

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

*Whoever you are, wherever you are
on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“GAUDETE”

December 14, 2014

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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” arr. by W. Held

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(Please keep our focus on the worship of God by sharing those items not published elsewhere.)

INTROIT “Like a Child”

*CALL TO WORSHIP I Thessalonians 5:16-24, CEB

Leader: Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

People: ***Don’t suppress the Spirit. Don’t brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. Avoid every kind of evil.***

Leader: Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him;

People: ***and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ’s coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.***

*HYMN #184 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Divinum Mysterium

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Joy
John and Anna Henry

SUNG RESPONSE “People, Look East” Hymn #202, vs. 3

***“Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.***

People look east and sing today; Love, the Star, is on the way.”

THE COLLECT (*unison*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to thy wisdom, that we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, one God, world without end. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Blessed Lord, we too often watch for what we want rather than what you give. Forgive our undue love of the world; our distracted faith; our ineffectual service. Save us from hungers that are too easily satisfied. Help us to live for holy purpose, that we may not be ashamed, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Bible p.678
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God.***

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28 Bible p.966
Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

*HYMN #214 “Savior of the Nations, Come” Nun Komm

THE SERMON “Out of Control” Dr. Bodt

HYMN #2092 (*seated*) “Like a Child” rear cover

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 “Alternative Christmas Gift-Giving” Deb Dubien

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “See That Light” J. Hunnicutt

*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 #223 "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Ermuntre dich

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymnal #217

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bid, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

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

*POSTLUDE Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come" arr. by P. Manz
(During the postlude you may leave following the pastor or remain seated).

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Like a Child 2092



1. Like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2. Like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
3. Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a



child and a friend, Je - sus comes. Like a child we may find claim - ing
child on the street, Je - sus comes. Like a child we once knew com - ing
child here to stay, Je - sus comes. Like a child we re - ceive all that



heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Je - sus comes.
back in - to view, like a child born a - new, Je - sus comes.
love can con - ceive, like a child we be - lieve, Je - sus comes.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon (Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon

LIKE A CHILD
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Grace Notes
The Third Sunday of Advent
“Gaudete”
December 14, 2014

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Gaudete Sunday is the joyful Sunday in Advent. “Gaudete” is a Latin word meaning “Rejoice” and takes its name from the first word of the traditional Introit in the Latin Mass. In the midst of Advent’s penitential themes, today’s readings speak of the promised joy the Messiah brings. This joy is represented in the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath and, in more liturgical churches, rose-colored vestments worn by the clergy.

Joy is a funny thing. We often confuse it with happiness, but they are not the same. We’re usually happy when things are going our way, when outward circumstances are favorable to our interests. As Christians understand it, joy is more internal than external, connected to God’s love toward us and our response by loving of God and neighbor.

A special joy came to me this week in learning that Jim and Phoebe Repetsky are going to host our fourth Thursday Community Supper which falls this year on Christmas Day! It is at 5:30 p.m. We will serve not only our neighbors but any among our congregation who would like to join us for Christmas dinner. If you are able to assist them, please speak with them this morning or call them at 203.874.8688.

Joy can be exuberant or quiet, and both contain contentment in knowing that we are in right relationship with the Almighty and the neighbor God calls us to love. That’s a gift we’d all welcome.

Expectantly,

Pastor Brian

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Website: www.mtm-umc.org

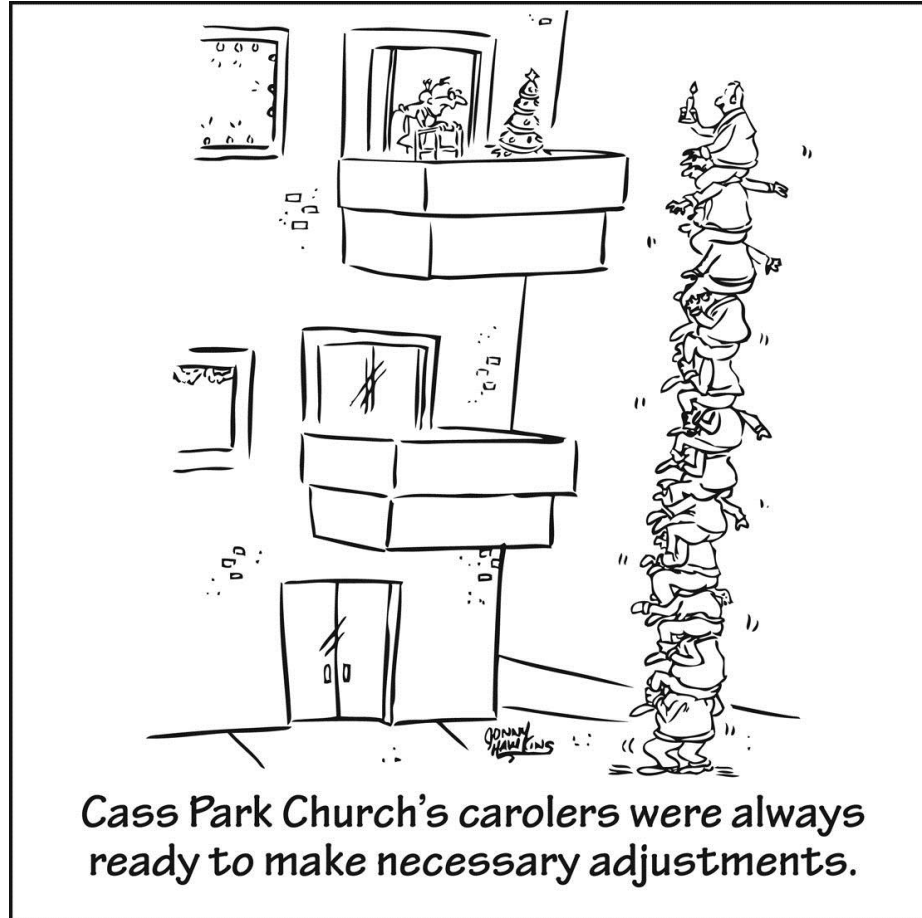
www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

E-mail:

mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Ministers All the People of God
 Lay Leaders Kelly O’Hara & Leigh Bak
 Prayer Chain Stacy Meszaros
 Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Kampert
 Sexton Bruce Rumford
 Child Care Coordinator Nicole Ellerbeck

Interim Bishop The Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Lyght
 Bishop-elect The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton
 Superintendent The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer
 Pastor The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
 Pastoral Assistant The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
 Music Director Dr. Richard L. Riccardi



AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dennis Darak

Acolytes – Ethan and Devyn Weed

Liturgist – Sandy Morgan

Greeters – Vi Burke and Joan Zauner

Cross Bearer – Josh Carr

Bible Bearer – Addyson Perregaux

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian and Sandy Morgan.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are in loving memory of Millie Bartolomy, born on December 16, given by Edie, Cheryl and Faith.

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 the attendance pads 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. Prayers are included in our on-line prayer chain and Monday night Healing Service. You are also invited to speak your concerns when we pray.

TODAY'S LITURGY is taken from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The Collect is adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (1892). The Unison Confession was written by the pastor.

SERMON COPIES from recent weeks are in the rear of the church or 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, 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.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, December 14
ADVENT III/Gaudete

9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Wesley Center

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall

4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Christmas caroling – Dodd Hall, then traveling to Seacrest (West Haven) and Milford Health and Rehab returning to the Gages', 210 Tanglewood, Milford

Monday, December 15

JANUARY "BEACON" DEADLINE"

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel

Tuesday, December 16

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 p.m. Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall

Thursday, December 18

7:00 p.m. Membership and Evangelism – Wesley Center (if needed)

Friday, December 19

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers - Wesley Center

Saturday, December 20

Noon Private party – Dodd Hall

Sunday, December 21

No Sunday School

ADVENT IV/Christmas Sunday 9:45 a.m. Informal Hymn Singing - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall

11:15 a.m. Blood Pressure Screenings- Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Men's Club Soup & Sandwich Luncheon – Dodd Hall

3:00 p.m. MYF Christmas Party at Leigh Bak's home, 15 Seaside Ct., Milford

Monday, December 22

6:00 p.m. Living Crèche 6 - 8pm, front of church

7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel

Tuesday, December 23

No Confirmation Class this week or next week

6:00 p.m. Living Crèche 6-8 pm, front of church

7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center

Wednesday, December 24

Church Office Hours 9 am - noon

5:00 p.m. Living Crèche 5 - 7 pm, front of church

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service- Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service – Sanctuary

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day – Church office closed.

Read Luke 2:1-20

5:30 p.m. Community Supper – Dodd Hall

Friday, December 26

Church Office is Closed

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

HOME VISITATION by Pastor Brian is available to become better acquainted. Visits may also occur in his office. Weekday, evening and Sunday appointments are available. If you would like to arrange for one, please contact Mary Lou Kampert at 203.874.1982, ext. 10.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please note that when only one staff person is in the Wesley Center during office hours the building is locked. If you find this, please call the office (203.874.1982) or ring the Broad Street doorbell. Thank you.

BULLETIN NOTICES are due by noon Wednesday for the following Sunday bulletin.

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 food is still needed for seniors with pets, but the Animal Control is not allowed to take in peoples' released pets. However, they do take care of kittens and will spay and neuter feral cats as has been the policy for years. They also request towels and blankets for the animals. Please leave food items in the back of the church or take to the Milford Animal Shelter at Silver Sands State Park.

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@gmail.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.

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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 7th:

Total worship attendance all services: 206 (Dec. 7th, 198; Healing and Wholeness, Dec. 8th: 8) Total Offering (minus “Lift Us Up” for Dec. 7: \$6,237.00; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$26,606.83. Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 135 (Office Volunteers 4; Sunday School: 52; Disciple 3: 16; Confirmation: cancelled; Praisemakers: 2; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir: 19; Cookie Walk: 28; MYF: 7). Total 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.

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 TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). Join us for a few moments of fellowship and conversation. Today's hosts are Membership and Evangelism. Next week's hosts are the United Methodist Women.

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE GIFTS are due returned today. Please see Maryann Petremont during Fellowship Time.

CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING donations are due today. Please see Deb Dubien at the Mission table in Dodd Hall.

LIVING CRECHE SIGN-UPS continue today in Dodd Hall. The Living Crèche is a Nativity tableau with live people posing as the Holy Family in 20-22 minute shifts. Sign ups are Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23 from 6 – 8 p.m. and Christmas Eve from 5 – 7 p.m. Speak with Rachel Merva or reach her at rmerva@optonline.net or 203.641.5088.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING is today at 4 p.m. meeting in Dodd Hall. Anyone from the youngest baby to the most grown up is welcome. You do not need exceptional music talent to participate: just a desire to share the joy of the season. After a brief “rehearsal” we'll head by carpool to Sea Crest in West Haven and Milford Health and Rehabilitation. After caroling, we'll return to the Gage's house, 210 Tanglewood Circle, for refreshments and fellowship. (If you'd like to contribute to the refreshments, please contact Tina at 203.877.1924 or tinagage@optonline.net). Warning: this activity may brighten your life and Christmas season as well!

OUR “EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY” 2015 finance campaign concludes Sunday, December 21st. “**Estimate of Giving**” cards are available in the pews and from the ushers and may be submitted in the morning offering or mailed or delivered to the church office. Please read the Heart Cards displayed in the sanctuary and Dodd Hall.

“LIFT US UP!” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN continues today for handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center. See the info table in Dodd Hall with our new brochure. For more information please speak with co-chairs T. Beyer (203.525.2265; tom.beyer@cort.com) or R.Merva (203.641.5088; rmerva@optonline.net).

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

JANUARY “BEACON” DEADLINE: TOMORROW, December 15th with articles submitted hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” WORSHIP

Christmas and the days preceding it are not always happy. For people facing difficult life circumstances, these United Methodist “Blue Christmas” worship services provide a compassionate antidote to forced gaiety. Thanks to Jane Vink for providing this information:

TODAY, Dec. 14

3 p.m. Monroe Church, 515 Cutler’s Farm Road, Monroe (203.268.8395)

4 p.m. Westport Church, 49 Weston Road, Westport (203.227.4707)

Mon., Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. Faith Church, 81 Clintonville Road, North Haven (203.239.2469)

Wed., Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., First Church, 59 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich (203.629.9584)

Fri., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., First Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford (203.269.9100)

Sun., Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Woodmont UCC, 1000 New Haven Ave., Wdmnt. (203-878-3885)

NEXT SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, December 21ST begins with an informal carol sing at 9:45 a.m.

The message, “The Nazareth Beachhead” will be based on Luke 1:26-38. The Advent wreath will be lit by the Downing family. Tina Gage’s Stewardship Spotlight concludes our “Extravagant Generosity” campaign for the 2015 church budget. 2015 offering envelopes will be available. Blood pressure screenings will follow worship in the sanctuary.

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON will follow worship in Dodd Hall hosted by the Men’s Club. If you’d like to help speak with Jim Repetsky or call him at 203.874.8688.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

LIVING CRECHE: Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Wed., Christmas Eve, 6 – 7 p.m. Sign up today in Dodd Hall as detailed under “Activities and Information Today.”

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS EVE, Wednesday, December 24th 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 Blessing Bell” written by Steve Burt. Our Praisemakers Choir will provide choral music. The Advent wreath and Christ Candle will be lit by the Hollyday family.

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 and brass. The message “Live from

Bethlehem...” will be 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 Don and Mary Lou Hastings.

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY DINNER

Jim and Phoebe Repetsky will host our monthly 4th Thursday dinner which this year falls on Christmas Day. What a blessing! We welcome our members and friends, as well as folks from the community, to be with us. If you can assist Jim and Phoebe, speak with them this morning or contact them at 203.874.8688.

CHRISTMAS PUBLICATION AND OFFICE SCHEDULE

With the approach of Christmas, please note these publication deadlines if you intend to submit materials for publication in our bulletins, as well as changes in our office schedule:

ALL CHRISTMAS EVE BULLETINS: Wednesday, December 17th, noon.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH: Tuesday, December 23rd, noon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015: Tuesday, December 30th, noon

OFFICE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 22ND and 23RD: Regular hours – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 24TH: 9 a.m. to noon; then closed through December 28th.

DECEMBER 29TH and 30TH: Regular hours – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 31ST: 9 a.m. to noon; then closed through January 4th, 2015.

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

MTM MEMBERS YAHOO GROUP: 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:

1. Type <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo> in your browser
2. Log in to your Yahoo account or create a Yahoo account
3. Select the **Search Groups** box and type **MTM-members** or **Mary Taylor Memorial UMC**
4. 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.

2015 ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS are now being received by 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 placed on the altar. Checks for either one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

ACOLYTES, CROSS BEARERS AND BIBLE BEARERS WANTED! Our children and youth make a positive contribution to our worship. See or contact Noel Fino: 203.877.3005.