

The BEACON

*Mary Lou Kampert
Beacon Editor*



*Mary Taylor Memorial
United Methodist Church*



DECEMBER 2022

*The Reverend Dr. Roy Grubbs, Pastor
The Reverend Harold Vink, Theologian in Residence*

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on your
spiritual journey, you are welcome here!*

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Website: www.mtm-umc.org
www.facebook.com/MTMUMC

PATIENCE



One of the central themes of the Advent season is waiting. Just as Mary and Joseph awaited the birth of their son and the Jewish people waited for the arrival of the long-anticipated Messiah, we must wait. Wait for Christmas...wait for friends to come...wait for the phone to ring...wait for God.

This kind of waiting requires patience. Patiently waiting for God to answer prayers, to show us a sign, or to point us in the direction we need to go, are all part of faith. Indeed, *patience itself* is an act of faith.

The word patience comes from the Latin verb, *patior*, “to suffer.” It is more than a little ironic that people who receive medical treatment are called “patients.” Illness brings out the impatience in all of us (something I know all too well right now). Few things make us more anxious than waiting for an answer to a medical test, or taking the time needed to recuperate from surgery or illness. We want doctors to do something already: give us a pill or a shot to speed the healing process along. Yet doctors will tell us that most healing is gradually accomplished by our bodies themselves.

Healing takes time. That goes for our spiritual health as well. Rarely do we get the quick fix we desire. The best answers to prayer generally do not come quickly but are revealed to us over time. Sometimes the signs are there long before we see them, but we are blinded by our pre-determined ideas of what is best for us.

Waiting with patience means living fully in the present, yet open to the way God is taking us. It is staying alert to what is happening in our lives, that we may see the light of God’s dawn breaking into our darkness.



Continued on next page



From the Pastor continued



To wait is to suffer. But it is a suffering based in hope for what is to come. For some, that means waiting for Santa. For others, it might be anticipating a good holiday. For people of faith, it means waiting upon the Lord. The Lord who came once in a tiny child with some very big news about God's love for the world. The Lord who will come again at the end of history. And the Lord who will come in our present time with the love that can heal our world right now.

Yes, things take time. We can wait with toes impatiently tapping and our nerves frayed. Or we can wait with patience and with confidence, not always knowing what the future holds, but knowing always Who holds the future.

So, stay awake, keep alert. Be patient. God will come to you.

Happy Waiting.

Pastor Roy



*Rick
Andy
Adeline
Mary Lou
Pastor Roy*



Worship Services: December 2022

Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m.

Please watch your email; our website (<https://www.mtm-umc.org/>) and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MTMUMC>) for the links.

All Services In Person and Live Stream

ADVENT

- November 27 – Advent I: Hope
- December 4 – Advent II: Peace; Holy Communion
- December 11 – Advent III: Joy
- December 18 – Advent IV: Love
- December 19 - 7pm - "Blue Christmas Service"

CHRISTMAS

- December 24 – 5pm Family Service; Holy Communion
11pm Candlelight Service; Holy Communion
- December 25 – 10:30am Christmas Morning Service –
Music, Fellowship, Story
- January 1 – 10:30am Wesleyan Covenant Service;
Holy Communion





TUESDAY MORNING PRAYERS & BIBLE STUDY Led by Pastor Roy in the Wesley Center Library



COME ONE, COME ALL for a time of connection with God and one another. We will kick-off Tuesday mornings on October 4th at 10:00 a.m. with a time of sharing and prayer, followed by Bible Study for the morning. What better way to deepen our relationship with god and one another than to join Prayer & Bible Study. We will begin at “The Beginning,” studying the first several chapters of the Book of Genesis. This Book is packed with stories of who WE are, in 2022! Come learn, share, and grow with us! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Roy. Everyone is invited; bring a friend! See you there!

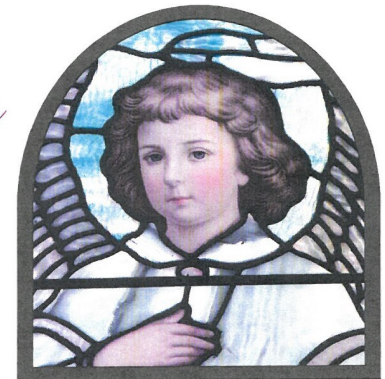
TUESDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY Led by Nathan Williams via Zoom

Beginning October 4th, dial into Zoom each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for an exploration of the week’s lectionary scripture readings. Join Nathan Williams and special guest Rev. Karen Eiler for a deep dive into the history, text, and context of the week’s readings as we find connections between the scriptures and our lives. Everyone is invited.

Laura's Treasure Trove

Let the Christmas shopping begin!

Laura's Treasure Trove will be in
Dodd Hall during the Cookie Walk!
Come shop our Christmas items on
Saturday, December 3 and...
Sunday, December 4 after Worship.



Donations will be accepted
beginning in February 2023.
Date to be announced.

Reminder...we do NOT accept any item in poor condition, missing parts, needing repair
• Automotive parts • Books over 10 years old or musty • Computer books • Helmets of any kind •
• Cookbooks • Clothing in poor or soiled condition • Computers or printers • Car seats • Beds or mattresses •
• Beds or mattresses • Food/beverages • Large furniture • Hangers • Large exercise equipment •
• Propane tanks of any size • VHS tapes, records, cassette tapes • STUFFED ANIMALS



YOUTH AND FAMILY COORDINATOR

Adeline Hazzard

November is and was a month of teaching, learning, getting to know, and preparation. December proves to be one of those months that keeps us busy for the Celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

December 11, 2022 at 1:30pm to 4:00pm – Come all ye designers, architects, and artists. Families and all who are interested to join us in Mary Taylor Memorial First Annual “Ginger Bread House Decorating Challenge.”

There is room for 12 teams of 4, each team will be provided with a fully assembled Ginger Bread House, which will come with basic decorations. Here comes the fun part, there will be a decorations bar that will offer items to augment your basic items, and a mystery box with 3 elements that must be incorporated into your design. There will be Judging and Prizes! So bring your creativity, put together your best team.



Continued on next page



YOUTH AND FAMILY Continued

December 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 Christmas Caroling in Milford to the 3 Long Term Care facilities. I would like to include the Sunday School Children as a kick off for Friday Night Fun and Fellowship Program.

Golden Hill Pavilion 2028 Bridgeport Ave. Milford, CT 06460
Milford Health and Rehabilitation Center 195 Platt Street. Milford, CT 06460
West River Rehab Center 245 Orange Ave. Milford, CT 06401



We also plan to sing and chime outside a few homes of our elderly and shut-ins. Anyone interested in joining us with your voice please meet at the Church at 5:30 pm
Anyone interested in joining us with voice and chimes please meet at the church at 5pm for distribution and maybe a bit of practice.

There will be refreshments after in Dodd Hall after our caroling journey of good will and cheer. I hope you will consider joining us for this festive program of voice and chimes.

Attention all Young people Adeline Hazzard, your Youth coordinator is initiating a Friday Night Fun and Fellowship Program on the third Friday of each month. We will meet in Dodd Hall for Fun and Fellowship. This will be the schedule for the New Year.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| January 20,2023 | 6-8 pm "Jesus is God" |
| February 17, 2023 | 6-8 pm "Jesus as Human" |
| March 17 th , 2023 | 6-8 pm "Jesus as Healer" |
| April 21, 2023 | 6-8 pm "Jesus as Salvager" |
| May 19, 2023 | 6-8 pm "Jesus as Confronter" |
| June 17 th 2023 | "Jesus as Confronter" This meeting will be a picnic meeting.
Place and time to be determined. |

I look forward to serving the Congregation and its community in the New year. May the Spirit of Christ go before us.

Both Mark and I wish the Mary Taylor Memorial Church Family a Blessed and Peaceful Advent and Merry Christmas. God Bless you all.





Notice to our Congregation



It's time to think about a Christmas Gift for our Staff

As in previous years, your Staff/Parish Relations Committee will be collecting monetary Christmas gifts for our staff.

If you wish to contribute, you can do so by cash or check. Present your gift to any member of the SPRC. Checks should be made out to Mary Taylor Memorial UMC, with "staff x-mas gift" on the notation line. Cash should be placed in an envelope with your name and "staff x-mas gift" on it.

The members of the SPRC are: Leigh Bak, Tom Beyer, Ty Gage and Judy Darak.

We will be collecting your gifts until Sunday, December 11th. At this joyous and giving time of the year, we thank you.

Leigh Bak, SPRC Chairperson



FIRST MEETING FOR 2023 FAIR ON THE GREEN!



Though the weather outside is frightful, thinking about the 50th anniversary of our Fair on the Green is so delightful!

Mark your calendar for the first meeting of the new year on Sunday January 29th after worship (~12:00 noon - 1:30 pm) in Wesley Center.

We will start with a pizza lunch and high level orientation to the new year and then move into our "stuffing party" where we assemble the mailing to our vendors.

Come one, come all to learn more about our Fair which is a showcase of Mary Taylor to the Milford community and also a major funding source for our missions and ministries. No experience needed, just a willing heart! There are countless ways to help. Join us to learn more! Did we mention there will be free pizza?

Contact Cathy Cono at 203-645-2362 / spikkio@optonline.net or Lisa Gloates at 203-214-8970 / lisagsings@yahoo.com with questions!

Cathy



PRIME TIMERS

Submitted by Helene Dellert



Our mission is to enhance the spiritual and social lives of adults (55 and older) through fun and fellowship. Come play, learn, and grow with us!

PRESENTING A NEW MUSIC MINISTRY...

Beginning in 2023, Lisa Gloates will be offering **UKULELE LESSONS** to Prime Timers!



The program she designed for **BEGINNERS** includes basic chords that will enable you to play a variety of songs for your personal fun and entertainment.

Under Lisa's guidance and your input, this program will grow and possibilities will be explored. Come join us in **MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE!**

TO REGISTER and FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT LISA AT:
203-214-8970 or at lisasings@yahoo.com

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO:

WHAT? Prime Timers Holiday Gathering
WHEN? Saturday – December 17th – 4 to 6 PM
WHERE? Joan Zauner will be hosting us at her condominium clubhouse!
ADDRESS: Gloria Commons – 15 Lucius Court in Milford
Refreshments – appetizers and desserts – will be served pot-luck style
Attendees are asked to **BRING A WRAPPED \$10 GIFT** to be exchanged as part of a holiday game.



REGISTRATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.

R.S.V.P. to Helene Dellert at 203-878-8801 BY DECEMBER 10th.

Due to limited parking at the condominium complex, additional information regarding parking or carpooling will be provided.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Chris McGregor and Deb Dubien

“The organized unit of United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”

Thank you to Becky Virgalla for a great November program supporting the World Thank offering that is an annual UWIF offering where we bring our gifts of gratitude for the transformation of local and global communities by raising money for women, children, and youth in our neighborhoods and around the world.

The December 13 evening meeting will be our Christmas party held in Dodd Hall with a pot luck supper at 6:15p.m. Join us for some great food and holiday fun!

CHRISTMAS SOCK EXCHANGE

Fill one of your Holiday Socks
With an Assortment of Small Treats
Bring Your Socks to Trade
And We'll All Have Cozy Feet



Each person brings a new pair of holiday socks. Fill one sock with goodies and tie with a bow. Bring the other sock loose. Socks will be exchanged “Yankee-Swap Style” – unopened! Spend only **up to 10.00** – no more. Think themes, - warm hands, movies, tea, coffee, warm feet, candies, small games, ornaments, etc....use your imagination.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SALE – DECEMBER 11th



Help support the Mission projects of the United Women in Faith by purchasing some great homemade soups and baked goods. Soup will be priced at \$5.00 per pint, baked goods priced accordingly. All proceeds will go to the mission projects of the United Women in Faith. If you would like to be a soup maker, please contact Sue O’Shea at sueoshea@optonline.net.



United
Women
In Faith

Please join us for our next meeting on January 10, 2023 in Dodd Hall. Bring your lunch and enjoy the company and monthly program.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

By Joan Zauner

“When there are no words, a prayer shawl speaks volumes.”
Janet Bristow, co-founder of the prayer shawl ministry.



PRAYER SHAWLS ARE AVAILABLE—

What a wonderful surprise when we walked in for our meeting in November!! Bags and bags of yarn just waiting for us— thanks to that special shopper extraordinaire Stacey Riccardi, many more prayer shawls are coming!!

We still have some yarn available if you would like to give it a whirl We will happily give you lots of help and encouragement.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 8th at 7p.m. in the Wesley Center Library.

Call Joan Zauner at 203-283-5643 for additional information.

Prayer shawls are always available on Sundays or during the week through the church office. 203-874-1982.

BOYS & GIRLS VILLAGE CHRISTMAS DONATIONS:

The following is a message from Boys & Girls Village re: holiday gifts:

Mary Taylor Memorial UMC has helped grant holiday wishes for so many children through the years and we thank you again for your support in 2022. I'm excited to share that the gift registry for 2022 is completed! The direct link to the holiday wish list registry is <https://www.myregistry.com/wishlist/wish-list-due-by-dec-11th-please-milford-ct/2586499/giftlist>

This year's registry includes gifts that range in price from \$6 - \$40 and includes apparel, shoes, toys, games, books, art & craft sets and gift cards. Gifts can be directly shipped to my attention at Boys & Girls Village **on or before December 11, 2022.**

We are grateful to have your help this year once again in making holiday wishes come true for more than 600 children!

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Dubien at debrad246@yahoo.com or 203-877-4959.

If you wish to contribute money to purchase gifts, please send a check to MTMUMC with the memo: “Boys Girls Village Xmas”.





PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Written by Sheryl Hollyday MSN, FNP, BC



STRESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

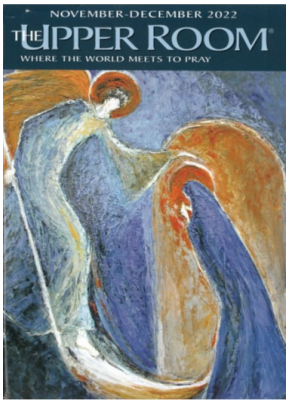
How many of you are old enough to remember “CALGON, TAKE ME AWAY!” I remember as a child hearing this commercial and having no idea that I would use it as a catch phrase 40 years later.



Stress and the holidays seem to go together. Can you come to our Christmas party? Would be willing to bake cookies for our seasonal fundraiser? We need volunteers to come to school to put together baskets for the troops, who can come on Friday at 4pm? Many people are pulled in many ways throughout the year, but from November until January, I feel pulled in so many directions that sometimes I think about just curling up into a ball and hibernating until spring. So, what can you do to lessen or combat with stress during “the most wonderful time of the year!”

Here are some ideas that may be of help to you, not just now but year-round.

1. Hug someone you love for at least 20 seconds
2. Phone a friend. Hearing someone’s voice may allow you to feel more connected.
3. Think of a memory or experience that you remember fondly. Visualize it for a few minutes.
4. Spend extra time with your pet or visit a shelter.
5. Practice deep, diaphragmatic breathing. Take 5 cleansing breathes in and out.
6. Take a 10-minute walk. Even when it’s cold outside.
7. Ask people to help. If you are hosting a party or Christmas dinner, there is no reason that you need to do everything yourself. Let that go!
8. Learn to say NO. We tend to want to please people, so we say yes to things and then end up feeling resentful. Just say no if it is something that will add more stress to your day.
9. Be realistic. The holidays do not have to be perfect. Let go of certain traditions and be open to creating new ones that bring more joy to your life.
10. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. Pray, take some quiet time for yourself to reflect upon all that your faith in God has brought into your life.



THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER UPPER ROOM is available.
If you would like a copy, please call the office at
203-874-1982 and I will drop one in the mail for you,
or you may stop by and pick one up.

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ??
PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE
OUR DATA BASE. 203.874.1982 THANKS!



ANIMAL SHELTER DONATIONS: Wet and dry cat food and wet dog food is needed for seniors with pets and 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, or drop them by the office during the 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.

The Fellowship Time will continue
in Dodd Hall after service.



Please consider hosting Fellowship Time one Sunday. Membership & Evangelism will provide the snacks and drinks so set up and break down is all that is needed. If you would like to host a Sunday, please contact Susan Pitre at 203-435-7031; soupytrus@yahoo.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICES

In case of inclement weather on Sundays during the winter, Pastor Roy will consult with church leaders as needed and agree on plans for worship, Sunday School, and other planned activities. Weather-related closings will be posted on the church voice mail, Yahoo e-mail group, and WTNH (Channel 8).





DRAGONFLY MINISTRIES

Dragonfly Ministries is part of the Caregiving Ministries program for Mary Taylor Memorial UMC. Several years ago Mark Platt had a vision of a healing service which would provide a combination of music, prayer, anointing and laying on of hands. Recently communion has been added to the service.



Recipients of the service could be homebound, in hospice, in Hospital/Care Facility, pre surgical, post surgical or facing a difficult time in their life. Mark has developed the service and leads the service.

If you would like a Dragonfly Service for yourself, family member or friend, call Don Hastings (203-877-4554) or the church office (203-874-1982) to make arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION CAREGIVER GUIDELINES

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). Transportation for medical purposes may also be requested.

To procure a ride, a member should call Don Hastings (203-877-4554) or the church office at (203-874-1982)

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.



PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS
Will administer Blood Pressure Screening
on the 3rd Sunday of each month
in the Sanctuary after service.





**ALTAR FLOWERS AND MISSION CROSS ORDERS
are welcomed anytime.**



Flowers are \$20, payable to MTMUMC and mailed or given to Mary Lou Kampert at the church office. A donation in lieu of altar flowers is honored with a cross and miniature mission scarf placed on the altar. If you would like to place an order please contact Mary Lou at 203-874-1982 or mtmumc@sbcglobal.net to arrange a suitable date.



A REMINDER ABOUT CARE BY THE PASTOR....

CONTACT THE PASTOR—
for pastoral care needs, or if you just want to talk!
Reach out for yourself, or tell them that someone you know needs a call.

You can contact our pastor through the church office at 203.874.1982, mtmumc@sbcglobal.net, or directly to Pastor Roy at 914.330.1789



OFFICE HOURS ARE 9AM TO 3PM
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY



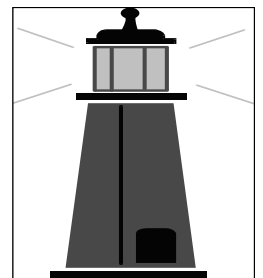
**COMMUNITY SUPPER AT MTMUMC
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22ND at 5:30 P.M.**

If you can help, contact Rachel Merva at 203-641-5088



**THE JANUARY
“BEACON” DEADLINE IS
Thursday, December 15th**

Please submit materials on or before this date to mtmumc@sbcglobal.net or a hard copy to the church office.





WE'D LIKE TO WISH YOU A HAPPY BIRTHDAY....



....but we can't if we don't have it in our database.

It is always possible that these special dates were previously provided us. If so, you have our apology for any oversight and our request to please try again. And whenever your special day is, may God who has blessed you with this milestone smile on you and your celebration.



Sincerely,

Mary Lou Kampert (mtmumc@sbcglobal.net; 203.874.1982, ext. 110)



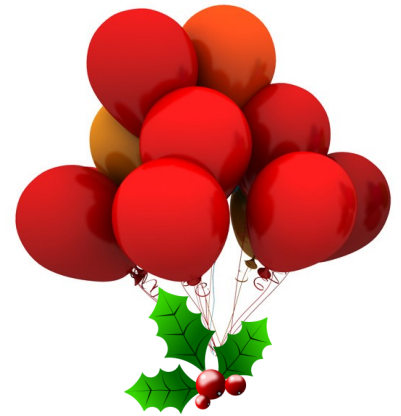
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

MTM CLUB 80 MEMBERS—are listed below in **bold**.

If your birthday is not listed and should be, or if there are other birthdays needing changing, please call the Office at 203-874-1982. Thank you!

- 4th **Barbara Albanese**
- 6th Greg D'Andrea
- 7th Steven Clark
- Carole Sattler**
- Heidi Shamansky
- 8th Shari Murzyn
- 9th Christine McGregor
- Julia Rodriguez
- 10th William Pitre
- 13th Amber Shufelt
- 15th Joshua Nunes
- 17th Paul Daneault
- Ed Pineau
- 18th Joshua Paton
- Tim Pitts
- 19th Beverly Lebel
- Alexia Poloski
- 20th Jerry Dellert
- Eric Georgelos
- Craig Thompson

- 21st Paul Downing
- Frances Merva**
- 22nd Ashley Kozlowski
- 24th Gianni Cono
- Daniel Levine
- 25th Carol Alex
- Noel Fino
- 26th Emily Hulak
- 27th Laura Loesch
- Bryan Meraviglia
- 29th Betty Daneault
- Kathleen Georgelos
- Becky Virgalla
- Tara Volgmuth
- 30th Sandy Morgan
- 31st Gail Hulak
- Laura O'Brien
- Rick Riccardi



The BEACON

Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church
168-176 South Broad Street
Milford, Connecticut 06460-4728

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DECEMBER 2022