

Mayflower Congregational Church



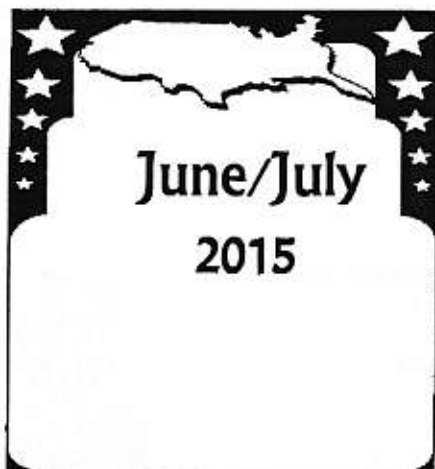
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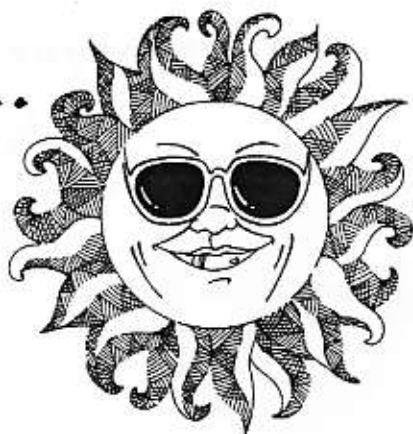
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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

June and July...



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

- 6/2 - Rick Martin
- 6/12 - Arlene Love
- 6/16 - Betty Mannino
- 6/20 - Amy Graham
- 6/26 - Barbara Martin

JULY

- 7/6 - Tom Rich
- 7/9 - Sue Mott
- 7/27 - Susanne Mannino
- 7/29 - Dick Williams
- 7/30 - Lola Holmes
- 7/30 - Maggie Bellant
- 7/30 - Barbara Rich



ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE

- 6/16 - Warren & Sue Emrick

From The Pastor's Desk

Women in the Bible



If you have hung around church for any length of time, you have probably heard about Eve and Jesus' mother Mary and Ruth. Mary Magdalene usually makes it into movies that have a religious conspiracy involved in the plot. However, there are many (over 50) women mentioned in the Bible and they played significant roles throughout the Scriptures. [I'm going to do a summer series, beginning in June, on the Women in the Bible].

To some, the Bible "seems" to be a book written by men, about men, with God being the leading man. However, God is not male but pictured as Our Father to portray the family/love relationship He desires with us. Gender is earth specific; heavenly beings aren't male or female. And because English has no neutral pronoun which refers to both genders, literature is written (basically) with male terms. In God's eyes males and females are equally a part of the human race (mankind); as there are males and females in the species of tigers or dogs or elephants.

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Galatians 3:28

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

We are all human beings (mankind) with different gifts/abilities given by God NOT based on gender (except maybe like child-bearing) or color or ethnic groupings, but by the will of God. May you Be the person God created you to be and accomplish what He created you to accomplish.

John 1:12,13

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Check us out on the internet...

The Mayflower stained glass windows have been registered with the Michigan Stained Glass Census, compiled by the MSU Museum. One can find the windows on their website:

<http://www.michiganstainedglass.org/collections/building.php?id=17-83-50D>

This is a project that Winnie Niklas wanted us to do, and thanks to Lorraine and Kim we finally finished.

Rilla



Another public service announcement:

Dean will be on vacation June 14-June 27. The Prudential Council decided we can keep ourselves tidy for two weeks. To this end, could we all please pick up trash if we see it, empty waste baskets if we notice they need it (or ask help from someone who looks like they know where the garbage can is), and generally be aware that we are on our own for a little while? Thank you everybody!

Game Night

We are having Game Night on Friday, May 29th starting at 6:30 p.m. Come and play Euchre or dominos or bring another game that you would like to play. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

The cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per couple.

If you have any questions call Sharon Graham.



Mayflower Financial News

bhkA profit of \$654.67 was made at our April 2nd Saturday Supper. Our spring thrift sale brought in \$1470. A bequest for \$15,000 was received and added to the Bequest Funds savings account.

A brief summary of our finances as of April 30, 2015:

Income:	\$ 23,058.13
Expenses:	7,622.47
	\$ 15,435.66

YTD for Three Months

Income:	\$ 43,249.31
Expenses:	30,337.04
	\$ 12,912.27

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 13,966.47
Bequest Funds Savings	19,010.56
Memorial Fund CD	5,495.10
CD Savings	22,306.81
	\$ 60,778.94

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Music Notes

Very recently Jerry and I had the pleasure and fun of babysitting our two-year-old granddaughter, Natalie, for four days. One of the many things we learned from Natalie is that she teeters on the edge of being a drama queen which, by the way, makes her so interesting! On the third day we had her with us we also watched her almost-seven-year-old brother, Noah, for the afternoon since he did not have school. We brought both children out to our house and spent many hours having fun with them around the farm. As the time approached for us to return them to their folks we realized that we had to hurry because we had promised the kids that they could help us recycle in Wacousta and that would take a few extra minutes to complete.

Isn't it always when you're short on time that children decide to be uncooperative? It was that way for Natalie just then, and as I tried to strap her squirming little body into her car seat, she rebelled by balling up her fist and repeatedly striking my arm. Mind you, it didn't hurt at all, but I knew that her parents had recently been having discussions with her on what hands were for (certainly not hitting.) The problem was, we were due in town shortly and I didn't feel I had time to talk the issue through with her, so I said, "Natalie, you need to stop hitting Nana or else you won't be able to help recycle." She gave me an impish grin and continued to hit, so after several more rather tiny blows to my arm, I had to tell her that Noah and Papa would recycle this time and that she and I would wait in the car for them when we arrived at the recycling center.

You can imagine how heart-broken she was when her brother and Papa jumped out of the car in Wacousta and performed the recycling duties as she and I sat there watching. "I cycle, I cycle," she cried mournfully. "I not hit again!" From that point on she was sobbing, and it looked as if the 25-minutes it was going to take to get to her house would be loud and very unhappy ones. But then it dawned on me that she was not only a drama queen wanna-be but she was also a music-loving drama queen wanna-be. It was at that moment I started singing the first song that popped into my mind – "You Are My Sunshine," at which time Noah announced, "That's a good idea, Nana. Natalie will go for music every time." And so it was, Jerry and me singing every song we could possibly think of until we reached her house only a few blocks away from Mayflower with Natalie delighting in every silly song and Noah basically trying to ignore us all.

So why do I tell you this story? I tell it because as we conclude another season of bell ringing and choir singing at Mayflower, I am reminded that music can be so soothing and inspirational to those that need it just as Natalie did on that trip home. There are some of us that absolutely must have our music to get through every day, and when we are able to wrap that into our spiritual lives, as well, we feel as Natalie does when she states, "I happy now!" The anthem we sang for Music Sunday expresses it so well:
My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife I hear the music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

My wish for you is that the music we prepare each week enhances your walk with God, and those of us in the music program hope you are able to say at the end of the worship services, "I happy now!"

Barb



Tainted?

In 1909 Victor Herbert won a libel suit against *The Musical Courier*, at that time the most prestigious musical journal in the United States. They had accused him of plagiarism, and the arguments went back and forth as to whether his music was really original or not. The debate was finally won when Walter Damrosch testified that songs were much like fairytales, They all start out, Once upon a time, but then they diverge, each going its own way!

It's fascinating to delve into the origins of familiar songs. Did you know that the MSU Fight Song has remarkable similarities to an older version of Stand Up for Jesus, the one found in our Brown Hymnal? Or that the music for MSU Shadows was lifted almost intact from the Sextet in Donizetti's opera, *Lucia di Lammermoor*? These are rather benign examples of borrowing, but others can have more serious consequences. How about that lovely song, How Great Thou Art, which is probably second only to Amazing Grace in overall popularity? Did you know that you might be fined for singing it in Germany? That's because its tune is virtually identical to that of the Horst Wessel Song, the official anthem of the Nazis: *The banner high! The ranks tightly closed! The SA [stormtroopers] march with quiet, steady step.*

Not unexpectedly, in today's Germany it is forbidden to sing this provocative song except for educational purposes. And since How Great Thou Art only became popular with George Beverly Shea and the Billy Graham Crusades, it is natural to assume that it was copied from the music of the Horst Wessel Song. In other words How Great Thou Art is *tainted*, and some folks even think we shouldn't sing it any more.

However, upon closer inspection, we find the story to be much more complicated. Horst Wessel (a Nazi stormtroops leader) wrote his words in 1929 (and was assassinated in 1930), but it turns out that he set his poem to an old Swedish folksong. Much earlier, in 1885 a young Swedish preacher, Carl Boberg, wrote a poem, *O Store Gud [Oh, Strong God]*, which wound up being sung to the same folksong. It was first translated into German and from that version, into Russian. In the early 1920's a young English missionary, Stuart Hine, heard the

Russian version in Poland, and he translated it into English as "How Great Thou Art! Thus, the melodies of the two songs both originated with a Swedish folksong, and How Great Thou Art has little in common with Nazi Germany.

So what's the point?! First, it's a good example of why we should never rush to judgement either of things or of people. Second, as pointed out in last month's little commentary, this could have been an excellent example of

turningswords into childshares, of turning something questionable into something worth while. Even had "How Great Thou Art been copied from the Horst Wessel Song, it is a lovely melody, and the words are exhilarating and of the highest order, which would mean that lead has been turned into gold. More power to such plagiarists!

Quick, preemptory judgment not only can be harmful, but also it can cause us to miss out on some of the better things in life. A good example of this was the ban on Wagner and Richard Strauss' music in Israel for much of the latter half of the twentieth century. (This, despite the facts that Wagner chose a Jewish conductor for *Parsifal* and most of Strauss' operas were composed to librettos written by Jewish poets.) Sensibly, this ban has long been lifted.

With respect to church music? Currently there is much ongoing debate about popular versus classical church music. Why not both? In fact, there are only two kinds of music interesting and boring. And both can be found in all venues. Our Brown Hymnal contains many tedious, embarrassing sanctimonious hymns. That doesn't mean that we can't sing and enjoy the genuine, inspiring hymns that are interspersed with them. And although great classical music has no equal, there is nothing more boring than Oscar Forgiven Name's Voluntary on Obscure Hymn Number 683 or that much of the music in post-Vatican II Catholic hymnals sounds as if hastily compiled by The Committee Seeking the Lowest Common Denominator.

We should choose our music and our friends and our enterprises! with regard to their inherent quality, and not worry about their being tainted by real or imagined associations.



Bill McHarris, Lay Leader

Newsletter

The next deadline for the next Mayflower Notes will be August 15th. That newsletter will cover the months of August and September. It will be published in time for Rally Day.

Thank you to all of the contributors this year for meeting the deadlines. Some of you were consistently early and I appreciate your timeliness.

Have a great summer!

Meredith Kennedy

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work. They had seven children and they needed food.

John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualizing the family needs, she said: "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family.

The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir." "Okay" he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries."

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head. Then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scale went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales.

The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust.

Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement. It was not a grocery list. It was instead a prayer which said: "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands."

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

It was sometime later that the grocer discovered the scales were **broken**; therefore, only God knows how much a prayer weighs.



From Liz...

Another newsletter, another transition. This is a big one – my oldest stepdaughter, Grace, is graduating from Williamston High School and preparing to head for U of M in the fall. Life is full of transitions – Morgan and Dominic have both aged out of camp, Maggie is driving under parental supervision, Trace and Tieler are easy to tell apart, and Remy and Jaxson are getting comfortable and enlivening our children's moment for now.

As time passes, Mayflower continues on. Sometimes the pews are a little emptier than others; sometimes the choir is a little sparser than we'd like. For the truly important moments, we gather and come through, and for all the others, we change. As our children age out of Sunday School, it's time to turn my attention to adult education. Beginning in September (sooner if there is interest) I would like to offer a once-monthly "Lunch and Learn" program. We can dig into Bible stories; we can talk about the symbolism and rituals of the Christian Church; we can memorize passages, talk about important religious art and/or music, or do anything we want. First I am looking for feedback – I am leaning towards the last Sunday of the month since it is the most likely to go without activities, but what works for you? What subjects interest you? Let's explore them together and grow in our faith!

Lugnuts Game



Our annual Lugnuts outing will be Friday, July 24th. The game starts at 7:05 p.m.. We will sit in the clubhouse again with LAFCU fireworks following the game.

Tickets are \$22.50 and must be purchased no later than June 22nd from the church office.

If you have any questions call Roger at 646=8861.



Coming this summer...

6/14

Flag Day

6/21

Fathers' Day

JULY

7/4

Independence Day

7/5

Communion

7/19

Prudential Council
Meeting - 12 noon

