

# The BEACON

*Mary Lou Kampert  
Beacon Editor*



*Mary Taylor Memorial  
United Methodist Church*



**DECEMBER 2024**

*The Reverend Dr. Roy Grubbs, Pastor  
Pastor Adeline Hazzard, Caring/Youth Minister*

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

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## THE INVINCIBLE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



Did you know that at one time in history, Christmas was banned? It was in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England during the tenure of Oliver Cromwell, Lord High Protector of the Commonwealth, whose Puritan Party passed legislation outlawing Christmas. There would be no more lavish and raucous celebrations, no more commercial exploitation, no more Christmas, period.

The people, of course, were outraged. There was rioting in the streets. Secret Christmas festivities broke out all over the country. Christmas just wouldn't be denied.

But Cromwell and his dour bunch retaliated. Parliament decreed penalties of imprisonment for anyone caught celebrating the holiday. Each year, town criers went through the streets in the middle of December reminding people that "Christmas and all other superstitious festivals" should not be observed and that businesses should remain open. There were to be no displays of Christmas decorations or anything that smacked of merry-making.

When the Puritans were thrown out of power, Christmas celebrations returned. Except in cold New England, where the holiday remained outlawed (at least in Massachusetts) until the second half of the nineteenth century.

There are days when I get pretty puritanical about Christmas. The extreme commercialization, the frenzy and craze to consume too often drown out the meaning and the message of this sacred season. In many ways, it feels like the culture has robbed us of our holy day. Christmas is an undisciplined, unorganized, chaotic mess.

But Christmas is also invincible—at least the spirit of Christmas is. It continues to live behind all of the consumerism and holiday fluff.

Many years ago Howard Thurman, the African-American theologian, said, "The spirit of Christmas—what is it? It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when the clouds are heavy with foreboding.

**Continued on next page**



### From the Pastor ~ Continued

It is the cry of life in the newborn babe when, forced from its mother's nest, it claims its right to live. It is the brooding Presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked paths straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed, dead hopes stirred with the newness of life. It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death, and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil."

The spirit of Christmas is a mirror in which is reflected the very best that life can be. In that mirror we see ourselves, moved my generosity, inspired by joy, uplifted by love, encouraged by hope-not only for ourselves but for the whole creation, even for people and things we usually find unlovable. The homeless family is transformed in our sight into the very image of Mary and Joseph; the abused little baby, abandoned in a garbage compactor in some squalid tenement house, becomes the Christ child upon which the hopes of the world are seen to rest.

And we, too, are drawn into the drama, agents of God's plan for the reconciliation of the world in this small, helpless baby who came into this chaotic, disorganized mess of a planet with the peace and the purpose of God, and who comes even now to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

As we make our way through these weeks leading to the day of Christ's birth, may the invincible spirit of Christmas find its way to us. May this crass and crazy season, with all its excess, one day fade away. Not because it is forbidden, banned or outlawed, but because the simple truth of God's everlasting love finds expression in the daily lives that we lead.

*Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Roy*

### SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING KEY EVENTS

#### Advent Schedule:

Sunday, December 1st	Advent I "Hope"; Lighting of the Advent Wreath begins
Sunday, December 8th	Advent II "Peace"; Special Music— 2pm Gingerbread House Challenge
Sunday, December 15th	Advent III "Joy"; Special Message; 2pm Christmas Caroling
Tuesday, December 17th	7pm Blue Christmas Service—Time of Hope & Comfort
Sunday, December 22nd	Advent IV "Love; Special Story and Music

#### Christmas Schedule:

Tuesday, December 24th	<u>Christmas Eve Services</u> (5pm & 11pm)
Sunday, December 29th	The Christmas Celebration—Come for a special service of music and fellowship sharing the Love and Joy of this special morning together!



**9:00 a.m. SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER & BOOK STUDY**  
Led by Kerline Poulard in the Wesley Center Library

**6:00 p.m. MONDAY EVENING PRAYER CIRCLE**  
Led by Nathan Williams & Holly Firmender  
In the Wesley Center Chapel

Every Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the Wesley Center Chapel, Mary Taylor Memorial UMC members gather to share stories of how God is moving in their lives and lift up the prayer concerns of our entire church community. It's a sacred time spent in fellowship but not necessarily a somber time – in fact, we spend much of our time together rejoicing in each other's "praise reports." Praise Reports put us in mind of the many ways our lives are blessed each week, and how blessings can surprise us, emerging from all directions! From a special interaction while standing in line at Scratch Bakery, to the joys of reconnecting with family and loved ones, an inspirational Footsteps meeting, or a special moment recalled from the Sunday Service – we celebrate and give praise to God for gifts big and small.

Of course, we also lift up the Prayers of the People when we gather. Each week, an email request for prayer concerns goes out to the entire church, asking for prayer concerns that people can share from their hearts. My prayer co-leader (and our fantastic church lay leader), Holly Firmender, gathers these together for us to share prayerfully. If you don't receive the weekly email request for prayers please call the office at 203-874-1982 so we can email you one. All of us gathered in the chapel will lift up your prayers and ask for God's blessing. The technical term for what we are doing is "intercessory prayer," but all that really means is that we are praying on behalf of others. It's an age-old tradition that dates back to the very earliest days of the church.

If you're looking for a peaceful, joyful time in intimate fellowship with the Lord, we warmly invite you to take a break from your busy schedule and join us next week! It's a beautiful opportunity to connect with your church community, share your joys and concerns, and deepen your relationship with God. We look forward to seeing you there! To learn more, please contact any regular leader: Nathan Williams 504-957-5571, or Holly Firmender 203-530-2621 .





### 7:00 p.m. THURSDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY

Led by Nathan Williams via Zoom

Dial into Zoom each Thursday 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.

### 10:00 a.m. FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

Led by Pastor Roy in the Wesley Center Library -

Beginning on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, Pastor Roy will lead a study on **the Gospel of Luke**. This is also known as the “Gospel of the Poor,” written for a financially poor, Gentile community. Luke has such a strong message of hope and healing for those struggling to survive. And in these difficult times, what a wonderful book to study together. Come and hear the promise of Jesus for you and for me! We will begin with a time of prayer followed by our study and sharing together. Everyone is invited; bring a friend! See you Fridays! *Pastor Roy*

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



WE WILL BE DECORATING THE SANCTUARY WITH POINSETTIAS AGAIN THIS YEAR FOR CHRISTMAS.

The cost will be \$15 and you may make your check out to the Mary Taylor Flower Fund.

Mail your check and this form to the church office.

**NOTE THE FIRM DEADLINE!**

**The FIRM deadline for ordering plants is THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th.**

**Please print legibly.**

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

The plants may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Please remember our church members who are confined to their homes or hospitals and gift them with your poinsettia on Christmas day or later.





### CALLING ALL BAKERS AND BAKER SUPPORTERS!!!



It's that time of year again!!! The United Women in Faith will host the annual **Cookie Walk<sup>1</sup>** on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9AM**. We need bakers to contribute cookies of all shapes and sizes. If you want to buddy up with a fellow baker in the church, we will pair you up. If you don't bake but would like to donate money or ingredients for your favorite cookie recipe, we will find you a ghost baker!!! If you are a savvy shopper and can grab ingredients for the team, we will send you with a list!!!

There's something for everyone!! If you want to get started early, we have freezers at church to store your fabulous cookie creations (**freeze starting Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>**). Please reach out to Sheryl Hollyday (203-376-6658) or Rachel Merva (text or call 203-641-5088), this year's cookie walk co-captains for further information or to let us know how you would like to help! The cookie walk is one of our Mary Taylor holiday traditions and provides mission support to several organizations at a critical time of year. **Thank you for your support!**



The Cookie Walk event invites guests to purchase an empty container (different sizes depending on how many cookies you want to buy) then you walk around the cookie tables and have your box filled by a church volunteer with the cookies you select. All cookies are homemade by our fabulous Mary Taylor bakers and are labeled for your reference. A trimming station will be available if you'd like to have festive ribbon to tie around the box. Refreshments will be served, and other snacks and holiday décor will be available for purchase.

**Come and visit  
us during The  
Cookie Walk!**



*Laura's Treasure Trove*  
**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**We will be open 9:00-12:00**





## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

*Submitted by Chris McGregor*

*“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.”*

All women of the church are invited to join United Women in Faith. Here at MTMUMC, we meet on the second Tuesday of each month. We alternate noon and evening meetings to try to accommodate different schedules for the women of this church. Please come to whatever time works for you.

**Our Second Sunday Soup Sales** will be held on Dec. 8th. Containers are \$5. each and will be sold after church.



**Our very popular Christmas Cookie Walk Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** is chaired by Rachel Merva and Sheryl Holliday. Come and choose from a wonderful selection of homemade treats!

**Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday Dec. 10 at 6:00.** This will be a pot luck dinner. Dessert will be provided. **We welcome all women** of the church regardless of whether you are a member of UWF or regularly attend our meetings. There will be entertainment by the fabulous **Ukeladies and the Taylorettes**. We will also be having our very popular gift swap.

### 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 of the socks with goodies and tie with a bow. Bring the other one 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, etc....use your imagination.

This is the schedule for the coming year: January 7, noon; February 11, noon; March 11 7PM; April 8, noon; May 13 6:00 PM Mother-Daughter Dinner; June 10, noon.

Christine McGregor [Cjmcgregor50@hotmail.com](mailto:Cjmcgregor50@hotmail.com) please send me your email address if you would like to be added to my email list and are not already receiving my updates.



## 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.



The Prayer Shawl Ministry was founded by Janet Bristow and Victoria Gala at the Hartford Seminary. They felt shawls had been a source of comfort for years. To continue that in a more formal way became their goal. This has grown to be a service practiced world-wide.

We are always happy to see our shawls disappear because that means someone is being comforted and blessed, so do not hesitate to ask for one. We have plenty waiting to help someone.

If you are interested in joining us, we will be meeting **Thursday, December 12th at 7pm in the Wesley Center Library.** We are willing to help you learn.

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

Prayer shawls are always available after church on Sundays, see Joan Zauner, Phoebe Repetsky or Sue Reynolds, or during the week through the church office. 203-874-1982.

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS AND YARN DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED.**



## 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 would like to contribute, you can do so by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to Mary Taylor Memorial UMC, with “staff Christmas gift” in the memo. Cash should be placed in an envelope with your name on and “staff Christmas gift” on the envelope. Please place your gift in the offering vessels.

Any questions, please see Shelly Lapadula.

We will be collecting gifts until Sunday, December 8, 2024. At this joyous and giving time of the year, we thank you.





## 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.



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

WHAT: **A RING IN THE NEW YEAR LUNCHEON** (a few days early)  
COME CELEBRATE 2024 and WELCOME in 2025!  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BY PRIME TIMERS and  
PREPARED BY CHEF BARRONLEE GRASSO!



WHEN: SATURDAY – DECEMBER 28 AT 12 NOON

WHERE: DODD HALL

Please confirm your attendance with Helene at 203-878-8801

## LUNCHEON GATHERINGS

WOMEN – WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 4 – 12 NOON – at the Open Door Tea in Stratford  
(Women meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month.)

Please confirm your attendance with Helene at 203-878-8801.

MEN - WEDNESDAY – DECEMBER 11 - 12 NOON – at the BRIDGEPORT FLYER  
(Men meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.)

Please confirm your attendance with Jerry at 203-878-8801.



## HAPPY FEET WALKING GROUP

Walkers meet every Wednesday at 9:15 AM.

For details, please contact Maryann Petremont at [mapetremont@yahoo.com](mailto:mapetremont@yahoo.com) or at 203-415-0544.

## SIGHT & SOUND BIBLICAL THEATRE -

SAVE THESE DATES: By popular demand, we will attend the Sight & Sound production of *Noah* and tour Amish Country in Lancaster, PA on May 6, 7 & 8, 2025!





## THE LIVING CRECHE IS BACK!!

This year the Living Creche will be returning to Mary Taylor Memorial as our Christmas Gift to the Community!

We will be setting up on Sunday, December 22nd and portraying the Nativity on Monday Dec. 23rd and Tuesday Dec. 24th before our Christmas Eve service.

We will need people to set up the Creche on Sunday Dec. 22nd after worship and for take-down on Thursday December 26th; this is a literal "heavy lift", so strong backs are needed.

Then we will need people to fill the Creche: Mary and Joseph, an angel, a shepherd and 3 wise men (in 1/2 hour time slots) from 5-7pm on Monday Dec. 23rd and 4-5:30pm on Tuesday Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve). The characters in the 5 PM shift will enter the Sanctuary to join in worship during the 5 PM Christmas Eve service.

We will need "behind the scenes" people on those days also - providing refreshments, assisting with costume changes and for turning the lights on/off between shifts.

You can sign up for any and all of these roles on-line (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EACAE2EA6FA7-53420710-living>) or on Sunday mornings during Fellowship time.

If you have any questions, contact Marcia Winter, 203-640-5941, Beth O'Brien 203-877-8668 or Susan Pitre 203-435-7031.

This is such a special time and a much-loved gift to the Milford community; thank you one and all!

In God's Love, the Membership & Worship Teams





## MISSIONS

Submitted by Rachel Merva

**BOYS & GIRLS VILLAGE**  
Partnership of care for children in need

**HOLIDAY DRIVE**

How can you help by Friday, December 13th?

Bring joy to CT's most vulnerable children by granting holiday gift wishes!

Scan me to see gift wishes!

Questions? Call 203-713-7737

This year our church will sponsor one of the students in the residential program at Boys and Girls Village to ensure he or she receives not only thoughtful and individualized gifts but also toiletries, underwear and other essentials needed. If you'd like to help individually please see the link below to browse the wish list online. Thanks so much for your support of Missions programs that enables our church to reach out into our local community for those in need! [Shop for BGV Toy Drive 2024's Gift List](#)

- TEAM, Inc. Toys4Kids (see article on page 11)
- Missions Meeting: Our monthly Missions meeting will be held in person on Monday evening just after the prayer time in Wesley Center. Please join us from 7:15PM-8:30PM where we can plan and strategize about the mission and outreach programs we are involved in. Our next meeting is Mon. **Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>** and we will have Bridges join to speak to us about Mental Health First Aid Training. These meetings are open to all.
- All In for Milford Monthly Gathering: Thurs., **Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at 6PM with refreshments and the program runs from 6:30-8PM. We are working on food insecurity, housing and transportation. Come and join the work!
- Community Supper is happening this month the day after Christmas on **Dec 26<sup>th</sup>** for in person dinner service only from 5:30PM-6:30PM If you'd like to be involved in the supper, please see the sign up genius here: [Community Supper Volunteers: Community Suppers 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](#) or please reach out to the church office! See you there!



The Mission Committee is currently collecting warmer clothing and footwear to provide to members of our community during our Community Suppers each month. There is a box labeled for the donations near the entrance to Dodd Hall.

Please contact Maryann Petremont or Beth O'Brien if you have any questions. Thank you.



### DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



we will be collecting **canned protein such as canned tuna, chicken, beef**, for the Purple Pantry. There is a collection bin in the back of the Sanctuary and in Wesley Center. If you would like to help with the Purple Pantry, please call Shelley Lapadula at 203-258-2777 or email her at [m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com](mailto:m.lapadula@rubens-lazinger.com).

**TEAM Toys 4 Kids 2024 Holiday Toy Drive:** We will have a box in Dodd Hall to collect toys for TEAM, Inc.'s toy drive that serves about 1,200 families each year in the region. **We are collecting toys for children age range 0-18 months and pre-teen girls from now till December 11th.** For more information, please visit [www.teaminc.org/toys4kids](http://www.teaminc.org/toys4kids)

If you'd like to volunteer to work in the Toy Store setting up for families to shop, please see the link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/MagicMakers2024>



**"I'd Rather be Coloring"  
Come Join us!  
Thursday December 19th, 2024 3-5pm  
Supplies provided in Dodd Hall**



**Always fun.**





## CARING MINISTRY

Pastor Adeline

I visit @ 10-12 older members each month I bring communion and visits. Although unfortunately I have not gotten to everyone in the last month I have touched base with everyone I could reach. Some of our caregivers have been randomly visiting with Jane, Gladys Hulse, and Carol Sattler.

There are caregivers that I offer support to as I see them in church. There are times that I am requested for pastoral care. There are at times new needs that arise to be considered for Communion visits each month as people need to be home for various reasons.

The caring community has surrounded our friend Hector with rides and meals as he negotiates his treatments with Smilow Center in New Haven. Please keep him and his family in prayer.

With God's help and the awesome Christian love of the people of Mary Taylor UMC we are able to care for and tend to our brothers and sisters who are in need of attention and Christ's love.

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## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Pastor Adeline

On December 8th we will meet in Dodd Hall at 2pm. And have some fun with our 2nd Annual Gingerbread Decorating Contest! We will provide the Plain gingerbread house to decorate and all the fancies you could imagine. We would like you to provide a team of 2-4 people and bring a canned good for our free purple pantry.



There will be prizes and a hot chocolate bar for you to get your creative juices flowing. Please RSVP as there will be limited space for 12 teams. Call the church office 203-874-1982 or Adeline Hazzard at 203-736-4450 or indicate on sign-up genius that you will be attending, I hope you choose to come.

**On December 15, we will be heading out to go Christmas Caroling** to our shut-ins in Milford. Mark your calendars from 2-4 with supper provided at the church after in Dodd Hall. Join us!







## STEWARSHIP

Submitted by Cathy Cono



### Faith, Love, Action: Thank You!

During October, we heard from members of our community and learned about how the gifts we give are the fuel for Mary Taylor's programs, services, and ministries. Praise God for a season that brings focus to this important aspect of our faith! Thank you to Holly Firmender for her help which was instrumental in producing the Stewardship video "What Mary Taylor Means to Us" <https://youtu.be/EXlhZKD6iMA>.

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Stewardship moments and Commitment Sunday celebration. It was incredibly moving and a great joy to witness everyone bringing their commitment cards forward to the beautifully adorned altar on this special day. Thank you to Barronlee Grasso, Kerline Poulard, Gianni Cono, Greg D'Andrea, Gina Grubbs, Stacey Cronk, Leigh Bak, Susan Pitre, Eileen Potkay, Chad Hunter, Donna Venditti, and all those who helped prepare and clean up from our celebration brunch.

### A few logistical notes...

Commitment cards can be mailed to or dropped off at the church office, emailed to Cathy Cono at [spikkio@optonline.net](mailto:spikkio@optonline.net), or sent via photo / text to Cathy at 203-645-2362.

While many prefer to give electronically through online banking bill pay or Tithe.ly, we do also issue traditional envelopes for those who prefer this method. If you are already an envelope user, we will provide you with 2024 envelopes in late December (unless you direct us otherwise). If you would like to be added to the list of 2025 envelope users, please notify Cathy Cono at [spikkio@optonline.net](mailto:spikkio@optonline.net) or 203-645-2362 by December 15th.

As we look ahead to the new year, let us celebrate what God is doing through us and the new ways we are called to put our Faith and our Love into Action in His service!





## PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Submitted by Linda Sheehan

### The Most Difficult Time of the Year: Mental Health During the Holidays from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)

Sadness can be challenging to cope with when all around you people are singling about how this is “the most wonderful time of the year.” How do you handle so many movies and ads broadcasting family and togetherness if you’ve lost a loved one or you feel all alone? What do you do with so many messages about everything being “merry and bright” when, in most places, it is quite literally cold and dark?

The truth is that, for many, this can actually be the most difficult time of the year. In 2014, NAMI found that 64% of people with mental illness say the holidays make their conditions worse. A 2021 survey showed that 3 in 5 Americans feel their mental health is negatively impacted by the holidays. And as we face a another holiday season during recurring COVID, we know that more people than ever will be grieving someone or something during this time.

If you find yourself feeling anxious for the holidays, you are certainly not alone. Here are a few steps you can take to prioritize your mental health during this hectic season:

#### 1. Accept Your Feelings

The holidays can bring up a range of emotions for people. Sometimes you can even experience seemingly contradictory emotions all at once. Try your best to acknowledge and accept your emotions rather than place judgment on them. It’s OK to feel happy; it’s OK to feel sad; it’s even OK to feel both happy and sad. Give yourself compassion and allow yourself to sit with whatever you’re feeling.

#### 2. Maintain Healthy Habits

For many people, the holidays lead to a massive disruption in your day-to-day routine. But maintaining healthy habits like going to therapy, getting enough sleep and exercising are critical to keeping your mental health on track.

#### 3. Set Boundaries

People like to be generous during the holidays, but that generosity doesn't have to come at the expense of having healthy boundaries. If hosting an event or buying an expensive gift is too stressful, it’s OK to say no. It’s also OK to limit the time you spend with family that you may have a complicated dynamic with.

#### 4. Make Time to Connect

Connections are critical to our mental health. Make time for your important relationships and connect with yourself through self-care. This holiday season—whether you find it to be the most wonderful or most difficult time of the year, take care of your mental health by accepting whatever emotions come up, maintaining healthy habits, setting boundaries on stressors and making time for meaningful connection.



### DRAGONFLY MINISTRIES

Dragonfly Ministries is part of the Caregiving Ministry program for Mary Taylor Memorial UMC. This ministry is an individual healing service which would provide a combination of music, prayer, anointing and laying on of hands, and communion.

The individuals that are considered for this ministry are the homebound, hospice patient, hospital patient, pre and post-surgical patient, and or someone facing a difficult time in their life and need the presence of the God who loves, the Jesus who heals and the Holy Spirit who reveals the love and healing.

Mark Platt and a small group of church folk would come to provide a sacred place for love and healing.



If you would like a Dragonfly Service for yourself or recommend one for a loved one, call Adeline Hazzard 203-736-4450

Or call the church office 203-874-1982 to make arrangements for this ministry.

### TRANSPORTATION AND CAREGIVER GUIDELINES

The Caregiving ministry of the Mary Taylor Memorial UMC provides transportation to members and others to worship on Sunday Mornings and other worship opportunities. Transport to other church events such as Community Dinners or committee meetings. This ministry is available for Medical Appointments as well.



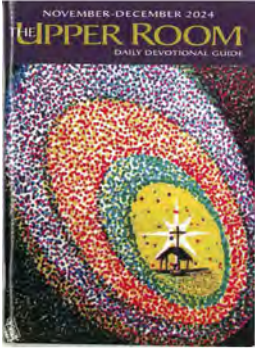
If you or a loved one needs a ride call Adeline Hazzard at the

Church 203-877-4554 or

Cell 203-736-4450

We ask that you give Adeline as much time as possible 24 hours is most helpful, of course if there needs to be an immediate need, we will do our best with God's help to serve our members.





NOVEMBER/DECEMBER UPPER ROOM is available. Copies are in the Sanctuary, or 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.

PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Will administer Blood Pressure Screenings on the 3rd Sunday of each month In the Sanctuary after service.



Thanks to our blood pressure team:  
Leigh Bak, Adeline Hazzard, Sheryl Hollyday, Anne Marie Levesque and Nancy Sengstacken

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG during Sunday service.  
Are you new? Have we met?



The name tags are at the entrances to the church. If you don't have one, please call the office at 203-874-1982 or see Holly Firmender so that we can make one for you. Thanks!





**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](mailto: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](mailto:mtmumc@sbcglobal.net), or directly to Pastor Roy at 914.330.1789



**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday—Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**CHRISTMAS**  
**COMMUNITY SUPPER AT MTMUMC**



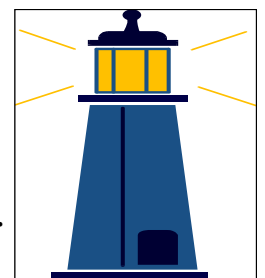
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 at 5:30 P.M.**

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



**JANUARY BEACON DEADLINE IS**  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH**

Please submit materials on or before this date to [mtmumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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

- 20th Jerry Dellert
- 21st **Frances Merva**  
Paul Downing
- 24th Gianni Cono  
Daniel Levine
- 25th Noel Fino  
**Carol Alex**
- 26th Emily Hulak
- 27th **Laura Loesch**
- 29th Betty Daneault  
Kathleen Georgelos  
Tara Volgmuth  
Becky Virgalla
- 30th Sandra Morgan
- 31st Laura Holloway  
Richard Riccardi  
Gail Hulak





DECEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

Sun 1	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thu 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
<p>9:00 AM Prayer &amp; Book Study - Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>6:00 PM Prayer Circle-Chapel</p> <p>7:15 PM Missions meeting-Library</p>	<p>3:00 PM Prime Timers- Fascinator Class - Dodd Hal</p>	<p>9:15 AM Happy Feet Walking Group</p> <p>12:00 PM Prime Timers Women's Monthly Luncheon-Open Door Tea in Stratford</p> <p>6:40 PM Bells Rehearsal</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>6:00 PM All in for Milford- Location TBD</p> <p>7:00 PM Scripture Study with Nathan Willaims via Zoom</p>	<p>10:00 AM Prayer &amp; Bible Study - Pastor Roy-Library</p>	<p>9:00 AM Cookie Walk - Dodd Hall</p> <p>11:00 AM Laura's Treasure Trove - Open 9:00 - 12:00</p> <p>2:00 PM Celebration of Life - Leo Chasse - Sanctuary</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer &amp; Book Study - Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:30 AM 2nd Sunday Soup Sale - Dodd Hall</p> <p>2:00 PM 2nd Annual Gingerbread Decorating Contest-Dodd Hall</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Circle-Chapel</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:15 PM United Women in Faith evening meeting - Potluck &amp; Christmas PartyDodd Hall</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:15 AM Happy Feet Walking Group</p> <p>12:00 PM Prime Timers Men's Monthly Luncheon - Bridgeport Flyer restaurant</p> <p>6:40 PM Bells Rehearsal</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry - Library</p> <p>7:00 PM Scripture Study with Nathan Willaims via Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer &amp; Bible Study - Pastor Roy-Library</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>January Beacon Submission Deadline</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer &amp; Book Study - Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>11:30 AM Blood Pressure Screening-Sanctuary</p> <p>2:00 PM Christmas Caroling-meet in Dodd Hall</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Circle-Chapel</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM Blue Christmas Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:15 AM Happy Feet Walking Group</p> <p>6:40 PM Bells Rehearsal</p> <p>7:45 PM Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3:00 PM Coloring - Dodd Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM Scripture Study with Nathan Willaims via Zoom</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer &amp; Bible Study - Pastor Roy-Library</p> <p>6:00 PM Youth program-Dodd Hal</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer &amp; Book Study - Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>3:30 PM Dodd Hall rental - Priscilla James</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 PM Living Creche 5-7pm</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Circle-Chapel</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00 PM Living Creche 4-5:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>The Office is closed today</p> <p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>9:15 AM NO Happy Feet Walking Group today</p>	<p>26</p> <p>The Office is closed today</p> <p>5:30 PM Community Supper - Dodd Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM Scripture Study with Nathan Willaims via Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>The Office is closed today</p> <p>10:00 AM NO Prayer &amp; Bible Study - Pastor Roy-Library</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00 PM Prime Timers Luncheon - Dodd Hall</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer &amp; Book Study - Library</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 PM Prayer Circle-Chapel</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>The Office is closed today- New Year's Day Holiday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Scripture Study with Nathan Willaims via Zoom</p> <p>7:00 PM Trustees meeting - Parsonage</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 AM Prayer &amp; Bible Study - Pastor Roy-Library</p>	<p>4</p>

# The BEACON

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 170  
Milford, Connecticut

**DECEMBER**

2024