

Mayflower Congregational Church



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

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



Dr. Rick Martin
Pastor



What's happening in April...

- 4/2 Lunch-and-Learn after church**
- 4/8 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 4/9 Palm Sunday**
- 4/13 Trustees - 2:30 p.m.**
- 4/13 Maundy Thursday**
Soup - 6:15 p.m.; Service - 7:00 p.m.
- 4/14 Good Friday**
- 4/15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes**
- 4/16 Easter Sunday**
- 4/23 Prudential Council - Noon**
- 4/30 Seder Presentation after church**

From The Pastor's Desk . . .

Spring into New Life

Just the thought of Spring is inspiring to people (at least to us who live in the north). Nature begins to stir with new life. Trees begin to bud. Flowers begin to sprout up. Grass starts turning green again and grows. Days begin to warm up and there is more sunshine. New life begins to show its head everywhere.

As Christians, the new life of the resurrected Christ is a major focus for us, which we celebrate at Mayflower Church with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday. It is going to be a great time again this year, maybe our best Easter Sunday service ever. You come and be the judge.

New life in Jesus. Even more exciting than the new life of Spring. Without Jesus' life, suffering, and resurrection, we (humanity) would still be in our sins, still lost and undone, still without God and without hope. However, because of the great love that God has for us, Jesus came, lived, suffered, died, and rose again to provide the forgiveness of sins (the doing away with guilt is also available) and everlasting life with Him in the perfect place we call Heaven. How much love He must have for us!

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:8-10)

Spring in Michigan only lasts for a season. New life in Jesus lasts for all eternity. Thank you, Jesus!

— Dr. Rick Martin, Pastor

From the Lay Leader and Pastor Search Committee

I think you all were as sad as I was to hear that Pastor Rick is going to retire at the end of June. It almost seems like bad luck to look for a new pastor — if we don't admit that he's going, perhaps it won't really happen?

The search is underway, however. At the last Prudential Council meeting, I took up my dictatorship and assumed that the Trustees, plus Linda Wheeler and Lorraine Finison (since they always meet with the Trustees) were willing to be on a search committee with me. We have begun to ask funeral homes for names of any pastors they know who might be interested in a half-time position with us, I have emailed pastors in the area for any names they might know, I have exchanged emails with a lady at the NACCC office in Olivet, and we have a list of 66 seminaries whose graduates might be of a like mind with us. I will put our "ad" on the NACCC website as soon as we put together a description of what sort of person we want.

One would hope that all this might really find somebody. However, the big drawback of a national search such as the seminaries and NACCC is that we will be offering a half-time position, and it's going to take a special person to be interested.

And that's where you all come in. Our absolute best chance is going to be personal contact with someone already in the area who either has another job that allows them some freedom, or who doesn't want to work full time for one reason or another.

Would you please tell everyone you possibly can that we are looking for a new pastor? The person you tell may know somebody who knows somebody. We are in this together!

— Rilla McHarris



Music Notes



By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be very close to Holy Week, which includes worship services here at Mayflower for Palm Sunday, a day of much excitement as we celebrate Jesus riding through the streets of Jerusalem; Maundy Thursday, a time of reflection as we partake in the Lord's Supper and reflect on Jesus' betrayal; and then Easter Sunday as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. Talk about a rollercoaster of emotions all in one week!

The anthem for Palm Sunday will be "Ain't No Rock Gonna' Shout for Me," with words based on Luke 19:38-40:

Rocks, keep silent! Jesus comes to set me free. Rocks, keep silent! I'm gonna shout in victory! Rocks, keep silent! Jesus reigns in majesty. Ain't no rock gonna shout for me.

"Out of the Depths," a very moving piece which we will sing on Maundy Thursday, comes from Psalm 130:

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice. For with the Lord there is mercy, with him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

And finally, Easter Sunday, where voices, handbells, trumpets, and four hands at the piano will celebrate Christ's victory over death. One of the choir's anthems will be "Now the Green Blade Riseth," a piece that uses the metaphors of nature to enhance the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead:

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Please join us as we journey through Holy Week, experiencing the emotions and the music together. What a glorious time of year it is!

— Barb Fuller

Mayflower Financial News

The February Second Saturday Supper was again a sell-out, and we had an excellent profit of \$823. Great job, everyone!

In case you are looking closely at the Heat Fund contributions reported elsewhere in the newsletter each month, but don't see them reflected in the figure below, that's because we transfer the funds only at the end of each quarter. You'll see the difference in next month's report.

The following is a summary of our finances as of February 28:

Income:	\$ 8,751.36
Expenses:	<u>6,242.34</u>
	\$ 2,509.02

YTD for Two Months:

Income:	\$ 14,734.54
Expenses:	<u>11,759.68</u>
	\$ 2,974.86

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 7,995.88
Savings:	31,021.53
Heat Fund Savings:	20,435.82
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$ 87,284.23

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, please ask!

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



The "Lunch-and-Learn" on April 2 will combine the Bible and history! We'll be taking a look at the Lenten cycle, both spiritually and factually. Join us for an always lively discussion at Noon in the Library.

The Heat Fund is still rising!



Seder Dinner

On Sunday, April 30, we will have a great learning experience after church and a light lunch! Linda Woodrow, a member of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in E. Lansing, will treat us to a "modified" Seder meal. She will explain and demonstrate the many facets of this centuries-old Jewish tradition. Plan to bring your families and friends to this special event. A sign-up sheet is on the white board in the office lobby.

— Rog Kennedy

Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale is coming on April 21 and 22! Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Plan to hold your stuff until after the Second Saturday Supper on April 8.

Keep in mind that we need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help. Set-up dates will be April 17-20 (Monday to Thursday) from 10 a.m. to Noon-ish. The clean-up day will be Monday, April 24, from 10 a.m. until we're done.

Christian Education Report

I am writing my news article today, past my deadline (as is unfortunately too common), but this time I think there was a guiding reason for my tardiness. At our March 19 service, several members of our Mayflower family shared recent sorrows. There were tears in many eyes, and official Mayflower Comforter-in-Chief Shirley Potts (a new title I have created and bestowed) supplied Kleenex and hugs where needed. I spoke that morning rather spontaneously on Matthew 5:4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” In the season of Lent, exploring this idea a little more seems appropriate, so here are my thoughts.

Mourning is a word which has a strong connotation. Dr. Robert Guelich said in his study, The Sermon on the Mount – A Foundation for Understanding, “[Mourning] cannot be limited exclusively to expressing sorrow for one’s sin... or grief surrounding death. Rather, “those who mourn” has the more comprehensive sense of Isaiah 61:2-3, an inclusive grief that refers to the disenfranchised, contrite, and bereaved. It is an expression of the intense sense of loss, helplessness, and despair.” When we mourn, we give ourselves over to fully experiencing loss. Many times, mourning isn’t just associated with death, but with the other painful losses we have in life – ending an important relationship, letting go of a long-held dream, or realizing a person we love has frailties we can’t comprehend.

Jesus says those that mourn are lucky, which is a really hard concept. It doesn’t feel blessed at all to mourn. Yet we are lucky, because we have loved enough, wanted enough, or believed enough to feel the loss of those people or ideas when they are gone. We are loving enough to think beyond ourselves and focus on someone else. And we are brave enough to risk loving again, knowing that we risk grieving again.

In his book, The Problem of Pain, C.S. Lewis wrote, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain.” He is waiting to comfort us – so mourn freely and deeply, knowing you truly are blessed.

— Liz Canfield



April

Birthdays

- 4/1 - Jan Holcomb
- 4/5 - Lynnette Smith
- 4/6 - John Wilcox
- 4/14 - Liz Canfield
- 4/19 - Jean Johnson
- 4/20 - Eugene Potts
- 4/22 - Meredith Kennedy
- 4/28 - Rilla McHarris

Anniversary

- 4/29 - Mark and Lola Holmes

HEAD USHER

Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS

Missions

