

Did You Know?

At Mayflower, we often take up a collection for other charitable organizations that help in times of great need-- things like the Midland flood, the Texas power grid disaster, the wildfires in Paradise, California, that destroyed the NACCC church there (and most of the town), the Ukrainian refugees, and many other emergencies. We also designate our Christmas Eve offering to an organization that provides aid (usually the Salvation Army), as well as collecting food items and money for the Harvest Festival, which benefits the Lansing City Rescue Mission, the Mitten Tree which provides knitted winter items and money to Lewton School and the Lansing Charter Academy, and the Baby Boxes for Haiti project which helps to provide a safer environment and medical attention for babies and education and training for mothers in poverty-stricken Haiti.

What you may not know is that Mayflower supports other local organizations from our general funds annually. These gifts to Advent House and Christian Services are part of our annual budget and are given in May each year. We also provide lunches for Advent House every time there is a 5th Sunday in a month, about four times a year. Also in our annual budget, we give support to the Congregational associations which we are part of: the National, Michigan, and Central Michigan associations. Now you know!

Mayflower Church Staff

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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

It's happening in May...

5/8 - Mother's Day

5/15 - Deadline for June/July/August Notes

5/29 - Advent House Lunches

5/30 - Memorial Day

Weekly Events:

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

After-Church Coffee: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. to Noon

Education Hour: Sundays at Noon to 1:00 p.m.

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

May



BIRTHDAYS

5/7 - Linda Wheeler

5/16 - Gil Wanger

5/17 - Nancy Wing

5/18 - Roger Kennedy

5/19 - Marilyn Wanger

5/30 - Darleen Wirt

OUTREACH FOCUSES

Advent House

Christian Services



Mayflower Financial News

Thank you for the wonderful and generous response to the collection for the Ukrainian refugees. The total at this writing is nearly \$3000! You are amazing, Mayflower!

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

Income:	\$ 10,304.72
Expenses:	<u>10,489.11</u>
	\$ - 184.39

YTD for Three Months:

Income:	\$ 40,882.42
Expenses:	<u>36,400.08</u>
	\$ 4,482.34

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 24,119.85
Savings:	85,696.41
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,705.70</u>
	\$132,521.96

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

Letdowns! Life is full of highs and lows, and it can also be true of life in the church. Advent and Lent are two high points of preparation and anticipation leading to the two holiest days of the year, the birth of Jesus and resurrection of Christ. These are important journeys for all of us as Christians, particularly for those of us in the mainline tradition. So when we get to the other side of these events, it can seem like a big letdown. However, here are a few antidotes to that reality.

First, in life and in the church, we need things to look forward to. Without it, we lose hope and vitality. Second, it is a privilege to welcome guests and visitors into our church on special days. Third, we are a growing church and we have been seeing new people in our church on a regular basis, with several officially join our ranks. We have every reason to expect that process to continue. That produces energy and vitality to all of our worship, fellowship, and service opportunities. Lastly, we all need a break from time to time. With that, I would like to thank so many of you for all the hard work which went into preparing music, liturgy, and sanctuary decorations, particularly for Good Friday and Easter. You deserve a break!

Sometimes, preachers take vacations beginning immediately after Christmas or Easter. I have not scheduled time away following our Lenten journey culminating on Easter Sunday, but a few “deep breaths” have been helpful. I hope it is the same for all of you. We have much to continue to look forward to, and I anxiously await all that God has in store for us in our Mayflower journey, in whatever season of the church and whatever season of our lives. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mark



Greetings from Your Lay Leader

Core values: what would be your response if someone were to ask you what your personal **core values** are?

This question was recently asked of me. I responded with a few characteristics that quickly came to my mind. Given more time to respond, there are others I would have added.

This question caused me to think generally of **core values**.

I looked up both words in the dictionary and found a multitude of meanings for them. To me, the personal definition is the essential or enduring part of one's being from which we deal with all matters that impact our lives and the worth or importance of them to us. As a consequence, these values affect our behavior toward other people and situations.

For some time, Pastor Mark has envisioned the development of **core values** for the whole of Mayflower. A program on this subject had begun before COVID began over two years ago, but paused because of the virus. Linda Farmer-Lewis had agreed to lead the program and continues to be committed to assisting even now. An initial meeting to develop this program was held on April 6, 2022, with more sessions to follow. The congregation will be informed of the time of those sessions. Your input into this process is welcome and needed. Please plan on being a part of this important development for Mayflower.

Ruth L. Pasch



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

Three out of the five Sunday worship services in May are going to include handbells, so I thought you might appreciate becoming more educated on the world of handbells.

Bells have been around for thousands of years, but handbells were developed during the 17th century in England. The first bells in England were huge and found in church towers where they were used for change ringing, which is the art of changing the order in which the bells ring. Interestingly, English towns began practicing change ringing with small, wooden handbells so they wouldn't disturb neighbors and so that they could avoid the uncomfortable environment in the bell tower.

In 1660 William and Robert Cor cast the first tuned bronze handbell in the Wiltshire Foundry in England, and small sets were made to correspond to the bells in a specific tower.

Semitones were added to form full chromatic sets which made it possible for performers to play familiar melodies as bell ringers began to recognize the handbells' musical potential.

Until 1955, the vast majority of handbells were produced by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in England. Petit & Fritsen, Dutch bellfounders since 1660, began producing handbells that year, and by 1963, Schulmerich Carillons began mass-producing handbells in the U.S. In 1974 Jacob Malta, a one-time employee of Schulmerich, opened his own handbell business, called Malmark. Mayflower owns a five-octave set of Malmark bells.

English handbells spread throughout this country, first through families owning them and then into churches. In the last half of the 20th century, they also began to become popular in schools.

There is so much more to be said about handbells, so I will continue to write about them in upcoming newsletter articles. Feel free to visit the handbell tables after worship on the Sundays they are played, and ask any ringer to answer questions you may have. They will be happy to help you, and if you are interested, will even give you a chance to ring them.

