

Baby Boxes for Haiti

Our outreach project in January and February will again be "Baby Boxes for Haiti," a program to teach and supply safe birthing facilities. The program needs funds and layette supplies. Dorothy Fredrickson, the local coordinator, will be in church on January 8 to provide details of the program and specific needs this year. To support this worthy project, any amount can be added to your pledge/contribution check or given separately. Cash donations are also welcome. Any amount may be donated, but \$30 will purchase one complete layette.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be up through the end of January, waiting for your donations of gloves, mittens, scarves, haats and socks. The donations will be divided between Lewton School and Lansing Charter Academy. Monetary gifts will be divided between the schools so they can purchase winter wear as needs arise. Please make your check payable to Mayflower and designate "Mitten Tree." Cash donations are also welcome.

Mayflower Church Staff

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

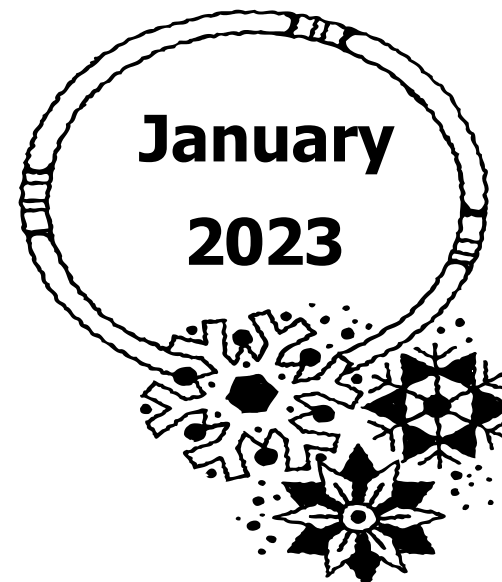
Meredith A. Kennedy, Mayflower Notes Editor
10310 Lafayette Lane, Dimondale, MI 48821
517/256-1834 meredithkennedy35@gmail.com

Mayflower Congregational Church

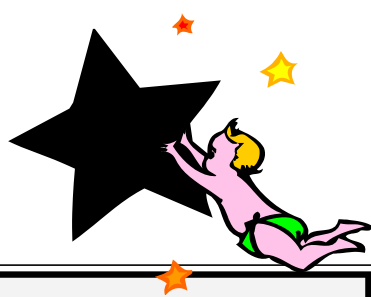


2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911
Telephone: 517/484-3139

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



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening in January...

1/1 - Communion

1/5 - Chancel Choir resumes - 5:30 p.m.

1/8 - Annual Reports due

1/11 - Bible Study resumes - 10:30 a.m.

1/12 - Handbell Choir resumes - 4:15 p.m.

1/15 - Deadline for February Mayflower Notes

1/29 - Advent House Lunches

1/29 - Annual Meeting - after church

Weekly Events:

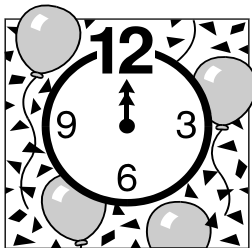
Fellowship Hour - Sundays after worship service

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.



January



BIRTHDAYS

1/5 - Martha Woodward (91)

1/10 - Judy Posey

1/24 - Susan Schweinfurth

1/25 - Charles Fleck

1/28 - Kathryn Fuller

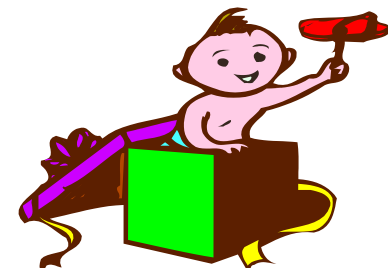
ANNIVERSARIES

1/1 - Jerry and Barb Fuller (51 years)

1/25 - Tom and Marsha Hacker (42 years)

OUTREACH FOCUS

Mitten Tree, Baby Boxes for Haiti



Mayflower Financial News

Our outreach project in November was the Harvest Festival. The final total of monetary gifts was an incredible \$1000, in addition to all the boxed and canned food items donated by you! Thank you!!

Monetary gifts for the Mitten Tree project will go to Lewton School and the Lansing Charter Academy so they can purchase winter wear as needed. Make checks payable to Mayflower and designate "Mitten Tree." Cash donations are also welcome.

See elsewhere in this newsletter for an article about our January and February outreach project: Baby Boxes for Haiti. Your generous donations are much needed!

The following is a summary of our finances as of November 30:

Income:	\$ 10,182.30
Expenses:	<u>9,685.09</u>
	\$ 497.21

YTD for Eleven Months:

Income:	\$115,014.89
Expenses:	<u>114,674.81</u>
	\$ 340.08

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 99,782.61
Savings:	5,887.04
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,705.70</u>
	\$128,375.35

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

There is something quite artificial about the new year. In reality, the only thing that changes on January 1 is the calendar. Winter is still with us, football season is wrapping up, the Spartans have begun what we hope will be a successful basketball season, and we will all grow one year older, just like last year and the year before. In the church, we are still in the Christmas season, technically. Soon, we will turn our attention toward Epiphany, then Lent and Easter. There is no liturgical season we call "The New Year."

Having said that, the calendar reminds us that there are markers of time in our lives. When we were born, when we entered school, graduated high school, then made choices concerning higher education and/or a career. For many, along comes marriage and children. For others, they settle into the single life and launch themselves with abandon into careers and other interests. Retirement comes, and longtime dreams of travel and leisure, put off by years of hard work, hopefully can be fulfilled. Many are fortunate to enjoy grandchildren, even great-grandchildren. Unfortunately, failing health can interrupt the "best laid plans."

One thing we know for sure, especially as we age, is that time is short. With that in mind, the new year can serve a great purpose. But instead of making oft-broken resolutions, let me encourage all of us to look back and count a few or many ways God has blessed us in our lives and in our church, in spite of setbacks, sorrows and losses. God has been faithful. God will be faithful in 2023. It reminds me of the hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to Come." Let's make that a Mayflower theme for this year! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Mark



Greetings from Your Lay Leader

A year has passed since I became your lay leader. For me, that time has felt much shorter than twelve months. So much has occurred and continues to occur at Mayflower. In addition to the regular Prudential Council, Trustees, Deacons, and Financial Team meetings, there have been many other committee meetings.

To name a few of those committees, there have been meetings discussing the need for an administrative assistant; defining our core values and bedrock beliefs; conducting an inventory of fixed assets; reviewing fund accounting principles; setting internal control policies and procedures; analyzing adequate insurance coverage for the church; examining the need for handicap accessibility into our sanctuary; and expanding and extending our own spiritual growth and outreach to our local, state, national and international communities.

There is one more committee not included in the above-mentioned and that is the bylaws committee. This committee has spent many hours and much discussion regarding our current bylaws. It was concluded that the current bylaws need revising in order to comply with potential growth and nonprofit regulation changes.

Even though much has already been accomplished on this committee, there is much more to be done in order to present revised bylaws to our members.

One of the revisions involves the leaders and their years of service. The bylaws committee knows they will not fully have all revisions made by the Annual Meeting this January 29. They will be requesting an extension of time to present the nomination of officers for the coming year. Their goal is to complete their work by this summer, at which time a special meeting will be called to present new bylaws and the election of officers, if the new bylaws are approved by the members.

All of this information is given to keep you updated on what is happening at Mayflower and to ask for your prayers for guidance for the leaders and committee members of Mayflower.

May God bless and guide each of us this year of 2023.

Ruth Pasch

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

My brother-in-law, Billy Parker, who died twenty-five years ago, was an accomplished jazz drummer. My sister Carol met Billy in East Lansing while he was attending M.S.U., studying for a degree in medical technology.



His plan was to be able to work in a lab to earn money so that he could pursue his love of jazz. That turned out to be a good plan. During his lifetime Billy played with a number of well-known jazz musicians, living with my sister in Upper Nyack, NY, just across the Hudson River from New York City.

As time went on, Billy developed a program to take into the schools of Rockland County where he and Carol lived, paying many highly skilled jazz musicians to help him present the history of jazz to young minds so that they would have a start at becoming passionate about what he loved so dearly.

Billy died just short of earning his Ph.D. in jazz education with his focus on Duke Ellington. By then he was teaching at Rockland Community College and had produced and performed with well-known jazz musicians on an album called “Billy Parker’s Fourth World.” Sadly, he never had enough money to promote the album, but I understand that there has been a renewed interest in it, and some of the copies are now selling for as much as \$350!

Billy had a huge collection of jazz and blues albums, a few of which Carol gifted to his former students. The rest she took with her when she moved to Sequim, WA, and as it turned out, a few years later our oldest son Aaron paid to have them shipped here to Lansing. As I recall, there were twelve large, very heavy boxes that came, and Aaron was thrilled. As a data architect (a person who organizes large amounts of data for businesses), Aaron catalogued the collection and has spent the last few years listening to each album and tracking them on the spreadsheet he made for that purpose. When he is done hearing an album he analyzes it and either sells it to a shop in East Lansing or keeps it to treasure and listen to again.

Billy’s story is one of passion for the music he loved and respected. He touched many peoples’ lives in ways that can’t even necessarily be measured, one being our son. In turn, I am quite certain that Aaron’s passion to understand his Uncle Billy’s passion will live on, reaching others. So, my thought is this – as we look to a new year, I encourage you to take time to evaluate what you are passionate about. Think of the legacy you may be able to leave for future generations because of that passion, and if you don’t have anything you feel passionate about, perhaps this is the time to find it! Passion is a strong emotion, and when used in a positive way, can in turn be used to enrich other people’s lives.