

*Mary Lou Kampert
Beacon Editor*



The BEACON

*Mary Taylor Memorial
United Methodist Church*



*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!*

MARCH 2023

203.874.1982 Telephone
203.877.8973 Fax

e-mail: mtmumc@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.mtm-umc.org
www.facebook.com/MTMUMC



During Lent, we talk a lot about what we'll give up. Fasting and sacrifice play an important part in our spiritual lives, but there is the story of a boy who was willing to give up something of infinite value.

This five year old's sister was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only hope of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to the boy, and asked if he would be willing to donate blood to his sister.

The little boy hesitated for a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "yes, I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, the boy lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as everyone did, seeing the color return to her cheeks. Then the boy's face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

The little fellow had misunderstood the procedure. He thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Five-year olds are like that. They don't always get all the facts right. But they often get the meaning right, and have something to teach the rest of us about giving up what truly counts.

Surely God smiles on all of our sacrifices when they are made out of spiritual devotion or human concern. But beyond the chocolate and the caffeine, what is there in our lives that, if we were to give it up, might make a positive difference in the life of another person? What might we do sacrificially that would benefit the world?

Continued on next page



From the Pastor continued

Sacrifice is not a popular concept these days. Judged by the bulging size of our waistlines and the increasing square footage of our homes, we are not a culture that likes to say "no." We want the good life and all it offers. Living with less tends to make us feel deprived, resentful, even inadequate.

But, as that little boy showed, the path to the *best* life lies not in the content of our homes but in the quality of our relationships. To gain this satisfaction means that, at some point, we must say "no" to ourselves in order to say "yes" to an even greater good.

In his covenant renewal service, John Wesley put it well: *In some ways we may please Christ and please ourselves. In other ways we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.*

In our culture of more and more, our Lenten journey is guided by a cross. We sacrifice so that others may benefit from our resources and we may find a little more freedom from material things. We give some of our time to God to grow spiritually and to re-order our priorities. We deny ourselves in hopes of offering ourselves with the sort of love that allowed Jesus to give himself for us.

It's a lesson simple enough for a five-year old to comprehend.

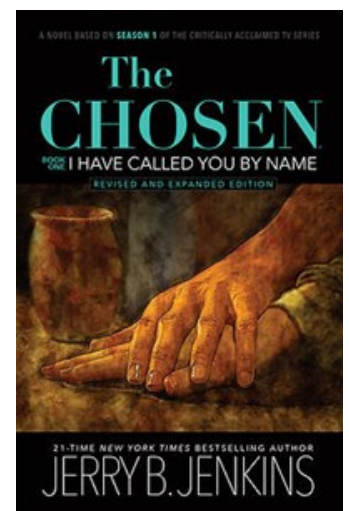


Praying you experience a spiritually-rich Lent,

Pastor Roy

Lenten Video Series - The Chosen, Season 2

On Mondays at 7pm in Dodd Hall from February 27th thru March 27th, we will join together to watch and discuss episodes of The Chosen. This award-winning series reflects on the life and times of Jesus, the Disciples, and the communities they encounter, bringing scripture to life. Come and join us. Snacks will be provided. All are welcome!





Worship Services: MARCH 2023

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

Schedule of Upcoming Key Events

Lenten Schedule: Theme – “Grace-Filled Living”

Wednesday, February 22nd	Lent Begins! Ash Wednesday – 7:00 service. Come and join in this 40-day journey together!
Sunday, February 26th	1st Sunday of Lent; Prevenient Grace
Sunday, March 5th	2nd Sunday of Lent; Justification; Repentance and Forgiveness
Sunday, March 12th	3rd Sunday of Lent; Assurance Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday, March 19th	4th Sunday of Lent; Sanctification I - Personal Holiness
Sunday, March 26th	5th Sunday of Lent; Sanctification II - Social Holiness



Sunday, April 2nd	Palm Sunday! Procession of Palms - Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem; Baptism
Thursday, April 6th	Maundy Thursday; 6:00pm Supper, 7:00pm worship Holy Communion, Stripping the sanctuary.
Friday, April 7th	Good Friday; 7:00pm service; our journey to the cross together.
Sunday, April 9th	Easter Sunday! – Christ Our Lord is Risen, Hallelujah! 6:30am Sunrise Service at Walnut Beach 10:00am Service – Special Music, Message, Holy Communion 11:00am Continental Breakfast



SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER & BOOK STUDY Led by Kerline Poulard in the Wesley Center Library



We will kick-off our next 6 Sunday mornings starting on February 26th at 9:00 a.m. for a time of prayer, followed by reading and discussion on “Final Words From the Cross” by Rev. Adam Hamilton. *In life and in death, Jesus’ words were powerful and meaningful. Despite the serious effort and increased pain required for Jesus to speak as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke seven “final words”—statements that have much to teach us about Jesus, his Father, and ourselves.*

ZOOM or Call-in options:

Join Zoom Meeting Go To: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81192079423?pwd=VGxRRnQ5d2ZmbHdYTGdLWFJZMUxEUT09>

OR go to <https://zoom.us/>, click on "JOIN" and enter:

Meeting ID: 811 9207 9423

Passcode: 949908

OR Dial-in: (646) 931 3860

Meeting ID: 811 9207 9423

Passcode: 949 908#

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 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 2023! 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

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



★ Additional Donation Days! ★

Beginning **SUNDAY, MARCH 5th**
we will be accepting donations
after worship until 12:30pm.



We will also continue to accept donations
on Thursdays from 9:30-12:00 noon.



If you are unable to drop off at this time, please call
Bev 203-676-5581 or Jane 203-494-2415 to make other arrangements.



We are interested in donations of jewelry, games & toys,
books (not over 5 yrs. old), Summer & Spring clothing,
kitchen items, small appliances, pocketbooks, puzzles,
housewares, collectibles, vintage items, & oddities.



Donations must be clean - have all parts - be in working order -
not in need of any repairs. Spring or Summer clothing only.



We are NOT able to accept the following:

- Suitcases
- Stuffed Animals
- Automotive parts
- Helmets
- Hangers
- Car seats
- Beds/matresses
- Large exercise equipment
- Clothing in poor or soiled condition
- VHS tapes/records/cassette tapes
- Propane tanks
- Books over 5 years old, musty or with markings
- Computer books
- Cookbooks
- Computers/printers
- Large furniture
- Food



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—

Our ladies meet each month to share our creations with each other and praise them. Then on Tuesday morning after Bible Study, another group of people join in a final blessing before they are ready to be given out. This makes them so special.

Prayer shawls are for so many occasions. Perhaps just to start the day, perhaps to grieve a loved one, perhaps to give strength to fight illness.

Our prayer shawls are always available after service on Sunday, or through the church office. Let's not forget the pocket shawls. They tuck into a pocket or purse so easily and then you'll have them with you anytime.

We always welcome new members of our group. Please consider joining us. **Our next meeting is Thursday, March 9th 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.

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, and Nancy Sengstacken



ART MINISTRY

Submitted by Elizabeth Wright

Greetings! The ART MINISTRY is moving along. If you would like to do an amazing painting for our hallways and Dodd Hall, please contact Elizabeth Wright at beachgalleryct@yahoo.com. The first paintings will be welcomed in mid March so get on board! There are several groups working now so this is also a notice to them to finish up soon!

If you would like to chat, call or text Elizabeth at 203-640-3577. Please do!
All supplies are provided—you provide the "creative" and the energy.





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!

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

WHAT: A Belated St. Patrick's Day POT LUCK DINNER
WITH: NAME THAT TUNE ENTERTAINMENT by RICK RICCARDI !!
WHEN: Friday – March 24
TIME: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
WHERE: Dodd Hall



Please call Helene Dellert at 203-878-8801 to confirm your participation as we need to prepare for this special, fun-filled event. **WEAR YOUR GREEN.**

Sunday March 19 – PRIME TIMERS will host the monthly Birthday Celebration after Worship during Fellowship time.



SAVE THESE DATES

Friday April 28 – 6:00 to 8:00 PM in Dodd Hall for a “Dinner-Theatre Event” that will combine a Pot Luck Dinner with an “El Camino Travelogue” presented by Sandy and Brec Morgan!

Sunday May 21 – 2:00 PM in Dodd Hall – Linda Sheehan will host a Tea Party! A representative from Bigelow Tea will present The History of Tea. There will be Tea Tasting and Goodie Bags will be distributed.



WALKING CLUB – There is interest in organizing a **Weekly Walking Club** with a specific focus on nature walks. **If you are available to coordinate this activity, please contact Helene.**





SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for a very special Fair on the Green this year as we celebrate the 50 year anniversary of the Fair on the Green!

The FOTG Team is participating in the Milford St. Patrick's Day Parade March 11th at 1 p.m. This is not only great publicity for our fair, but shows Milford who we are at MTMUMC. Please consider marching with us and show your support!



If you would like to volunteer at the fair, please use the sign-up link below, or contact Cathy, Lisa or the office for help. Many hands make light work!

We are also looking to fill some leadership/coordinator positions. If you held one of these positions in past years, please let Cathy Cono or Lisa Gloates know if you want to do it again this year. If you want to try something new, we'd love to hear from you. Spots that are currently unfilled are:

Bake Table	Health and Safety
Beverages	Hospitality
Funnel Cakes	Sanitation
Theme Baskets	

We welcome volunteers to use the Sign up Genius link to see what other positions are available and sign up for them. <https://bit.ly/FOTG2023Signups/>

Thanks from your co-chairs, Cathy and Lisa.

Cathy Cono spikkio@optonline.net

Lisa Gloates lisagsings@yahoo.com





United
Women
In Faith

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.”

At our February meeting 23 women attended. It was a pleasure to see our church members along with friends from First and Wesley UMC in attendance.

Come and join us in March at our evening meeting with a special theme: JELLO. Start digging out your old Jello recipes. Our March meeting will be a **JELLOBRATION!** At a Jellobration everyone brings a favorite Jello dish. We celebrated Jello a few years ago and we all had a good time. It never ceases to amaze how many different recipes there are with Jello! So, join us on **March 14 at 7pm in Dodd Hall** and see for yourself the amazing jello creations.

SECOND SUNDAY SOUP SALE—March 12—this will be the last soup sale this year.

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. February sales netted \$463.00 towards our mission goals.



Here are the dates for our meetings through June 2023. All meetings will be held in Dodd Hall. Tuesday, March 14th 7 pm; Tuesday, April 11 noon; Tuesday, May 9th 6:30 pm Mother-Daughter Dinner.

SOUPer Bowl of Caring was a real *winner* in tackling hunger!

Thank you to all who participated in making our inaugural SOUPer Bowl of Caring Tailgating Party such a success! Tasty food, games, entertainment and the terrific draw of our NFL Alumni Connecticut Chapter made for a great day that brought in fabulous donations. We are still tallying as the Beacon goes to print, but so far, 897 pounds of non-perishable food and \$4,244 was shared with the Beth El Center and the Milford Food Bank!



Special thanks to our food coordinator Leigh Bak, and tailgaters Sheryl Hollyday, Barron Grasso, Beth O'Brien, Missy Hackett, Tom & Wendy Beyer, Paul Downing, Greg D'Andrea, our corporate sponsors Bigelow Teas, Buffalo Wild Wings, Subway, ShopRite and Stop & Shop, Adeline Hazzard who planned the games, Marcia Winter who engaged the entertainment and most especially to Rachel Merva for the brilliant idea to engage Niko Koutouvides and Terry Hanratty of the NFL Alumni. Just WAIT for next year!

~Rachel Merva and Leigh Bak



PARISH HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Submitted by Paul Downing

TO BEt OR NOT TO BEt ?

March is nationally designated **“Problem Gambling Awareness Month”** by the National Council on Problem Gambling¹ which is near and dear to my heart as a compulsive gambler in recovery for more than thirty years. Personally, I am not opposed to legal gambling activities. However, I am a staunch and vocal advocate for those who are suffering with a compulsion to gamble and for those who are adversely affected by a gamblers behavior (family, friends, employers, et al). Given the demographics of those most prone to problem gambling (single; persons of color; unemployed; veterans; those with existing mental health issues or addiction history), it is my personal opinion that the current forms of, and ease of accessibility for, gambling is a form of systemic injustice in our state of Connecticut.

Gaming vs. Gambling

The lines between gambling and video or online “gaming” have become blurred. Current research has evidence that the types of video games available today stimulate the brain and nervous system in the same way as traditional forms of gambling. While the research is ongoing, the effects of gaming can contribute to unhealthy physiological development in adolescents and become a contributor to mental health related issues. The FTC warned in 2019 that gaming could be a gateway to gambling². The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the popularity of online gaming and possibly the progression of this type of activity for people of all ages, genders and socioeconomic status.

Methodism

What did John Wesley think about gambling? John Wesley in his sermon, Use of Money³, mentions in passing the taking of money from another via gambling as harming your neighbor and therefore a violation of Christ’s great commandment. A recount of John Wesley’s itinerant preaching and pastoral care includes caring for those individuals and families in communities where the income earner (usually a man) would squander a days’ or weeks’ wages in the saloon on alcohol and gambling leaving the family with little sustenance.

Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2009-2012, Section 163. IV. THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, Item (G) GAMBLING states,

“The Church’s prophetic call is to promote standards of justice and advocacy that would make it unnecessary and undesirable to resort to commercial gambling— including public lotteries, casinos, raffles, Internet gambling, gambling with an emerging wireless technology and other games of chance—as a recreation, as an escape, or as a means of producing public revenue or funds for support of charities or government.”⁴

Is gambling biblical? Casting lots is cited multiple times throughout the Hebrews scriptures and was a common cultural practice for making decisions as well as a game of chance. The last reference to casting lots is the selection of Matthias, Judas Iscariot’s replacement as one of the twelve apostles (Acts 1:26). Shortly after, with the advent of Pentecost (indwelling of the Holy Spirit), there are no further references to casting lots or other forms of “chance” in the New Testament. (Coincidence? - I think not!)

Regardless of your (or my) personal stance on gambling, as Christians and a community of faith it is my hope we can all agree to offer a word of help and hope to anyone who finds themselves “over their heads” as a consequence of irresponsible gambling. There is a plethora of information and resources (some listed below). Of course, if you have any questions or know someone who may have a gambling problem, do not hesitate to reach out to Beverly or myself

Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling:
<https://ccpg.org/>

CT Gambling and Gaming:
<https://ctgamblingandgaming.org/>

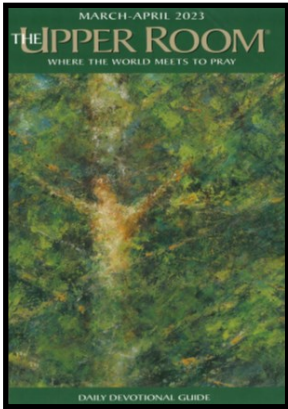
@ (203-676-5581 or 203-676-5582)
CT Helplines/Chat:
888-789-777 or 855-222-5542

¹ <https://www.ncpgambling.org/pgam/>

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tedknutson/2019/08/08/video-games-can-be-a-gateway-to-problem-gambling-ftc-warned/>

³ <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/generic/Use-Of-Money.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.umcsc.org/PDF/SocialPrinciples.pdf>



MARCH/APRIL 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.

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.





ATTENTION SENIORS! TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION!

Need a ride to the doctor's, supermarket, therapy, treatment center? There are options available either for free or for reasonable fees.

INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CARE GIVERS

FREE Service
203-230-8994



- You must be 60 years or older regardless of income.
- You must register with them in advance of booking a ride. The sooner you call the better your chance for success.
- The volunteers are covered by insurance.
- No wheelchairs as only volunteer vehicles are used.
- Ride bookings accepted Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- You will be called with a reminder 24 hours before your scheduled pickup.

MILFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT
203-874-4507
Currently FREE!



- You must fill out an application first.
- Available Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Must give 3 to 5 days advance notice.
- They travel from Trumbull to New Haven.
- An aide may travel with you.
- They are wheelchair accessible.

MILFORD SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION

Milford Senior Center paid members (\$15.00/year) 55 and above, are eligible to use their transportation services for medical appointments in Milford, grocery shopping and to the Center.

- 48 hours notice is preferred to request a ride.
- Doctor appointments should be made between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
- For more information please contact Transportation Supervisor Denise Arpino at 203-877-5131.



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



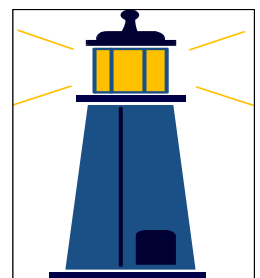
COMMUNITY SUPPER AT MTMUMC
THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD at 5:30 P.M.

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



THE APRIL
“BEACON” DEADLINE IS
Wednesday, March 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)

**MARCH 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!



1st Steve Wasko
4th **Jane Vink**
Eileen Doyle
Gladys Nastu
6th Leslie Thompson
8th **Barbara Ann Griggs**
9th Tina Gage
Dennis Russell Sr.
10th Tanner Georgelos
11th **Nita Prior**
12th Diane Brown
13th Elizabeth Serbyn
14th Sue O'Shea
Elizabeth Nunes
15th Tom Beyer
Brandon Edo
Lori Seelgen
Tom Woodard



17th Benjamin Carter
18th Carol Koch
19th William Tait
20th Dawn Fino
Brenda Pineau
Michelle Connor
21st Justin Edo
22nd Kaylee Sostilio
Nancy Ann Kardos
24th Alexia Petremont
26th Frank Lloyd
Faith Wilson
29th Jason Titus
Robert Hulak
20th Pemberly Brockett



The BEACON

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

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MARCH 2023

