

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

BIRTHDAYS



- 5/1 - Celia Snow (92)*
- 5/7 - Linda Wheeler*
- 5/18 - Roger Kennedy*
- 5/22 - Tieson Graham*
- 5/26 - Bob Felter*

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/4 - Mike & Mary Rutledge*
- 5/25 - Chad & Liz Canfield*

Head Usher

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Food Bank



From The Pastor's Desk

Be a Lover, not a Hater



In our present world, there are many religious groups who are making their case for a life of hatred and violence toward people who do not hold to their beliefs. Every religion has these groups. Here is what the Bible, which I believe to be the Word of God, says about love and hate. There are 163 verses about hate and 484 verses about love (New American Standard Version).

I John 4:7,8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Love your neighbor as yourself is first found in Leviticus 19:18 and quoted by Jesus as one of the commandments in Matthew 22:37-40. Jesus said to ***Love your enemies*** (Luke 6:35) and ***love one another*** (John 13:34).

The biblical concept of love does not require a feeling (warm fuzziness) nor consent, participation or agreement with another's choices, preferences, theology, ideas, etc. Righteous indignation (really just arrogance, pride being the original sin) allows for hating the sin and the sinner, thus approving of 'appropriate' violent/hateful actions. Killing with a sword or killing with words/actions is hateful and judgmental. Only God is the Righteous judge – and you are not his agent to carry out judgment.

Love hates sin, while behaving in a godly manner towards all human beings. I Corinthians 13, especially verses 4-8(a) describes godly behavior in love towards people.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails. (NIV)

Swords into Childshares

In the depths of bleak midwinter a welcome package arrived — a 1915 Edison gramophone that I had “won” in a silent auction at the West Coast Ragtime Festival last November. Those old cylinders actually track and sound a lot better than their contemporary discs — which isn’t saying an awful lot! However, their cumbersome storage requirements and the fact that Edison was loath to accept electric recording techniques led to their demise. Still, listening to one of those decrepit four-minute Blue Amberol recordings on its original player does a lot to get you in the mood of imagining how people thought and were entertained one hundred years ago.

Among the cylinders that came with it was one labelled simply “Medley of War Songs — Band.” Since this was 1915, I expected to recognize a number of World War I songs. Alas, no. Most of the songs were quite unfamiliar; yet suddenly I recognized one of them and started singing along with it, words I hadn’t sung for perhaps sixty years:

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world,
Red or yellow, black or white,
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Why ever would they put a children’s gospel song on a recording of war songs?! Then I thought a little harder and realized that I did recognize that tune in another guise, the Civil War song, “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching, by

George Root, who composed many Civil War songs, including “The Battle-Cry of Freedom.” [“Tramp, Tramp, Tramp” had the subtitle, “The Prisoner’s Hope,” and was intended to cheer up Union prisoners with the hope that their army was soon coming to release them.]

A generation later C. Herbert Woolston (about whom otherwise we know very little) fitted it with new words and turned it into a children’s hymn. He turned swords into plowshares, or in this case, childshares! A remarkable accomplishment.

Keeping this in mind, perhaps we, too, can turn a few swords into plowshares. At least we can try.

In this age of instant communication, it is so easy to react to our gut instincts: Confront the enemy. After all, that's how our species evolved. But if we simmer down, take a little time to contemplate, then perhaps our differences can be ironed out diplomatically. There's an old saying, "It's easier to finesse your enemies than to confront them," which is not really true: finessing them takes considerable thought and preparation and ultimately is more difficult.

Peace is far more complex than war. For war is single-minded, while peace is multifaceted. A musical metaphor might be Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, a show(off)piece for huge orchestra. It starts off with "Mars, the Bringer of War," a fitting fiery introduction, which is followed by "Venus, the Bringer of Peace," which is much more subdued, less impressive on first hearing. Yet "Mars" quickly becomes irritatingly monophonic, repetitious, and bombastic, while "Venus" turns out to be far more polyphonic and fascinating — and what's more important, it sticks with you much better upon repeated hearings.

Ultimately, peace takes far more effort than war — especially in its preparation. Are we willing to take the trouble and make the necessary effort on a smaller, individual scale? Think about it: If more than one hundred years ago one person could turn a war song into a far more widespread and beloved children's hymn — a small, yet not insignificant event — surely each of us can find our own sword, be it only a figurative kitchen knife, to turn into a plowshare. Or perhaps better, into a childshare.

Bill McHarris, Lay Leader



Remember...

The next newsletter will include all events and articles for June and July. Please consider this when turning in information for that newsletter.

The newsletter after that will cover the months of August and September. It will be published in September in time for Rally Day.

Meredith Kennedy
Editor

Mayflower Financial News

A profit of \$590.93 was made at our March 2nd Saturday Supper and our annual corned beef dinner netted \$553.86.

A brief summary of our finances as of March 31, 2015:

Income:	\$ 10,071.52
Expenses:	8,590.23
	\$ 1,481.29

YTD for Three Months

Income:	\$ 20,191.18
Expenses:	22,714.57
	- \$ 2,523.39

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 13,626.09
Bequest Funds Savings	4,010.44
Memorial Fund CD	5,495.10
CD Savings	22,306.81
	\$ 45,438.44

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Music Notes...



In early November of 2014 I had braces put on my teeth – something I had wanted to do since my college days when I realized my jaw was not big enough to accommodate all of my teeth without them overlapping in what I thought to be very obvious ways. For days after I got the braces I would regale Jerry gleefully with every detail of the discomfort they were causing me. We would laugh at my having to sit next to young children, waiting to have the orthodontist check me out, my peers (the children) giving me looks of astonishment. Why is Grandma wearing braces?

When my doctor told me I would need braces for twenty-two months I thought he meant it would take that long to get my teeth straightened out. I was actually naïve enough to think that that was all there was to the process. Imagine my surprise when my teeth moved into place within a matter of several months, and I thought that by some good fortune I was a tooth prodigy and would be finished much sooner than originally predicted. Wrong! As of yesterday I'm wearing rubber bands that connect between my upper and lower braces so that my jaw becomes properly aligned. Come to find out, the real test of endurance in orthodontia is not actually wearing the braces but wearing the rubber bands. Who knew?

So this entire process has gotten me thinking about the music challenges we have faced at Mayflower this year. Soon after I obtained my braces we found ourselves without a minister of music. Instead of falling into complete ruin our choirs pulled together and continued to create beautiful and inspiring music each Sunday. Our trustees scrambled to find another director and our relationship with Rachel Alexander blossomed. We were eventually able to hire Yoomin Jung as our accompanist, as well, and we have appreciated her great talents these past several months.

None of this has been easy, and none of it has been without glitches. Rachel has other commitments through this spring and summer and cannot be with us, but she has great hopes of coming back to us in the fall. It turns out that Yoomin must be away from May through July due to school responsibilities, and so we are currently looking for someone to take her place during that time. But the good news is that we are pulling together, similar to what my rubber bands and braces are doing. There are moments when I feel discomfort from the work being done on my teeth, and we at Mayflower feel the discomfort of not having our music program completely settled in, but our journeys have already been rewarding and the end product for both should be nothing but dazzling.

We are survivors at Mayflower. We dig in for the long haul. We believe that God is always behind us as well as ahead of us. We carry on just because that is what we do! I love Mayflower for that very reason

Barb Fuller

Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We plan to have another sale as usual in October or November, so start saving up your items NOW! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them in the box or bag. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!



Come one, come all, and join us for the Mayflower Church Picnic! On Sunday, May 17th, bring a dish to pass and your enthusiasm and celebrate another successful church year. A main dish, beverages, and table settings will be provided. Sign up sheets are outside the office.



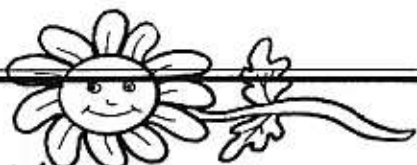
Christian Education...

As another church year draws to a close, I am wondering what the future will bring. Maggie and I have been working on an independent study this year of the history of Christianity, marveling at the ways the sacrifice of Christ has rippled on through the years. Our Pilgrim forefathers made the journey to the New World because they believed strongly in the government staying out of the personal act of worship. Their deep faith inspires me.

As our youth move on and up, the role of Christian Education at Mayflower is changing. I have a suggestion or two that the Prudential Council will hopefully have approved the next time I write, so tune into this space for the next edition to learn more. I hope to work with you all to expand our knowledge and understanding of what God wants for us (hint – it probably isn't focused on winning the lottery, but keep hoping!)

Enjoy the blessings of our beautiful Michigan spring. Until next time –

Liz



Happenings in May...

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|------|---------------------------------------|
| 5/3 | Food collection for
Salvation Army |
| 5/9 | Second Saturday
Supper |
| 5/10 | Mother's Day |
| 5/15 | Deadline for
Mayflower Notes |
| 5/17 | Music Sunday
Picnic |
| 5/17 | Prudential Council
noon |
| 5/25 | Memorial Day-
office closed |
| 5/31 | Advent House
lunches |



May-2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Food Collection for Salvation Army				Handbells 3-4:15 Choir 5-7:30		Second Saturday Supper 5 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day		Trustee's Meeting 10:30 a.m.		Handbell Choir 3-4:15 Choir 5:30	Deadline for Mayflower Notes	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Music Sunday Church Picnic Prudential Council - noon						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day Office Closed					
31						
Advent Lunches						

