

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

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
THE REIGN OF CHRIST, THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 22, 2015

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 “Our Hymn of Grateful Praise” J. Rasley

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

INTROIT “Now Thank We All Our God”

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 65, vss 9-13, paraphrased
Leader: O God, visit the earth, ask her to join the dance! Drench the plowed fields with
rainfall as earth produces blossoms and fruit!
People: *You crown the year with goodness and your paths drip with fatness. The hills
rejoice; the abundant valleys shout and sing for joy! Let us worship and praise God!*

*HYMN #694 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” St. George’s Windsor

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT *(unison)*
*Almighty God, by whose appointments the seasons come and go, by whose word
earth yields its increase and by whose hand we receive blessings: grant that your
benevolence will inspire us to live from an attitude of gratitude for all you have done for us,
most especially in giving us the gift of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION “For the Spirit of Truth” Hymnal #597
*From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the laziness that is contented
with half-truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, Good Lord, deliver me.
Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

ooo

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN

*HYMN #131 “We Gather Together” Kremser

THE EPISTLE Revelation 1:4b-8 Bible p.1117

*HYMN “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” rear cover

*THE GOSPEL John 18:33-37 Bible p.987

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

THE SERMON “A True and Objective Point of Reference” Dr. Bodt

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS Hymnal p.33

Stacey L. Cronk, by Letter of Transfer Sponsor: Holly Firmender

Eileen M. Potkay, by Letter of Transfer Sponsor: Sheryl Hollyday

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.)

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE MINUTE Laurie Zabel, American Red Cross

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, *including food offerings for Milford
neighbors, Christian Community Action (New Haven) and AIDS Project New Haven*

Offertory: “Look at the World” J. Rutter
(Adult Choir)

*Presentation: “Now Thank We All Our God” Hymnal #102, vs. 3
*“All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.”*

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*Eternal God, we ask you to bless these gifts: of tithes and offerings for the ministry of
the church; of food for people in need; of song that hearts may be lifted in praise. Bless all
who give time, talent and treasure for the up-building of your Kingdom. Help us to live from a
profound sense of gratitude for all you have done for us, most especially in the life, death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

*HYMN #102 “Now Thank We All Our God” Nun Danket

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymnal #84

Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you, Lord.

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

*POSTLUDE

“Fantasia on ‘St. George’s Windsor’”

E. Lorenz

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

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Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

REVELATION 1:7
CHARLES WESLEY, 1707-1788

BRYN CALFARIA 87.87.47.
WILLIAM OWEN, 1814-1893
Harm. by C. R. Y.

1. Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, Once for fa - vored
2. Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, Robed in dread - ful
3. The dear to - kens of his pas - sion Still his daz - zling
4. Yea, A - men! Let all a - dore thee, High on thy e -

sin - ners slain; Thou - sand, thou - sand saints at - tend - ing Swell the tri - umph
ma - jes - ty; Those who set at naught and sold him, Pierced and nailed him
bo - dy bears; Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion To his ran - somed
ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the power and glo - ry, Claim the king - dom

of his train; Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
to the tree, Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
wor - ship - ers; With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
for thine own; Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

God ap - pears on earth to reign, God ap - pears on earth to reign.
Shall the true Mes - si - ah see, Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
Gaze we on those glo - rious scars! Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Ev - er - last - ing God, come down! Ev - er - last - ing God, come down! A - men.

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT TO BENEFIT “LIFT US UP”

On November 5 we announced the sale of 100 special Christmas ornaments to benefit the “Lift Us Up” campaign. This initiative was approved earlier this year as part of our fund-raising for the handicapped accessible renovations to the Wesley Center. The fund-raising will not be completed until the pledge campaign concludes at the end of 2016.

The ornaments are \$12 each, cash or check payable to “MTMUMC” with the memo “ornament.” You may purchase them **today** during Fellowship Time and during the week, Mon.-Fri., 9 am – 2 pm at the church office. **Supplies are limited. When the original order is exhausted we will take pre-paid orders for a second run.**

The obverse is below. The reverse has a reverse image of the church with the inscription “180 years in Milford, 250 years in America,” and “2016,” the respective anniversary dates of Methodism in 2016.



Telephone: 203.874.1982

Website: www.mtm-umc.org

E-mail:

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

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www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

mtmumc@sbcglobal.net

Bishop 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
Outreach Pastor Rachel Duncan
Music Director Dr. Richard L. Riccardi

***Grace Notes
November 22, 2015***

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial Church community,

The happy problem I have as a pastor is that I have many favorite worship services!

That said, Thanksgiving Sunday is near the top of my “fave” list. There is something liberating about expressing and experiencing gratitude for blessings beyond anything we earn or anything we deserve. Having often observed that “the older I get, the sappier I get,” I find a great joy in counting blessings and trying to “pay forward” those blessings to others.

The abundance of food stuffs today is but one among many examples of this church’s gratitude for its blessings. To all who have contributed, and to all who have organized us so that we might contribute, a hearty “thank you!” Thanks also to our Methodist Youth Fellowship who will distribute much of the food today. The need, widely reported, is great.

I hope many of you will participate in the Community Thanksgiving Service hosted by the Milford Clergy Association. It is this Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, November 25 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, 70 Gulf Street, Milford. Some of our choristers will be part of the Community Choir, and the Rev. Adam Eckhart of First United Church of Christ, Congregational, will preach. I will be participating. The offering is dedicated to Milford Fuel Assistance for our neighbors in need of heating assistance.

I also hope you will consider being part of our Thanksgiving Day supper at 5:30 p.m. My wife, Carol Galloway, and I will be present along with many others. Thanks to Deb Dubien who organized this and the many who will participate. May God bless our service.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher – Ethan Weed

Greeters – Carol Alex and Joyce Haig

Liturgist – Maryanne Meehan Jordan

Acolytes – Nate and Josh Carr

Bible Bearer – Marshall Firmender

Cross Bearer – Nicholas Bettencourt

GREETING YOU AFTER WORSHIP are Rev. Bodt and Maryanne Meehan Jordan.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are in loving memory of Myrtle Hawkins given by Ken Hawkins.

THE MISSION CROSS represents a donation made to “Methodists in New Directions” and Emergency Relief through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, given with thanksgiving by Maureen Groves for kindnesses extended to her by Don Hastings and Bob Virgalla.

TODAY’S ALTAR is adorned with harvest produce donated by *Jones Family Farms* in Shelton, CT. It was decorated by Priscilla James, Pastor Brian Bodt, Carol Galloway and Eileen Doyle with assistance from Bruce Rumford and Bill Petremont.

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 based on Holy Scripture, The Book of Hymns (1964), 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~

Sunday, November 22

DUE TODAY: *Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes, Thanksgiving food and financial donations*

AVAILABLE TODAY: *Boys and Girls Village Christmas Gift tags – due Dec. 13th*

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

10:00 a.m. Worship – New Members Received - Sanctuary

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

12:00 p.m. Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner – Dodd Hall

4:30 p.m. MYF Thanksgiving food distribution- Dodd Hall – Dinner follows

Monday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Red Cross Blood Drive – Dodd Hall 9a.m.-1:45 p.m.

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

Tuesday, November 24

NO Confirmation Class – Happy Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 25

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers

6:00 p.m. Community Choir warm-up at St. Mary’s, 70 Gulf Street, Milford

7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Worship – St. Mary’s R.C. Church

7:00 p.m. ALCATHON- through Thursday, November 26, 7p.m.

Thursday, November 26th

Church office is closed today- Happy Thanksgiving! Read Psalm 65

5:30 p.m. MTMUMC Thanksgiving Community Supper- Dodd Hall

Friday, November 27th

Church office is closed today

Sunday, November 29

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

10:00 a.m. Worship and Sacrament of Baptism - Sanctuary

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

11:30 a.m. Visitation Ministries meeting – Wesley Center, 1st floor

Noon Methodist Youth Fellowship treat making

(8th grade through high school) – Dodd Hall

4:00 p.m. Intergenerational Caroling – gather in Dodd Hall, reception following at Bak’s home, 15 Seaside Court, Milford

Monday, November 30

7:00 p.m. AA meeting/Health care workers – Wesley Center

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

Tuesday, December 1

NO Confirmation Class - Confirmands attend Conference

7:00 p.m. Church Conference – Dodd Hall

Wednesday, December 2

5:30 p.m. Praisemaker’s Children’s Choir rehearsal – Dodd Hall

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

Thursday, December 3

6:00 p.m. Pastors-Lay Leaders meeting – Pastor’s office

6:30 p.m. Missions Committee – Gunn Library

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees – Egan Room

Friday, December 4

10:00 a.m. Office Volunteers – Gunn Library, Wesley Center

TBA United Methodist Women set-up for Cookie Walk – Dodd Hall

6:00 p.m. Cookie Walk set-up by MYF with pizza dinner – Dodd Hall

Saturday, December 5

9:30 a.m. Cookie Walk (open to all, sponsored by United Methodist Women) followed by MYF lasagna assembly – Dodd Hall

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 can be reached at brian.bodt@yahoo.com; 203.874.1982, ext. 11 or 203.895.3753. He is typically in office **10 am – 1 p.m.**, Mon. – Thurs. Appointments scheduled in advance are always the best way to get his full attention.

Pastor Hal Vink can be reached at 203.878.8977 or vinkhaljane@gmail.com.

Pastor Rachel Duncan can be reached at 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.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT FOR November 15th:

Total worship attendance all services: 190; November 15th: 184; Healing and Wholeness, November 16th: 6; Total Offerings (minus “Lift Us Up) for November 15th: \$6,477.94; “Lift Us Up” Capital Campaign gifts \$2,563.33; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$0; Engaged in Small Groups: 131; (Office Volunteers: 10; Sunday School: 51; Confirmation: 17; Isaiah Bible Study: Tues: 9, Wed: 15; Praisemaker’s Choir: 2; 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 or 203.874.1982) with your attendance.

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Dodd Hall (behind the sanctuary) and is today hosted by the Men’s Club in the form of their annual Thanksgiving Dinner. All are welcome to this complimentary dinner by the Men’s Club. Next Sunday’s host is Sunday School/Education.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS benefitting “Lift Us Up” handicapped accessible renovations to Wesley Center are available in Dodd Hall at \$12 each. Details on rear cover.

“**THE ANGEL GIFT-GIVING GUIDE**” of The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB) is available after worship in Dodd Hall. Our congregation became a member of CCGB earlier this year. Our delegates are Diana Cable and Deb Dubien. See Diana for this guide.

THE UPPER ROOM DISCIPLINES, a daily devotional for 2016, is available from Don Hastings at \$10 each. Call Don at 203-877-4554 or nctmwash@aol.com for additional copies.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER SIGN-UPS on the Dodd Hall table or see Deb Dubien (203.877.4959). The dinner is open to all and is 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Dodd Hall.

“**ESTIMATE OF GIVING**” CARDS may be returned in the offering plate or left in the church office or returned by mail. If you did not receive a card, there are extras in the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting our church’s vital ministry and mission in 2016.

“**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**” SHOEBOXES due today. Please see Cathy Cono.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS are now being taken. They are again priced at \$10 each. Our florist’s firm deadline for orders will be Wednesday, December 9th (the same deadline as our weekly bulletin). Please return the enclosed flier with payment to the church office.

THE DECEMBER “BEACON” was mailed this past Wednesday. Extras in the Narthex.

SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR MEETING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE.

THIS WEEK

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MARY LOU KAMPERT is away through December 6. Traveling mercies for Mary Lou during her holiday. Covering office duties this week are Eileen Doyle (Mon. and Tues.) and Flo Berrien (Wed.) Thanks to both.

EARLY DEADLINE FOR THIS WEEK’S BULLETIN is Tuesday at 10 am, hand-delivered or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net. The office will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE tomorrow, November 23rd, 9 am – 1:45 pm in Dodd Hall. Schedule appointments at 1-800-733-2767 or sign up on line at www.redcrossblood.org.

THE CRISMON TREE WILL BE ASSEMBLED AND DECORATED this Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. To help, call Priscilla James (203-804-0279) or just come on Wednesday.

THIS WEEK (continued)

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE is this Wed., 7 p.m. at St. Mary's R.C. Church, 70 Gulf Street, Milford, hosted by the Milford Clergy Association. The preacher will be the Rev. Adam Eckhart, Senior Minister of the First United Church of Christ. Music will be led by Frank Zylinyi, Music Director at St. Mary's, including a community choir which will rehearse at 6 p.m. The offering will benefit Milford Energy Assistance for home heating.

COMMUNITY SUPPER ON THANKSGIVING DAY, November 26, 5:30 p.m. in Dodd Hall. See article under "Today" to sign up.

NEXT SUNDAY

ADVENT I/UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY: The Advent wreath will be lit by the Lapadula family. The message "Time to Watch" will be based on Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thessalonians 3:9-13 and Luke 21:25-36. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for Aria Everly Washenko, daughter of Paul ("P.J.") and Sharron ("Tami"). A Mission Minute will focus on our Alternative Gift-Giving Guide. We will receive a special offering for United Methodist Student Day which supports college and seminary scholarships in The United Methodist Church. Prayer and healing anointing will be offered during the closing hymns.

ADDITIONAL MINISTRY INVITATIONS

FELLOWSHIP TIME REMINDER: the first Sunday of the month is hosted by a family, couple or group of church friends rather than a church committee. We hope to involve others in this hospitality ministry. **The first open Sunday is Dec. 6.** A "How to Host Fellowship Time" guide is available and others will help you. It's easy-peasy. To volunteer, sign up in the kitchen in Dodd Hall or call Mary Lou in the church office (203.874.1982, ext. 10)

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.

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UMC TRANSPORTATION CAREGIVER PROGRAM

The intent of the Transportation Caregiver Program is to provide transportation to worship on Sunday mornings and at other days and times that worship is held (Ex: Good Friday). Transportation would also be available to church events that may occur at other times and days of the week (Ex: Club 80 Luncheon) and other needs that may arise.

To procure a ride, a member should call Don Hastings (203-877-4554) or Michelle Craig (203-877-4332) or Judy Darak (203-874-5881). If at all possible, at least a **24-hour notice** would be helpful, but an attempt will be made to deal with last minute situations or emergencies.

ADVENT AT MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL CHURCH

*Advent is a busy time of ministry at Mary Taylor Memorial Church. **These special events** are offered in addition to weekly worship as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. We provide these events today for all, but especially those new to our church. Details can be found in the December "Beacon," available in the back of the church or on-line.*

BOYS AND GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Gift tags available today, gifts are due Dec. 13th.

DECORATE THE CHRISMON TREE: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Sunday, Nov. 29, 4 p.m., gathering in Dodd Hall and traveling to Milford health care facilities.

CHURCH CONFERENCE: Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. in Dodd Hall.

COOKIE WALK: Saturday, Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m. in Dodd Hall and ends when cookies run out.

ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. in Dodd Hall.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Saturday, Dec. 12th, 5 p.m. in the sanctuary presented by the Sunday School with dinner and dessert auction following hosted by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

SOUP SALE AND BAKED GOODS SALE: Sunday, December 13 after worship.

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON: Sunday, Dec. 20, following worship, hosted by the Men's Club.

LIVING CRECHE: Tues., Dec. 22 and Wed., Dec. 23, 6-8 p.m. and Thurs., Christmas Eve, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., outside the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 5 and 10:45 p.m. - Sanctuary

NEW YEAR'S ALCATHON: Dec. 31, 7 p.m. to Jan. 1, 7 p.m.