

Small Household Goods Outreach Project

As a supporting church in the Christian Services network, we have been asked to collect and bring household items to their "closet" at Mt. Hope UMC, 501 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing (corner of Mt. Hope and Cedar). If you are able to drop items off there, call the church first at 482-1549. If you are unable to bring your items there, bring them to church and we will take them for you. Items should be gently used, clean, and in good condition.

These are the types of items needed: sheets, blankets, bedspreads, pillowcases, towels and washcloths, pots and pans, baking dishes and pans, cooking utensils, tea/coffee pots, glasses, dishes, silverware, small appliances (table lamps, toasters, irons, alarm clocks, etc.), ironing boards, rugs, shower curtains, brooms, dustpans, mops, buckets, curtains, and drapes.

Thanks for helping the needy families assisted by the Christian Services organization!

Mayflower Church Staff

| | |
|---|--|
| MINISTER: Rev. Mark McCormick 206/930-6634 | MUSIC DIRECTOR: Barbara Fuller 517/574-0576 |
| PIANIST: DeeAnn McCormick 810/210-0472 | CUSTODIAN: Joe Pitchford 517/703-3007 |

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Mayflower Congregational Church



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May 2023

Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

It's happening in May...

- 5/7 - Communion
- 5/14 - Mother's Day
- 5/15 - Deadline for Summer Mayflower Notes
- 5/16 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m.
- 5/21 - Music Recognition Sunday
- 5/29 - Memorial Day

Weekly Events:

- Fellowship Hour - Sundays after worship service
- Women's Bible Study - Wed. - 10:30 a.m.
- Exercise Class - Tues., Wed., Thurs. - 8:00 a.m.
- Handbell Choir - Thurs. - 4:15 p.m.
- Chancel Choir - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.



May



BIRTHDAYS

- 5/7 - Linda Wheeler
- 5/16 - Gil Wanger
- 5/17 - Nancy Wing
- 5/18 - Roger Kennedy
- 5/19 - Marilyn Wanger
- 5/24 - Charlotte Shoup
- 5/30 - Darleen Wirt

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/28 - Bob and Judy Posey (57 years)

OUTREACH FOCUS

Christian Services

Mayflower Financial News

In response to the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, we collected donations for the NACCC's One Great Hour of Sharing. The final total of donations was an incredible \$2,000! Thank you very much!

The following is a summary of our finances as of March 31:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Income: | \$ 9,615.49 |
| Expenses: | <u>10,099.86</u> |
| | \$ - 484.37 |

YTD for Three Months:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Income: | \$ 29,177.47 |
| Expenses: | <u>33,745.11</u> |
| | \$ - 4,567.64 |

Fund Balances:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Checking: | \$ 74,444.57 |
| Savings: | 5.00 |
| Certificate of Deposit | <u>\$ 59,746.34</u> |
| | \$134,195.91 |

Detailed financial reports are in the brochure rack in the lobby or can be emailed to you. Contact us if you have questions or want a copy.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary



Pastor Mark's Musings

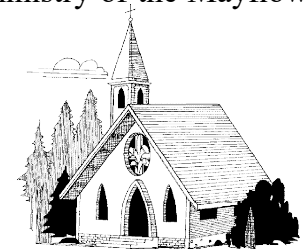
May is a month of transition for many of us who live in the midwest. By the middle of the month, most of us will have put away our winter clothes in favor of shorts, sandals, T-shirts and other casual wear. As a pastor, I will often wear short sleeve dress shirts on Sundays, perhaps without a sport coat (they are getting harder to find!). The lawnmowers will be coming out of winter hibernation and gardens will be attended to.

How does transition take place in the life of the church? On May 21, we will celebrate Music Appreciation Sunday, which is always a special event at Mayflower, but it is accompanied by the bittersweet reality that the choir will not perform again until September. Some of our congregants head north and will be away for all-important times of relaxation and family get-togethers. DeeAnn and I will take our own opportunities for vacation and time with families which helps keep us motivated and energized in our commitments as the pastoral couple at Mayflower. We will also be attending the Annual Meeting of the NACCC in late June, to be held in Milwaukee.

All of this may lead us to think that church life will be an afterthought. Not at all. During the summer, we will experience a variety of musical presentations in worship. We will have an opportunity to hear a guest minister or two. The by-laws committee will likely present revisions to the congregation which will guide us into the future, and an effort is underway to discover untapped spiritual gifts in our congregation. Plans will be finalized for an increase in activities, including programming for Christian Education. The Lugnuts game is something many of us look forward to.

A most encouraging reality for me is my confidence that we will all remain faithful in our commitments to God, as expressed through the dynamic and energized ministry of the Mayflower Church, so help us God.

Pastor Mark



Greetings From Your Lay Leader

In preparation for writing this May 2023 message, I found myself reflecting on my prior messages. My first one appeared in the February 2022 newsletter, so this is the sixteenth time I have had the privilege of communicating with you.

Getting to know each of you better has been a blessing to me. I have heard your challenges of facing losses, illness, and unexpected circumstances. For those of you that have retired in those sixteen months, or were retired previous to that, you have shared your transitions in that process. For you who are active in the workforce, we have talked about the many changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What I have heard throughout your circumstances is how happy each of you are to worship at Mayflower. I am also. I believe we each feel Mayflower is a safe place where we are secure with each other to share our trials and happy events in our lives. I also believe if any of us feel in conflict with anyone else at Mayflower, we can talk about our differences and resolve the issue(s), as long as it is done in love.

This was our Lord's second commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." I witness this being demonstrated in your interaction with each other. I pray this continues without fail in Mayflower's history.

Thank you to each of you for the blessing you are to me and for the privilege of being your lay leader.

Ruth L.Pasch



Spring Clean-up

There will be a spring clean-up session on Saturday, May 13, starting at 9:30 a.m. All volunteers are welcome. Please bring any garden tools that you use for weeding, pruning, and planting. Many hands make light work! If you have questions, contact Roger Kennedy or Bruce Kushion.

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

The most popular hymn the beloved Baptist preacher, Robert Lowry (1826 - 1899) ever wrote was "Shall We Gather at the River?". Although he had tremendous administrative talents, was an excellent preacher, a serious Bible student, an interesting speaker, and a brilliant painter, and was easy-going and good-looking, music and hymnology were his favorite studies.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, he showed a keen interest in music at an early age. At the age of twenty-two he entered the University of PA, and at age 28, he graduated with highest honors and began his work in the ministry.

In my research of Robert Lowry, I discovered that "Shall We Gather at the River?" has been used extensively in Western film soundtracks, such as *Stagecoach* (1939), *Tobacco Road* (1941), *My Darling Clementine* (1946), *Three Godfathers* (1948), twice in *The Searchers* (1956), and *7 Women* (1966), all of which were directed by John Ford. It can also be heard in Gene Fowler, Jr.'s *The Oregon Trail* (1959), in Elliot Silverstein's *Cat Ballou* (1965), in Sam Peckinpah's films *Major Dundee* (1965) and *The Wild Bunch* (1969), as well as *Hang 'Em High* (1968), *Jeremiah Johnson* (1972), and Gore Verbinski's *The Lone Ranger* (2013).

I could go on and on since this hymn has shown up in many other films, including those in Sweden, Germany, and Japan. Its popularity appears to be limitless. Even though "Shall We Gather at the River" was not one of Dr. Lowry's favorite hymns, it has been countless other people's favorite and has comforted thousands of people around the world.

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

