

## Christmas Eve Collection

We will be taking a special offering on Christmas Eve for the Salvation Army. The need is even more critical as the pandemic continues on. If you are unable to attend the Christmas Eve Service, you may give by bringing in cash or by writing a check and bringing or mailing it to the church any time in December. Thanks!

## Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is now up, waiting for your donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and socks. The donations will be divided between our neighboring schools, Lewton School and Lansing Charter Academy. Any monetary gifts will be divided between the schools so they can purchase winter wear as needs arise. Please make your check payable to Mayflower and designate "Mitten Tree." Your donation may be combined with your pledge/contribution check—but clearly designate the amount. Cash donations are also welcome. Thanks for helping!

### Mayflower Church Staff

**MINISTER:**

Rev. Mark McCormick  
206/930-6634

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**

Barbara Fuller  
517/574-0576

**PIANIST:**

DeeAnn McCormick  
810/210-0472

**CUSTODIAN:**

Joe Pitchford  
517/703-3007

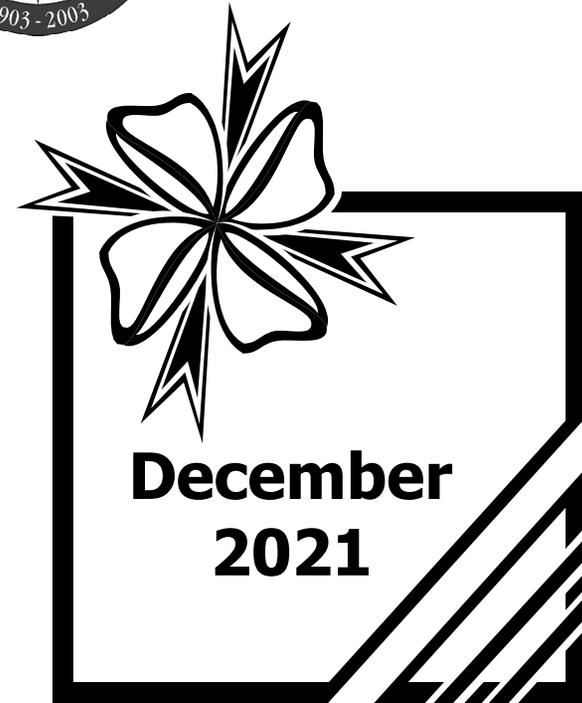
**Meredith A. Kennedy, Mayflower Notes Editor**  
10310 Lafayette Lane, Dimondale, MI 48821  
517/256-1834 meredithkennedy35@gmail.com

# Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911  
Telephone and Fax: 517/484-3139

Website: [www.mayflowerchurch.com](http://www.mayflowerchurch.com)  
Email: [info@mayflowerchurch.com](mailto:info@mayflowerchurch.com)



**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
**Pastor**

## It's happening in December...

12/5 - Communion

12/5 - Last day to order Poinsettias

12/5 - Trustees - after church

12/12 - Prudential Council - after church

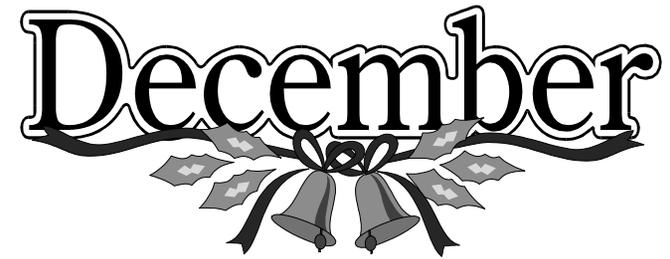
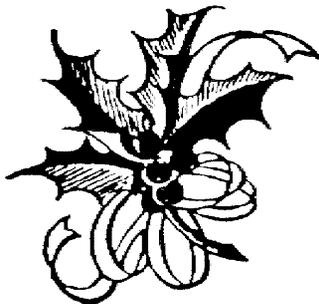
12/15 - Deadline for January Mayflower Notes

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00 p.m.

### Weekly Events:

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
(last session of 2021 will be December 15)

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



## BIRTHDAYS

12/6 - Pastor Mark McCormick

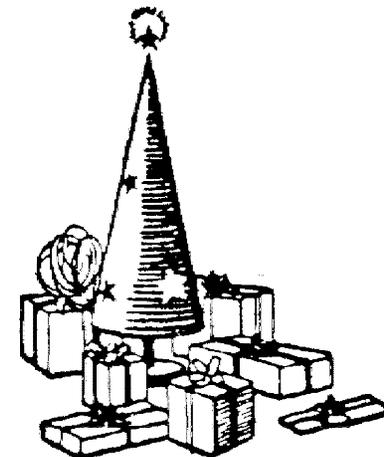
12/8 - Carleen Brammell

12/15 - Steve Woodward

## OUTREACH FOCUSES (see info on back)

### Mitten Tree

### Salvation Army (Christmas Eve offering)



## Mayflower Financial News

Our new, beautiful, \$13,000, handicapper-friendly, energy-efficient lobby entrance doors were installed on November 5. We've received some donations toward this significant expense; if you would like to help, it would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks yet again for your generous support of our September/October outreach projects: \$900 was donated for Sally Potter's school supplies project at Waverly H.S.; \$925 was donated for Hurricane Ida Relief for the Salvation Army; and \$550 was donated to support our walkers for the CROP Walk! Please continue to support our current outreach projects: the Harvest Festival and the Mitten Tree.

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

Income:	\$ 11,395.81
Expenses:	<u>13,624.51</u>
	\$ -2,228.70

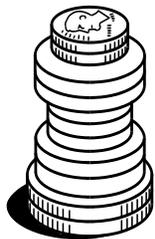
### YTD for Ten Months:

Income:	\$ 98,289.07
Expenses:	<u>108,095.69</u>
	\$ -9,806.62

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 7,983.71
Savings:	95,452.41
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,626.39</u>
	\$126,062.51

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*

Hello again, Mayflower family and friends! With the onset of shorter days, cold temperatures, and the beginning of the bleakest weather season of all, we could all be S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder). But we in the Christian church begin the season of Advent which is a counter-narrative to things that naturally depress us.

I have experienced two very important births that have occurred in December. One was the birth of my first child, Bryce, on December 4, 1981. It didn't even seem like winter to me, even though his birth happened in the winter. I remember the first time I ventured out without his mother with that precious little infant over my shoulder. I went to the mall and I was such a proud dad, especially when there were older women behind me admiring the little guy. I don't even remember that there was a winter that year.

The other occurred on December 19, 1962, when my sister Heidi was born in the middle of the night at a little doctor's office. There was no hospital in town and the doctor was a member of our church. My mother walked off the makeshift delivery table just after the birth and came home with my father in their little economy car. Two hours later, I was alone with my baby sister with her crib in my room. I expected her to be my coveted baby brother. While it didn't work out that way, there was no winter that year as that bundle of joy entered our household.

Never before in the history of the world had a birth been so anticipated. Never before has a birth brought more hope to the human race. Let us prepare our hearts, then celebrate with our lives of love and compassion with a world which needs the message of promise and hope that happens at the birth of a child. In this case, that child is Jesus. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mark



## Christmas Greetings from your Lay Leader, Gail Sawyer

It's amazing to me how quickly this year has gone by and that we are entering the joyous time of the year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Mayflower has received some wonderful early Christmas gifts:

The ramp in front of the church was rebuilt by our custodian, Joe. It is now safe and stable. The doors to the lobby, which were 47 years old, have been replaced and an automatic door opener has been installed. The new doors are more secure and energy efficient. Heaters and fans are being installed in the lobby restrooms.

Fortunately, we are blessed to have a loving and generous congregation who have made contributions to our projects.

Here's some fun trivia about Christmas:

Jingle Bells was the first song to be played in space on December 16, 1965. It was originally a Thanksgiving song.

If you gave all the gifts listed in the "12 Days of Christmas," it would total 364 presents.

The Statue of Liberty is the largest Christmas present ever given. It was a holiday gift to the United States from France in 1886.

There are 750 different versions of Silent Night.

The tradition of putting up Christmas lights is more than 500 years old.

You can recycle your Christmas tree by donating it to elephants; they enjoy the seasonal snack.

Children have been leaving out milk and cookies for Santa since 1896.

There are more than 630 species of conifer trees. 77 million are grown each year in all 50 states.

Poinsettias have been a symbol of Christmas for 100 years.

I wish everyone a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and happiness.

Remember what Charlie Brown said: "It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who's around it."

With love, Gail

## Music Notes from Barb Fuller



Last Christmas Eve I received a lovely book from Jan and Charles Fleck entitled *The Carols of Christmas – A Celebration of the Surprising Stories Behind Your Favorite Holiday Songs*, authored by Andrew Gant. In chapter 13, the story of *Away in a Manger* unfolded, beginning with these words: "In a 1996 poll to find the most popular Christmas carols in the United Kingdom, *Away in a Manger* came in second. Not bad for a youngster." It went on to say that this carol had been around for only about 130 years at that time and that more tunes had been set to the words of *Away in a Manger* than any other carol.

There has been considerable confusion about who wrote those words, many thinking it was Martin Luther, but even though he did write many hymns, this was not one of them. As well as no author, there was no tune, and come to find out, the words were changed here and there through the years to make it more fanciful and whimsical. Probably because it had no tune to begin with, the words became fair game for composers to adopt.

In 1892, a third verse appeared, and there continues to be disagreement about who wrote that verse. In 1951, Richard S. Hill published, as my book reads, "a thorough and splendidly entertaining article called 'Not So Far Away in a Manger,'" where he listed all the musical settings he could find for the carol – forty-one! The two tunes most often used these days were written by William J. Kirkpatrick, an organist, hymn writer, and one-time fife major in the Philadelphia Volunteers, and by James Ramsey Murray, who also served as an army musician during the Civil War period, studied the art of hymn writing, and worked in publishing and as a teacher.

*Away in a Manger* has had many experiences in its relatively short life and it has been noted that it has a number of characteristics of a folk song. Let me quote my book one more time: "It's a folk song for our times—the new old. It's a song about home, safety, and a little, tiny child, sleeping peacefully. Home sweet home."

Perhaps with the negativity that bombards us on a daily basis these days, we need a season of whimsy. Learning what I have by reading chapter 13 of *The Carols of Christmas* will certainly give me more appreciation for the little carol of *Away in a Manger* as well as a little feeling of whimsy. Perfect!