

Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: www.mayflowerchurch.com

e-mail: info@mayflowerchurch.com



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor



November

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 - Ann McClelland
- 11/1 - Dominic McClelland
- 11/2 - Frank Wheeler
- 11/5 - Morgan Smith
- 11/5 - Bob Mott
- 11/9 - Blanche Samohovetz (97)
- 11/11 - Cozette Oxley
- 11/15 - Barbara Fuller
- 11/19 - Fred Lowe
- 11/20 - Ina Martin (91)
- 11/28 - Jaxson Graham
- 11/29 - Mike Rutledge

ANNIVERSARIES

11/25 - Roger & Meredith Kennedy

HEAD USHER - Lois Ries



OUTREACH FOCUS - Mitten Tree, Walter Ellis
Harvest Festival, Shoebox Gifts

From The Pastor's Desk

Happy Thanksgiving – Forgive Them



November is usually my Mayflower Notes article on giving thanks to God. Being thankful is very important in our Christian walk. Giving thanks to God, and being thankful in general, will open the channel for God's blessings to flow into your life.

Ephesians 5:20

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, something that clogs the channel, hindering the blessings of God from flowing to you is unforgiveness. If we are giving thanks, but are not forgiving, it hinders God's blessings toward us. Unforgiveness is like allowing weeds to grow in your garden; it will not be as pretty or fruitful as it should be.

Mark 11:26 (Jesus talking)

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

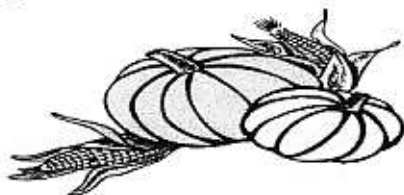
Unforgiveness, "***if you hold anything against anyone***", hinders your prayers and many other blessings from God. You may be praying well enough, you may be exercising faith well enough, you may be giving thanks well enough – but that will not override an unforgiving heart.

Important to know? The only thing Jesus emphasized in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6) – forgiveness. The only thing Jesus expounded on about mountain moving faith, and prayer (Mark 11) – forgiveness.

Conclusion: Give thanks to God, have faith, be thankful, pray, love, be kind - & forgive "***if you hold anything against anyone***". May the blessings of God freely flow into your life and through you to others.

Walter Ellis Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating our annual Walter Ellis Harvest Festival on Sunday, November 20th. Fresh fruits and vegetables will enhance the worship space. Please bring canned or packaged food to add to our donation to the City Rescue Mission.



Shoebox Gifts

It is Operation Christmas Child time once again. Time to pick up a shoebox and fill it with "goodies" for girls and boys around the world (Over 124 million in 150 countries so far). Plastic boxes are available this Sunday. Liz will once again shop for those who ask her to. A shipping fee of \$7 per box is again requested. The shoe boxes must be returned to the church no later than Monday, November 14th.

If you have questions contact Roger Kennedy or Liz Canfield. Let's all participate in this very worthwhile event.

Roger Kennedy



The Mitten Tree

Watch for the mitten tree in late November. We will be collecting mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for local school children who are in need.

Music Notes From Barb Fuller

The first hymn that comes to my mind as I think of autumn, being thankful, and celebrating bountiful harvests is "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," yet there is another hymn in our Pilgrim Hymnal that may not be as well-known to us but just as meaningful, "We Plow the Fields and Scatter."

We plow the fields and scatter The good seed on the land, But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand. He sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain, The breezes and the sunshine, And soft, refreshing rain.

He only is the maker Of all things near and far; He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star. The winds and waves obey him, By him the birds are fed; Much more, to us his children, He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee, then, O Father, For all things bright and good: The seed-time and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food. Accept the gifts we offer, For all thy love imparts, And, what thou most desirest, Our humble, thankful hearts.

What a wonderful time of year this is to celebrate the bountiful blessings God has given us. As the refrain of this hymn says: "All good gifts around us Are sent from heaven above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord For all his love." Amen!



Gordon Wilson wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and support for the loss of his mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gordon as he continues to remember his mom.

Mayflower Financial News

Our September Second Saturday Supper was well attended with a net profit of \$ 654.22. We received a generous donation towards the cost of updating the electric fixtures in the basement and updating the hanging lights and spot lights in the sanctuary.

The following is a brief summary of our finances as of September 30, 2016:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Income: | \$ 10,233.76 |
| Expenses: | 5,061.86 |
| | \$ 5,171.92 |

YTD for Nine Months

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Income: | \$ 72,205.55 |
| Expenses: | 52,326.52 |
| | \$ 20,901.63 |

Fund Balances:

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Checking: | \$ 9,083.24 |
| Savings | 26,018.05 |
| Heat Fund Savings | 18,333.44 |
| Memorial Fund CD | 5,498.35 |
| CD Savings | 22,315.05 |
| | \$ 81,248.13 |

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Christian Education

Hey, November! We're getting ready to enter what I affectionately refer to as "The Yucky Season." Get ready for five months of cold, sleet, and snow!

We need the Yucky Season to remind us of what is important. I was complaining to my husband recently about problems in my job, and how frustrated I was with things never changing, and I realized how frequently I had been doing that lately. Then I remembered that, for all its little miseries, I do love what I do, and not many people get to say that in life. I have a great husband, we're raising some pretty interesting kids, and we still enjoy doing things together.

We very rarely stop and think about what we have to be grateful for, until we are confronted with the evidence. A tragedy always reminds us of how important our family is, but the rest of the time we tend to take them for granted. Then we vow to treat everyone better, and we try for a while, and then we fade off again into everyday grumbling.

One of my favorite comedians is the late Mitch Hedburg. I heard this famous joke of his the other day and it got me thinking:

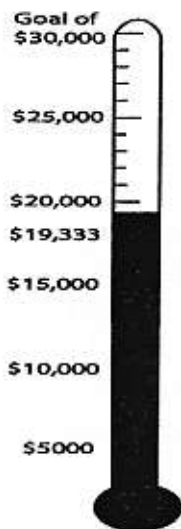
"I like escalators, because an escalator can never break: it can only become stairs. There would never be an "Escalator temporarily out of order" sign, only an "Escalator temporarily stairs. Sorry for the convenience."

Liz Canfield



Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We plan to have another sale as usual in late April, so start saving up your items NOW! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them there. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!



Mayflower Heat Fund

Our goal is to be able to pay for new heating in the inevitable event that our old machines suddenly give up. Our fund is looking better and better. Thank you!



Thanksgiving Alphabet

T ... Turkeys, table-spreads, being together,
 H ... Happiness and homes to protect us from all weather,
 A ... Aunts and uncles, a reunion in Fall,
 N ... Nieces and nephews, family members all.
 K ... Kind-hearted kin coming over for dinner,
 S ... Surely you'll have fun, but you won't get thinner,
 G ... Gourds and pumpkins, mouths open wide,
 I ... Indians and Pilgrims we remember with pride,
 V ... Very special times-there could even be snow,
 I ... Imagine what it was like at Plymouth long ago,
 N ... Never forget how the settlers led the way,
 G ... Giving thanks and blessing this special day.

What's happening in
November...



11/6 Daylight Savings
Time Ends - turn back 1 hour

11/8 Trustees 10 a.m.

11/12 Second Saturday
Supper 5 .m.

11/13 Reception of New
Members

11/15 Deadline for May-
flower Notes

11/20 Prudential Council-
Noon
Walter Ellis Harvest
Festival

11/24 Thanksgiving Day
Church office closed 11/24 & 25

November 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends | 7 | 8 Trustees 10 a.m. Election Day | 9 | 10 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30 | 11 Veteran's Day | 12 Second Saturday Supper 5 p.m. |
| 13 Reception of New Members | 14 | 15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes | 16 | 17 Handbells 3:45 Choir 5:30 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Prudential Council noon Harvest Festival | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Thanksgiving Office closed | 25 Office closed | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |