

Baby Boxes for Haiti

Our outreach project continuing in February is "Baby Boxes for Haiti," a program to teach and supply safe birthing facilities. The program needs funds and layette supplies. To support this worthy project, any amount can be added to your pledge/contribution check or given separately. Cash donations are also welcome. Any amount may be donated, but \$30 will purchase one complete layette.

Annual Meeting Rescheduled

Due to the sudden, temporary closure of the church for in-person worship and activities as a result of increasing COVID rates, our Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for February 20, 2022, either in person or on Zoom. Watch for further updates. New members will also be received in the worship service that day.

Annual Report books are available. Stop by church between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 6 and 13. If you are unable to come then, contact Lorraine at 517/321-3221 or 517/719-2277 or email her at info@mayflowerchurch.com.

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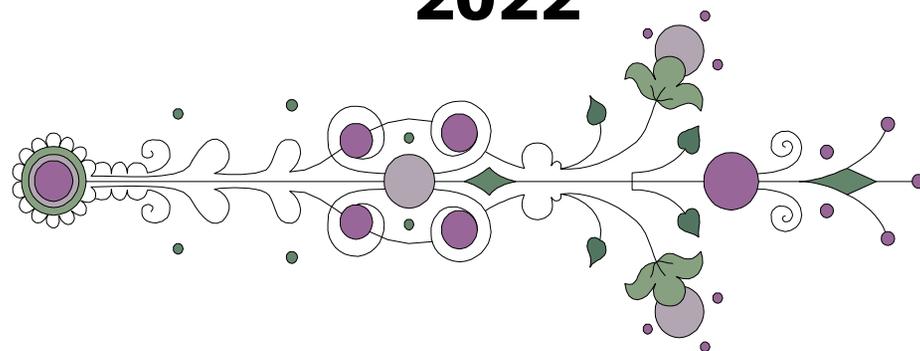
Mayflower Congregational Church



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Website: www.mayflowerchurch.com
Email: info@mayflowerchurch.com

February 2022



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

It's happening in February...

2/13 - Communion

2/13 - Trustees - TBA

2/15 - Deadline for March Mayflower Notes

2/20 - Annual Meeting rescheduled

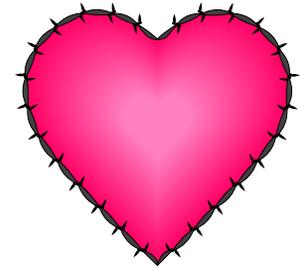
Weekly Events:

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. TBA

Exercise Class: Weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom



February



BIRTHDAYS

2/1 - Nancy McKay

2/9 - Lisa Jones

2/11 - Bob Z

2/21 - Carla Woodward

2/22 - Gwen Tisdale

2/26 - Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS (see info on back)

Baby Boxes for Haiti



Mayflower Financial News

Your generosity was incredible in December! Thank you so much! We've now received \$7200 toward the significant expense of the new office lobby entrance doors. That's so helpful!

Your response to the Christmas Eve offering for the Salvation Army totaled \$2500. That's an amazing amount and it will be put to good use.

For our other current outreach project, the Mitten Tree, many cold weather items have been donated so far, along with \$275. We'll continue to collect knitted items and money until the end of January.

We'll be collecting for the Baby Boxes for Haiti project through the end of February. The total collected so far is \$50.

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

Income:	\$ 22,525.74
Expenses:	<u>18,352.56</u>
	\$ 4,173.18

YTD for Twelve Months:

Income:	\$131,284.60
Expenses:	<u>139,428.88</u>
	\$ -8,144.28

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 19,744.64
Savings:	85,563.94
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,626.39</u>
	\$127,934.97

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



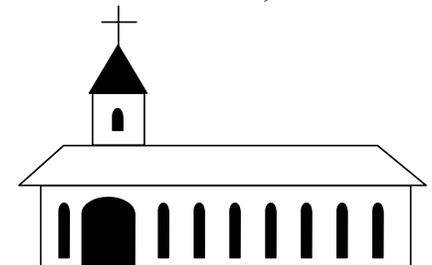
Pastor Mark's Musings

I want to thank the Mayflower congregation for the incredible outpouring of love and support since my mother became ill and passed away last month. As a pastor, I am familiar with the various aspects of grief when people lose loved ones. It is never an easy time, and it is always a privilege to represent the church in my ministry to families and individuals as they navigate their losses. But now it is my turn, and I so greatly appreciate the many ways all of you have been 'pastoral' to me. Your prayers and thoughtful remembrances have meant so much to me.

One of the things my mother gave me and all who knew her was a legacy of colorblindness. February is Black History Month, and it is a good time to reflect on the way that the gospel intersects with our societal tension over racial issues. No preacher has had more influence on my ministry than Dr. King, and a book I read early in my ministry, "Knock at Midnight," was a collection of sermons he preached before the age of 25. My favorite was one entitled "How to Forgive Your Enemies." Mom not only demonstrated colorblindness in the way she acted, but took pains to understand the historic difficulty racism has played in the lives of minorities, particularly with African Americans. So she had her own brand of affirmative action she lived and taught. I saw her go out of her way to extend extra kindness, attention, and understanding toward those who suffered historic oppression and blunted opportunity. Thanks, Mom!

I love the diversity we have in our church, and our corporate life as a "Beloved Community" is enhanced by integrating each other's stories into our own. I certainly see that in the life of Jesus, especially as he dealt with Samaritans, the diseased, the marginalized, and women, all of whom he elevated to an equal status with all humanity. As followers of Christ, we should also do no less.

Pastor Mark



Greetings from Your Lay Leader

This is my first message to you as Lay Leader. I am excited to become acquainted with each of you.

One of Pastor Mark's goals this year is for Mayflower to define our core values and bedrock beliefs. This has been a vision of his for some time, but this was interrupted by the COVID-19 virus. Each of us will be asked for input into these core values and bedrock beliefs.

As I have been thinking about this, the question came to my mind, "Who is a CONGREGATIONALIST?" To help me with my answer, I re-read the books "The Congregational Way of Life" by Arthur A. Rouner, Jr., and "The Lord's Free People" by Harry R. Butman.

What interested me in the Congregational Way originally was the word freedom. To me, that meant I could do and believe as I pleased without anyone telling me what to do. What I have come to realize, however, what freedom means is that I am not free from God's word, but free for His word. We as Congregationalists are not free to live our lives with abandon, but we are free to legislate our autonomous church as our collective conscience leads us and follow the example of Jesus' life. We are free from authority of a Pope, King, Bishops or a creed that all members must subscribe to. Each member of the church is equal and brings their own understanding of scripture to the whole group. The Bible is our authority and we worship Christ as he leads us.

We are a covenant of people trusting Christ's word that where two or more gather in His name, there He is with them (Matthew 18:20). Our part of the covenant is to have faith in His will for us, trust His promise to always be with us, believe our salvation is obtained through Christ's death on the cross, and to love Him and others.

As each of us work on our values and beliefs this year, may we grow in our faith and love of God and each other.

Ruth L. Pasch

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

I think of holidays, whether sacred or secular, as events to look forward to throughout the year. We finish one holiday and we start anticipating the next. My mother used to say that she was in a better frame of mind when all of the fun was over after a vacation, if she had an interesting project to dive into upon her return. Such it is with Christmas as Valentine's Day comes on its heels. Christmas 2021 is behind us, the memories are tucked away in my brain and my heart, and I can now spend a bit of time thinking about how the word "love" fits into my life.

Did you know that if you turn to the back of our hymnals where the Topical Index is, you will find 51 hymns that have to do with love? As I perused the various titles, one in particular jumped out at me – The Gift of Love. I am enchanted with the concept that love is a gift that is given, and as it is with a number of other hymns, this one's words are inspired by a scripture. You will often find these words read at weddings as they are taken from 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. The tune is a traditional English melody adapted by a prolific composer of our time, Hal Hopson.

Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide ev'ry deed; by this we worship, and are freed.

How wonderful it is to be reminded that even if a person has a number of marvelous traits, if they don't have love in their hearts, trying to use those traits is a hollow action.

And isn't it lovely that in the third verse of this hymn, there is the plea to have God control our hearts so that everything we do is built around Him, knowing that in doing so we will do it with love? Amen.

