

Glad New Year Prayer
(Martin Luther)

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
within my heart, that it may be
a quiet chamber kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap,
my lips no more can silence keep,
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
that sweetest ancient song.

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto man His son hath given
while angels sing with pious mirth.
A glad new year to all the earth!

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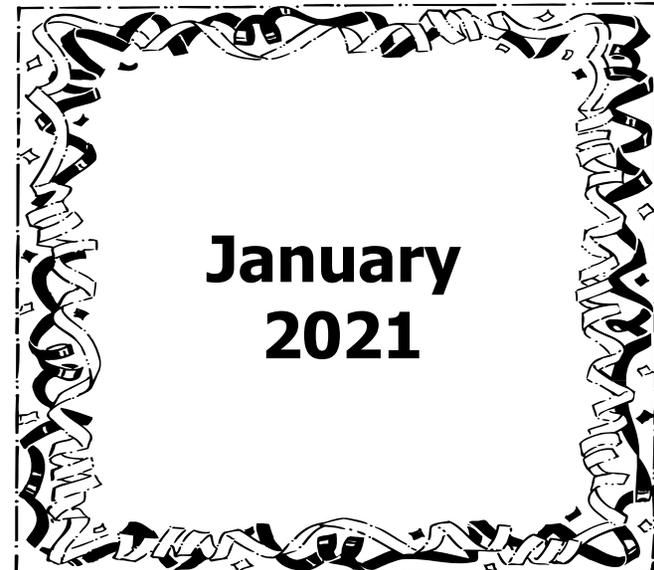
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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



Mayflower Financial News

Mayflower, you are nothing short of amazing in your support of your church! In addition to pledges and contributions, you generously supported the November outreach project, the Walter Ellis Harvest Festival, with donations totaling \$900. We were so proud to be able to send a check for that amount to the Lansing City Rescue Mission, a most deserving charity. In December, a total of \$1300 was donated to the Baby Boxes for Haiti project and \$1100 was donated for the Salvation Army in our Christmas Eve collection. And, as of this writing, \$565 has been donated for the Mitten Tree, a project which will continue into January.

The following is a summary of our finances as of November 30:

Income:	\$ 7,812.47
Expenses:	<u>7,176.23</u>
	\$ 636.24

YTD for Eleven Months:

Income:	\$109,068.60
Expenses:	<u>95,553.39</u>
	\$ 13,515.21

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 14,493.93
Savings:	100,436.84
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$137,478.11

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Never in my lifetime have these three words taken on more significance. Let's look at this phrase which is, in one sense, nothing more than a seasonal greeting.

First, we measure our lives by the cycles of nature. A year represents a complete cycle. So it is natural to share a greeting offering our best wishes to those we meet. Next, we measure our lives by the natural human desire to live happy, productive lives. Happiness is a Biblical concept (check out Psalm 1 and Matthew 5:1-12), and it is a concept deeply embedded into the American ethos. The phrase, "the pursuit of happiness," is in the Declaration of Independence. Finally, there is something significant in the concept of "new." It generally means better. As I am writing this, we are in the middle of some renovation in our house, which will result in having some "newness" in our kitchen. New cabinets, new floor, and some appliances, most of which were in desperate need of replacement. And we all know what it means to get a "new" car.

As we look forward to 2021, never more have we wanted something that will bring happiness and new and better circumstances. But as people of faith, we need to put a spiritual application into our greeting, not so much as what we say, but how we think and pray. The Bible speaks of the "Year of the Lord's Favor" in Isaiah 61 and as Jesus repeated at the beginning of his ministry. Our dedication, persistence, and renewed commitment to God in 2021 will bring about a year of the Lord's favor, no matter what else happens. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Mark



Mayflower
Congregational Church

From Your Lay Leader, Barb Fuller

As I look back to the beginning of 2020, I remember thinking that it could be a fun year, an easy year. Just the ease of writing the date of 2020 seemed a good omen. Well, so much for that line of thought!

If someone were to ask me how I felt about my year as your lay leader, my first inclination might be to say that it was an incredibly difficult one. Never in a million years would I have predicted we would have been faced with such daunting decisions to make, but upon further reflection I would have to say that those decisions have been the easy ones to make. Should we continue with in-church worship? Absolutely not! When making that decision, my “mom” instincts kicked in, and I could never live with myself if I thought one person in our church family had been harmed because of a decision I was part of.

You have all been kind and patient. I believe that most of you have understood the necessity to scale back our person-to-person activities, and in response to that, we have tried to create as many weekly virtual activities as we possibly could. We have ached for those of you who have been unable to connect with us online and have tried to keep in contact in other ways. It has all been a process.

As we head into 2021, I will see some of you at our virtual annual meeting via Zoom on January 24, just as I was able to see some of you during our drive-by parking lot visits this past fall, and I look forward to that. Having our meeting online will present a few challenges, but considering what we have all been through these past months, we can deal with that. I look forward to handing the gavel (virtually) over to Gail Sawyer at the end of that meeting. She has been a quick study and a solid rock regarding the decisions that have had to be made this year. And as always, we can count our blessings over and over that we have our dear Pastor Mark at the helm.

Leaving you as lay leader is bittersweet for me. I have felt the weight of your safety on my shoulders since March, but it has been a privilege to be put into that role, as well. With our faith in God and your support in the abilities of the leadership of Mayflower, we will continue to thrive.

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

In our hymnals there is a section entitled “God’s Revelation,” and within that is a subsection called “Creation.” Within “Creation” you will find “Nature,” “Times and Seasons,” and “Thanksgiving.” As we begin 2021, I thought it would be interesting to look at two hymns, both of which we have never sung, but both appropriate for a new year found under “Times and Seasons.”

The first hymn, “Another Year Is Dawning,” is set to the tune of AURELIA, which we are familiar with as “The Church’s One Foundation.” The text was written by Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879, and is a pleasant reminder of how to carry on in our quest to follow God. The third verse says it all:

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love, Another year of training For holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee.

The second hymn, “A New Year God Has Given,” has been set to a hymn tune we are very familiar with, that of WEBB, which we know better as “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus.” The text was written by Mayflower’s friend and Congregational minister, Jack Brown. The words of this hymn ring out to me as a strong reminder of what we need to do to get through the tough times we face right now.

A new year God has given For us to live each day In happy faithful service His wishes to obey, Each moment through each season His blessings we will see; The privilege He gives us To live abundantly.

Each day will have its trials, Each day we’ll see His grace, For God has promised surely To bless us in our place.

He calls us first to seek Him—His reign and righteousness, Then trust Him to be faithful With help and graciousness.

To those who love Him wholly All things will work for good; To those who follow closely God’s will seen in His Word.

Each day will offer choices In which to make it clear If God’s way is our option Or if our own’s more dear.



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

- 1/5 - Martha Woodward
- 1/24 - Lois Ries
- 1/24 - Susan Schweinfurth
- 1/25 - Charles Fleck
- 1/28 - Kathryn Fuller

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/1 - Jerry and Barb Fuller (49 years)
- 1/25 - Tom and Marsha Hacker (40 years)

Giving Projects

A big thank you to all of you who contributed to our many Outreach Projects this past fall and early winter season. 16 Staples gift cards in the amount of \$35 were given to the Lewton teachers by Pastor Mark at a drive-through event. Lorraine has listed the weekly totals for the other projects: the Mitten Tree, Lansing Rescue Mission, Baby Boxes for Haiti and the Salvation Army Christmas Eve offering. The generosity of the Mayflower family has been wonderful and is so appreciated.

Roger Kennedy



It's happening in January...

- 1/3 - Communion
- 1/15 - Deadline for February Mayflower Notes
- 1/20 - Prudential Council - 7 p.m. on Zoom
- 1/24 - Annual Meeting on Zoom (Time TBD)

OUTREACH FOCUS

Mitten Tree

