

## Baby Boxes for Haiti

Our outreach project in January and February will again be "Baby Boxes for Haiti," a program to teach and supply safe birthing facilities. The program needs funds and layette supplies. Dorothy Fredrickson, the local coordinator, will be in church on January 9 to provide details of the program and specific needs this year. To support this worthy project, any amount can be added to your pledge/contribution check or given separately. Cash donations are also welcome. Any amount may be donated, but \$30 will purchase one complete layette.

## Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is waiting for your donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and socks until the end of January. The donations 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!

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# Mayflower Congregational Church

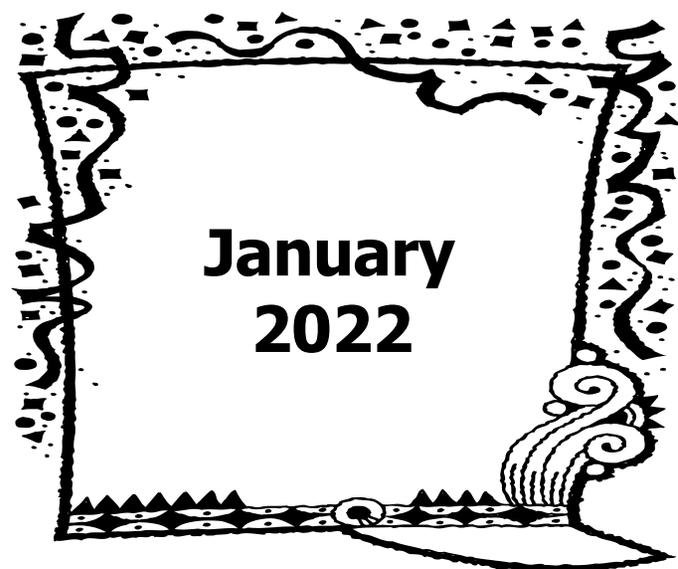


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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
Pastor

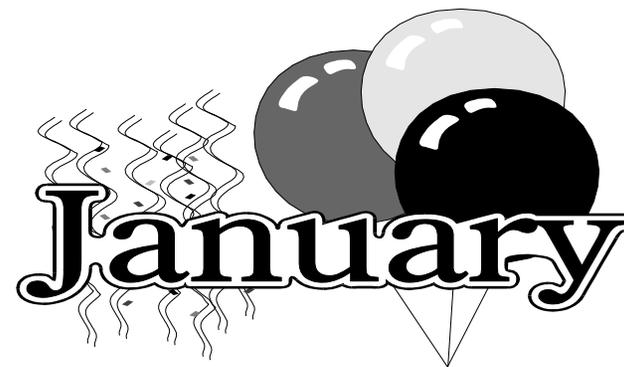
## It's happening in January...

- 1/2 Communion
- 1/9 Annual Reports due
- 1/9 Trustees - after church
- 1/15 Deadline for February Mayflower Notes
- 1/16 Prudential Council - after church
- 1/23 Annual Meeting - after church
- 1/30 Advent House Lunches

### Weekly Events:

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
(January 12 and 19 only)

Exercise Class: Weekdays at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1/5 - Martha Woodward (90)
- 1/24 - Susan Schweinfurth
- 1/25 - Charles Fleck
- 1/28 - Kathryn Fuller

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/1 - Jerry and Barb Fuller (50 years)
- 1/25 - Tom and Marsha Hacker (41 years)

## OUTREACH FOCUSES (see info on back)

Mitten Tree

Baby Boxes for Haiti



## Mayflower Financial News

We've continued to receive donations toward the significant expense of the new office lobby entrance doors. Thanks so much!

Thanks, too, for your generous support of our November outreach projects: \$525 was donated for the Harvest Festival (plus the purchased produce and food items) and \$150 has been donated so far for the Mitten Tree. Please continue to support our current outreach projects: the Mitten Tree and the Christmas Eve collection for the Salvation Army. In addition to the Mitten Tree continuing in January, we'll be collecting for the Baby Boxes for Haiti through the end of February.

The following is a summary of our finances as of November 30:

Income:	\$ 10,469.79
Expenses:	<u>12,980.63</u>
	\$ -2,510.84

### YTD for Eleven Months:

Income:	\$108,758.86
Expenses:	<u>121,076.32</u>
	\$-12,317.46

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 5,577.14
Savings:	95,453.20
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,626.39</u>
	\$123,656.73

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

Happy New Year! That sounds rhetorical and not very "pastoral." But it is a common greeting and usually added to the greeting "Merry Christmas." "Happy New Year" conveys an abundance of hope, which is a cornerstone of human existence. Hope is also a cornerstone of our Christian faith.

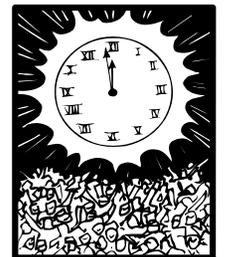
In our current circumstances in the world, in our community, in our church, and in our lives, we are living in a time where all of us must depend more upon hope than at any time in recent memory. I have never lived through a period where I depend more upon hope. We all hope for better circumstances, especially as it relates to the health and well-being of our friends, family, neighbors, and fellow church members. We know people whose lives have been affected by COVID, some of whom have died. We have also seen the effects of our great political divide, affecting our relationships with people. We all hope for things to improve. But from the perspective of our faith, hope is far more than wishing for better circumstances. For our spiritual well-being, hoping has more to do with coping. We don't know when the pandemic will end. We don't know when our great political divide will lessen. But can our trust and hope in God help us cope? Yes. How?

First, we look back. Has God helped us through difficult circumstances? Has the "Beloved Community," otherwise known as the church, been a part of our hoping and coping? How about our beloved family members? Have they helped? Hopefully, the answer to these questions is "yes."

Secondly, we look to the future. God has given us hope for a future with God, both with the record of scripture and with a sense of eternity within our very being. All of this makes the present a very real time to place our hope into God's hands with the help, support, and encouragement from all those within the Beloved Community. Let us be the hope for each other as we all hope in God.

Happy New Year, Mayflower!

Pastor Mark



## Happy New Year from Your Lay Leader, Gail Sawyer

This will be my last newsletter article as your lay leader. In February, I will leave you in the very capable hands of our new lay leader, Ruth Pasch. I'm confident Ruth will do an excellent job. She has many years of experience in the Congregational church, has held the position of lay leader many times before, and is a very successful businesswoman.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your lay leader. I have enjoyed working side by side with the members of the Prudential Council. Since last year was the first time I ever served as a lay leader and being new to Congregationalism, it was a huge learning curve for me. But I had excellent teachers and a tremendous amount of support. I want to thank Pastor Mark and Barb Fuller for being wonderful mentors to me. They took me under their wings and taught me how to fly.

This past year has been very busy at Mayflower. We have accomplished many projects: renovation of the Friendship Center, a new outside ramp, new doors to the lobby and automatic door openers for the restrooms, to name a few. No doubt in 2022, we will continue with other new plans to enhance our beloved church.

With sadness, we have grieved the passing of some of our long-time members. With joy, we have welcomed new friends.

We have continued our outreach programs that are inspired by the teachings of Jesus: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." I am grateful to be a member of such a loving and generous church.

Although many of our friends and families have been ill with COVID, we are blessed that our congregation has remained safe and well, due to everyone following COVID guidelines in church.

With Pastor Mark at the helm of our Mayflower ship, we will embrace the spirit, enthusiasm, and change that will help us to continue to grow as a church in 2022.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

I wish each and every one of you a happy and healthy New Year.

With love, Gail

## Music Notes from Barb Fuller

In our Hymns for a Pilgrim People hymnal there is a section entitled "God's Revelation," and within that is a subsection called "Creation." Within "Creation," you will find "Nature," "Times and Seasons," and "Thanksgiving." As we begin 2022, I thought it would be interesting to look at two hymns, both of which we have never sung, but both appropriate for a new year, found under "Times and Seasons."

The first hymn, "Another Year Is Dawning," is set to the tune AURELIA or what we are familiar with as "The Church's One Foundation." The text was written by Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879, and is a pleasant reminder of how to carry on in our quest to follow God. The third verse says it all:

*Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love, Another year of training For holier work above. Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee.*

The second hymn, "A New Year God Has Given," has been set to a hymn tune we are very familiar with, WEBB, or what we know better as "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." The text was written by Mayflower's friend and Congregational minister, Jack Brown. The words of this hymn ring out to me as a strong reminder of what we need to do to get through the tough times we face right now:

*A new year God has given For us to live each day In happy faithful service His wishes to obey, Each moment through each season His blessings we will see; The privilege He gives us To live abundantly.*

*Each day will have its trials, Each day we'll see His grace, For God has promised surely To bless us in our place. He calls us first to seek Him—His reign and righteousness, Then trust Him to be faithful With help and graciousness.*

*To those who love Him wholly All things will work for good; To those who follow closely God's will seen in His Word. Each day will offer choices In which to make it clear If God's way is our option Or if our own's more dear.*

*"Redeem the time," He tells us Before it's gone and lost; Decide to stay committed To do what matters most. By day we'll try to please Him, At night we'll trust His Word; Through dark times and in bright ones We'll honor Christ our Lord.*

So whether you are searching for a reminder of what you need to do to press on with your faith or words to give you strength to face your trials this new year, you can find them through our hymnal.