

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

168 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.)

Please remember to mute or turn off cell phones and other electronic devices.

THE BELL TOLLS – Welcoming us to worship God

PRELUDE “Allegro and Andante” G.F. Handel

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

LEADERSHIP GIFTS 2015 REPORT Bill Katt

INTROIT “The Family Prayer Song”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 78:1, 4b, 6-7

Leader: Listen, my people, to my teaching; tilt your ears toward the words of my mouth.

People: We'll tell the next generation all about the praise due the Lord and his strength.

Leader: This is so that the next generation and children not yet born will know these things,

People: and so they can rise up and tell their children to put their hope in God--

All: NEVER FORGETTING GOD'S DEEDS, KEEPING GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.

*HYMN #662 “Stand Up and Bless the Lord” St. Michael

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (seated, in unison) from The Book of Common Prayer

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, we aren't always prepared. Sometimes we make thoughtless, or even very foolish choices, because we aren't ready: for life, for you. As a result, we hurt people: sometimes knowingly, sometimes not. Forgive these sins of commission, as well as all that separates us from you and one another. Help us to be better than we are. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

°°°

A RECOGNITION OF VETERANS

(Let those who are veterans come forward.)

Unison prayer: O mighty God, we turn to thee in time of trouble. Direct the course of our world; lead nations into likemindedness and fellowship; prosper all counsels which make for the establishment and maintenance of rightful and abiding peace. For these veterans—their love for and service to our country, for their sacrifice, and their faithfulness—we give thanks to you, who ordains all things and from whom the realm of peace and justice comes. In the name of the one who ushers in that realm, even Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #697 “America” America

AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE CHOIR ROOM

Sylvia and Bob Elliott renovated the choir room before their move to Maryland in July.

The funds for the renovation were provided by our Board of Trustees.

We welcome the Elliots return for this dedication and invite you to view the room after worship.

The Elliotts: We present this choir room to be dedicated to the glory of almighty God and for service in this church.

The people: We accept your gift of time and talent, and our Trustees' gift of treasure, in the renovation of this room for the music ministry of our church.

The pastor: In the name of the holy and Triune God, we dedicate this choir room to the glory of God. May hearts and voices ever sing and make melody to the Lord.

Unison prayer: Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept the gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. May this dedication remind us that our lives are dedicated to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI Hymnal #70

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Bible p.213
Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13 Bible p.903
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*HYMN #720 “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” Wachtet auf

THE SERMON “Weddings are Like That” 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.)

"Extravagant Generosity" SPOTLIGHT Michael, Kelley, Kayleigh and Julianna Patterson

"What is your vision and hope for our church?"

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory:

"Keep Your Lamps"

arr. by A. Thomas

(Adult Choir)

*Presentation:

"Bless Thou the Gifts"

Hymn #587

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #722

"I Want to be Ready"

I Want to be Ready

***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, Christ be your shalom.*

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

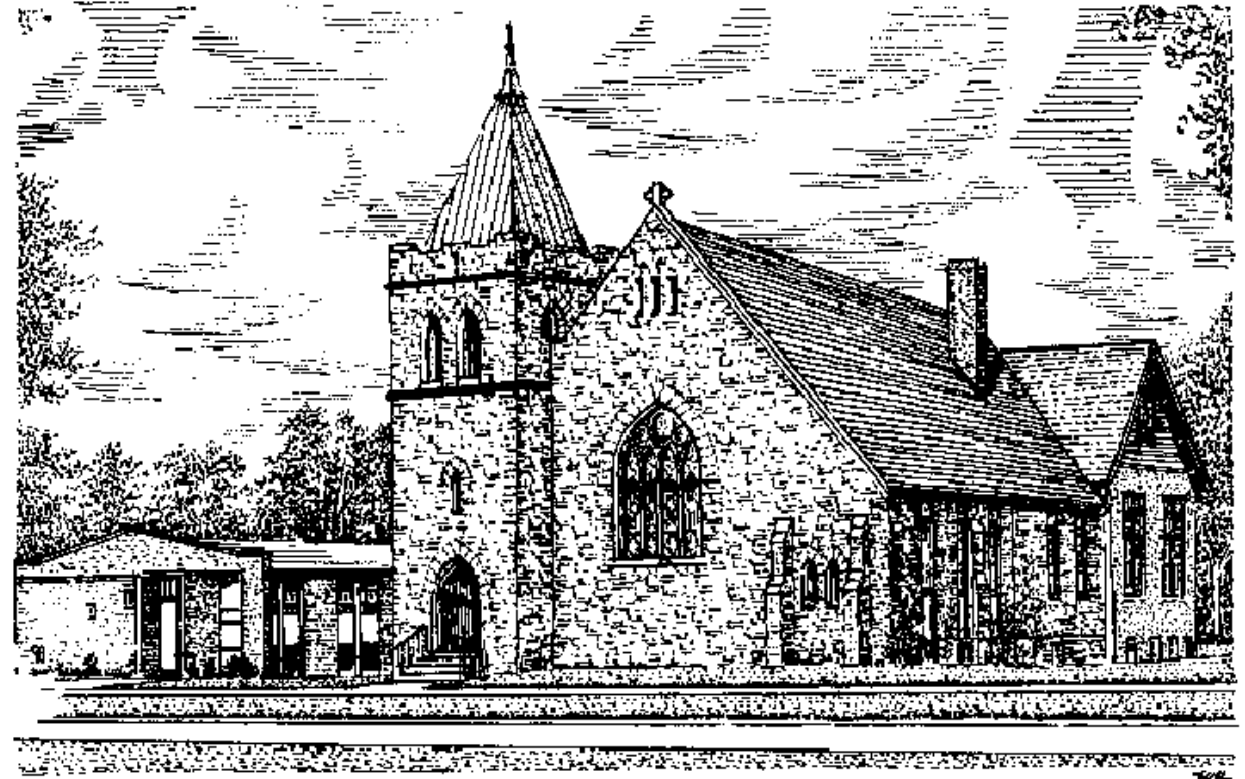
*POSTLUDE

"March"

R. Koury

(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.*

PENTECOST XXII

November 9, 2014

DECEMBER DATES TO SAVE!

December is a busy month, including ministry at Mary Taylor Memorial Church. Especially for our newcomers but, indeed, for all, please note **these special events** in addition to weekly worship. **Page numbers below** correspond to notices in the **November** "Beacon," mailed October 22nd and available in the sanctuary. The "Beacon" tells you who to see and how to participate! Come on!

DECORATE THE CHRISMON TREE: Thurs., Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary (p. 11).

COOKIE WALK: Saturday, Dec. 6, 9:30 a.m. in Dodd Hall (p. 8).

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall (p. 11).

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Saturday, Dec. 13th, 5 p.m. in the sanctuary (p. 12).

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Sunday, Dec. 14, traveling to Milford Health and Rehabilitation and Seacrest Nursing Homes. Time to be announced.

LIVING CRECHE: Mon., Dec. 22 and Tues., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Wed., Christmas Eve, 6 – 7 p.m., outside the sanctuary (p. 13).



Grace Notes
November 9, 2014

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

Writing this in advance of yesterday's "Stop Hunger Now" project, I am sure it will have been a great day! By mid-week we had exceeded our goal of 75 volunteers with over 90 people committed to assembling 10,000 meals to feed the poorest people around the world. Many thanks to Brenda and Ed Pineau for this idea from their church in Florida and for Deb Dubien, Maryann Petremont and the Missions Committee for spearheading the effort.

Celebrations today include recognition of our veterans and dedication of the newly-refurbished choir room. We welcome Sylvia and Bob Elliott back for this latter occasion.

Our United Methodist Women have a particularly active day this Tuesday. All women of the church are welcome to the morning (10 am) cookie walk preparation and/or the evening (6:30 pm) pot-luck at Diana Cable's home. See the details under "This Week."

We have new 36 inch candle lighters that make our acolytes' job easier! They are nicely stored in new stands in the rear of the sanctuary (rather than leaning against the wall). A stand for the cross is coming soon. Thanks to the Memorials Committee for approving these expenditures. Let's continue to "give God our best" in worship." If a young person you know would like to serve as an acolyte, cross bearer or Bible bearer, please speak with Noel Fino (203.877.3005)

Please see the many other opportunities for fellowship, mission and service in the coming weeks. These occasions strengthen our outreach in the name of Jesus Christ and afford us ways to make "the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love."

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

Interim Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Ernest S. Lyght

Lay Leaders

Kelly O'Hara & Leigh Bak

Bishop-elect

The Rev. Jane Allen Middleton

Prayer Chain

Stacy Meszaros

Superintendent

The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer

Administrative Assistant

Mary Lou Kampert

Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt

Sexton

Bruce Rumford

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink

Child Care Coordinator

Nicole Ellerbeck

Music Director

Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Dave Doyle

Greeters – Premila and Hector Arnold

Acolytes – Olivia D’Andrea and Sarah O’Brien

Cross Bearer – John McFadden

Liturgist – Barbara Ann Griggs

Bible Bearer – Taylor Wilmot

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Pastor Brian and Barbara Ann Griggs.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are in celebration of Beverly Downing’s birthday, given by Paul and Lillia, and in loving memory of William A. Heltke, Jr. given by Elizabeth and Paul Daneault.

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 and The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). The Prayer of Confession was written by the pastor. The Recognition of Veterans was based on The Book of Worship for Church and Home (1964) and the Order for the Dedication of the Choir Room based on The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992), both adapted 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, November 9

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

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary

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

11:30 a.m. Sunday School Teacher’s Meeting- Sunday School office

2:00 p.m. Milford Veteran’s Day Parade

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

Monday, November 10

Tuesday, November 11

10:00 a.m. UMW Meeting-Dodd Hall- Cookie Walk Prep

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

6:30 p.m. UMW Potluck-Diana Cable’s home, 115 Berner Terrace, Milford

7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. The Gospel of Luke Study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, November 12

10:00 a.m. The Gospel of Luke Study - Gunn Library, Wesley Center

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

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

Thursday, November 13

7:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee meeting – Gunn Library

Friday, November 14

Saturday, November 15

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers-Gunn Library

Beacon Information Due

8:00 a.m. Missions Pie Delivery – Dodd Hall

10:30 a.m. Missions Winter Coat/Apparel Drive delivery

1:00 p.m. Dodd Hall –R. Merva- private party

Sunday, November 16

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

10:00 a.m. Worship/Commitment and Bible Sunday-Sanctuary

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

Shoebboxes are Due- Dodd Hall

11:30 a.m. Church Conference-Dodd Hall

Monday, November 17

Tuesday, November 18

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

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

7:00 p.m. Disciple 3 – Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Wesley Center

7:00 p.m. The Gospel of Luke Study – Gunn Library

Wednesday, November 19

9:00 a.m. Beacon Volunteers – Egan Room

10:00 a.m. The Gospel of Luke Study - Gunn Library, Wesley Center

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

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

7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting-Dodd hall Alcove (if needed)

Thursday, November 20

Friday, November 21

Saturday, November 22

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers

10:00 a.m. Festival of the Trees/Bake sale-Interfaith Caregivers-Shelton, CT

9:30a.m. Men’s Club –Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner Prep-Dodd Hall

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE VISITATION by Pastor Brian is always available. The purpose of these visits is to continue to get to know our members and friends. 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 needed for seniors with pets. They are also requesting 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 NOVEMBER 2ND :

Total worship attendance all services: 209 (November 2, 202; Healing and Wholeness, November 3: 7) Total Offering (minus “Lift Us Up) for November 2: \$7,255.70; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts: \$2,390.83. Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$1,189.91; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 91; Office Volunteers 2; Sunday School: 42; Disciple 3, 9: Adult Bible Study-Tuesday 9; Adult Bible Study-Wednesday:12; Confirmation: 14; Trash and Treasures: 3; All choir rehearsals cancelled; 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) 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. **The small, white card tables are a new extension of hospitality for those attending, especially our older members, who need to sit.** Today’s host is the Worship Committee. Next Sunday’s host is Christian Education.

SOUP SALE after worship in Dodd Hall. Soup made by our great MTMUMC chefs. Proceeds benefit missions sponsored by the United Methodist Women. The next sale is Nov. 30th.

OUR “EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY” 2015 finance campaign end next Sunday. Our focus is **Contemplations of Abundance.** Our speakers today are the Patterson family. Please:

- Leave your “Heart Card” in the clearly-marked receptacles in the foyer of the sanctuary and Dodd Hall, or in the offering plate.
- Read the letters that come each week and return the “Heart Cards.” A “Narrative Scope of Ministries” of our church came last week and a pledge card will be mailed tomorrow. Please bring these to Commitment Sunday next week.

THANKSGIVING DAY COMMUNITY SUPPER SIGN-UPS CONTINUE in Dodd Hall after worship. The traditional supper with all the fixings will be held Thursday, November 27th, 5:30 pm in Dodd Hall. All are welcome. **If you plan to attend** please contact Laura Perregaux (misslmp@yahoo.com/203.520.8183) or Debbie Dubien (debrad246@yahoo.com/203.877.4959) or see them today in Dodd Hall to sign up so that there is an accurate count. You may also contribute to the dinner with food or service to help make this outreach happen. Many thanks!

THE 2015 UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINE is a daily devotional guide based on the weekly lectionary scriptures (the ones we use in worship). If you read the guide you prepare for Sunday worship. **Don Hastings is taking orders now through Nov. 24th.** The cost is \$10. Please see Don this morning, call him at 203.877.4554 or e-mail him at nctmwash@aol.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS’ MEETING follows worship today in the Sunday School office in the Wesley Center.

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 placed on the altar. Please see Beth or information in the back of the church on missions to support. Checks for either one payable to MTMUMC and mailed to Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

ORDERS are needed for December 21 and 28th. Thanks for contacting Beth!

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR OUR WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN “DOUBLE-HEADER” on Tues., Nov. 11th:

- **10 A.M.** meeting in Dodd Hall to wrap cans for the Dec. 6th Cookie Walk.
- **6:30 P.M. POT LUCK DINNER** at the home of Diana Cable, 115 Berner Terrace. Let Sue O’Shea (203.494.5339; sueoshea@optonline.net) know if you need a ride.
- The next soup sale will be November 30th.

DECEMBER “BEACON” DEADLINE is this Saturday, November 15th. Please submit articles to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or hard copy to the church office. **Please note that due to our late November production schedule we cannot accept articles after the deadline.**

WINTER COAT/WARM APPAREL DRIVE gathers clean, gently used warm coats, sweaters, gloves, hats, scarves, winter boots in all sizes which are distributed at our own Community Supper and in Bridgeport through Golden Hill U.M. Church and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. Please leave your donations through November 15th in the marked boxes in Dodd Hall. Bless you!

SHOEBOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD demonstrates God’s love in a practical way by providing shoeboxes fill with toys, school supplies and more to needy children throughout the world. Brochures about the program are available in Dodd Hall and will be given to the Sunday School children. See the “Beacon” article, p. 12. Shoeboxes are due on next Sunday, November 16th.

NEXT SUNDAY

COMMITMENT AND BIBLE SUNDAY. Informal hymn singing begins at 9:45 a.m. The message “Sign Here” will be delivered by the Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, District Superintendent based on John 14 (selected verses). Bibles will be presented to third graders and last spring’s Confirmation class. Our final *Extravagant Generosity*” witness will answer “*What influenced you to step out of your comfort zone to express your love for God with generous giving?*” by Eileen Doyle. We will receive estimates of giving for 2015 with the completion of our “*Extravagant Generosity*” campaign. After worship, blood pressure screenings will be held in the sanctuary and we will hold our annual **Church Conference in Dodd Hall**. A light lunch will be served **for those staying for the Conference**. All are welcome, with vote reserved to members of Mary Taylor Memorial Church. Details in the Nov. “Beacon,” page. 4.

COMING SOON

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE GIFT TAGS will be available on Sunday, Nov. 23rd. Gifts are given to the local children at this Milford ministry. Details in the Nov. “Beacon,” pg. 11.

WESLEY VILLAGE’S “I’LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS” emphasis has begun. Wesley Village is a part of our United Methodist Homes of Connecticut, located in Shelton. In the past, MTMUMC members have helped provide a Merry Christmas for the home’s residents. If you would like to help, speak with Joan Zauner (203.283.5643) or see the UMW bulletin board in Dodd Hall. **Please note that baked goods are needed for the Nov. 22-23 “Festival of Trees.”** Details are on page 6 of the Nov. “Beacon” or from Mary Ann Bradshaw (203.225.5024).

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday November 23rd to sort all the Thanksgiving food donations for local families in need, AIDS Project New Haven and Christian Community Action. Then we will head to APNH and CCA to deliver the bounty of food that has been donated. We will finish at 7:00p.m. Dinner will be provided by the Adult Team Leaders. Sunday November 30 – Come join the fun in Dodd Hall from **12 p.m. – 3 p.m.** for our annual holiday treat making event! Lunch will be provided.

MILFORD BLOOD BANK WILL HOLD THEIR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE in the MTMUMC Sanctuary and Dodd Hall Monday, November 24th from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

NEXT COMMUNITY SUPPER AT GOLDEN HILL CHURCH, BRIDGEPORT: Wednesday, November 26th, 2:30 – 5 p.m. Please let Maryanne know if you can help this month: maryannj@charter.net, 203.610.4936 (cell) or 203.268.8850 (home). Golden Hill Church is about 20 minutes away: I-95 to Exit 27A to Exit 2 off the Route 8/25 connector.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m. at First United Church of Christ, 34 West River Street, Milford. The Rev. Meg Williams, Music Director at Stratford United Methodist Church, will lead the community choir which will rehearse at 6 p.m. The Rev. Cynthia Knapp, priest-in-charge at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, will preach. **The offering will benefit Milford's Fuel Assistance Fund and a collection of canned and boxed foods will benefit the Beth-El Center.**

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

THE "LIFT US UP!" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN for handicapped accessible renovations to the Wesley Center is in recess until November 23rd. We are at 65% of our \$400,000 goal. We welcome individuals or organizations wanting to converse about the campaign. Please contact co-chairs Tom Beyer (203.525.2265; tom.beyer@cort.com) or Rachel Merva (203.641.5088; rmerva@optonline.net).

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.

NEED HELP WITH YARD WORK-help around the house – snow shoveling? Joe Hotaling is available. Contact him at 203-676-3410 or JHotaling1@comcast.net.