

Thrift Sale and Second Saturday Supper

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Prudential Council has decided not to reschedule the thrift sale. We will plan to have our regularly scheduled sale at the end of October or beginning of November. Please keep saving your stuff!

The Second Saturday Supper in May will also not be held. We should be back in September.

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Be sure to watch our services—until we can meet again in person—on Facebook or online at www.mayflowerchurch.com!

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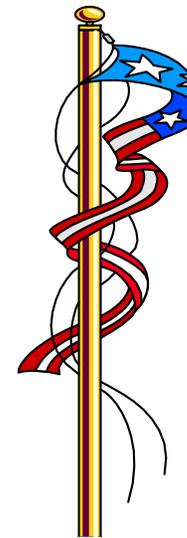
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May 2020

Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

It's happening in May ***

5/3 Communion

5/10 Mother's Day

**5/15 Deadline for June/July/August
Mayflower Notes**

5/25 Memorial Day

5/30 Work Day - 9:00 to Noon

5/31 Advent House Lunches

*** Due to the coronavirus outbreak and orders to stay at home, please follow emails and/or phone calls for timely information on church services and events.

Sunday services will continue to be broadcast on Facebook and online at www.mayflowerchurch.com.

Stay home, stay safe, stay healthy!

A Final Note from Your Lay Leader, Barb Fuller

Dear Mayflower Friends and Family,

Pastor Mark tells me that the number one question he has received from our congregation as he has spoken to them on the phone is, "When will we start having church services again?" I will try to give you an answer to that question. We don't know. How is that for an answer?

As you may have heard me say before, it will become more and more of a temptation to start up where we left off, even when our governor and our public health experts warn us to take it slow, to stay home as much as we can, and to continue with our social distancing. Here is the bottom line: we feel a tremendous responsibility to protect every individual associated with Mayflower because we love you all dearly. Each and every one of you is precious in our eyes and, therefore, vulnerable. No one is safe from contracting the virus and we don't want to take ANY chances. So, please be patient and rest in the knowledge that our time will come, and when it does, you will be the first to know!

Oh, rest in the Lord. Wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy heart's desires. —from Psalm 37

BIRTHDAYS

5/7 - Linda Wheeler

5/16 - Gil Wanger

5/18 - Roger Kennedy

5/19 - Marilyn Wanger

5/21 - Bob Pearson

5/30 - Darleen Wirt

OUTREACH FOCUS

Christian Services

Mayflower Financial News

Again due to the coronavirus, the Second Saturday Supper, the thrift sale, and all church services and activities continued to be canceled in April. Stay tuned for updates on May worship services and events!

A huge thank-you to all who sent in their pledges and contributions this month. We know that the church's expenses continue, regardless of being essentially closed, so we thank you for your faithful support.

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

Income:	\$ 7,374.47
Expenses:	<u>6,929.12</u>
	\$ 445.35

YTD for Three Months:

Income:	\$ 25,211.04
Expenses:	<u>26,014.07</u>
	\$ -803.03

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 4,758.56
Savings:	74,562.16
Heat Fund Savings:	20,855.12
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$122,723.18

Detailed financial reports are available in the brochure rack in the office lobby. Please ask one of us if you have any questions.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary



Pastor Mark's Musings

Normal. Usual. Ordinary. Routine. These are the things we wish we had right now. In the face of unprecedented circumstances, we long to return to life as before. As we watch our TV screens and absorb the news, we are reminded that it will take a lot longer than we had hoped, and life may not ever look quite the same. What is our faith response?

There are some types of responses which always crop up during a time of national crisis. Jesus' return is imminent. Doomsday is around the corner. A one-world government is coming. These and other responses are based on fear. And make no mistake about it—fear is very real. But in my lifetime, every time there is a world or national crisis, I have heard similar scenarios and predictions. I heard it during the Cuban missile crisis, the Arab oil embargo, the 911 attacks and now the pandemic. And the reason for this is our desire to bring order to what seems like chaos.

Here are some things I would like to remind all of us:

— While it has not happened within our lifetimes, pandemics are not new. Pandemics have occurred all through history.

— While there is much economic pain, saving lives is and should be our first concern. The "stay at home" order is not an attempt to permanently remove our freedoms, but to severely curtail the spread of the virus. This is an emergency, and it is the role of government to protect its citizens from harm.

— As we are able, and in a responsible manner, we need to support relief efforts, whether governmental, secular, or faith-based.

— I believe the church will have increased opportunity for relevance both during and following the pandemic.

Keep up the good work, Mayflower, and keep the faith. Stay safe, stay healthy, and God be with you 'til we meet again.

Pastor Mark



Thoughts from the Lay Leader, Barb Fuller

“What It Takes to Clean the Barn”

I have had the vague goal of cleaning out the upper floor of our barn and making it party-worthy since we moved out to the country nine years ago. In fact, the hundred-plus-year-old barn has always been one of the most appealing features of the property to me in spite of being able to see sunlight through its aged wallboards not to mention its occasional holes in the floorboards, and its four-foot heaps of old straw. Each year as spring approached, I told myself it would be the perfect weather to clean up the barn, but I seemed to be easily distracted by things that didn't seem to entail as much dirt or physical labor. Then this spring, the stay home-stay safe order ensued.

This past Saturday as Jerry and I spent several more hours pitching decades-old straw into the bucket of the tractor, dumping it in a pile behind the implement shed to be used in the garden later, masks over our noses and mouths and dust flying, I was struck by the idea that what it takes to clean a barn is basically what it takes to clear society of a deadly virus. It is a dirty, unpleasant job that takes hard work and patience.

There is a lot to be said for manual labor. It gives a person a lot of think time, and on Saturday with pitchfork in hand, I was pondering the fact that it was becoming a little too easy for me to shut out thoughts of the rest of the world, including my beloved church. Before we were told to stay home I had been conjuring up what I thought the short and long term goals for Mayflower might be. I was thinking about ways to make our facility more handicap accessible, about how to help the community around the church more, and how to get the word out to more people that Mayflower is vital and alive. On Saturday it scared me to think that I could allow my mind to wander away from those important thoughts.

Here is the good news. Those of us with internet access are still able to worship together through wonderful services provided by Mayflower's staff and volunteers. DeeAnn is staying in weekly contact with her Bible study women, I am staying in contact with my musicians, Pastor Mark and Sue and Lorraine and many others are making phone calls to Mayflower family and friends, and most of us have the think time to come up with ideas of how to make Mayflower even better than it already is. Whether you know it or not, we all have the potential to be cleaning the proverbial barn. Our existence is kind of messy right now, we need masks on if we're going to get into the middle of it, but when it's safe to get back together again, church will be party-worthy. Keep the faith. God is with us.



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

Soon after COVID-19 restrictions were being enacted, I was instructed to take my mother to see an orthopedic surgeon who would decide whether or not she needed surgery on her newly fractured wrist. I was told to leave her in the car while I ventured into the surgeon's office to check her in. Having done that, I went back to the car to wait for the phone call to bring her into the office for the consultation, and as I sat back down in the car, I realized that my mom was singing the chorus to the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul." It struck me as an ironic yet fitting choice of music.

Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, was a successful attorney in Chicago and the father of five children. Within a short time after his son's sudden death, he and his family lost all of their real estate investments due to the Chicago fire of 1871, and Spafford decided to take his wife and four daughters on a European vacation.

In November of 1873, Spafford was delayed by urgent business but sent the others ahead with the understanding that he would join them soon. Sadly, in the middle of the voyage, their ship collided with a Scottish vessel and sank within 12 minutes. Spafford's wife was the only survivor of the family. As Mr. Spafford stood on the deck of the boat he took to join his wife in Wales and passed the approximate place where he lost his daughters, God comforted him with the words, "When sorrows like sea billows roll – Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well with my soul."

As we continue our journey through the Coronavirus, the hymn "It Is Well With My Soul" can be of great comfort to us. As Psalm 46:1 says, "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.*"

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.