

Baby Boxes for Haiti

The Mayflower family is supporting “Baby Boxes for Haiti” by collecting new or gently used baby clothes and/or donations this fall (until the end of December). Any amount may be donated, but \$30 will purchase one complete layette. Currently, \$805 has been donated. Thank you!

An amount can be added to your pledge/contribution check or given separately. Cash donations are also welcome. Please support this worthy project!

Questions??? Please call Roger Kennedy (517/646-8861).

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is a bit different this year due to the pandemic. We are collecting donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats. They 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 Congregational Church



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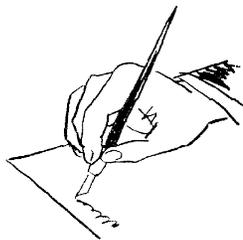
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Mayflower Financial News

Your support of your church is almost overwhelming. With major expenses for the parking lot repair/resealing and bat removal this month, we didn't expect to be "in the black," but you came through yet again!

In addition to pledges and contributions, you have generously supported the outreach projects we have undertaken this past month: \$475 was donated for the Lewton teachers, and \$750 for the CROP Walk. Please continue to support our current outreach projects: the Walter Ellis Harvest Festival, the Mitten Tree, and Baby Boxes for Haiti.

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

Income:	\$ 16,157.55
Expenses:	<u>12,372.16</u>
	\$ 3,785.39

YTD for Ten Months:

Income:	\$101,256.13
Expenses:	<u>88,377.16</u>
	\$ 12,878.97

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 13,772.26
Savings:	100,434.37
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$136,753.97

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



As we approach Advent and then Christmas in the church this year, we realize things will look much different. The choir will not be singing, decorations will be more limited for obvious reasons, we will not have a play or special musical presentation. And our beloved and usually well-attended Christmas Eve service will be held online. We are making the best of it, but as in most of our other thoughts about 2020, it just isn't the same.

An article I read in a major national publication reveals how the pandemic has forever changed how our society views retirement and aging. The pandemic has claimed lives even when one has not contracted the virus. Loneliness and isolation have taken a huge toll upon the elderly, especially those confined in facilities that have gone through extended periods of lockdown. This aspect of the pandemic has affected several in our Mayflower community.

So, I want to remind everyone, including myself, that in the time leading up to and including the holidays, people in facilities are going to be experiencing loneliness and isolation as never before. More restrictions have just now been put in place. So let us all make regular use of the telephone and the pen to communicate our love and care to our most isolated and vulnerable members and friends. Let's resolve together that even in 2020, we can make it a Merry Christmas for all.

Pastor Mark

Outreach Thanks . . .

A huge thanks for your amazing support of the Walter Ellis Harvest Festival! At this writing, the total donated is \$855. This amount far surpasses the total from previous years. A check will be sent to the Lansing City Rescue Mission in early December. Walter Ellis would be so proud!



Mayflower
Congregational Church

From Your Lay Leader, Barb Fuller

“In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

“How much is an ice cream sundae?” “50 cents,” replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it.

“How much is a dish of plain ice cream?” he inquired. Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient.

“35 cents,” she said brusquely. The little boy again counted the coins. “I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There placed neatly beside the empty dish, were 15 cents – her tip.”

So why does this story remind me of our Mayflower family, you ask? It comes down to one word: GENEROSITY. Just as the little boy was not required to leave a tip but did, you folks have not been required to keep Mayflower going under some pretty unusual circumstances, but you have. In spite of some very large expenses, our October financial report shows that our fund balance is in excess of \$25,000 more than it was last year, and yet we have been able to do it in spite of not having our regular Second Saturday Suppers and Thrift Sales to help us out! Perhaps more importantly is that we have been able to continue to provide lunches every fifth Sunday for Advent House as well as have given wholeheartedly to a number of community outreach programs. This is what I call generosity! Thank you, Mayflower, and thanks for the tip!

Christmas Eve Collection

Even though our Christmas Eve service is online this year, we will be taking a special offering for the Salvation Army. The need is even more critical this year. You may give in the usual ways: by bringing in cash or by writing a check to Mayflower Church. Thank you all!



Wreaths

Wreaths have been used by different cultures for various reasons over the centuries: the Greeks handed out wreaths like trophies to athletes and the Romans wore them as crowns. Christmas wreaths were originally believed to be a by-product of the Christmas tree tradition begun by northern Europeans in the 16th century. As the evergreens were trimmed into triangles (the three points meant to represent the Holy Trinity), the discarded branches would be shaped into a ring and hung back on the tree as decoration.

The circular shape, one without an end, also came to symbolize eternity and the Christian concept of everlasting life.

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

In our *Hymns for a Pilgrim People* you will find, under the heading of THE SON, a subheading of “Advent,” and it seems only logical to explore that section of our hymnal now. There are eleven hymns in that section that reflect the theme of Advent, the time in our liturgical year where the Old Testament prophesies speak of the coming of the Messiah and of his establishment of an earthly kingdom. It is a wonderful, almost mysterious time as we anticipate the birth of Christ.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is a Latin hymn from the 12th century, which is often sung during Advent. Originally it was used in the medieval church liturgy as a series of antiphons, short musical statements, that were sung for the week of vesper service just before Christmas Eve. What is particularly interesting about this hymn is that each of these antiphons greets the Messiah with one of the titles given him throughout the Old Testament: Wisdom, Emmanuel, The Lord of Might, The Rod of Jesse, Day Spring, and The Key of David. The melody of this piece is also of ancient origin based on a Chant or Plainsong.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

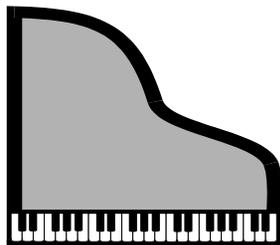
O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell Thy people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; O drive away the shades of night and pierce the clouds and bring us light.

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home where all Thy saints with Thee shall dwell—O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Christ came not only to be the Emmanuel—“God with us”—but even in a more personal way, *God in us*. Carry this truth throughout the Advent Season.



December

BIRTHDAYS

12/6 - Pastor Mark McCormick

12/8 - Carleen Brammell

12/15 - Steve Woodward

12/28 - Zidam Dwin

It's happening in December...

12/6 - Communion

12/15 - Deadline for January Mayflower Notes

12/16 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

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

OUTREACH FOCUSES

Mitten Tree

Baby Boxes for Haiti

