

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Dr. Rick Martin**  
Pastor

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# March

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 - Warren Emrick
- 3/8 - Jamie Keller
- 3/9 - Liz Tingley
- 3/12 - Kathy Sundermeyer
- 3/15 - Marissa Slater
- 3/15 - Peggy Black
- 3/18 - Gordon Wilson
- 3/19 - Nik McClelland
- 3/20 - Lorraine Finison
- 3/20 - Ben Rutledge
- 3/22 - Donna Slater
- 3/22 - Ardath Scheffel
- 3/27 - Ruth Lewis (95)
- 3/28 - April Fuller
- 3/28 - Shirley Potts

## HEAD USHER

Lois Ries

## OUTREACH FOCUS

Missions  
Christian Services



## *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*



### **Tradition or Religious Habit**

As we are into the Lenten Season, with Palm Sunday and Easter directly ahead of us, many, many traditions are brought to our attention. Traditions are excellent when they bring us a step closer in our relationship with God. As Paul said to the Corinthian Church, *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions just as I passed them on to you.”* (1 Corinthians 11:1-2). But if used to get brownie points with God, or for our own benefit, traditions are useless and even harmful (religious habit); as Jesus said to the Pharisees, *“You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”* (Mark 7:9).

If we are using Lent to focus on and identify with the sufferings of Jesus and enhance our relationship with God, to recognize our own mortality, sin and shortcomings, to *repent* and be a better Christian and human being year around, this is admirable. If we have given up sugar for Lent because we need to lose weight, we are dieting. If traditionally attending church on Easter is to hear compliments on our new dress instead of celebrating Jesus' resurrection, we have a religious habit.

Motive and focus. Focusing on Jesus. Motivated to take a step closer to being the person God wants us to be (always). This is the difference between a religious habit and a godly tradition.

*Hebrews 12:2*

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

— Dr. Rick Martin, Pastor

## Lay Leader's Message

When you read this, Valentine's Day will be over, but here are some historical facts about it. Did you know there were **three** St. Valentines, all of them martyrs? The one we know about was a kind Roman priest who married soldiers (who were forbidden to marry), married young people against the wishes of Emperor Claudine II and helped Christians, which was also a crime. He was beheaded for his deeds on February 14 in the year 240. While incarcerated, through his prayers he healed the jailor's daughter, who was suffering from blindness. On the day of his execution he left her a note that was signed "your Valentine."

This brings us to today, where it is an occasion to give candy, flowers, cards, even jewelry, to those you love. Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentine's Day candy box in the late 1800s. Now about 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold each year. In the U.S. about 190 million valentines are sent. It has become an over-commercialized event, like so many other holidays. Even so, I hope you all had a Happy Valentine's Day and a good Second Saturday Supper.



*Roses are red, violets are blue.  
I'm on vacation--don't you  
wish you were too?*

With you in thought,  
Ann McClelland, Lay Leader

## Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 29 and 30. 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! Plan to hold your stuff and we'll announce when you can bring it to the church.

Keep in mind that 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 and times will be announced. Thanks, everyone!

## **Cynical? You're Raising Your Dementia Risk!**

Trusting your fellow humans might keep you sharper longer. A Finnish study of more than 600 older people found that those with the highest levels of cynical distrust--who believe that "most people would lie to get ahead" or that it's "safe to trust no one"--were likely to develop dementia at more than three times the rate of those with a low level of distrust. The link held up even after the researchers controlled for other risk factors like age and poor health.

### **March 19 - Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

Cost for the dinner is \$12; children under 10, \$6.  
Dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Tickets now on sale!



Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen. . . yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.

—Bradley Whitford

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30	4	5
6	7	8 Trustees 10:30	9	10 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30	11	12 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
Daylight Savings Time Begins Lily deadline	14	15 Notes deadline	16	17 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30	18	19 Comed Beef Dinner
Palm Sunday Prudential Council	21	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday Soup and Service	25 Good Friday	26
Easter Sunday	28	29	30	31 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30		

## Mayflower Financial News

Our Second Saturday Suppers have continued to be successful for six consecutive months with many being a sell-out.

Donations totaling \$5400 were received in January for the Mayflower Heat fund.

A brief summary of our finances as of January 31, 2016:

Income:	\$ 11,374.72
Expenses:	<u>7,084.44</u>
	\$ 4,290.28

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 19,069.64
Bequest Funds Savings:	19,014.88
Memorial Fund CD:	5,497.26
CD Savings:	<u>22,313.41</u>
	\$ 65,895.19

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office.

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

### **You Can Help!**

Christian Services has contacted the local churches to ask for help for many of their clients who are having difficulty paying their winter utility bills. If you can help, send a check to:

Christian Services  
P.O. Box 22112  
Lansing, MI 48909-2112





## Please remember that ...

Mayflower Heat asks for your contribution, large or small, to the fund for buying a new furnace when that time comes. Remember, this repair would most likely happen in the very cold weather. *Brrr: . . .*

## Outreach for March

As Liz wrote about in the last newsletter, we are focusing on missions by providing assistance to the local Ronald McDonald House near Sparrow Hospital. We will be collecting goods which help provide for the needs of families staying there during a child's hospitalization.

Below is a list of items the Houses always need. They can be brought to the church and placed in the basket in the office lobby, or you can write a check to Mayflower, designated "Ronald McDonald House," and shopping will be done for you. *Thank you!*

- Ziploc bags; paper towels; foil, plastic wrap, wax paper
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Individual wrapped toilet paper rolls
- Sample-size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste); disposable razors
- Keurig-style coffee cups
- Individual boxes of cereal

Dear Mayflower Family:

We cannot begin to tell you of our gratitude for the donations for Maggie's medical expenses. Although we are blessed with good insurance, the co-pays and deductibles and travel expenses were daunting. Your thoughtfulness, especially at a time of year when we are all over-extended, left us speechless. We appreciate your prayers and support more than you will know. Again, thank you!

Love, *Liz, Maggie, and Chad*



## Music Notes

When you think of Easter Sunday, what hymn jumps into your mind first? Well, if you've been attending Mayflower for any period of time, I bet you would say "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." I know that in my past, I can't remember an Easter service I attended where I did not sing that hymn. Can you imagine being the person who wrote those words, and do you think that when he did he could have imagined it would be one of the most widely sung hymns on Easter?

The individual I am referring to is Charles Wesley, who lived from 1707 to 1788. The first Wesleyan Chapel in London was known as the Foundry Meeting House, and this hymn was written by Charles for the first service in that chapel. He went on to be a prolific hymn-writer, producing approximately 6,500 hymns, many of which are well known to us, such as "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

Originally, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" had eleven four-line stanzas and was entitled "Hymn For Easter." Its popularity has partially been due to the use of the great hymn tune that Charles had no part in composing but which was anonymously used in the *Lyra Davidica* hymnal in 1708 in London. The "alleluias" sung at the end of each line were not written by Wesley but were included by some editor who needed to fit the text to the tune. Interesting, yes?

So, as you sing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" this year, you may want to pause to remember the twists and turns it took to become one of the most popular hymns ever sung.

*Christ the Lord is ris 'n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*



— Barb Fuller, Music Director

## **What's happening in March:**

- 3/8 Trustees Meeting - 10:30 a.m.**
- 3/12 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 3/13 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
Last day to order Easter lilies**
- 3/15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes**
- 3/19 Corned Beef Dinner - 5:30 p.m.**
- 3/20 Palm Sunday  
Prudential Council - Noon**
- 3/24 Maundy Thursday  
Soup - 6:15 p.m.; Service - 7:00 p.m.**
- 3/25 Good Friday**
- 3/27 Easter Sunday**

