

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

168 Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460

Phone: 203.874.1982
FAX: 203.877.8973

First Methodist Church in Milford: 1843
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 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“Gaudete”

December 16, 2012

Order of Worship

10:00 a.m.

(* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

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

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Veni Emmanuel” L. Brule

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

(In order to keep our service time focused on the worship of God, thank you for sharing only those items which are not already in the bulletin or on the flyer table.)

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT “*Extravagant Generosity*” Bill Katt, Campaign Chair

INTROIT “Shout to the Lord”

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Traditional Monastic Liturgy

Leader: Tell the timid to take heart.

People: ***The Lord our God will come!***

Leader: The hills and the mountains will be singing praise to God.

People: ***Every tree in the forest will be clapping its hands.***

All: ***The Lord will come and rule forever. Alleluia!***

*HYMN #203 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” Ellacombe

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (*seated*) The Candle of Joy
Rick and Stacey Riccardi

SUNG RESPONSE “Advent Song” The Faith We Sing, #2090, vs. 3

***Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony;
angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

°°°

THE COLLECT (*unison*)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to thy wisdom, that we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, one God, world without end. Amen.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BLESSING OF OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

(Let our crafters come forward during the hymn for recognition and blessing: Vi Burke, Jo Caruso, Debbie Dubien, Callie Merva, Fran Merva, Phoebe Repetsky, Joan Zauner and Faye Zeiner).

Hymn #256 (*vs. 1, seated*)

“We Would See Jesus”

A brief history of our Prayer Shawl Ministry

Joan Zauner

Unison prayer: ***Comforting God, bless these shawls, we pray. May the comfort of the weave and the memory of our prayers comfort those who wear them. Bless those who knit and crochet, that hearts and hands made holy by prayer continue to enliven their work. As time passes, raise up new saints who will serve in this ministry of comfort and hope. In all things, help us to see Jesus, who promised “I will send the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to be with you forever.” In his name we pray. Amen.***

Hymn #256 (*vs. 5, seated*)

“We Would See Jesus”

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 12:2-6 Bible p.628

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

*THE GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18 Bible p.935

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON “The First World-Wide Web” Dr. Bodt

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN #2089 (*seated*) “Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice” Aberystwyth
(Sung to the tune of “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” Hymnal #479.)

***Wild and lone the prophet’s voice echoes through the desert still,
Calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God’s will:
“Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sin you prized, yield your life to God’s control.***

*“Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
Then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God’s store.”*

*With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
Till we come at last like John—to behold the Lamb of God.*

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.)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory Anthem “Will We Know Him?” Price and Besig

*Presentation: “*The First Noel*” Hymnal #245, vs. 5

*Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN #196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hyfrydol

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE Shalom to You

(You are invited to join hands with those near you as we sing.)

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 “From Heaven Above” G. Young

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

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Grace Notes
December 16, 2012

~Calendar at Mary Taylor Memorial~

Sunday, December 16
The Third Sunday in Advent
9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages – Wesley Center
10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11 a.m. Charge Conference – Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Soup and Sandwich luncheon – Dodd Hall
11:15 a.m. Blood pressure screenings - Sanctuary
4 p.m. Confirmation Class – Wesley Center (quiz)

Monday, December 17
9 a.m. Office volunteers – Christmas letter mailing
7 p.m. Meeting Healthcare workers
7 p.m. Healing and Wholeness Service

Tuesday, December 18th
7 p.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center
7 p.m. Disciple II – Wesley Center

Wed, December 19th
10 a.m. Advent Study – Wesley Center
5 p.m. Praisemakers choir practice-Dodd Hall
6:30p.m. Bell Choir
7:45p.m. Adult Choir

Sunday, December 23
The Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Sunday
10 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary

Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve – Church office closed
5 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
7 p.m. AA meeting/Healthcare workers
10:45p.m. Christmas Eve Bells
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Day- Church office closed
Read John 1:1-18

Wed., December 26th
NO choir rehearsals

Thursday, December 27^h
9 a.m. Office volunteers – Beacon mailing
5:30 p.m. Community Supper – Dodd Hall
7 p.m. Lay Leaders’ – Pastors’ meeting – Pastor’s office

Dear Mary Taylor Memorial family,

Frederick Buechner pushes us to deeper reflection as Christmas nears in his chapter “Face in the Sky” in his book The Hungering Dark (Harper and Row, New York, 1985). Reflecting on the miracle of Christmas he observes:

Those who believe in God can never, in a way, be sure of him again. Once they have seen him in a stable, they can never be sure where he will appear, or to what lengths he will go, or to what ludicrous depths of self-humiliation he will descend, in his wild pursuit of man.

If holiness and the awful power and majesty of God were present in this least auspicious of all events, this birth of a peasant’s child, then there is no place or time so lowly and earthbound but that holiness can be present there, too.

And this means that we are never safe, that there is no place where we can hide from God, no place where we are safe from his power to break in two and recreate the human heart, because it is just where he seems most helpless that he is most strong, and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully.

May our joy on this “Gaudete” Sunday, the “joyful” Sunday in Advent, be found not only in the temporal preparations that mark the season, but in the truth that the Christ has come among us in the most ordinary circumstances of life.

Grace and peace,

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. Dr. Martin D. McLee
Lay Leaders	Kelly O’Hara & Leigh Bak	Superintendent	The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer
Prayer Chain	Stacy Meszaros	Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt
Child Care Coordinator	Betty Laferriere	Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Harold V.W. Vink
Administrative Assistant	Suzanne Miko	Music Director	Dr. Richard L. Riccardi
Sexton	Bruce Rumford		

AT WORSHIP TODAY

Head Usher (December) – David Doyle

Liturgist – Tom Griggs

Greeters – Deb Dubien & Priscilla James

Cross Bearer – Nicholas Bettencourt

Acolytes – John McFadden & Cody McFadden

Bible Bearer – Taylor McFadden

- **TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS**- In memory of Millie Bartolomy, from Faith Reardon, Cheryl Griffin, & Edie Reichard.
- The Mission Cross represents a donation made to UMARMY in celebration of Terry & Diana Titus' 40th Wedding Anniversary today.

WELCOME VISITORS! We pray you experience God's presence among us. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or greeters.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR follows worship in Dodd Hall, hosted today by the United Methodist Woman. Next Sunday's hosts are Membership & Evangelism.

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

OFFERING PRAYER CONCERNS: Please use the "Blue Sheets" to share your prayer concerns. You will find them in the attendance pads at the end of each pew or may obtain one from an usher. The ushers collect these during the opening hymn and our Lay Leaders speak them during the Prayer of Intercession and Petition. If you offer intentions on behalf of others, please be sure you have their permission to share their information. Prayers offered via the Blue Sheets are included in our on-line prayer chain and at our Monday night Healing Service. You may also speak your concerns as invited during the prayer.

CHILD CARE: *For children 5 and under* is provided in Wesley Center, building next door to sanctuary – OR – the service may be heard in Dodd Hall, if you wish to use it for restless children during service. *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 these children. Our Safe Sanctuary policy requires that children leaving the sanctuary must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.*

INFORMATION: All informational sheets are available in the back of the church.

SERMON COPIES: December 9th is available in print in the Narthex and on the web at www.mtm-umc.org.



***Christmas Poinsettias**

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. The plants may be picked up after the 11:00 PM service on Christmas Eve. **Please** remember our church members who are confined to their homes or hospitals and **distribute them yourself** on Christmas day or after. If you wish to order, the plants are still \$10, and a check may be made to the Flower Fund. You may mail this form and your check to the church office.

The deadline for ordering plants is Monday—December 17th

However we would like to have an estimate by December 10th

I wish to supply ____ plant(s) at \$10 each. Please PRINT legibly:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

THIS WEEK

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS meet tomorrow, 9 a.m. in the Wesley Center to mail the Christmas letter. Thanks to Bev Lebel and her crew, including our extra volunteers.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 1 P.M. WEDNESDAY for a staff Christmas lunch. The week otherwise operates on our regular schedule.

PRAISEMAKERS CHORISTERS SOUGHT: Children in grades 1-5 are encouraged to join our Wednesday, 5 p.m. rehearsals with a plan to sing at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. See Dr. Rick Riccardi 203.392.5232 or riccardir1@southernct.edu or Leigh Bak.

NEXT SUNDAY

- **ADVENT IV/CHRISTMAS SUNDAY** highlights “love.” The Advent wreath is lit by the Georgelos family. The message “The Waitstaff” is based on Mary’s son in Luke 1:39-55 with Micah 5:2-5a. 2013 offering envelopes remain available to pick up.
- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:**
No Sunday School or Sunday Confirmation December 23rd and 30th.
No Tuesday Confirmation December 18th, 25th or January 1st.
Church office closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

OUR LIFE IN PRAYER, MINISTRY AND MISSION

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at 5 and 11 p.m., with carols by the Bell Choir at 10:45 p.m. Details in the Christmas letter arriving this week. Invite a neighbor or friend to join you as we “*Worship Christ, the newborn king!*”

OUR DECEMBER 27th COMMUNITY SUPPER is now recruiting. Dave and Lorraine Carr are the hosts. Please contact them at 203.931.0516 or via email davlorz@yahoo.com. Cooking and set up begins about 2 p.m.; serving from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and clean-up following. This supper is sponsored by Carol Gantter.

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.

OUR BRIDGEPORT COMMUNITY SUPPER CONNECTION NEEDS YOU!

Our Missions Committee recently renewed its commitment to the Community Supper at Golden Hill United Methodist Church, Bridgeport. We serve there alternate fourth Wednesdays (which differs from our monthly fourth Thursday here in Milford).

Our next date to serve is January 23, 2013. Maryanne Meehan and Bob Jordan, our new coordinators, are looking for others who will assist them from about 2:30 – 5 p.m. to prepare the meal. A minimal crew of 6, with 4 substitutes, are needed. We prepare only: others serve and clean-up. Anyone 13 or in the 7th grade and older may serve. Please let Maryanne know of your interest to prepare to serve our neighbors who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. You may reach her at maryannej@charter.net or 203.268.8850. Golden Hill Church is at the end of the Exit 2 northbound ramp off the Route 8/25 connector in downtown Bridgeport.

OFFICE SCHEDULE: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Mon. – Fri. If Wesley Center is locked, call Sue Miko (203.874.1982) or Pastor Brian (203.895.3753). **BULLETIN NOTICES** are due by Noon Wednesday, hard copy or to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net.

CONTACTING THE PASTORS: Pastor Brian is typically in the office Mon.-Thurs. from 9am to Noon (203.874.1982, ext. 11) and by appointment there or elsewhere at other times. E-mail is brian.bodt@yahoo.com and church cell at 203.895.3753. **Use Pastor Brian’s cell if timely or an emergency.** Pastor Hal can be reached at yinkhaljane@yahoo.com and at 203.878.8977. Please let us know any time someone needs pastoral care, especially those who are hospitalized. Multiple calls are better than none at all. Most are aware that hospitals no longer provide this information directly to the clergy due to HIPPA privacy laws.

ALTAR FLOWERS ORDERS: Flower orders are always taken for Altar Flowers OR “In Lieu of Flowers,” which is an additional opportunity for giving to United Methodist Church Missions (UMCOR or UMArmy and many others – please see info. table in back of church for list) and may be ordered at any time during the course of the year. **When a donation is made in lieu of altar flowers, the cross with a miniature mission scarf will be displayed on the altar in place of flowers.* Please contact Beth O’Brien at 203.877.8668 or by email at bgobrien11@optonline.net or mail: Beth O’Brien, 7 Breakneck Court, Milford, CT 06460.

VITAL CONGREGATION WEEKLY REPORT: December 9: Total Worship Attendance all services: 181 (174 plus 7 H&W); Total Offering: \$4,837; Amount given to Charities and Benevolences: \$63.00; Total Number Persons Engaged in Small Groups: 21; 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) the number of persons that met.*

PLEASE KEEP NAME TAGS on during Fellowship Hour and return them before leaving.

WESLEY CENTER ACCESS: All 12-Step, Support Group & Meetings are able to use the upstairs and downstairs of Wesley Center. Contact Paul Downing at 203.876.8540 or Bill Petremont at 203.415.9982 for further information.

History of the Shawl Ministry

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That which is made by hand is a form of self-expression. Susan Gordon Lydan, author of *THE KNITTING SUTRA*, says: "throughout history, handcrafts have often been fashioned with the aid of prayer, one prayer for each bead or each stitch, while keeping good thoughts to enhance the spiritual purpose of the object." She also states that the "motions of needlework are singularly well suited to the practice of contemplation." We agree with her, "knitting is prayer and craft is spiritual practice."

This womanly ministry has quietly come about from Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the first Women's Leadership Institute, a program in applied feminist spirituality at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut. For one of the women, it all started with a handmade gift, and inspiration from Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network. She, in turn, inspired her friend who was ready to apply what she had embraced from her time at the Seminary. For both, it was the desire to reach out to women in times of need as well as celebration.

"Shawls....made for centuries, universal and embracing, worn people everywhere. They enfold, comfort, cover, wrap, give solace, warm, mother, hug, shelter, and beautify—symbolic of a loving mothering God—inclusive and unconditionally loving. People who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if being given wings to fly above their troubles (J.B.—1998)." They have benefited both maker and receiver—opening up communication between mother and child, spouses, relatives and friends. They have enfolded the elderly, people preparing for medical procedures, and those facing serious illness. Religious leaders have used their shawls for prayer services, anointing of the sick and for marriage ceremonies. All those who have heard of them have been enthused and inspired by their purpose. Some of the recipients have, in turn, knitted a shawl for someone they know in need. The ripple effect has spread to the South, Midwest, West Coast, Canada and even Europe and South Africa!

One group knits them for an Oncology Center in Chicago. Another woman in Michigan makes them for her friend, a 79 year-old woman who volunteers at a local hospital. She, in turn, gives them to the patients to whom she ministers, as does a woman who is a chaplain at a Connecticut hospital. These shawls have also been given to expectant and new mothers as nursing shawls into which both mother and child are wrapped in a warm, loving embrace

The spiritual practice begins with selecting the color of the yarn, continues with the knitting and meditating upon its purpose, and is carried right through to blessing the final product. Sometimes this process is soft and meditative, punctuated by the click of the knitting needles; at other times, it incorporates the sound of women's voices sitting in circles talking, laughing, crying, and sharing. The giver also receives. Some of the rewards of creating these gifts of love are reduced stress, tranquility, creative inspiration and an overall sense of well-being.

The possibilities are endless and results can be had simply, by hand, woman-to-woman. One knitter remarked that, as women, we "cover" everyone, but who covers us? Who indeed? Maybe you!

ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION TODAY

- **CHARGE CONFERENCE FOLLOWS WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY.** Vote is reserved to members of the Church Council. Anyone may attend. The single business item is rewording the pastor's 2013 compensation package. The Rev. Jim Stinson, Director of Spiritual Life at the U.M. Homes, will preside.
- **SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCHEON IS OPEN TO ALL! FREE!** Immediately after worship in Dodd Hall. Thanks to the Men's Club!
- **TODAY'S DEADLINES INCLUDE:**
 1. **BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB GIFT-GIVING:** See Maryann Petremont.
 2. **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTO SUBMISSIONS:** See Cathy Cono.
 3. **POINSETTIA ORDERS:** Submit enclosed form in offering.
 4. **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS:** See Deb Dubien.
 5. **JANUARY "BEACON" ARTICLES:** See Pastor Brian or leave on Sue Miko's desk. We will not take copy after today due to the Christmas printing schedule.
- **LIVING CRECHE SIGN UPS CONTINUE IN DODD HALL:** December 24th (5-7 p.m.) and, if enough volunteer, Dec. 23rd (5-7 p.m.). The Creche is outside the church comprised of people representing angels, Mary and Joseph, the Magi and shepherds. Participants change every ½ hour. Please pray about this and sign up ASAP so we know who will serve and how many nights we can have this event. For more information contact Laura Perregaux at misslmp2@yahoo.com.
- **WE BLESS OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY TODAY,** started by Joan Zauner and the late Judy Griggs in the fall of 2007. If you would like to knit or crochet for this ministry, see Joan Zauner (jzauner@yahoo.com or 203.283.5643).
- **SEE THE WEEKLY CALENDAR FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS.**
- **LITURGY TODAY** comes from Holy Scripture, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989), The Faith We Sing (2000) and The United Methodist Book of Worship (1992).
- **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.