

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
Pastor

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## **It's happening in April at Mayflower...**

- 4/1 Easter Sunday**
- 4/8 Lunch-and-Learn after church**
- 4/12 Trustees - 2:30 p.m.**
- 4/14 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 4/15 Prudential Council - Noon**
- 4/15 Deadline for May Mayflower Notes**
- 4/27 Rummage Sale - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
- 4/28 Rummage Sale - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
- 4/29 Advent House Lunches**



## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

By the time you read this it will be April! Hopefully, the weather will be warmer and we will begin to see the first evidence of buds on the trees and flowers poking above the surface of the soil. In addition to these reminders, April will always remind me of a "first". Last year on the Sunday following Easter, DecAnn and I stepped into the sanctuary of the Mayflower church together for the first time as the congregation gathered for worship. Ushers and greeters met us at the door, everyone was friendly and curious, and we were greeted warmly by Dr. Rick. We had thought about being anonymous, but quickly gave up on that to avoid dishonesty as questions were asked.

Looking back, it was an amazing day. We came thinking we would just "check things out" to see if Mayflower was a place we would feel comfortable serving should the possibility arise. We left thinking, "Do you think...? Maybe...? However, we were unsure whether or not we would even be considered for the possibility. But we instantly fell in love with the Mayflower family.

Fast forward. As the anniversary of our very first visit approaches, we are extremely grateful to the people of Mayflower who have been the agents of God's leading in all our lives. They (you) opened their arms and hearts when we worshipped, asked thoughtful and meaningful questions during the interview process, voted for me, and then gave us the warmest welcome from day one. There is always a fear that the welcome and all the good feelings might wear off. But it has been just the opposite as our love and appreciation has only increased. EVERYONE has been kind, thoughtful, gracious, helpful and generous. This only serves as motivation for me (us) to work and serve God and the Kingdom with joy and happiness here at Mayflower. I believe God has prepared all of us for this new era at 2901 W. Mt. Hope. So that brings us confidence that God will always be with us as we make plans for the future of Mayflower church. To God Be the Glory!

— Pastor Mark

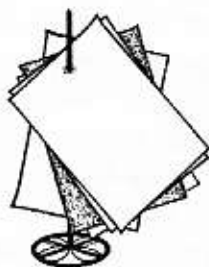


## *From the Lay Leader*

“What’s happening in those PC meetings?” you may ask. Well, basically, the Prudential Council is a group of good-natured folks who are serious about making Mayflower a better place that glorifies God and doing whatever it takes to make that happen. There’s a lot of laughter over silly stuff and sometimes tears when we contemplate what others in our midst are going through. We mostly try to stick to our agenda and make a few decisions along the way. Maybe it’s about fixing heating pipes in the basement or repairing the parking lot. We’re also planning church events like dinners or worship services. During the Treasurer’s report we talk about income vs. expenses and how it relates to the budget. Our staff and volunteers report on their activities and we sometimes discuss ways we can help them accomplish goals.

If you pass by the big white board on your way to the Social Hall you can see the minutes of PC meetings and a Pastor’s Report beside it. Between the two you can get a pretty good idea of what we’re doing.

There are a lot of ways to participate in the life of a church and this is just one of them. If you’re interested in seeing how a Congregational church truly operates, stop by and visit one of the PC meetings on the third Sunday at noon. Maybe it’s something that you’d like to be a part of in the future.



— Jerry Fuller

## *Thank you, thank you...*

Thanks to Sue, Candy, Ross, Linda, Frank, Jennifer, Barb, Jerry, Ina, Justin, Jamie, Susanne, Rilla, Bill, Darrell, and Lorraine (and any other angels I may have overlooked) for all the help at the Dave McClelland Corned Beef dinner in March! It’s so wonderful to honor a man who loved to cook corned beef as much as Dave did. This is a great Mayflower tradition I am always proud to be a part of producing.

— Liz Canfield

## Mayflower Financial News

Our February Second Saturday Supper was impacted by a serious snowstorm (which eventually led to church being canceled the next morning). The proceeds of \$567 were good under the circumstances. We had a lot of leftovers, but we were able to provide dinner for over 30 people before the Ash Wednesday Service on February 14.

We had another significant expense in early February when a pipe in the basement burst and the main drain was clogged, so some flooding occurred. Repairs totaling nearly \$2400 were needed.

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

Income:	\$ 6,077.82
Expenses:	<u>8,853.17</u>
	\$ -2,775.35

### YTD for Two Months:

Income:	\$ 13,363.98
Expenses:	<u>14,527.84</u>
	\$ -1,163.86

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 4,473.45
Savings:	31,533.25
Heat Fund Savings:	20,842.07
Memorial Fund CD:	5,520.30
Savings CD:	<u>22,390.08</u>
	\$ 84,759.15

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

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



## Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 27 and 28 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. . . we all have so much "stuff"! Remember to have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures!

Plan to hold your stuff until after the Second Saturday Supper on April 14. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help if you can. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (April 23-26). The clean-up day will be Monday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to whenever we are done (Noon-ish). Thanks!



## On God's Time

A man walked to the top of a hill to talk to God.

The man asked, "God, what's a million years to you?" and God said, "A minute."

Then the man asked, "Well, what's a million dollars to you?" and God said, "A penny."

Then the man asked, "God.....can I have a penny?" and God said, "Sure.....in a minute."

## Music Notes

As I was looking for a hymn with spring connotations, I opened up our new hymnal to "Hymn of Praise," a piece written by a contemporary composer, Natalie Sleeth, 1930-1992. The tune of this hymn did not so much grab my interest, but I felt the words draw me in. Through the years I have been aware of a number of Natalie's compositions for choirs but never a hymn. My curiosity was piqued so I did a little exploring.

Natalie Sleeth was born in Evanston, Illinois, and began studying piano at the age of four. She received an Academic major in music theory and a BA in music theory at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and later in life received an honorary doctorate from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1959 and from Nebraska Wesleyan College in 1990. She married Rev. Ronald E. Sleeth.

"Hymn of Praise," originally composed as an anthem and known as "In the Bulb There is a Flower," was dedicated to Rev. Sleeth who was diagnosed with cancer soon after it was written. Natalie, herself, died of cancer at the age of 61.

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in ev'ry silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in ev'ry darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery.  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.



— Barb Fuller

## Christian Education

April is a big month for birthdays in my family, and both sides get in on the act. We are celebrating every week, making this my absolute favorite month! I could use some celebrating because my beloved Nero had several cancerous tumors removed in mid-March. I've been veering back and forth between indulging in my doggie love and hiding it from shame, and I've been thinking a lot about how it is so much easier to express love for a pet than a person.

I wept unabashedly at the vet the morning of the surgery, even as I berated myself for being so foolish. My voice trembled as I went over the areas targeted for removal with the vet, but I completely lost it when handing over the bag I had packed--a blanket he likes for sleeping, a favorite toy, and the chicken and rice I had cooked at 2 a.m. in a frenzy of worry. I ran out of the building, ashamed that as a grown woman I was acting like such a baby. Don't I have so many things to be grateful for? I'm happily married, I love my job, our three wonderful girls are all doing well....and I could find things to worry about there if I really didn't have enough to do. "Stop it," I told myself sternly, but the tears kept coming all day until the vet called and said he came through just fine, ate some chicken and rice, and was ready to come home.

I've come to the conclusion that, at least for me, my dogs are the only socially acceptable way to show my overwhelming love. I am a bundle of emotions, in a world where we are supposed to keep that stuff buttoned up. We are not encouraged to rave about our spouses; bragging about our young children is okay but becomes less acceptable as they get older. No one wants to hear about the contentment I feel when Chad takes my hand, but they'll 'like' pictures of my sleeping dog that say "Love!". We are all as uncomfortable with viewing human love as we are at expressing it.

Loving my dog (now dogs!) has made me a better person. Seeing them beg for attention reminds me my family shouldn't have to beg. Waking in the night to their soft snores and feeling comforted reminds me to be tolerant when other, louder snores, awaken me. I am shamed when I am irritated at socks on the living floor but not with picking up dog toys--none of the men in my life pick up after themselves well! My dog is teaching me love the way God intended it--open, joyous, forgiving, accepting, and so grateful to be part of it. I'll keep learning with Nero and practicing with Chad. I'll get it right sooner or later.







## **BIRTHDAYS**

- 4/2 - Jan Holcomb**
- 4/5 - Lynnette Smith**
- 4/14 - Liz Canfield**
- 4/14 - Jeanne Hudson**
- 4/20 - Eugene Potts**
- 4/22 - Meredith Kennedy**
- 4/28 - Rilla McHarris**

## **ANNIVERSARY**

- 4/29 - Mark and Lola Holmes**

## **HEAD USHER**

Candy Bywater

## **OUTREACH FOCUS**

Advent House



# April-2018

APRIL  
 M T W T F S S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12  
 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24  
 25 26 27 28 29 30

APRIL  
 M T W T F S S  
 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 7 8 9 10 11 12  
 13 14 15 16 17 18  
 19 20 21 22 23 24  
 25 26 27 28 29 30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday	2	3	4	5 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	6	7
8 Lunch and Learn after church	9	10	11	12 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30 Trustees 2:30	13	14 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
15 Prudential Council noon Deadline for Notes	16	17	18	19 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:20	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	27 Rummage Sale 9 am to 6 pm	28 Rummage Sale 9 am to 3 pm
29 Advent House lunches	30					