the church office.

## NEXT SUNDAY

- **WORSHIP** the third Sunday in Advent highlights “joy.” Carol singing at 9:45. The Advent wreath is lit by Rick and Stacey Riccardi. The message “The First World-Wide Web” is based on Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 3:7-18. We will have a 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of our Prayer Shawl Ministry; Bill Katt will report on the results of our “Extravagant Generosity” campaign; and 2013 offering envelopes will be available to pick up. Blood pressure screenings follow worship.

- **OUR “EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY” CAMPAIGN** for our 2013 ministry concludes **next Sunday.** Your estimate of giving makes a difference! You may return it to the church office this week or with the Sunday offering. Please respond!
- **A SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON** will be hosted by the Men’s Club next Sunday in Dodd Hall immediately following worship. Free! Come join us!

## OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

**CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Please let me know if you have met with your mentor and what date—May 12 or 19, 2013—you prefer for Confirmation. Thank you. *Pastor Brian*

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS MAGNETS:** Membership and Evangelism has “Keep Christ in Christmas” car magnets for \$5.00 each. Makes a great stocking stuffer, teacher gift, or gift to the person who has everything! See Cathy Cono.

**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.

**ATTENTION MYRTLE/WALNUT BEACH MEMBERS!** *“I am writing a piece about urban renewal, especially those of you who were merged with MTMUMC in 1969. If you have a story, memory or any pictures, please contact me. Thank you.”* Elizabeth B. Wright, [wil3betsey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wil3betsey@sbcglobal.net) or 203.877.5021

**OFFICE SCHEDULE:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mon. – Fri. If Wesley Center is locked, call Sue Miko (203.874.1982) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by Noon Wednesday, hard copy or to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).

**HAD A PROBLEM LEAVING A VOICEMAIL MESSAGE AT CHURCH?** Over the last several weeks someone has regularly called the church and left lengthy messages that sometimes fill the entire capacity of our voicemail system. If you call the office and get a message that says, “The voicemail box is full,” please call the pastor at 203.895.3753.

**CONTACTING THE PASTORS:** Pastor Brian is typically in the office Mon.-Thurs. from 9am to Noon (203.874.1982, ext. 11) and by appointment there or elsewhere at other times. E-mail is [brian.bodt@yahoo.com](mailto:brian.bodt@yahoo.com) and church cell at 203.895.3753. **Use Pastor Brian’s cell if timely or an emergency.** Pastor Hal can be reached at [yinkhaljane@yahoo.com](mailto:yinkhaljane@yahoo.com) and at 203.878.8977. Please let us know any time someone needs pastoral care, especially those who are hospitalized. Multiple calls are better than none at all. Most are aware that hospitals no longer provide this information directly to the clergy due to HIPPA privacy laws.

## ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

**ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS:** Flower orders are always taken for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers” which is an additional opportunity for giving to United Methodist Church Missions (UMCOR or UMArmy and many others – please see info. table in back of church for list) and may be ordered at any time during the course of the year. *\*When a donation is made in lieu of altar flowers, the cross with a miniature mission scarf will be displayed on the altar in place of flowers.* Please contact Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or by email at bgobrien11@optonline.net or mail: Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

**VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT:** December 2: Total Worship Attendance all services: 199 (189 plus 10 H&W); Total Offering: \$4,738; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$30.00; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 174; 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) the number of persons that met.*

**PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS** on during Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

**WESLEY CENTER ACCESS:** All 12-Step, Support Group & Meetings are able to use the upstairs and downstairs of Wesley Center. Contact Paul Downing at 203.876.8540 or Bill Petremont at 203.415.9982 for further information.

**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 are unnecessary and may delay response. Thank you.

- **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL** follows worship in the sanctuary. Pageant and dinner is Saturday: see details in “This Week.”
- **PLEASE PICK UP THE NAME OF A CHILD FOR GIFT-GIVING** through the Boys’ and Girls’ Club. Tags are in Dodd Hall and gifts are due next week to Maryann Petremont. The children need your caring gift.
- **ADULT FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS PARTY** is at **5 p.m. in Dodd Hall.** All Mary Taylor Memorial Church adults and guests welcome. Please bring an appetizer (last name beginning A-K) or dessert (last name beginning L-Z) and a \$10 wrapped gift for our Yankee Swap. Beverages provided. Fun and fellowship promised!
- **LIVING CRECHE SIGN UPS CONTINUE IN DODD HALL:** December 24<sup>th</sup> (5-7 p.m.) and, if enough volunteer, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> (5-7 p.m.). The Creche is outside the church, comprised of people representing angels, Mary and Joseph, the Magi and shepherds. Participants change every ½ hour. Please pray about this and sign up ASAP so we know who will serve and how many nights we can have this event. For more information contact Laura Perregaux at [misslmp2@yahoo.com](mailto:misslmp2@yahoo.com).
- **ALTERNATIVE GIFT CATALOG/ORDER FORMS** are available through December 16. Over the years your giving through this catalog has supported health and human service programs, evangelism efforts, disaster relief, programs to end hunger, senior housing, women’s causes, youth programs and countless others. Many members and friends look forward to this catalog as a way to express their faith and keep Christ in their Christmas season. See Deb Dubien for a catalog.
- **THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL GUIDE** ordered through Don Hastings is available today. He has a very few extras on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** may be ordered using the enclosed form. Your response today would be greatly appreciated. **Although the deadline is Dec. 17, we would like a preliminary count by tomorrow.**
- **ADVENT DAILY DEVOTIONALS** may be obtained from Pastor Brian today or Sue Miko through the church office.
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS.**