

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*

PRELUDE “O Filii et Filiae” arr. by H. Deshayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

INTROIT “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Proverbs 17:22

Leader: A cheerful heart is a good medicine

People: *But a downcast spirit dries up the bones.*

All: *Let us worship our God, a God of joy and love!*

\*HYMN #315 “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain” St. Kevin

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(seated, unison)*

*Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord’s resurrection. In Jesus Christ you “flipped the script,” and nothing is ever the same again. Help us experience anew that joy which is not tied to circumstance; that “peace which passes understanding;” that love that will not let us go. Give us also the joy, peace and love that comes from living life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Holy, awesome and loving God, we are too aware of our mistakes. Though there is greatness in us and a deep longing for goodness, we have too often denied our better selves and refused to hear your voice. Be with us as a strong and wise friend, showing us a better way and teaching us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

THE PSALTER Psalm 133 Hymnal p.850

THE EPISTLE I John 1:1 – 2:2 Bible p.1110

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

HYMN #311 *(seated)* “Now the Green Blade Riseth” French Carol

\*THE GOSPEL John 20:19-31 Bible p.989

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

\*HYMN #317 *(verses 1 and 6-9)* “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” O filii et filiae

THE SERMON “How Many Methodists Does It Take...?” Dr. Bodt

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 “Dental Supply Drive for Friends of Appalachia” Anna Henry

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem: “Here I Am to Worship” T. Hughes

\*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN #314 “In the Garden” Garden

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

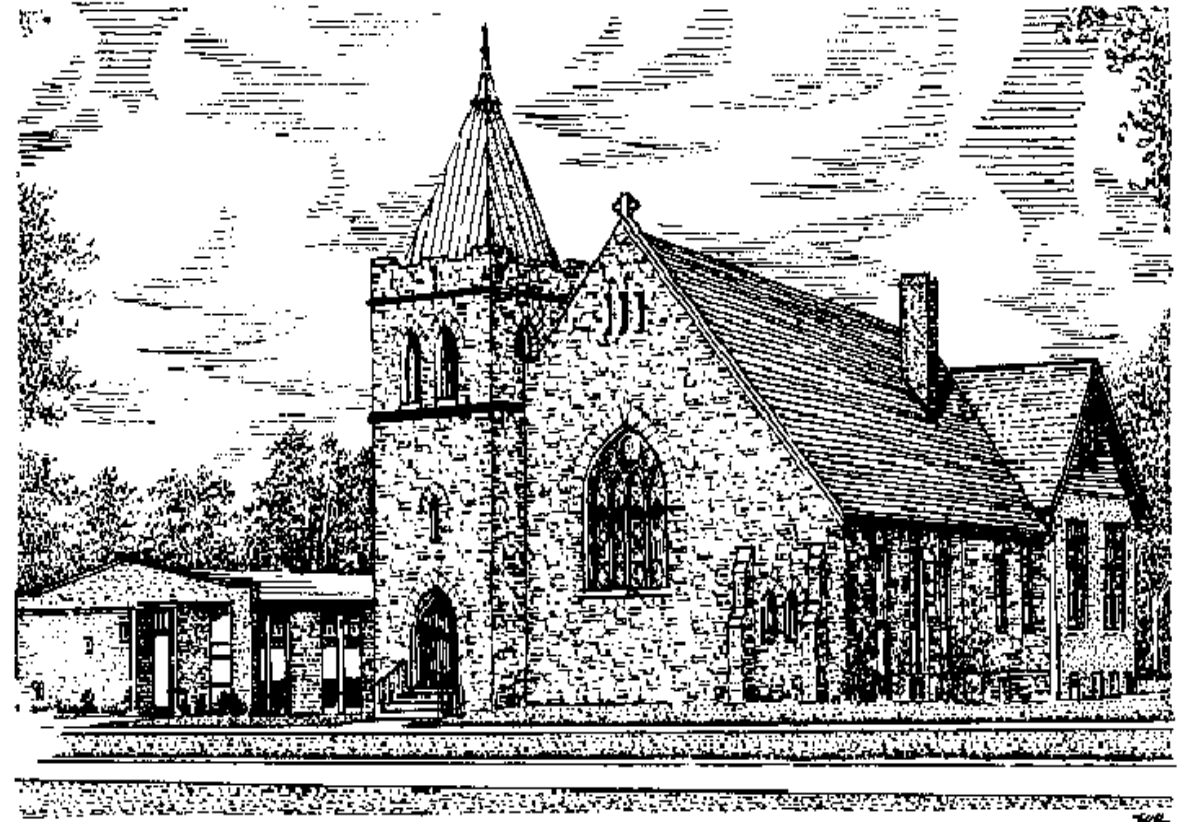
*Shalom to you now, shalom my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you my friends. In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.*

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

\*POSTLUDE “O Sons and Daughters” arr. by J. Troutman

*(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.*

**EASTER II  
HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY  
April 12, 2015**

~Two week calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

<i>Sunday, April 12</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Holy Humor Sunday</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship–Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>New Member’s Class-Pastor’s study, Wesley Center 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>MYF Adult Team meeting</i>
	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Health &amp; Wellness: File of Life workshop-Bob Virgalla chair</i>
	<i>12:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Membership &amp; Evangelism Luncheon-Mama Teresa’s</i>
	<i>5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.</i>	<i>MYF Progressive Dinner</i>
<i>Monday, April 13</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 14</i>	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Greater Bridgeport UM Cluster (off site)</i>
	<i>12:00 p.m.</i>	<i>UMW meeting – Wesley Center 1<sup>st</sup> floor</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>UMW Potluck dinner at Stacy Meszaros’ home 4 Reed St., Milford</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Disciple 3-Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 15</i>		<b>BEACON INFORMATION DUE TODAY</b>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, April 16</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Church Council/Charge Conference meeting – Dodd Hall alcove</i>
<i>Friday, April 17</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers-Gunn Library</i>
<i>Saturday, April 18</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>UMW Spring Gathering in Fairfield, CT. Joan Zauner contact</i>
<i>Sunday, April 19</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Sunday School – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Native American Sunday</i>	<i>9:45 a.m.</i>	<i>Informal Hymn singing- Sanctuary</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Worship–Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Fellowship Time – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Blood Pressure Screenings – Sanctuary</i>
	<i>11:30 a.m.</i>	<i>New Member’s Class-Pastor’s study, Wesley Center 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.</i>
<i>Monday, April 20</i>	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Service of Healing and Wholeness – Chapel</i>
<i>Tuesday, April 21</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Confirmation-Egan Room, Wesley Center</i>
	<i>6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Gay/Straight Alliance meeting - Chapel</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Disciple 3-Wesley Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor</i>
<i>Wednesday, April 22</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>	<i>BEACON Volunteers-Egan room</i>
	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Praisemakers rehearsal – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Bell Choir/ 7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsals – Dodd Hall</i>
<i>Thursday, April 23</i>	<i>5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>MTMUMC Community Supper-Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Membership and Evangelism Committee meeting – Wesley Center</i>
<i>Friday, April 24</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Office Volunteers</i>
	<i>7:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Tres Dias – Dodd Hall, Sanctuary and selected Wesley Ctr. rooms</i>
<i>Saturday, April 25</i>	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>“Families with Young Children” brunch – Dodd Hall</i>
	<i>10:00 a.m.</i>	<i>Shelton UMW mtg. on Human Trafficking-Joan Zauner contact</i>

**Grace Notes**  
**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**  
*April 12, 2015*

*Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,*

*It has been a sadder Eastertide than some at our church in light of recent deaths and other losses. For the bereaved, Holy Humor Sunday may not be the right “touch.” Please know that your church community cares as much as ever.*

*Still, there is a fine line between compassionate care for grieving folks and caving in to despondency. The Resurrection declares that God has the last word: Victory! Christ is raised from the dead, death is vanquished, and the “risus paschalis” – “the Easter laugh,” the ancients called it – echoes through our faith and our lives. The Rev. Donald Strobe describes Easter as “God’s supreme joke played on that old imposter, death.” The Rev. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, observed “Sour godliness is the devil’s religion.”*

*In observing Holy Humor Sunday we not only resurrect the ancient tradition of Bright Sunday (the Sunday after Easter) but we live Jesus’ exhortation given his disciples the night before his own death: “Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33). As those who know how the story turns out, how can we do less?*

*Joyfully,*

*Pastor Brian*

**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. 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** – Dennis Darak

**Greeters** – Elizabeth Wright and Flo Berrien

**Cross Bearer** – Jamie Georgelos

**Acolytes** – Tanner Georgelos and Ethan Weed

**Liturgist** – Joanne Platt

**Bible Bearer** – Mary Repetsky

**GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP** are Rev. Bodt and Joanne Platt in the Narthex.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** this week are given in celebration of family birthdays in April – Erin's 21<sup>st</sup> and Tom Griggs' birthday on April 19<sup>th</sup>, given by Susan O'Shea.

**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 and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Prayer of the Day was edited by the pastor from Hymnal #321.

**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! **CHURCH INFORMATION** is available in the racks in back of the church. **SERMON COPIES** from Holy Week are in the rear of the church or at [www.mtm-umc.org](http://www.mtm-umc.org).

## ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary). Fellowship Time host is the Finance Committee. Join us for fellowship and conversation. Next week's Fellowship Time host is the United Methodist Women.

**FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON** at Mama Teresa's, *today at noon*. See Michelle Craig.

**PUT THE  
BRAKES ON  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING**

## A Community Event

**April 25, 2015**

**10:00am—3:00pm**

Wilkinson Hall at the Methodist Church on the corner of  
Long Hill Avenue and Rocky Rest Road

**188 Rocky Rest Road  
Shelton, CT 06484**

**Please Reserve a Seat:  
Call Lorie at: 203-257-8964**

SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$5

All donations will be split between iiconn & The Underground to support their initiatives.

### **Discussion Panelists:**

**Deborah Scates**—Hartford Police Detective—Federal Human Trafficking Task Force 2004 - 2008

**Alicia Kinsman**—Attorney & Director of Victim and Trafficking Services with iiconn

**Simon and Stephanie Wainwright**—From The Underground leadership

**YES.**

**IT IS HAPPENING IN CONNECTICUT.**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:vinkhaljane@gmail.com). Please inform them or the office (203.874.1982, [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 April 5th:**

Total worship attendance all services: 729 (Maundy Thursday Apr. 2: 82; Good Friday Noon: 96; Good Friday pm: 88; Easter Sunrise Service: 88; 8:30am: 107; 10am: 263; Healing and Wholeness, Apr. 6: 5; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>: \$11,685.00; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$1,965.00; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$117.91; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 60 (Office Volunteers 3; “Trash and Treasures” workers: 4; No Sunday School; Bell Choir: 6; Adult Choir: 13 ; Confirmation: 12; Disciple 3: 12; “Lift Us Up” Committee: 10). 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) /203.874.1982) with your attendance.

**A CLASS FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS** begins today after worship and continues April 19 and 26 with new members to be received on Mother's Day. **You may attend the classes without making a commitment to join.** If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Pastor Brian (203.874.1982, ext. 11) or the church office (ext. 10).

**BOB VIRGALLA** will present **THE FILE OF LIFE®**, following fellowship time today, a program that aims to make vital health information available to emergency responders in the event of a medical emergency. A miniature medical history card is kept in a red plastic sleeve with a magnetic strip on the outside of the refrigerator or in a visible place. Our Health and Wellness team will be purchasing the File of Life® cards. Please join us as members of the wellness team will help complete this important information with you.

**“IMAGINE NO MALARIA,”** a United Methodist initiative in partnership with other agencies (including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) provides mosquito netting that saves lives. Our New York Conference goal is \$1.5 million. To contribute please use the special envelopes in the sanctuary pews or the “other” line of your offering envelopes.

**FRIENDS OF APPALACHIA 2015 DENTAL SUPPLY DRIVE** provides toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss to assist the dire need of improved oral hygiene for impoverished children in Central Appalachia. Please leave your donations in the FOA box in Dodd Hall. If you wish to make a monetary gift, please mark your check or envelope “FOA.”



**Trash & Treasures Sale**

### **TRASH AND TREASURE BARGAIN OF THE WEEK:**

**Who said you could never own** a Porsche, Lamborghini, Jaguar, Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Volvo, Corvette, Lincoln or BMW? Now you can have them all for a very reasonable price. We have received 10 “Matchbox Collectibles” high-end cars and a well-made wooden display box, all in excellent condition. Grandparents.....what a great gift idea for your grandchild! See this display on the table right outside of the pricing room. And ladies, while your husband is buying cars, now is a good time to buy that lovely fur cape you've always wanted for yourself, (or purchased and donated to your local animal shelter to comfort orphaned newborns), found right near the cars!

Please check with Dolly Bonisch, 203-783-9952 before dropping off large items. Space and muscles are limited. **Please do not donate:** TV's, computers, old printers, mattresses, baby car seats and helmets of any kind, old computer books, obsolete editions of educational books.

It would be a big help if donations are placed in the area where the cashiers sit during our sale. The other tables are only for items tested and priced for sale.

**Thank you in advance for donating items that are clean and not in need of repair.**

## THIS WEEK

**SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.**

**CONSTRUCTION ON OUR “LIFT US UP” HANDICAPPED-ACCESSIBLE RENOVATIONS TO THE WESLEY CENTER** will begin upon completion of the permitting process. Please keep this project in your prayers. If you have not yet made a financial commitment to it, we welcome your response by contacting the church office or Tom Beyer at 203-526-2265, tom.beyer@cort.com or Rachel Merva at 203-882-0904 or rmerva@optonline.net. This is an exciting time as we envision new accessibility to our office, teaching and program facility.

**CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS ARE DUE TOMORROW** at the end of the day. **For this month only please send them to Shelly Lapadula at [m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com](mailto:m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com)**. Please also submit **action items** (items requiring Church Council approval to proceed) to Shelly.

**THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** will hold a “**Double Header meeting**” this Tuesday, April 14. All women are welcome to attend one or both:

- **Noon in Wesley Center:** bring your lunch and join us as we plan the Mother-Daughter Banquet (May 7, evening)
- **6:30p.m. at Stacy Meszaros’ home,** 4 Reed Street, Milford, for a potluck supper.

**MAY “BEACON” DEADLINE** is this **Wednesday, April 15th**. Articles to hard copy to the church office or to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for submitting on time.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** meets **this Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.** in the Dodd Hall alcove. **A CHARGE CONFERENCE** will be held as a portion of the regular Church Council meeting on **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** The District Superintendent has authorized this conference “to approve borrowing \$93,000 from Mary Taylor Memorial’s Endowment Fund to cover building costs related to the “Lift Us Up” campaign” prior to the completion of the pledge campaign: in effect, a self-funded loan. The resolution includes the expectation that all funds will be repaid by our pledge campaign and other fund-raising. I am authorized to preside. All are welcome; Church Council members are authorized to vote. ***Pastor Brian Bodt***

**DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SPRING GATHERING** is **this Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in Fairfield:** a great day to connect with other UMW’s, and the programs are thought-provoking. Please speak to Joan Zauner at 203-283-5643 if you are able to attend.

## NEXT SUNDAY

**EASTER III:** Informal hymn singing begins at 9:45 a.m. The message “A Witness Protection Program” will be based on Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; I John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48. Blood pressure screenings will be offered after worship in the sanctuary and the second new member class will be held.

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY IS APRIL 19.** This United Methodist Special Sunday with offering empowers local spiritual development and educates Native American seminary students to serve God. Proceeds from these offerings support Native ministries within conferences, provide educational assistance for Native Americans in the form of scholarships, and assist with the establishment of urban Native ministries.

## COMING SOON

**BRUNCH FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN:** **Saturday, April 25, 10 – 11:30 a.m.** in Dodd Hall. Child care provided. Meet other young families, learn about what we offer you and let us know what you would like to see. See the invitation in the April “Beacon” or contact the church office for more information or to tell us you will attend: 203.874.1982 or [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net).

**“LIFT US UP” GROUNDBREAKING - SAVE THE DATE:** **Sunday, April 26** following morning worship. More to come!

**EARTH DAY DRUM CIRCLE:** **On Sunday, April 26th, at 12 noon,** we will celebrate Earth Day with the return of the Drum Circle! Lydia Smith will bring her collection of drums and percussion instruments and lead us in the fun, relaxation, and spiritual practice of drumming. Open to people of all ages and abilities - no prior experience required, just bring enthusiasm!

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE:** **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 p.m.** at Stratford UM Church, 2600 Main Street. Conference musician is Rick Riccardi and our Praisemakers will sing!

## ON-GOING MINISTRIES

**ALTAR FLOWER OR MISSION CROSS ORDERS** may be placed with Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or [bgobrien11@optonline.net](mailto: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.