

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 Broad Street

Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982

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*

INFORMAL HYMN SINGING (9:45 a.m.)

PRELUDE “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” W. Runyan

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship”

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Ephesians 2:4-10

Leader: God is rich in mercy, bringing us to life with Christ even when we did wrong.

People: *God loves us that much?*

Leader: You bet! You are saved by God’s grace, God’s love freely given.

People: *So God has given us a gift!*

ALL: *Yes! We are God’s accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things. God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.*

*HYMN #2172 “We Are Called” rear cover

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated, unison)*

O God, you so loved the world as to give your only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Grant to us the precious gift of faith, that we may know that the Son of God is come, and may have power to over-come the world and gain a blessed immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you, all-knowing God, what we are. We are not always the people we like others to think we are. We cannot hide from you. Yet knowing us as we are, you love us. Help us to face self-knowledge and respect ourselves for your sake. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who, through long habit, find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask you to break their bondage and set them free; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°° ANTHEM “Praise Him” The Praisemakers

A RECOGNITION OF GIRL SCOUTING

“A Girl Scout Blessing”

based on the Girl Scout Law

Lord of the good life, grant me the strength to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong. Instill the integrity to be responsible for what I say and do and to respect myself and others. As Creator and Source of authority on earth, may I respect authority, use resources wisely, and make the world a better place. Raise up not only girls, but boys and women and men who will live this prayer. Amen.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Numbers 21:4-9 Bible p.138

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

*THE GOSPEL John 3:14-21 Bible p.968

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

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

THE SERMON “The Gospel in a Minute” Dr. Bodt

ANTHEM “God So Loved the World” Stainer

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.)

WOMEN’S HISTORY MOMENT “Anna Howard Shaw” Edie Reichard

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, with *The One Great Hour of Sharing*

Offertory: “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” Bell Quartet

*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #185 “When Morning Gilds the Skies” Laudes Domini

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE 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 “Voluntary in G Minor” E. Broughton

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

We Are Called

2172



1. Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2. Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3. Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that



joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called to be
 great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll



light for the king - dom, to live in the free - dom of the
 hope for the hope - less so all ha - tred and blind - ness will
 walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and broth - ers u -

Refrain



cit - y of God! We are called to act with
 be no more! nit - ed in love!



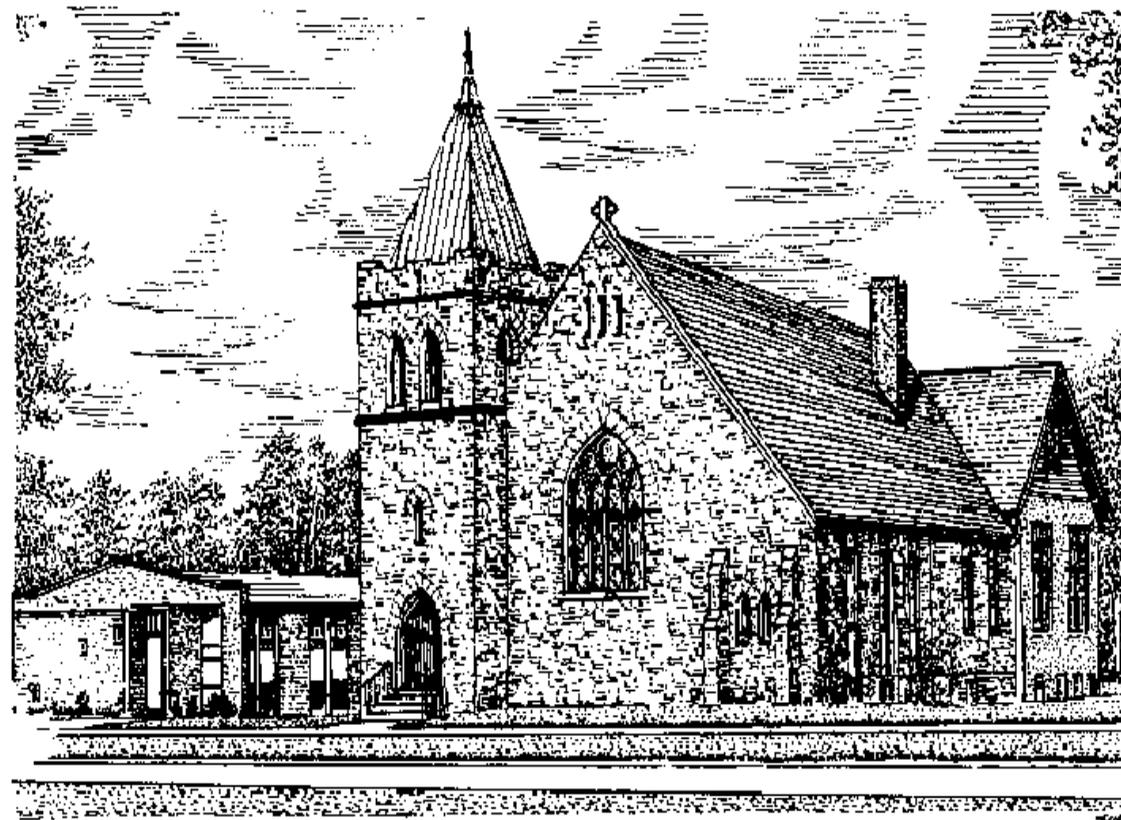
jus - tice, we are called to love ten - der - ly,



we are called to serve one an - oth - er, to



walk hum - bly with God!



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.*

LAETARE SUNDAY

LENT IV

March 15, 2015

The whole Body of Christ, His Church;
our Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church and its staff; and the churches of
our town and region.

Those persons alienated from the church, from you,
or from others you know.

Your enemies.

The strife, war and conflict in our world.

One method of prayer:

Get as comfortable as possible. Slowly monitor your breathing. Then, breathe more deeply, from down low in your abdomen. Exhale forcefully, breathing out all the garbage and breathing in the Spirit. Remember that the Greek word for “spirit” means literally, “breath”. Consider that as you breathe, you are breathing in God’s Spirit into your whole being.

Now invite God into your prayer. Make room for God. You may do this in a mental image, such as opening a door or clearing away a space in a room. You may repeat the ancient creed, “Come, Lord Jesus”, or some other word like “faith”, “peace”, “love”, or “joy”. Ask God to receive this prayer as an act of faithfulness.

If your mind should wander, do not worry. Again clear a space for God. Offer up the distraction in prayer with a phrase such as “O Lord, stay with me in this distraction”. If you find faith faltering, pray the prayer: “Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief”. (see Mark 9:14-29) Ask the Holy Spirit, who is “God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for strength”, for help.

Near the end of your time of prayer offer your thanks for the blessings in your life and the lives of others. Consider asking God to strengthen you from this experience, both in your prayer life and your life as a Christian disciple. Finally, receive this blessing:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

*Grace Notes
March 15, 2015*

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Did you know we have visitors every Sunday? We do.

We especially have visitors today on this “Friends and Family Sunday.” To all who have come as invited guests, a hearty welcome in Christ. To all who extended an invitation, “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.”

We hope all our guests will receive a gift mug and that all will remain for a light lunch and conversation in Dodd Hall (the space behind the sanctuary). We thank Michelle Craig and her Membership and Evangelism team, along with all those who made salads, for hosting this meal.

Anyone with a name badge can answer questions. Church leaders with a red-lined ribbon or Ambassadors with a white ribbon may be especially helpful. Please ask.

While not every church can be everything to everybody, we try to live up to our creed “Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.” We hope you find a warm—indeed, extravagant—welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

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

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

Music Director

Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

Child Care Coordinator

Nicole Ellerbeck

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Kelly O’Hara

Greeters – Liz Dillon and Barbara Macisco

Acolytes – Amanda Repetsky and Ryan Lapadula

Cross Bearer – Lillia Downing

Liturgist – Cathy Liontas

Bible Bearer – Mary Repetsky

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian and Cathy Liontas.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of my grandmother, Jeanette Maloney Blakeslee, given by Kelly Michael O’Hara. Happy St. Patrick’s Day!

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), The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992) and The Faith We Sing (2000). The Call to Worship and Girl Scout blessing were 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.

Prayer Resources

You may begin and end your time with this prayer or pray it some other time you choose:

“O Spirit of the Living God, come to us your people. Pour out the abundance of Your love, revealing Yourself to us as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Guide us as we prepare our hearts. Be with all who are unable to be here but who are in need of communion through prayer. Sanctify our lives, renew our faith, empower our witness, one body united in You; and bring us to share in the joy of Your kingdom now, and in the time to come. Amen.”

Below please find a number of suggestions for your prayer time.

Prayer resources include:

Holy Scripture. These are some specific scriptures about prayer:

Matthew 6:1-15

Matthew 7:7-12

Matthew 11:25-30

Mark 9:14-29

Mark 14:32-42

Luke 5:12-16 Luke 6:20-49

John 17

I Thessalonians 5:12-22

Many of the Psalms are prayers.

The United Methodist Hymnal. On pages 951 and 952 you will find prayer hymns and prayers under several categories: “Prayer for Illumination”, “Invitation to Prayer”, “Litany Prayer”, “Petition Prayer”, “Confession and Pardon Prayer”, and “Prayer Responses”. There are additional hymns listed on page 949 under the heading “Prayer”.

Consider directing your prayer toward:

Yourself and the needs of your immediate family.

The sick and bereaved.

Persons with particular needs, especially the

unemployed, the poor, and those who suffer.

Your prayer partners today.

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, March 15</i>	8:30/9 a.m.	<i>Lenten Fasting Covenant Groups – Gunn Library</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center</i>
	9:45 a.m.	<i>Informal Hymn singing-Sanctuary</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>LENT IV Worship/Friends and Family Day–Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time/Light Lunch – Dodd Hall</i>
	11:15 a.m.	<i>Blood Pressure Screenings - Sanctuary</i>
	1:00 p.m.	<i>Private Party – Kelly O’Hara</i>
<i>Monday, March 16</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 17</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Disciple 3-Wesley Center, 1st Floor</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 18</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>Milford Clergy Association – Trinity Lutheran</i>
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Lenten Taize Service – Sanctuary</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, March 19</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Church Council Meeting-Dodd Hall Alcove</i>
<i>Friday, March 20</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office Volunteers – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Sunday, March 22</i>	8:30/9 a.m.	<i>Lenten Fasting Covenant Groups – Gunn Library</i>
	9:00 a.m.	<i>Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center</i>
	10:00 a.m.	<i>LENT V Worship–Sanctuary</i>
	11:00 a.m.	<i>Fellowship Time– Dodd Hall</i>
	4:00 p.m.	<i>MYF- Easter Sunrise Service planning – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Monday, March 23</i>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, March 24</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Disciple 3-Wesley Center, 1st Floor</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 25</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Adult Bible Study – Gunn Library</i>
	12:00 p.m.	<i>Lenten Taize Service – Sanctuary</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Golden Hill Community Supper-Bridgeport</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
	6:30 p.m.	<i>Gay/Straight Alliance meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Thursday, March 26</i>	5:30 p.m.	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper- Dodd Hall</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Membership and Evangelism meeting – Wesley Center</i>
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Worship Committee meeting – Gunn Library</i>
<i>Friday, March 27</i>	10:00 a.m.	<i>Office volunteers</i>
<i>Saturday, March 28</i>	1:00 p.m.	<i>Fund Raiser-Lift Us Up campaign –Dodd Hall - Beth O’Brien</i>

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). Fellowship Time host is the Education Committee. Join us for fellowship and conversation. Next week’s Fellowship Time host is the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

LOVELY EASTER ITEMS TODAY are sold by **Trash and Treasures** in Dodd Hall. Low prices! High quality! Merchandise won't last long so shop even before you have your coffee!!

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS follow worship in the sanctuary by Sheryl Hollyday, R.N.

APRIL “BEACON” DEADLINE is **TODAY March 15**, articles to hard copy to the church office or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for submitting on time.

EASTER FLOWERS MAY BE ORDERED on the enclosed form for Easter Sunday. The cost is \$10 each for an Easter lily, tulips, or daffodils. **FIRM deadline is Sunday, March 22nd**.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS THURSDAY, 7 p.m., Dodd Hall alcove. Reports to Paul Downing at paul.downing@snet.net by tomorrow evening. An agenda was sent last week. **The Long Range Plan was mailed by traditional mail last Wednesday.** Please ask Paul or Shelly Lapadula for a copy if you did not receive it. We will discuss and act on it this Thursday.

PASTOR BRIAN WILL BE OUT-OF-TOWN from this afternoon until Tuesday evening to visit his father in Maryland. Pastor Hal is on call: 203.878.8977.

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT we offer Taizé (pronounced TAY-zay) worship in the sanctuary at noon. This contemplative worship has distinctive music and significant time for silent and spoken prayer. **Services are typically 45 minutes and continue until April 1.**

LAURALTON HALL invites all 7th grade girls to **spend a day as a shadow student** March 16 through May 1. For details please call the Admissions Office at 203.877.2786, ext. 144.

NEXT SUNDAY

LENT V/ PASSION SUNDAY – The message will be a first-person monologue entitled “Tetelestai” based on John 12:20-33 and 19:23-30.

MYF WILL MEET FROM 4-6 P.M. IN DODD HALL. We will meet for Easter Sunrise Service Planning/Practice. The Sunrise service is April 5, at 7 a.m. on Gulf Beach and is about 20 minutes in duration. We need your input and participation to make this annual event a success. Dawn Bettencourt is the lead contact at stevedawn@optonline.net.

COMING SOON

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPER NEEDS YOU: we prepare the food (others serve and clean up) alternate fourth Wednesdays from 2:30 – 5 p.m. at Golden Hill U.M. Church, 210 Elm St., Bridgeport. Our next date is Wed., March 25. Can you help? Please contact Maryanne Meehan Jordan at 203.268.8850 or maryannej@charter.net.

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS may be placed with 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 one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O'Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, 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.

LITURGISTS WANTED: Serving as a liturgist is a different way to worship on Sunday – needed are former liturgists and first time liturgists, confirmands, young adults, and long-time members. All that is required is love of God. Contact Priscilla James at 203-874-2742.



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: 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 March 8th:

Total worship attendance all services: 177 (Mar. 8th: 144; Healing and Wholeness, Mar.9th: 6; Taize worship, Mar. 11th: 27. Total Offering (minus "Lift Us Up) for Mar 4/Mar 8: \$5,666.45; "Lift Us Up" Capital Campaign gifts from Mar. 1st: \$3,243,33/Mar.8th \$495.83 Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$149.47; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 166 (Office Volunteers 3; Sunday School: 39; Fasting Covenant Groups: 6 [8:30 am] and 3 [9 am]; MYF Treat-Making: 15; Staff-Parish Relations: 11; Confirmation: 9, Disciple 3: 9; Adult Bible Study, Tuesday: 9; Adult Bible Study Wed.: 16; Trash & Treasures: 3; UMW: 12; Praisemakers: 4; Bell Choir: 10; Adult Choir:17). 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/203.874.1982) with your attendance.