

Mayflower Congregational Church



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CROP Walk in the Time of COVID

The annual CROP Walk will be like last year due to the pandemic. 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 10.

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.

Checks should be written to CROP Walk or CWS/CROP. Cash is also welcome. See Lorraine to make your donation.

Church Picnic at Fullers' Farm

Barb and Jerry have invited everyone to their farm for a picnic in their pole barn on Saturday, Sept. 18, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Bring a potluck dish and drinks if you want something particular. We'll have dinner around 5:00.

There will be games, a zip line, tours of their property in their golf cart, and s'mores at the campfire. Come! You'll have a great time!

Mayflower Church Staff

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Rev. Mark McCormick
206/930-6634

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Barbara Fuller
517/574-0576

PIANIST:

DeeAnn McCormick
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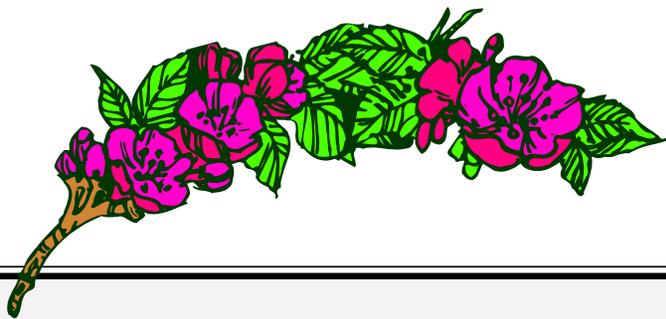
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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening in September...

9/5 - Communion

9/6 - Labor Day - Church Office closed

9/12 - Rally Day and Neighborhood Ice Cream Social - outside at Noon

9/12 - Trustees at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

9/15 - Women's Bible Study resumes

9/15 - Deadline for October Mayflower Notes

9/18 - Picnic at Fullers' Farm at 3:00 p.m.

9/19 - Prudential Council - after church

Weekly Event:

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Rally Day

Come to our Rally Day service on Sept. 12. Sally Potter will provide special music, and rumor has it that Lansing Mayor Andy Schor will be joining us! After the service, at Noon, stay for ice cream sundaes or cones, lawn games, and a visit from BobZWobZ, our resident clown. The neighborhood has been invited to join us. If you have one, bring a lawn chair.



September

BIRTHDAYS

9/12 - Bill McHarris

9/12 - Craig Young

9/20 - Terry Graham



ANNIVERSARIES

9/5 - Bob and Sue Mott (34 years)

9/21 - Frank and Linda Wheeler (53 years)

OUTREACH FOCUS

Sally Potter's Classroom



As we have done the last several years, we are collecting school supplies and money for Sally Potter, who teaches personal finance and other subjects at Waverly H.S. and helps any needy students with school supplies (not only her students but anyone at Waverly). Needs are: notebooks, paper, pencils, pens, highlighters, post-it-notes, and desk items like organizers, pen and pencil holders, staplers, rulers, scissors, calculators, and cute items like stickers, smaller notepads, decorative clips, anything small and fun. Items don't need to be new. Or, monetary gifts will allow Sally to buy what she needs. You may add an amount to your pledge or contribution check or bring cash to church (see Lorraine). Thanks much for your help! We'll continue to collect stuff and money through September.

Mayflower Financial News

We thank you for your continuing financial support of your church. We try not to “cry wolf” as we have been very blessed at Mayflower by your caring and sharing during the pandemic.

But, in an effort to communicate our needs, we have faced significant additional expenses during our renovation and redecorating project, and now we need to replace the office lobby entrance doors which have outlived their useful life. The cost of this project alone is \$13,000, but when it is done, we will have handicapper-friendly access and more energy efficiency. If you are able and motivated to help with this expense, we would greatly appreciate your help. Thank you in advance!

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

Income:	\$ 5,157.85
Expenses:	<u>8,423.44</u>
	\$ -3,265.59

YTD for Seven Months:

Income:	\$ 65,139.67
Expenses:	<u>77,330.71</u>
	\$-12,191.04

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 5,601.69
Savings:	95,450.01
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,626.39</u>
	\$123,678.09

Detailed financial reports are in the brochure rack in the lobby or can be emailed to you. Contact us if you have questions or want a copy.

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



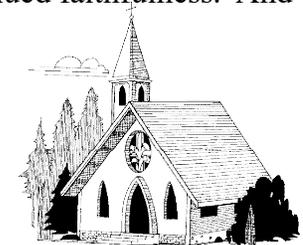
Pastor Mark's Musings

"The best laid plans of mice and men" is part of a poem by Robert Burns. It reinforces the idea that no matter how carefully we plan for the future, something may still go wrong. In the late spring of this year, there was an encouraging drop in the number of cases and deaths due to COVID-19. We came back for in-person worship, we began to meet together for fellowship after church in our newly redecorated and renamed Friendship Center, and we looked forward to the resumption of sorely missed opportunities for study, fellowship, service, and Christian Education. Although we haven't technically given up on any of our plans, we as a church are in the same boat as many schools, businesses, and charitable organizations. Many uncertainties abound such as shifting virus trends, politicizing, vaccination rates, and masking mandates. This is indeed a difficult time. What to do?

This is a time that we rely on our bedrock beliefs and core values. In spite of all the uncertainties of life, even with our faith and trust in God, we can be anxious and fearful. But what are our bedrock beliefs and core values upon which we rely during challenging times?

This fall, our leadership is going to continue a process we began two years ago which will help us identify those beliefs and values which will help clarify and identify who we are as a unique congregation. In the meantime, however, we can all pray that God will help us navigate difficult waters which may lead to opportunities for growth and ministry that may not have been possible without the challenges we face during this pandemic. I believe. I am optimistic. The reason? All of you who have been so faithful and loyal to the ministry of Mayflower Church. Thank you in advance for your continued faithfulness. And thanks be to God!

Pastor Mark



Autumn Greetings from Your Lay Leader

As we welcome September, I'll bet many of you are having the same thought that I am. How did summer go by so quickly?

Mayflower has a very exciting event coming up on Sunday, Sept. 12, which is Rally Day. We are hosting an ice cream social for the congregation and are inviting the neighborhood to attend, too. It will be outside at Noon. If the weather does not cooperate, it will be postponed to the next Sunday.

Sally Potter, who is an amazing musician and has performed at Mayflower in the past, will provide special music during the service that day. Sally is a teacher at Waverly H.S., which is one of Michigan's most diverse schools. One of Mayflower's outreach programs in the fall is helping Sally to stock her classroom with much-needed school supplies for students who may not be able to afford them.

We are exploring ways to become more involved with our neighborhood and to present opportunities for our neighbors to learn more about Mayflower. We will again be working with Lewton School to determine what needs they have as they resume in-person school.

We are keeping a watchful eye on the delta variant statistics and are following the recommendations from our local health officials and the CDC. Our goal is to keep everyone who attends services safe. The increasing numbers of delta variant cases have resulted in requiring everyone to wear masks in church and to continue to maintain social distance. Only time will tell if there will be further modifications to be made.

Many of you are curious about whether the Second Saturday Suppers and thrift sales will resume. At this time, both events are on hold due to the uncertainty of the delta variant and the enormous amount of work that both of those events entail. Each event requires many volunteers and several of our usual volunteers are no longer able to help. Alternatives to the Second Saturday Suppers have been suggested, such as a pancake supper, chili supper, or baked potato bar. Of course, those options are not the traditional chicken dinner for which Mayflower has been known for decades, but perhaps when we can resume some of our activities, we will create new traditions.

In these uncertain times, I leave you with these words: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.* Proverbs 3:5

With love, Gail

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

Hope. A feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. A person or thing that may help or save someone. Grounds for believing that something good may happen. A feeling of trust.

Faith. Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Trust. Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

We have a wonderful hymn in our hymnal, "Lord of All Hopefulness," which is an "all-day" hymn – a hymn petitioning God's abiding presence throughout the day. The words, written by Jan Struther, who is best known for her novel, Mrs. Miniver, is set to the hymn tune SLANE, an Irish folk tune named after a village in Ireland. This is a perfect example of how hope, faith, and trust can help us through uncertain times:

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

