

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

November



BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 - Ann McClelland
- 11/1 - Dominic McClelland
- 11/2 - Frank Wheeler
- 11/5 - Morgan Smith
- 11/5 - Bob Mott
- 11/9 - Blanche Samohovetz (95)
- 11/11 - Cozette Oxley
- 11/15 - Barbara Fuller
- 11/19 - Fred Lowe
- 11/20 - Ina Martin
- 11/28 - Jaxson Graham
- 11/29 - Mike Rutledge



ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/25 - Roger & Meredith Kennedy

HEAD USHER - Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS - Mitten Tree, Walter Ellis Harvest Festival, Shoebox Gifts

From The Pastor's Desk

Expressions of Love

November is noted for two things around Mayflower Church: 1) Missions Month, 2) Celebration of Thanksgiving. Missions, always being important, with Walter Ellis Sunday and our support of the Lansing City Rescue Mission and other missions we are involved in around the year. Then, as Congregationalists, the Thanksgiving Day celebration is important; being as the Pilgrims were our spiritual forefathers. Thus November provides us with many reasons to be thankful.

Without God's love for us shown through His grace, we'd have nothing to be thankful for. Ephesians 1:3-14 is a snapshot of God's grace:

- 3 – blessed with every spiritual blessing
- 4 – chosen before the creation of the world
- 5 – adoption to sonship
- 6 – His grace freely given to us
- 7 – redemption and forgiveness of sins
- 8 – God's grace lavished on us
- 9 – made known the mystery of His will
- 10 – bringing unity to all in heaven and on earth
- 11 – chosen and predestined
- 12 – we are for the praise of His glory
- 13 – sealed with the promised Holy Spirit
- 14 – guaranteed inheritance



God's grace and love towards us – beyond what we can even comprehend – is truly something to be thankful for. As your pastor, I hope you have learned to be thankful for everything you have and to recognize how blessed you are AND that you are regularly giving thanks to God (Ephesians 5:20). More so, that you comprehend God's love for you and His grace given to you.

Ephesians 3:17-19

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Outreach Focus

During the month of November we will focus on "Spreading the Wealth" outside our church walls. Since we are no longer supporting the mission in Mali, we are going to focus on the City Rescue Mission, etc.

The next three Sundays (10/26, 11/2, 11/9) will be shoebox distribution. Filled and labeled boxes must be returned by November 16th so they can be delivered to a distribution center. Be sure to contact Liz if you want her to shop for you. We would really like to fill 30+ boxes!

The mitten tree will be up in late November for your contributions of warm scarves, hats, mittens and gloves for school-aged children.

November 23rd will be our annual Walter Ellis Harvest Festival collection and delivery. Mark Criss from the Rescue Mission will preach that day.

I will be publishing a list of mission needs and facts during the month. There is also an opportunity to tour the mission during November. If you have any questions or comments, contact Roger Kennedy. Thank you for your participation!

Roger



I am having an "adult pageant" this year, due to the lack of actual minors anymore, although kids are always welcome! If the acting bug has burrowed into your heart, see me soon to express your interest. I hope to hold limited practices but I do expect lines to be memorized (sorry, you've all been reading for many years, so it shouldn't be as hard as it for a 10 year old!) Practices will mostly be after church.

It's almost time for Shoebox gifts again. The hard plastic boxes have worked out so nicely, I am again placing a basket in the social hall for funds to purchase them. If you have a dollar or two to throw in the kitty towards buying boxes, that would be great. As usual, I am happy to shop for those who want me to do so. The combined power of our dollars works better, as I can buy necessities such as combs, soap, and washcloths in bulk and save.

Liz

Calling all thespians! I am looking to put on an adult Christmas pageant this year. Interested parties should get with me no later than November 5th. You will be required to memorize your lines. I look forward to the challenges of working with big kids this year!

Have you ever gone for a hike and had to carry a backpack or water bottles? It's hard sometimes. I have wanted to quit midway through a hike more than once! Jesus asks us every day to "go the extra mile", no matter how hard. In Matthew 5:38-42, he said,

"38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' [a] 39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."

Many people get confused and start talking about "an eye for an eye." That was the law of Moses' time. Jesus challenged us to be better people – he wanted us to "raise the bar". In the early days of Jewish history, God permitted vengeance, because life was brutal and the Jewish people were under constant attack. By the time God sent Jesus, he wanted us to evolve.

The language about being compelled to go a mile is about Roman law. In Jesus' time, a Roman soldier could require anyone to carry his equipment a Roman mile, or 1000 yards. Jesus told us to do more – the origin of the phrase "go the extra mile."

Jesus gave us the example by dying on the cross for us. As hard as it is, passing by vengeance and learning to give more than is asked of us will make us happier and healthier humans, and living examples of God's never ending love for us.



Liz

Lay Leader's Missive

Barb and I are now in the process of building a garage on the north side of the house, across the driveway. Barb calls it a chicken coop because of the lean-to on one side. While watching construction, I noticed that the builder was not using a power nail gun for framing. When I inquired, he said that the nailer, although quicker, does not provide the same strength as the old fashioned hammer and nail. He explained that with the manual method, stronger nails can be used and hammering causes the joints to pull together tighter. I was glad to know that we selected a builder that valued quality more than productivity. This garage needs to last longer than us.

A few months ago I wrote about how the Prudential Council is working on ways to communicate more effectively. Since then, one of the ideas that we discussed and implemented is the Event Planning Form. This form, which can be obtained from the church office or on the website, is used for any church event that involves the church facility, food or personnel. When filled out properly, it contains all of the information required to successfully execute an event. This required form is presented to the Prudential Council by the organizers at least two months in advance. The Council then has enough information to determine if the event is viable and offer suggestions if it is not. Like the old hammer and nail method of framing, it may take a little longer up front but the result will be a high-quality event.

In the May article about communication I also mentioned that each member of the congregation has the right to be heard. Everyone's thoughts and ideas are important. We should not criticize, discourage or alienate anyone for expressing their opinions. We are all God's children and deserve to be treated with kindness and respect. However, it is also important to select the proper forum for topics that may be controversial. Such a topic should include ideas for improvement at a reasonable time and place for discussion of those ideas. The Prudential Council meetings are a good forum for that. By contacting the Lay Leader in advance, he/she will place your topic on the agenda for the next meeting and allow adequate time for discussion.

Jerry Fuller



Mayflower Financial News

Our September 2nd Saturday Supper was very successful with 92 persons being served which resulted in a profit of \$567.77. We have received \$2893 in donations towards the cost of \$5500 needed to improve and upgrade our sound system.

A brief summary of our finances as of September 30, 2014:

Income:	\$ 5,506.37
Expenses:	5,942.95
	- \$ 436.58

YTD for Nine Months

Income:	\$ 69,213.69
Expenses:	71,369.39
	- \$ 2,155.70

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 10,884.99
Bequest Funds Savings	4,009.84
Memorial Fund CD	5,494.01
CD Savings	22,303.51
	\$ 42,692.35

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer





Music Musings

There is certainly some fearsome news in our world.

It is so sad to hear of the nurse that lost her life due to treating an Ebola-stricken patient. He did not survive, and then she was also gone.

The world is war-torn, some places far worse than others. You have heard the term "the negative news" with good reason.

Why do Christian remain hopeful among the ashes of sadness? We can only lean on our faith, the faith that tells us that God is with us, that *He has plans for our good welfare, not for evil* (Jeremiah). Also, from Joshua 1:9: *Be strong and courageous, do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you, wherever you go.*"

We believe that the Lord loves us, and that we are His beloved children. He does not want evil to reign, but instead goodness and truth.

Even with our faults and frailties, we will love the Lord, and if we fall, choose get up and walk with the Lord.

Praise be to the God and His Son who love us.

Dates to remember in November...

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| Nov. 2 | Food for Salvation
Army
Daylight Savings
time ends |
| Nov. 8 | Second Saturday
Supper |
| Nov. 10 | Veteran's Day |
| Nov. 16 | Prudential Council |
| Nov. 23 | Missions Sunday
Walter Ellis Harvest
Festival |
| Nov. 27 | Thanksgiving
Day |
| Nov. 30 | Advent House
Lunches |

