

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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

Website: [www.mayflowerchurch.com](http://www.mayflowerchurch.com)  
Email: [info@mayflowerchurch.com](mailto:info@mayflowerchurch.com)



**Dr. Rick Martin**  
Pastor

---

---



# March

## BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 - Warren Emrick**
- 3/7 - Bruce Eddy**
- 3/8 - Jamie Keller**
- 3/9 - Liz Tingley**
- 3/12 - Kathy Sundermeyer**
- 3/15 - Marissa Slater**
- 3/15 - Peggy Black**
- 3/18 - Gordon Wilson**
- 3/19 - Nik McClelland**
- 3/20 - Lorraine Finison**
- 3/20 - Ben Rutledge**
- 3/22 - Donna Slater**
- 3/22 - Ardath Scheffel**
- 3/27 - Ruth Lewis (96)**
- 3/28 - April Fuller**
- 3/28 - Shirley Potts**

## HEAD USHER

Lois Ries

## OUTREACH FOCUS

Christian Services



## *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*



### **Lenten Season**

While I haven't taken a survey, I'm sure more people have heard of Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) than recognize Lent. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Christians. It is traditionally the time when we begin focusing our attention on the sufferings that Jesus experienced as He sacrificed Himself for our sins. In many traditions, it also involves the giving up of something (like sweets) to help us identify with Christ's suffering. Thus, Fat Tuesday – one last (big) self-indulgence before self-sacrifice.

However you do (or don't) participate in Lent, it is good to take time (often) to understand the huge price Jesus paid for our sins. Without His sacrifice, we would get what we deserve: Hell, eternal punishment, forever really bad. Because of God's great love for us, He provided a sacrifice for our sins (which we could not provide under any circumstances), Jesus His only beloved Son. His life (which was a sacrifice to begin with, living on earth instead of ruling in Heaven), His physical sacrifice (what He suffered before the cross would have killed most men), His spiritual sacrifice (I don't even have a clue to this suffering, but he faced every temptation mankind faces, yet without sin), and His death on a cross.

#### *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

#### *Revelation 5:9-10* (the song of the Elders/Living Beings in Heaven)

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

So much suffering, just to pay the price for my soul that I could not pay. Thank you, Jesus!

— Dr. Rick Martin, Pastor

## From the Lay Leader . . . Another Year, Another Lay Leader

I thought we had a good Annual Meeting. A good turnout, a choice of chili with good accompaniments, and, best of all, good will.

One of the un-asked-for mailings Bill and I received lately was a tour advertisement for a cruise around the world for six months with a small group of people. It occurred to me that not even counting the price of two tickets for the trip, I myself would be unwilling to commit to a trip like that — six months with a small group of strangers? What if I didn't like them?

That is something I never think about at Mayflower Church. We are a small group of people, and we all get along (at least if any of you wish I wouldn't sit next to you at coffee hour, you have never told me!). It's a wonderful thing, and I thank you all for who you are.

—Rilla McHarris



**The Heat Fund  
is still rising!**

## Music Notes

You've heard me say it before, and I am happy to say it again, that even though the season of Lent appears somber, it is rich in its hymnology. Of course, if you're always wanting to sing cheerful melodies, Lent is not the season for you, but if you appreciate pensive words and deep, rich tones, you will bask in the music of Lent.

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" is one such hymn. Composed by Isaac Watts, its tune and words are inspirational. Isaac Watts showed a great deal of musical talent at a young age. He learned Latin at age 5, Greek at 9, French at 11, and Hebrew at 12. As he grew, he became more and more dissatisfied with "uninspiring" psalm singing in the English churches. He once commented, "The singing of God's praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven; but its performance among us is the worst on earth." It is said that texts which were based only on personal feelings, such as his, were very controversial back in his day, but here we are today still singing and appreciating many of them. It is the "personal" part of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" which reaches me most.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory  
died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my  
pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of  
Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most—I sacrifice  
them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow  
mingled down; did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns  
compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far  
too small: Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life,  
my all.*



— Barb Fuller

## Mayflower Financial News

Our January Second Saturday Supper was a sell-out, and we had an excellent profit of \$820. Thanks to all who attended and helped!

The Mitten Tree items have been taken to Lewton School, along with a check for \$195, which was the amount donated in cash or checks. The school has a fund designated to help with providing winter coats when a need is identified by the principal or school staff, so the trustees felt that it would be more helpful to add to their fund than to try to spend \$195 on mittens, hats, scarves, etc. Thank you to everyone who donated knitted items and cash or checks!

The following is a summary of our finances as of January 31, which is also the year-to-date for 2017:

Income:	\$ 5,983.18
Expenses:	<u>5,517.34</u>
	\$ 465.84

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 5,460.99
Savings:	31,020.82
Heat Fund Savings:	20,435.35
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$ 84,748.16

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, please ask!

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



## Christian Education Report

March is one of my favorite months. It seems that although the weather is not so good, the promise of the good weather coming is enough. As I sit here writing in February, it seems very far away.

In our February "Lunch-and-Learn," we began studying the Book of Job. Job was a good, righteous man who had many children and great wealth. One of the interesting things we discussed is how the Bible says that Job was a good man, and ALSO a wealthy man, clearly distinguishing that his righteousness was not the reason for his material success. The "prosperity gospel" is very popular right now; the idea that financial wealth and physical health are God's will for us because we are living a religious life. That idea has always kind of stuck in my craw, as someone who has struggled with a chronic illness for several years. Although I can't begin to know the mind of God, I certainly know of many people who I consider to live a less-than-moral life who seem to be thriving just fine. I also know many fine and devout people who have suffered setback and pain.

We always say that God's blessings will flow over us if we do the right thing. Equating "God's blessings" with material and physical success is where this doctrine goes astray, I think. God blesses us in ways we can't always appreciate at the time. Maybe instead of giving us wealth, we didn't make a costly financial mistake. Maybe instead of physical health, we were blessed with a loving heart and a cheerful spirit to carry our burdens. Maybe it's as simple as receiving a moment of beauty, like watching your sleeping grandchild, at the end of a long, hard day.

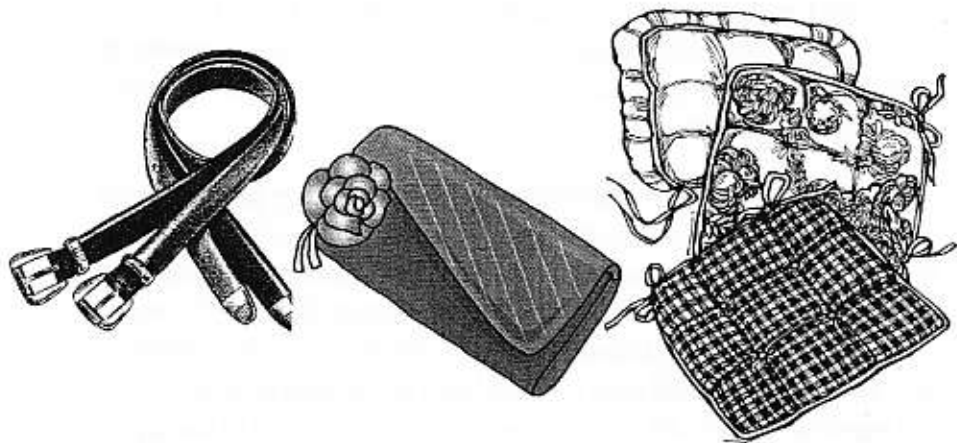
There's a lot I don't know. But what I DO know is that God's love for us can't be boiled down into snappy sayings or understood by reading the hottest best seller or attending the biggest church in three counties. It is as deep as the ocean, as wide as the horizon, and as flowing as Niagara Falls. Job wasn't rich because he loved God, or because God loved him. He was rich in addition to being good. At the end of the day, we have the most control over what we do, so focus on being good like Job, and watch those blessings flow!

—Liz Canfield

## Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale is coming on April 21 and 22! Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Plan to hold your stuff until after the Second Saturday Supper on April 8.

Keep in mind that we need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help. Set-up dates will be April 17-20 (Monday to Thursday) from 10 a.m. to Noon-ish. The clean-up day will be Monday, April 24, from 10 a.m. until we're done.



**March 18**

### **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

Cost for the dinner is \$12; children under 10, \$6. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are now available in the office.





## **What's happening in March:**

- 3/1 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)**
- 3/9 Trustees Meeting - 2:30 p.m.**
- 3/11 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 3/12 Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 3/15 Deadline for April Mayflower Notes**
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day**
- 3/18 Corned Beef Dinner - 5:30 p.m.**
- 3/19 Prudential Council - Noon**