

Mayflower Congregational Church



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

Website: www.mayflowerchurch.com
Email: info@mayflowerchurch.com

Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday

Come to our very meaningful Maundy Thursday Service on April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Rev. Art Ritter, who led our very informative Lenten Educational Series in March, will bring the message.

Before the service, everyone is invited to a soup and bread supper at 6:00 p.m. in the Friendship Center. This was always our practice before COVID and we are at the point that we feel it is safe to again provide a light meal before the service. Please join us!

And, of course, be sure to come to our Easter Service at 10:30 a.m. on April 9!



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

Mayflower Church Staff

MINISTER: Rev. Mark McCormick 206/930-6634	MUSIC DIRECTOR: Barbara Fuller 517/574-0576
PIANIST/ORGANIST: DeeAnn McCormick 810/210-0472	CUSTODIAN: Joe Pitchford 517/703-3007

Meredith A. Kennedy, Mayflower Notes Editor
10310 Lafayette Lane, Dimondale, MI 48821
517/256-1834 meredithkennedy35@gmail.com

It's happening in April...

4/2 - Palm Sunday

4/6 - Maundy Thursday (Soup-6:00; Service-7:00)

4/7 - Good Friday

4/9 - Easter Sunday

4/11 - Mission Meal Preparation

4/15 - Deadline for May Mayflower Notes

4/18 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m.

4/25 - Mission Meal Preparation

4/30 - Advent House Lunch Preparation



Weekly Events:

Fellowship Hour - Sundays after worship service

Women's Bible Study - Wed. - 10:30 a.m.

Exercise Class - Tues., Wed., Thurs. - 8:00 a.m.

Handbell Choir - Thurs. - 4:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.



April

BIRTHDAYS

4/1 - Charmain Hull

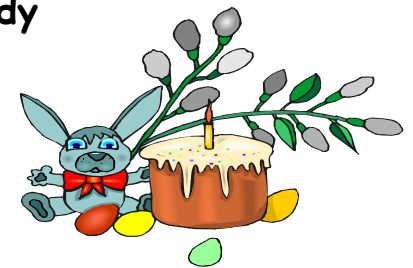
4/18 - Bob Gress

4/19 - Bill Baldwin

4/20 - Eugene Potts

4/22 - Meredith Kennedy

4/28 - Rilla McHarris



ANNIVERSARY

4/1 - Mary & Norman Muhammad (50 years)

OUTREACH FOCUS

Advent House

Mayflower Financial News

The Baby Boxes for Haiti project wrapped up at the end of February with a final total of \$1100. Thank you for your generous gifts for this project!

In response to the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, we are taking donations to be sent to the NACCC's One Great Hour of Sharing. We will take donations until April 2. The current total of donations is about \$1800.

The following is a summary of our finances as of February 28:

Income:	\$ 7,475.69
Expenses:	<u>11,435.37</u>
	\$ - 3,959.68

YTD for Two Months:

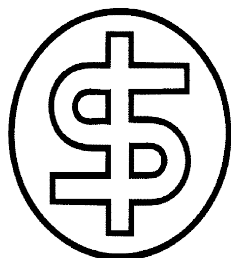
Income:	\$ 19,561.98
Expenses:	<u>23,631.87</u>
	\$ - 4,069.89

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$134,178.23
Savings:	<u>5.00</u>
	\$134,183.23

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

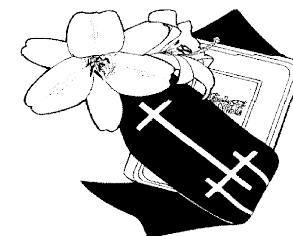


Pastor Mark's Musings

While Easter is definitely associated with Christ's resurrection, it is fascinating to trace the roots of what was originally a pagan celebration. Pagans lived in strong accordance with nature's rhythms and patterns. Solstices and equinoxes were considered sacred times. A solstice marks the longest or shortest day of the year, while an equinox represents the day when there is balance between daylight and darkness. Easter falls near the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere, when winter is coming to an end and nature is experiencing rebirth and renewal. This is a natural cause for celebrations and festivities as plants and leaves start to regrow after the cold winter. In 312 AD, when the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and put an end to persecutions, it did not mean that pagans would stop following their rituals and traditions. So Constantine slowly started to adopt existing pagan rituals into Christian festivities. In 325, the church council known as the Council of Nicaea first decided that Easter's celebration should fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox. Thus, Easter Sunday was born and symbols associated with nature's rebirth and renewal came to be associated with the resurrection of Christ. The term Easter took its name from the pagan goddess Eostre - the goddess of spring and fertility.

I recently noticed crocuses and other plants poking up from the ground, even through the snow on the property of the church. The scriptures repeatedly remind us that the glory of God is revealed in nature. As we look forward to our Christian celebration of Easter, let us pay attention to the rhythms, cadences, and patterns of nature, which lend substance and give illumination to a reality of our faith--that death has been swallowed up in victory through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Mark



Greetings From Your Lay Leader

APRIL, the month of Easter. Personally this is a time of reflection of my life. I was born into a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod family. Both sides of my family immigrated to the United States from Germany for religious reasons. The importance of Easter to my ancestors was part of their core values that brought them to America. My family believed without Jesus' willingness to take our sins upon himself and gain forgiveness for them, there was no hope of their spending eternity with God.

Like all other members of my extended family, I was baptized in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as an infant, I attended parochial school during my elementary education, I was confirmed upon completion of parochial school and was married in the Lutheran Church.

Much of the teachings I received involved the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. So my reflection during this month centers on Easter and the meaning of each of these events.

As a youngster, it was impressed upon me that the season of Lent was a somber time. It was not demanded, but strongly encouraged that we fast during this forty-day period to heighten our dependence upon God.

However, Palm Sunday to me was always a joyful occasion, as I could picture myself in the crowd waving high a branch and singing "Hosanna in the Highest" to Jesus as He rode on the back of a donkey into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday was another emotional day as our minister knelt down and washed our feet the same way that Jesus had washed his disciples feet at the Last Supper, setting the example for each of us to wash one another's feet in caring for each other. Pastor Mark will follow this example in Mayflower's Maundy Thursday service this year.

Good Friday was always an anxious-filled day for me. I had been taught the agony that Jesus suffered during his crucifixion on the cross. I was part of the reason He was on that cross, as He was paying the price for my sins and He was sinless.

But then came Easter morning. Our Church members always held a sunrise service. The congregation gathered in the sanctuary and the sun would stream through the windows with the assurance that Jesus had risen from the dead and saved us from our sins.

So here I am decades later, no longer a member of the Lutheran Church, but no less a believer that Jesus did die for my sins.

May each of us take time this Easter season to reflect on God's protection and guidance of us and care for others as Jesus taught us.

Ruth L. Pasch



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

The acquisition of Stephen Lange's Allen organ here at Mayflower, given generously by his wife, Nancy Lange, has changed the musical quality of our worship services. With DeeAnn McCormick's skills on the organ as well as the piano, we have the flexibility to use either instrument to enhance the music that is being presented. Because of this, I thought you might enjoy a bit of information regarding the Allen Organ Company.

The Allen Organ Company is the largest builder of church organs in the world and is particularly known for its digital electronic church organs. The company was founded by the late Jerome Markowitz, who built his first experimental organ in 1936. Steven Markowitz, Jerome's son, is now CEO and president of the company.

Jerome Markowitz was interested in technology at a very young age, and by the time he was 13, he had built a battery-driven go-kart. Shortly following that, he became fascinated with radios, constructing his own ham radio station using a hand-made receiver and transmitter. In his youth, Markowitz even built his own television, which then led him to being known as a technical whiz kid within his neighborhood on Long Island.

Markowitz had originally planned to join his father's textile business in Allentown, PA, but realized during college that his education was getting in the middle of his radio projects. By the time Jerome missed a month of school due to an illness, he left school altogether.

During his youth, Markowitz developed an interest in organ music, and so after college and with his knowledge of electronic fundamentals, he built an oscillator (a frequency generator) like those he had built for his radio equipment, discovering he could connect the oscillators to the keys of the organ keyboard.

After researching other pipeless organs and organ-like instruments, Markowitz built his first experimental organ in 1936. After his parents moved to Allentown in 1937, he developed his workshop in an empty part of his father's factory, which is where he met Norman Koons, a factory maintenance man. Together Koons designed the next organ on paper and Markowitz sold the Allen Organ No. 1 to St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Allentown. This sale was the beginning of the Allen Organ Company.

