

Mayflower Congregational Church



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

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

There will be no Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter services in person; watch the Palm Sunday (April 5) and Easter (April 12) services on Facebook or online at www.mayflowerchurch.com

MINISTER:

Rev. Mark McCormick
206/930-6634

PASTOR'S ASSISTANT:

Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis
517/581-5595

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Barbara Fuller
517/574-0576

CUSTODIAN:

Joe Pitchford
517/626-1557



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

Meredith A. Kennedy, Mayflower Notes Editor
10310 Lafayette Lane, Dimondale, MI 48821
517/256-1834 Email: makennedy@wowway.com

It's happening in April ***

- 4/15** Deadline for May Mayflower Notes
- 4/18** Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.
- 4/19** Prudential Council - Noon
- 4/20-23** Thrift Sale set-up - 10:00 to Noon
- 4/24** Thrift Sale (9:00 - 6:00 p.m.)
- 4/25** Thrift Sale (9:00 - 3:00 p.m.)
- 4/27** Thrift Sale clean-up - 10:00 to Noon

WEEKLY EVENTS: ***

- Adult Ed. - 1st, 2nd, 4th Sun. - Noon**
- Women's Bible Study - Wed. - 10:00 a.m.**
- Bell Choir Rehearsals - Thurs. - 4:00 p.m.**
- Vocal Choir Rehearsals - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.**
- Exercise Class - Tues., Wed., Fri. - 4:00 p.m.**

*** Due to the coronavirus outbreak and orders to stay at home, all dates are subject to change. Please follow emails and/or phone calls for timely information.

Sunday services will continue to be broadcast on Facebook and online at www.mayflowerchurch.com.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

Thrift Sale



Though it's not looking very likely at this moment, currently our thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is planned for April 24 (9 to 6) and April 25 (9 to 3, with bag time all day). Please check around your house to find good, saleable items that you don't need or want. Please have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. We don't like to throw things away! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, clothes, 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'd love to have them! Finally, be sure to come to shop yourself. You'll find some treasures!

Please hold your stuff and bring it after the Second Saturday Supper on April 18 (watch for a new date if we have to reschedule). We will also need a lot of help (both men and women!) to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10 to Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (April 20-23). Clean-up will be Monday, April 27, from 10 to Noon-ish. See Lorraine or Sue to volunteer to help.

Regular-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time. We can also use reusable fabric grocery bags to help people collect their purchases easily. Bring them in at any time. Thanks!

BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 - Jan Holcomb**
- 4/14 - Jeanne Hudson**
- 4/18 - Bob Gress**
- 4/20 - Eugene Potts**
- 4/22 - Meredith Kennedy**
- 4/28 - Rilla McHarris**



HEAD USHER
Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS
Christian Services

Mayflower Financial News

Due to the coronavirus, the Second Saturday Supper and all church services and activities were cancelled in March. It's not looking too good at this moment, but hopefully, we will be back in business with the Supper on April 18 (remember, it's the third Saturday because of Easter). Plan to come, eat, and work if you can!

The following is a summary of our finances as of February 29:

Income:	\$ 7,599.63
Expenses:	<u>11,690.75</u>
	\$ -4,091.12

YTD for Two Months:

Income:	\$ 17,836.57
Expenses:	<u>19,084.95</u>
	\$ -1,248.38

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 4,253.02
Savings:	74,560.27
Heat Fund Savings:	20,854.59
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$122,215.22

Detailed information is available in the financial reports in the brochure rack in the office lobby. See either of us if you have questions.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary



Pastor Mark's Musings

In more primitive societies, some of which we read about in the Bible, the current outbreak of the coronavirus would likely be seen as a plague, where God was inflicting punishment upon the people for disobedience. Fortunately, through science and technology, we have a better understanding of how diseases break out, their source, and how they are transmitted. We also have learned much about minimizing risks and how they can be mitigated and controlled. But as we have seen in recent weeks, with our best efforts, our advanced societies and governmental entities have had much difficulty in containing the fast-spreading illness which, sadly, has claimed far too many lives. In an outbreak of this type, there is a tendency toward hysteria, which does not help in the efforts to minimize the effects of such outbreaks. Our Christian faith can help with perspective, patience, and hope.

The Apostle Paul, in Romans 8:22, reminds us that all of creation itself has been groaning in labor pains. As people of faith, we are not insulated nor exempt from the groaning of this world, be it drought, pestilence, or plague. Paul goes on in the following verses to say that while we enjoy the first fruits of our faith, that is the Spirit, we still groan inwardly while we wait. Our faith demands patience. Not just for this virus and its effects to pass, but that as the groaning of the world continues in many forms, we "wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies." This "waiting" is a good reminder of our need for patience, not waiting for our lives to end, but to live with hope. Once again, in verse 25 of that passage, in another reminder of our faith, Paul tells us that "if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." During the Lenten journey upon which we have embarked, we cannot see the endgame of this deadly outbreak. But in a great declaration, Paul gives us a hope we share as those who have faith. For "we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." What has been happening before our eyes, the coronavirus outbreak, is not good. All things are not good. But from bad things can come good. When some things are temporality removed from us, like the joy of gathering, our affectionate gestures toward those we love, and the freedom to go where we want, we can better learn in these difficult times to treasure our God-given joys of life.

To God Be the Glory!

Pastor Mark



Thoughts from the Lay Leader

The Need for “Community”



Here we are smack dab in the middle of the COVID-19 virus, and I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the ongoing community I am witnessing within Mayflower. Leaders have been texting, calling, and emailing back and forth in order to make decisions on how to keep our congregation safe.

Pastor Mark has been modifying his sermon for Sunday to help preach a relevant sermon for the crisis we are facing. Sue has been guiding our custodian, Joe, on what our needs are while we have no activities in our building. DeeAnn is practicing hymns and special music she can play on Sunday. I am looking for Sunday's hymns that will be familiar and comforting. Lorraine is doing what she normally does: thinking and carrying through on all of the details nobody else thinks of or does.

It will be strange, I am sure, for Pastor Mark to look out toward the pews this Sunday morning and see only Kim running the sound system and making sure we are being broadcast on Facebook. We can truly say that he will be preaching to the choir since DeeAnn will be playing the piano, a very few of us will be singing hymns and reading scripture, and the pews for the congregation will be empty. Rev. Linda and husband Bill will join us to help with singing and to give us emotional support. We will press on.

There are so many good things happening behind the scenes at Mayflower. Many more people have come forward to help in any way they can. Our top priority is to keep everyone safe, which includes physical as well as mental safety. We have to depend on you to make decisions on your physical safety, but your mental safety can be helped in a number of ways. First, keep your Mayflower Church directory close to your phone. If you are feeling isolated and need someone to talk to, call someone in the directory. There is no need for you to feel alone. Second, with more time on your hands than usual, look in your directory and call someone you think might be feeling isolated. And, third, if you have ANY questions regarding ANYTHING, please call ANY of us. If we don't have the answers, we'll work diligently to get them for you.

We are all in this together, Mayflower. We are a COMMUNITY.

—Barb Fuller



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

The following are the words to the two hymns we will have sung for our first “modified” church service on Sunday, March 15. These hymns have been chosen because they are such strong reminders of how we, as Christians, have the ability to square off with tough times as long as we trust in God.

Lord of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy, be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace, be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; ‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.