

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
168 South Broad Street Phone: 203.874.1982
Milford, Connecticut 06460 FAX: 203.877.8973

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 “Break Thou the Bread of Life” H. DeCou

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “My Life Is In You, Lord”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 32:1-2, 10-11, “The Message” paraphrase

Leader: Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—you get a fresh start, your slate’s wiped clean.

People: *Count yourself lucky—God holds nothing against you and you’re holding nothing back from him.*

Leader: God-defiers are always in trouble; God-affirmers find themselves loved every time they turn around.

People: *Celebrate God. Sing together—everyone! All you honest hearts raise the roof!*

*HYMN #98 “To God Be the Glory” To God be the Glory

COLLECT FOR PURITY (*unison*)

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

°°°

A RECOGNITION OF GIRL SCOUTING

Let us pray: *O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life.*

We lift to you the ministry of Scouting. We offer you thanks—

for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home;

for study and work, to build character;

for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;

for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.

Bless the work of Scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people. Amen.

THE EPISTLE II Corinthians 5:16-21 Bible p.1053

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*THE GOSPEL Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Bible p.952

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

*HYMN #2083 “My Song is Love Unknown” rear cover of insert

THE SERMON “Celebration” Dr. Bodt

DEDICATION OF OUR AMBASSADORS

New ambassadors are Bev Downing and Becky and Bob Virgalla.

Renewing ambassadors are Leigh Bak, Flo Berrien, Cathy Cono, Holly

Firmender, Carol Galloway, Edie Reichard, Jim Repetsky and Christine Volgmuth

Pastor: Today we dedicate these servants who have been trained in welcoming hospitality. They have agreed that, for the next six months, they will be in worship as often as possible, briefly greet people new to them after worship, and invite the same to Fellowship Time and to meet the pastors, lay leaders or others as circumstances suggest. They are identified by red ribbons so that all may recognize and support this ministry.

Ambassadors, do you acknowledge yourself a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Do you agree with this call to a ministry of welcoming hospitality? **I do.**

Will you so live that you enable this church to be a people of love and peace? **I will.**

Members of the congregation, will you support these Ambassadors in their dedicated task of radical hospitality and singular welcome to new people among us? **We will.**

Let us pray: *Almighty God, you call us all to return to Godly living. Pour your blessings on these servants who have accepted special responsibility to welcome all. Help us support them and be infected by a contagion of kindness and hospitality. May such a welcome be worthy of you, who welcomes us all home. Amen.*

HYMN RESPONSE “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” Hymnal #562, vss. 1 & 2

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION (*by the Pastor*)

UNISON CONFESSION (*prayed by all*) (W.E. Orchard, England, 20th cent., alt.)

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving kindness. According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleans us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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.*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS,

including the special offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing

Offertory Anthem:

"Think of Me and Remember"

J. Raney

(The Adult Choir)

*Presentation:

"The Doxology"

Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE (Setting A)

Hymnal p.17

*THE COMMUNION

The United Methodist Church observes an open table: all are welcome to receive or refrain from receiving. We use gluten-free bread and grape juice. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers, and kneel or stand at the rail. During the distribution we will sing hymns #618, 624, 623, and 617.

PRAYER FOR LAY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS *(unison)*

Gracious God, we remember the apostolic Church which sent representatives from the Lord's table to those unable to be present. Bless and assist these lay visitors who continue this ministry. Nourish and strengthen those to whom this sacrament is brought, that they may know the comfort of your presence and the love of this community of faith. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN #384

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Beecher

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Shalom to You"

Hymnal #666

"Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom."

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

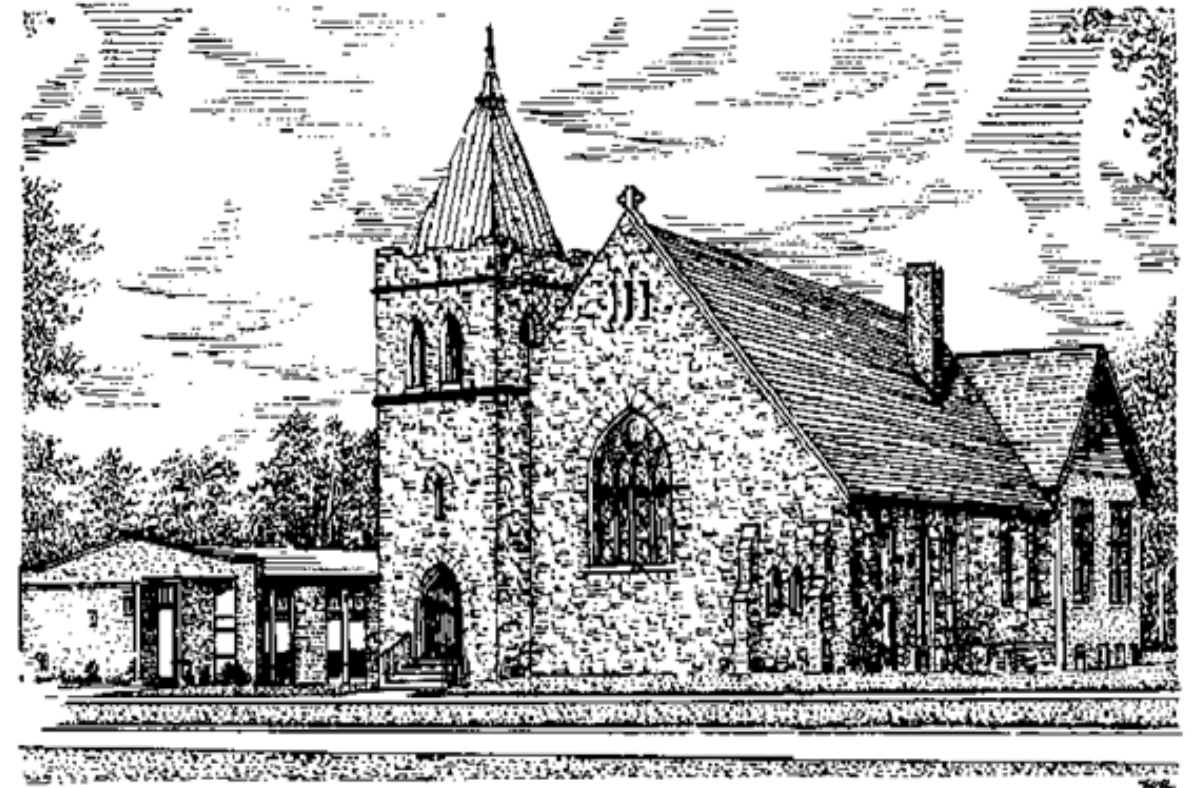
POSTLUDE

"God of Majesty and Hope"

B. Miller

(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

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 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

LAETARE SUNDAY

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

March 6, 2016

1. My song is love un-known, my Sav-ior's love to
 2. God left the rich-est throne sal-va-tion to be -
 3. Some-times they threw down palms and sweet-est prais-es
 4. What has my Sov-ereign done? What makes this rage and
 5. I sing my plain be-lief, one song my heart out -

me, love to the love-less shown, that
 stow; but Christ as flesh and bone the
 sang. Ho-san-nas and glad psalms through
 spite? Christ gave new strength to run, re-
 pours: nev-er was pain nor grief, nev-

they might love-ly be. O who am I, that
 world re-fused to know. But, O my Friend, my
 streets and mar-kets rang. Then "Cru-ci-fy!" is
 stored the gift of sight. Sweet in-ju-ries! Yet
 er was love like yours. This is my Friend, in

for my sake my God should take frail
 Friend in-deed, who at my need did
 all their breath, for blood and death they
 they at these them-selves dis-please, and
 whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
 life ex-pend; who at my need did life ex-pend.
 thirst and cry; for blood and death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst Christ rise; them-selves dis-please, and 'gainst Christ rise.
 glad-ly spend; I all my days could glad-ly spend.

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Ministers	All the People of God	Bishop	The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton
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	Bruce Rumford	Outreach Pastor	Rachel Duncan
Child Care Coordinator	Nicole Ellerbeck	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

*Grace Notes**March 6, 2016**Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

Today's 4th Annual Mission and Ministry Fair is an opportunity for our members and friends to learn about a number of the missions we support and the people who make them possible. It is also an opportunity to learn about ministries internal to the congregation.

Please come to Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) following worship for Fellowship Time (light refreshments) and to meet and greet these mission and ministry partners:

*Missions:**Beth-El Center, Milford – Jennifer Paradis**Bridgeport Rescue Mission – Perri Persico**The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport – Rev. Cass Shaw**Friends of Appalachia, Trumbull – Lisa Peters**Mountains of Hope, Haiti – Rev. Tom and Wendy Vencuss and Leigh Bak**Socks for Seniors – Eileen Potkay, R.N.**Superstorm Sandy Recovery – Rev. Tom and Wendy Vencuss,**Susan Shaw and Leigh Bak**Ministries of our church:**Confirmation Class (Polar bear survival and suicide prevention) – Lorraine Carr,**Paul Downing and Confirmands**Membership and Evangelism – Sandy Morgan and Bev Downing**Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) – Paul Downing**Stewardship – Lisa Sobolewski**Sunday School – Wendy Hoffmann and Paige Librandi**Trash and Treasures – Dolly Bonisch and friends**United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (UMARMY) – Stacy Meszaros**United Methodist Women (UMW) – Joan Zauner, Sue O'Shea and friends**Sincerely yours in Christ,**Pastor Brian Bodt*

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Tanner Georgelos
Liturgist – Beth O’Brien
Bible Bearer – Julia Shamansky
Communion stewards: Dawn Bettencourt and Barbara Berglund
Communion celebrants: Pastors Brian Bodt, Rev. Judith Bennett, Beth O’Brien, Kelly O’Hara

Greeters – Eileen Potkay and Elizabeth Wright
Cross Bearer – Ryan Lapadula
Acolytes – Devon and Ethan Weed

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Reverend Bodt and Beth O’Brien.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in loving memory of Nick and Carol Rogers, given by Ken and Elaine Hawkins.

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. 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 United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).

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.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, March 6</i> LENT IV	8:45 a.m. New Members class-Pastor’s study, 2 nd floor Wesley Center 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Wesley Center 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion/Girls Scout Sunday/OGHS - Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall 11:15 a.m. Missions & Ministry Fair – Dodd Hall 11:15 a.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship treat-making – Dodd Hall 4:00 p.m. Methodist Youth Fellowship meeting – Youth Lounge
<i>Monday, March 7</i>	6:00 p.m. Membership & Evangelism meeting – Gunn Library 7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel 8:00 p.m. Passion reciters rehearsal – Sanctuary
<i>Tuesday, March 8</i>	Noon United Methodist Women meeting – Wesley Center 5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center 7:00 p.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
<i>Wednesday, March 9</i>	10:00 a.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center Noon Taize worship – Sanctuary 5:30 p.m. Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
<i>Thursday, March 10</i>	7:00 p.m. Staff Parish Relations committee meeting – Wesley Center 7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center 1 st floor
<i>Friday, March 11</i>	10:00a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
<i>Saturday, March 12</i>	6:40 a.m. Confirmation Trip to NYC – meet at church
<i>Sunday, March 13</i> LENT V	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS - Clocks FORWARD 1 HOUR 9:00 a.m. Sunday School - Wesley Center 10:00 a.m. Friends and Family Sunday/New Members received - Sanctuary 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall 11:15 a.m. Last Soup and baked goods sale-Dodd Hall
<i>Monday, March 14</i>	6:00 p.m. Historical Society meeting-Dodd Hall-Marcia Winter 7:00 p.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel
<i>Tuesday, March 15</i>	BEACON INFORMATION DUE 5:45 p.m. Confirmation Class – Egan Room, Wesley Center 7:00 p.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center
<i>Wednesday, March 16</i>	10:00 a.m. Adult Lenten Study – Gunn Library, Wesley Center Noon Taize worship – Sanctuary 5:30 p.m. Praisemakers Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall
<i>Thursday, March 17</i>	7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting – Dodd Hall Alcove 8:30 p.m. Taize Worship – Sanctuary
<i>Friday, March 18</i>	10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!

Details on these events appeared in the March "Beacon" newsletter.

Sunday, March 13: "Friends and Family Sunday" during and after 10 a.m. worship, hosted by Membership and Evangelism. Proud of your church? Invite a friend or neighbor to meet us! Light luncheon after worship.

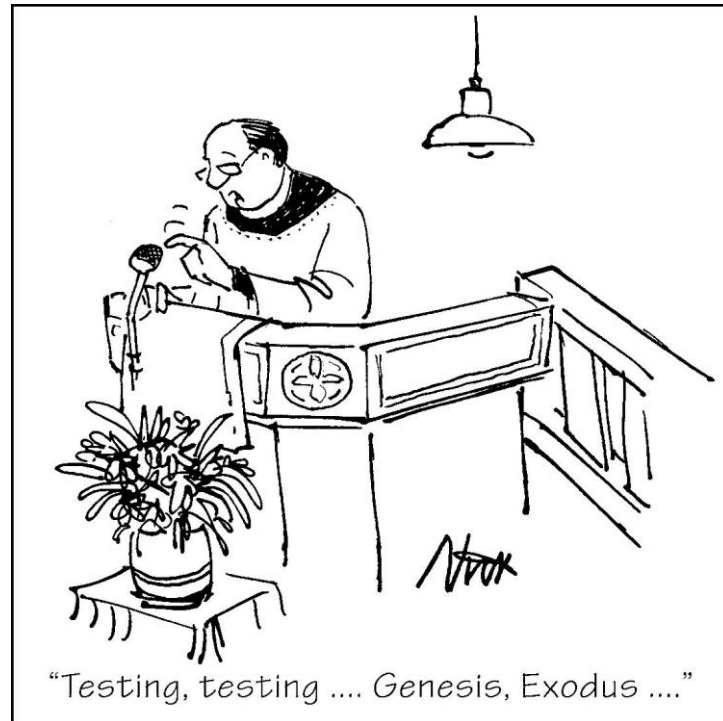
Sunday, March 20:

"Diabetes Alert Screening" after 10 a.m. worship, along with our regular blood pressure screenings, in the sanctuary.

"Spring Equinox Drum Circle" after 10 a.m. worship in the Egan Room, Wesley Center,

Thursday, March 24: MTMUMC Community Supper, 2-6:30 p.m., Dodd Hall. If you can help, sign up with Deb Dubien at 203.877.4959.

Saturday, April 2: Adult CPR training (not infant), 8 a.m. – Noon, Dodd Hall. This event is free and typically costs in excess of \$100 when procured commercially. Limit of 15.



ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) hosted today by the Pitre and Firmender families and next Sunday by the Membership and Evangelism committee.

THE ANNUAL MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR follows worship in Dodd Hall.

NAME TAGS ORDERED LAST WEEK are with all others in alphabetical order in the foyer next to the Broad Street entrance to the church. **If you do not have a name tag**, please indicate your desire for one on the clipboard at the serving station at Fellowship Time.

TRASH AND TREASURES Easter decorations are available for sale in Dodd Hall. T&T has rock bottom prices! Your purchases not only save you lots of money but also support the beginning of Trash & Treasure's 2016 endeavor to have another banner year!

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (MYF) ACTIVITIES TODAY:

- **Easter treat making:** immediately after worship. Pizza lunch provided!
- **Sunrise service planning: 4:00 p.m.** in the Youth Lounge (Wesley Center, 1st Floor)
All youth grades 6-12 are invited and encouraged to participate in these activities!

PASTOR RACHEL DUNCAN will be with us next Sunday and Easter Sunday. She works alternate Sundays as an R.N. at Yale-New Haven Hospital. **PASTOR HAL AND JANE VINK** are traveling in upstate New York, including a family celebration of Jane's March 4th birthday.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

TAIZE WORSHIP, a contemplative 30 minute experience of music, scripture and prayer, is offered each Wednesday Noon during Lent as well as the third Thursday of each month.

PASTOR BRIAN will be out of the office Wednesday and most of Thursday, returning for evening meetings. In an emergency, call the church office and a pastor will be reached.

EASTER FLOWER ORDER DEADLINE is this Friday, March 11th. Please use the enclosed form and submit it to the church office or in the morning offering.

CONFIRMATION TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY is this Saturday, March 12. We gather at church at **6:40 a.m.** and walk to the train at **6:45 a.m.** We cannot wait for late-comers. The trip will visit John Street UMC, the oldest in American Methodism and the 9/11 Memorial Museum. We will return to Milford just before 6 p.m. **Special thanks to the United Methodist Women** for helping to off-set the costs of this trip for our youth and adult leaders.

ON SATURDAY NIGHT move your clocks **FORWARD** one hour. **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** begins March 13! You'll **lose** an hour's sleep but **gain** an hour's daylight.

NEXT SUNDAY

LENT V/"FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY" – "Racing. Toward What?" is the sermon based on Psalm 126, Isaiah 43:16-21 and Philippians 3:4b-14. Please invite friends and family to join us in worship. (See "Please Save These Dates!") New members will be received and we will have a Mission Minute on "Socks for Seniors" by Eileen Potkay, R.N. After worship the final "Second Sunday Soup Sale" will be held by the United Methodist Women.

THE LAST SUNDAY SOUP AND BAKED GOODS SALE by our United Methodist Women will be held during Fellowship Time with proceeds supporting their mission work.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MINISTRY INVITATIONS

PARISH HEALTH & WELLNESS: Knowing your risk for Type 2 diabetes is an important first step toward preventing or delaying the onset of the condition, and you can find out your risk by taking a simple Diabetes Risk Test. Your **Parish Health & Wellness Team** will provide copies of the Risk Test on **Sunday March 20th** during **Fellowship Time in Dodd Hall**; you can either complete the test yourself, or members of our team will help you answer the questions and confidentially help you determine your risk.

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.

SOCKS FOR SENIORS: Eileen Potkay, L.P.N., Parish Health and Wellness Convener, is collecting new and gently used socks (any size and color, **matched pairs only**) for seniors in long-term care center or nursing home. **Please leave donations in the box in Dodd Hall through Mar. 20th** or contact Eileen at 203.809.0188 or eileenmary68@aol.com.

NOW YOU CAN HELP BOTH TRASH AND TREASURE AND HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE AND FURNITURE BANK in Orange at the same time. If you have an item that may be too big for Trash and Treasure to handle, call Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952, who will explain how we, Mary Taylor, can get money from Helping Hands from any gently used donation you make to them.

LAURALTON HALL invites all 7th grade girls to spend a day as a shadow student March 14 through April 29. For further information, call the Admissions Office at 203-877-2786 ext. 144.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

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 and monetary donations in the Beth-El envelope.

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: "Wet and dry cat food is needed for seniors with pets. Also wet and dry dog food 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.**

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Please inform a pastor or the church office (203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net) of 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 Rachel Duncan: 203.874.1982 or rachel.e.duncan@gmail.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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE: Pastor Brian will consult with leaders as needed and agree on plans for worship, Sunday School, and other activities. **Weather-related closings will be posted on church voice mail, Yahoo e-mail group, and WTNH (Channel 8).**

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR February 28th:

Total worship attendance all services: 186; February 28th: 161; February 29th: 7 March 2nd: 18; Total Offerings (minus "Lift Us Up) for February 28th: \$7,695.50; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts \$146.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0; Engaged in Small Groups: 167 (Office Volunteers: 3; Sunday School: 37; MTMUMC Community Dinner: 33 Guests; 13 Helpers; Golden Hill Dinner: 11; Confirmation: 9 ; Trash & Treasures: 4; Lenten study, Mar. 1:18; Mar. 2: 18; Praisemaker's: 0; Bell Choir: 7; Adult Choir:14; 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.