

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin
Pastor

February



BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 - Nancy McKay
- 2/9 - Lisa Jones
- 2/16 - Mark Holmes
- 2/21 - Dick McKay

ANNIVERSARY

- 2/18 - Janet Hershey & Bob Felter
(33 years)



HEAD USHER
Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS
Food Bank

From the Pastor's Desk ... Dr. Rick Martin

HOPE

The month of February brings me hope. Hope that the long winter is about over (6 weeks, whatever the ground hog says). The days are already noticeably longer than December. Personally, the pastoral stress/depression from the flurry of church/family activities the last quarter of the year has lifted. The end of winter, the end of depression, and Advent is quickly upon us, which results in the empty tomb – very hopeful indeed.

Although in February, I may look out my window and it doesn't look like anything has changed from the months of cold and snow and despair, there is a seed of HOPE in my heart that big changes are right around the corner. Yaaay! I love Spring – the warmth, growth, renewal, and new life everywhere.

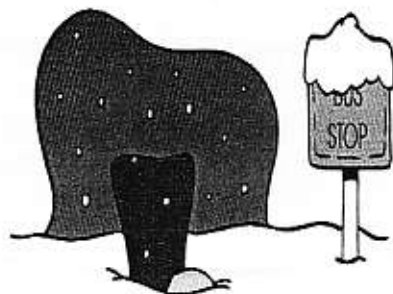
Hope in God is pretty much the same. Even though I look out my window and see the cold, snowy, gray days of tests/trials/tribulations (all the same greek work in the Bible), a spark of HOPE ignites that assures me all is well, because God is in control. He loves me more than I can comprehend. He cares about everything concerning me (even numbers the hairs on my head) more than I do. He is intimately aware of my situation. AND He has wonderful plans for me in the immediate future. So I can rejoice and trust God along with the Psalmist:

Psalm 33:20-22 (the whole Psalm is good):

²⁰ We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

²² May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.



Mayflower Financial News

Our December Second Saturday Supper was not a sell-out, but we had a good profit of \$616.

The Christmas Eve collection for the Salvation Army was \$642. Thank you! This collection is in honor of Blanche Samohovetz and her many, many years of volunteering at the Salvation Army and at Mayflower.

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

Income:	\$ 10,897.25
Expenses:	<u>14,035.50</u>
	\$ - 3,138.25

YTD for Twelve Months:

Income:	\$100,578.72
Expenses:	<u>77,632.50</u>
	\$ 22,946.22

Fund Balances:

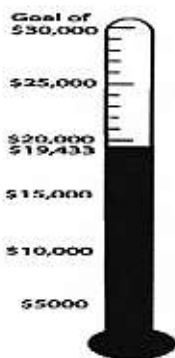
Checking:	\$ 5,123.86
Savings:	31,020.03
Heat Fund Savings:	20,434.83
Memorial Fund CD:	5,499.43
Savings CD:	<u>22,315.05</u>
	\$ 84,393.20

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, please ask!

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

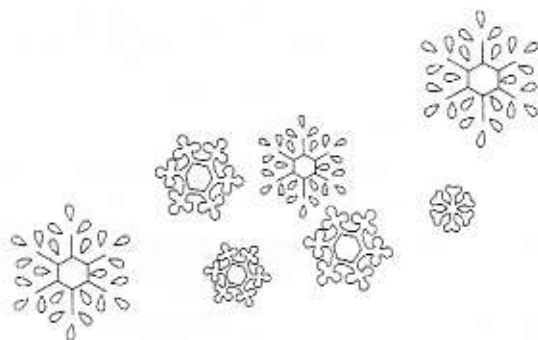
March 18 - Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Cost for the dinner is \$12; children under 10, \$6. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are now available in the office.



Mayflower Heat Fund

Our savings account for a new heating system is over \$20,000! Yeah! Thanks!



A little inspiration...

Yesterday at Planet Fitness I sat down on a machine next to a new member. Right away he started to talk to me. He asked, "Do you believe in God?" I assured him I did. He went on to say he wanted to share something that had happened to him. Here's his story:

"George" said he was home alone and was about to get into bed. He had the TV on. As he was sitting on the edge of the bed, he felt his hand and arm go numb. He thought it was odd, but ignored it.

Still sitting on the edge of the bed, George grabbed the TV remote and changed the channel. He heard the words, "You're having a stroke!" He listened carefully to the service announcement and knew he was having a stroke. George got dressed and drove himself to the hospital... just in time!

George told me that he had been sharing his story with people who believed in God and those who didn't. He felt that this was proof that there is "Divine Intervention" in our daily lives.

Today's quote goes along well with George's story: "There are no coincidences; everything happens for a reason. Some come as a blessing. Some come as a lesson."

George's "Divine Intervention" was no coincidence. It came as a blessing and a lesson.

— Kay Keitsch

Music Notes

Barb Fuller, Music Director



When Jerry and I have tried to travel in February we have almost always run into some kind of snow or ice storm that either sets us back in our travel plans or makes it "uncomfortable" to proceed. Is it any wonder that someone came up with the secular holiday of Valentine's Day to distract us from the depths of winter?

If you transfer the thoughts of remembering and celebrating those you love into sacred terms, February becomes a very appropriate time for us to focus on our love of God and his/her love for us. There are plenty of secular love songs that have been popular through the years, but I challenge you to get out your hymnals and find the love songs in there.

In our Pilgrim Hymnal there resides an entire section called "Character and Glory" that runs from #220 - #229. I have found that this section in particular has hymns that speak of God's and Jesus' love for us as well as ours for them. It includes hymns which we sing often such as "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee," "Fairest Lord Jesus," and "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." To me, these are the true love songs of February. I challenge you to look through our hymnal and find more. I know they are there, because we sing of God's love every Sunday through our anthems and our hymns.

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.*

Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 21 and 22. Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Please hold your stuff for now and we'll announce when you can bring it to the church.

We need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help. Set up dates/times will be announced soon.

It's what's happening in February...

- Feb. 2** Chancel Choir - 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5** Lunch-and-Learn - Noon
- Feb. 9** Trustees - 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9** Chancel Choir - 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11** 2nd Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.
- Feb. 15** Deadline for Mayflower Notes
- Feb. 16** Chancel Choir - 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19** Prudential Council - Noon
- Feb. 23** Chancel Choir - 5:30 p.m.

