

Mayflower Congregational Church



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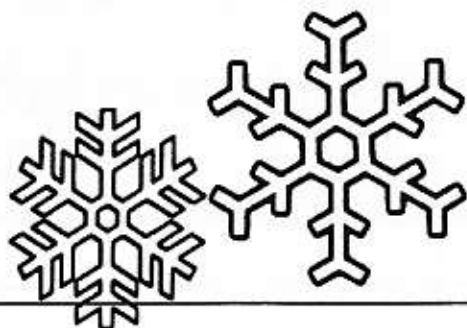


Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



Mayflower happenings in January...

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1\1 | New Year's Day |
| 1/7 | Communion
Lunch and Learn
Annual Reports due |
| 11/11 | Trustees Meeting 2:30 p.m. |
| 1/13 | Second Saturday Supper 5 pm |
| 11/15 | Deadline for February Notes |
| 1/21 | Prudential Council - noon |
| 1/28 | Annual Meeting |



Pastor Mark's Musings

My first Christmas at Mayflower! I participated in and learned about Advent and Christmas traditions around here. The decorations, outreach projects, candle lighting, readings, the Christmas Play entitled "Ho Ho Holy Night" and the Christmas Eve service among others. These were all wonderful! It was also great to participate in two of our music ministries, Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir. Barb does such a great job in directing these groups. Finally it has been a privilege to attend concerts and recitals that some of our Mayflower family are involved in. Capital City Ringers, Men of Orpheus, Arts Chorale of Greater Lansing, the Mason Symphony and a spectacular recital given by SooJin. I am so delighted to be a part of a church family so dedicated to sharing faith and inspiration with God's wonderful gift to all humanity, music. It added so much to my sense of wonder as I haven't pondered the mysteries of our faith during this magical season.

These memories and the inspiration we have drawn from them will linger as we face 2018 as a church family. We will encounter new challenges and opportunities. The promise of light will gradually come to us in the form of longer days and the hope of warmer weather. Some of our members will venture away for a while and others are enjoying time away right now. We look forward to their return and wish them happy times while away. But as we peer into the rear view mirror of life, and ponder the future which is largely unknown, we can be assured of what was so gloriously proclaimed during our Holiday worship times. Emmanuel! God is with us now, has been with us in the past, and will never forsake us into the future, no matter what. It is my desire as your pastor to proclaim this truth, not only from the pulpit, but in every interaction and activity we are engaged in during this earthly sojourn. I promise to continue a ministry of encouragement, comfort and hope as we all seek to demonstrate, daily, God's most perfect embodiment of love, Jesus Christ. It has been my privilege to be your shepherd and to help all of us to be more like that great Shepherd of our souls.

With Great Anticipation,

Pastor Mark



From the Lay Leader

I got this in my email a couple of years ago. Whether or not it really came from Charles Schultz, it is an interesting thought:

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the Peanuts comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just think about them.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remembers the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners. Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most



Mayflower Financial News

We had a sell-out crowd for the November Second Saturday Supper, with proceeds of \$818. Thanks to all who helped to make the supper so successful.

The final total on the Thrift Sale was \$1819, which was excellent! Thank you again to all who donated "stuff" and helped with set-up, at the sale, and with clean-up.

The roofers managed to get the new roof on just before the weather turned cold and snowy. The final cost was \$14,635, but the trustees are confident that the new process used by the roofing company will serve us well for many years.

Following is a summary of our finances as of November 30:

Income:	\$ 7,941.23
Expenses:	<u>15,880.51</u>
	\$ -7,939.28

YTD for Eleven Months:

Income:	\$ 90,800.11
Expenses:	<u>82,082.20</u>
	\$ 8,717.91



Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 12,825.56
Savings:	31,530.92
Heat Fund Savings:	20,840.52
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$ 93,028.00

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. Let me know if you have any questions.

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	New Years Day			No Choir Taking down Advent Decorations 5 p.m.		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion Lunch & Learn Annual Mtg. Reports due				Trustees 2:30 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30		Second Saturday Supper 5:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Deadline for Mayflower Notes			Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30		
Prudential Council - noon	28	29	30	31		
Annual Meeting						

Christian Education

Now that the holidays are behind us, we can relax, right? No, life continues rushing onward. My family has two popular birthday months, January and April. This year my stepdaughter Grace reaches the milestone of 21, and our extended family will be heading to Las Vegas to celebrate, a Canfield tradition. Much of Chad's family is in Arizona, and we are looking forward to seeing those who are making the trek. My beloved mother, Janet, also has a birthday, but I am not sure she would not like me to say which one it is, so I'll skip it.

The year past certainly held its share of joys, sorrows, and surprises. The opportunity to change jobs and focus on my growing interest in technology came about quickly, was rejected just as quickly, until a particularly bad day drove home to me the lesson that no one is looking out for me but me. It turned out to be a game changer, and while going from being the expert to being the new kid at 50 is humbling, the growth has been very good for me!

Change has been a part of our church life, too, as we welcome Pastor Mark and DeeAnn after bidding a tearful farewell to Dr. Rick and Barb. We are truly blessed as a church to have had a smooth transition. Their addition to my Lunch and Learns has been fabulous, as they are both very knowledgeable about these subjects! DeeAnn's Christmas pageant was delightful; I look forward to seeing much more from her creative brain.

2018 reminds me we are moving closer to completing the second decade of a new millennium. 1999 feels so close at times, yet it is truly long gone. I pray for peace and the healing of our national wounds in this new year, and I pray we all take time to be truly thankful for challenging times, as they force our growth in new and surprising ways.

Liz



Music Notes

From Barb Fuller

Have you noticed that we have new Pilgrim hymnals in the pews? These books, *Hymns for a Pilgrim People*, were published in 2007 as opposed to our other Pilgrim hymnals which were first published in 1931. Why change, you might ask?

The new hymnals have many of Mayflower's traditional favorites as well as hymns with words that are more relevant to our "modern" times. They also include beautiful readings that can be used to enhance our worship experiences. And, by the way, we were able to purchase 100 of them used from Plymouth Congregational Church for a fraction of what they would have cost new. To that end, I'll tell you a story.

This morning as I was preparing to leave the house I spotted a large pheasant sitting on the stark grapevines of our side yard beyond the garage. Large, fluffy snowflakes were slowly coming down, and our acreage looked quite monochromatic except for the rusty-colored body of the majestic bird. It flew off as I suspected it would when I tried to tiptoe to the garage, but I felt blessed being able to start my day with it choosing our yard to rest in.

When I returned home this afternoon I decided to look in our new hymnal under the heading of "In Creation" to see if I could find a hymn that would reflect my pleasure of seeing that lone pheasant this morning, and I came upon "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky."

**We cannot own the sunlit sky, The moon, the wild flow'rs growing.
For we are part of all that is Within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share The gifts of God's creation,**

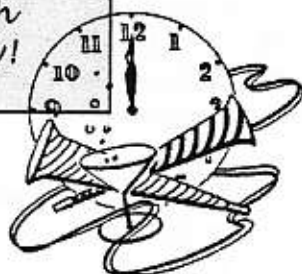
That all may have abundant life In ev'ry earthly nation.

Amen!



*N stands for New opportunities
E stands for Exploring
W stands for Wondering
Y stands for Yearning
E stands for Eagerness
A stands for Aspiring
R stands for Rejoicing*

*May your New Year be filled with
adventure, excitement, and joy!*



Recipe for a Happy New Year. Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing— don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor



January

Birthdays

- 1/8 Janet Hershey
1/11 Abigail Rutledge
1/16 Karen Nault
1/24 Lois Ries
1/24 Susan Schweinfurth
1/28 Kate Fuller

Anniversaries

Jerry and Barb Fuller (46 years)

Head Usher
Lois Ries

Outreach Focus
The Mitten Tree

