

CROP Walk in the Time of COVID

The annual CROP Walk will be different this year due to the concerns about the potential to spread the COVID-19 virus. This year, the Walk will be done virtually, with all participants walking on their own, wherever they would like to walk, any time between October 1 and 11.

If you would like to volunteer to be one of our walkers, please contact Lorraine Finison at 321-3221 or by email at BellGoddess@hotmail.com.

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly emails and in the October newsletter, but please plan now to support this much-needed project to feed the hungry in the Lansing area and in other places around the world. Our help is needed now more than ever.

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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening in September ***

9/6 - Communion

9/7 - Labor Day - Church Office closed

9/15 - Deadline for October Mayflower Notes

*** Due to the coronavirus, 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 safe and stay healthy!

September

BIRTHDAYS

9/12 - Bill McHarris

9/12 - Craig Young

9/20 - Terry Graham



ANNIVERSARIES

9/5 - Bob and Sue Mott (33 years)

9/21 - Frank and Linda Wheeler (52 years)

9/24 - Bill Lewis and Linda Farmer-Lewis (37 years)



OUTREACH FOCUS

Our new outreach project involves Advent House, the organization that we prepare sack lunches for every 5th Sunday (including this weekend). Advent House in the process of meeting the needs of its clients now that the stay-at-home order has been lifted. To help them, we are requesting donations of laundry detergent, dish detergent, and toilet paper. If you would like to contribute any of these items, please drop them off at the church. You may call Roger Kennedy (646-8861) or Sue Mott (420-3018) with questions.

More information on our plans to help the Lewton School teachers will be forthcoming. Thanks so much for your support in helping Sally Potter provide school supplies for needy students at Waverly H.S.!

*Birds have a feeling in the air,
They are flying here and there,
The leaves are of gold and yellow,
Where all the emotions are mellow,
Fall is the season to rejoice,
Stay prepared by your choice,
Fall is here again!*

Mayflower Financial News

Thanks to many of you who have faithfully sent or brought in your pledges and contributions during the pandemic, we are blessed to be in a good financial position. And this is despite the loss of about \$6,000 which would have been realized from the thrift sale and the four Second Saturday Suppers we were not able to have this calendar year so far. The major parking lot projects and a bat removal issue are still pending (about \$12,000 worth!), so we are especially grateful for your support.

Our Heat Fund savings account has been closed and added to our regular savings account (see the combined account below).

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

Income:	\$ 9,128.41
Expenses:	<u>8,047.84</u>
	\$ 1,080.57

YTD for Seven Months:

Income:	\$ 69,893.56
Expenses:	<u>62,359.13</u>
	\$ 7,534.43

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 8,435.29
Savings:	100,426.80
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$131,409.43

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. Please contact either of us if you have any questions.

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



Pastor Mark's Musings

Here we are, summer almost over, and the beauty of Autumn in Michigan is just around the corner. But it doesn't feel quite the same, does it? Many of our travel plans were cancelled or seriously altered. No football or any sports for all the high schools. No football for our beloved Spartans. And so many questions about how school is going to look; virtual, hybrid or in-person. Some outdoor activities have been possible and enjoyed, but still much trepidation to venture indoors in public spaces, with colder weather just ahead. And the most obvious alteration for a pastor? No in-person church services. Some have opened, but those that have look drastically different with just a fraction of attendees. With our vulnerable population at Mayflower, things remain uncertain. As people of faith, we try to look on the bright side. And we certainly have been blessed by the professionalism of Kim Finison in the presentation of our online worship, second to none. But we need more hope and a sense of direction. So here goes... some help derived from scripture:

If you are doing OK: Continue to sow works of kindness and generosity to others. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

On behalf of the elderly: Treat all of them as if they were your parents. (1 Timothy 5:1)

Anguish over racial injustice: Whoever claims to love God, but hates a brother or sister, is a liar. If you cannot love those who you have seen, how can you love God who is not seen? (1 John 4:20)

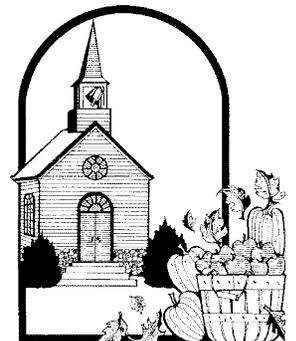
If you feel weary: Be strong and don't give up, for your work shall be rewarded. (2 Chronicles 15:7)

If you are anxious for the future: I have plans for you, declares God, for your well being and not evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

If you feel alone: Nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

God continue to bless all of you. I love you.

Pastor Mark



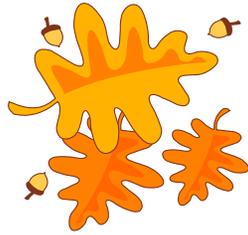
Thoughts from the Lay Leader

Who Needs to Rally?

If this were a “normal” year, my message as your lay leader this month would be encouraging us to look forward to Rally Day which is usually the first Sunday after Labor Day. This is the day when the choir starts singing for our services again and folks who have been out of town for the summer come back to join us. There is an element of excitement that comes with Rally Day; new programs, new opportunities, new music. Will we be rallying inside of our building this year? No, but before I go on any further, let me catch you up on some of our news:

- We still have bats in our belfry, as Pastor Mark says, but they should be disappearing soon.
- The cement work at our driveway entrances has been done and a contract for patching, resealing, and striping the parking lot is being worked on.
- We have had an enthusiastic response to collecting office/school supplies for Sally Potter’s classes as well as Waverly High School where she works. She has picked those up along with a check for \$250, but you can always donate either supplies or money after that time, if you so desire.
- Our outreach focus for September is collecting money to divide up among the Lewton School teachers to help them provide for their students in whatever way they deem necessary. Lorraine will give you more details on how to do that through her weekly emails.
- We continue to be able to serve you with weekly worship services that happen in real time but that can also be accessed anytime by those people who cannot watch them at 10:30 on Sunday morning. Along with that, Pastor Linda, Pastor Mark, and I continue to post short messages online each week that are designed to create better understanding of the week’s theme through liturgy and music for the upcoming Sunday services. We have been able to celebrate the Lord’s Supper on a monthly basis, as well.
- Your generous monetary donations have helped to enhance our cameras and sound systems used to produce our weekly worship services as well as have enabled us to continue with our community outreach which is so desperately needed and complete projects necessary to maintain and better our physical plant.
- We also had three people join our church without ever attending one of our worship services!

Oh sure, it would be especially pleasant to be worshipping together in our church building, but if you haven’t noticed, we *have* been rallying every day since the pandemic interrupted our lives. Our love for our community, our church, and for one another has not waned. Our spirits are still strong and so is our faith that God will bring us back together. We are blessed, and there is much to be thankful for. We at Mayflower will continue with our rallying because that is what we do. By the way, stay tuned for more on Rally Day. Rally on, I say!



Music Notes from Barb Fuller



I have enjoyed bringing background to you on Facebook regarding our hymns each week, but beginning this fall I would like to begin exploring our hymnal in more depth with my newsletter articles.

Hymns for a Pilgrim People is divided into three broad sections entitled **The Triune God, God’s Revelation, and God’s Covenant People**. Within each of these sections the hymns are further divided regarding their content. For instance, under **God’s Revelation** there are hymns that relate to IN SCRIPTURE, IN CREATION, and IN SOCIETY. Within each of these are even more divisions, and since this month I see my natural surroundings particularly prolific and abundantly beautiful, I want to look a little deeper into the hymns under the IN CREATION section with yet another subset called “Nature”.

There are seven hymns within the “Nature” section of our hymnal, some of which you may or may not recognize: Let the Whole Creation Cry, Cantic of the Sun, For the Beauty of the Earth, We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky, All Creatures of Our God and King, The Spacious Firmament on High, and This Is My Father’s World. I am familiar with five of these hymns, two of which I recall singing in my childhood, one reason why I probably like them so much. Several of these hymns present themselves as majestic, proudly proclaiming the wonders of God’s creations, some portray our natural surroundings in a more gentle way, and perhaps there is one other that speaks of the gifts God brings us but how we need to be willing to share the abundance he offers us within those gifts.

We all know by now that hymns are poetry set to music, and that both poetry and music help to bring a further appreciation of what God offers us through these hymns. We are fortunate to be given these gifts of abundance. As the restrictions the pandemic imposes on us go on for what seems like endlessly, this is the perfect time to gain emotional and spiritual strength from the Nature section of our hymnal.

*This is my Father’s world; O let me ne’er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father’s world; Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad.*