

Earthquake Relief

In response to the overwhelming destruction and loss of over 47,000 lives so far as a result of massive earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, we are taking donations which will be sent to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" effort, a ministry of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), as we did for the Ukrainian relief and hurricane relief efforts last year. The NACCC's Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC) works through member churches and missions closest to the need. If unavailable, they work through respected organizations such as the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Church World Service, and the Red Cross.

You may donate by check (payable to Mayflower with a note "Earthquake Relief") or in cash. We will take donations until March 26. Please give generously!

Blankets for the Homeless

As we did last fall with the "Towels for Dogs" collection, we are collecting blankets for the homeless people in the Lansing area. If you have any extra blankets you can donate, bring them to church next Sunday, March 5. They should be clean and in good condition.

Mayflower Church Staff

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March 2023



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening in March...

- 3/5 - Communion
- 3/12 - Daylight Saving Time (go forward 1 hour)
- 3/14 - Mission Meal Preparation - 11:00 a.m.
- 3/15 - Deadline for April Mayflower Notes
- 3/21 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m.
- 3/28 - Mission Meal Preparation - 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Events:

- Fellowship Hour - Sundays after worship service
- Lenten Educational Series - Sundays - Noon
- 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.



BIRTHDAYS

- 3/6 - Karen Crampo
- 3/8 - Jamie Keller
- 3/12 - Clayton Hull
- 3/15 - Marissa Slater
- 3/18 - Gordon Wilson
- 3/20 - Lorraine Finison
- 3/22 - Donna Slater
- 3/23 - Gail Sawyer
- 3/28 - April Lakatos
- 3/28 - Shirley Potts



ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/13 - Charles and Jan Fleck (42 years)

OUTREACH FOCUS (see info on back)

Earthquake Relief

Mayflower Financial News

Monetary gifts of \$350 for the Mitten Tree project were divided between Lewton School and the Lansing Charter Academy. Thank you for your generous donations of money and winter weather accessories.

Our January and February outreach project, Baby Boxes for Haiti, is wrapping up on February 26. Thank you for your generous gifts for this project, which currently total \$950.

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 be collecting until the end of March. See the article on the back of this newsletter for details.

The following is a summary of our finances as of January 31, which is also the year-to-date for 2023:

Income:	\$ 12,086.29
Expenses:	<u>12,196.50</u>
	\$ -110.21

<u>Fund Balances:</u>	
Checking:	\$108,603.59
Savings:	5,923.19
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>22,762.47</u>
	\$137,289.25

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

March is upon us. What do you think of when you think of March? March Madness? The beginning of spring at the vernal equinox? The return of Daylight Saving Time? Or flying kites?

For Christians in the mainline tradition, our six-week observance of Lent will include the entire month of March.

Lent is derived from the Middle English 'Lent,' meaning spring. It is the forty-weekday (does not include Sundays) period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. This period corresponds to the time Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring temptation by Satan. Lent, then, is our annual observance, which is just one tool helping us not only remember, but participate with the life of Jesus since we are his followers.

This year, we are privileged to have Rev. Arthur Ritter, former pastor of Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi, Michigan, and current moderator of the NACCC, come to Mayflower for a Lenten Study. He will be sharing each Sunday in the Friendship Center immediately following the Coffee Hour. It is important to realize the connection of Lent with the life and ministry of Jesus. The study centers around the question Jesus asked of his disciples and asks of us, "Who do people say that I am?". Rev. Art will be focusing on the images and metaphors Jesus used to describe himself, particularly in the gospel of John. If you haven't yet been a part, I encourage you to attend all or as many of the gatherings as possible. Rev. Art is a knowledgeable and gifted Bible teacher.

In the larger picture, I hope we all can take some extra time reflecting and participating in the Lenten journey which will be much of the focus of our church leading up to our grand celebration for Easter Sunday.

Pastor Mark



Greetings From Your Lay Leader

My apartment is on the second floor of a commercial building in downtown St. Johns. There is no elevator in the building. In order to get up to my living quarters, it is necessary to climb twenty-three stairs. It is that many steps, as I have counted them many times. The steps are carpeted, so that makes them slightly easier to climb. The carpenter who installed the stairway had the foresight to add a handrail for me to hang onto for support while climbing the stairs.

I often think of my life and walk with the Lord while navigating this stairway. Sometimes in my life it has taken determination to take the next step when I have experienced losses, disappointments and hurts. This is similar to how it feels some evenings when I leave my work desk and retire to my apartment. Just taking the next step can take all the energy I have left from the day to get to my apartment and rest. But I know if I can get to that last step, then I can rest. So it is with my walk with the Lord. If I trust in the Lord that no matter the circumstances in my life, when the loss, disappointment or hurt ends, Jesus Christ will be there to give me rest. That gives me the needed hope to continue the climb. The handrail in my stairway that gives me support reminds me of Jesus and his support in my life. He is a constant and ready helper no matter what is happening in life. Just as the carpeted steps make it easier to climb the stairs to my apartment, so his love makes life so much easier for me.

It is not just the climbing **UP** the stairs that reminds me of my walk with the Lord, but also the climbing **DOWN**. There have been instances in my life when undertows were pulling me down. So it is with going downstairs. It is difficult when on a downward trajectory to turn around and climb up. Again, without Jesus it is difficult to turn myself around and climb upward. I could not do it without his grace and mercy.

If you have experienced a feeling of life pulling you down or finding it challenging to move forward with confidence, I pray you have found your answer in Jesus. He is with you each step of your life. He cares for you in the ups, and also the downs, on your stairway to eternal rest.

During this Lenten season, may each of us be mindful of the steps Jesus took to his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

Ruth L. Pasch



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

When you think of what your most favorite Irish song is, would you choose “Danny Boy,” like so many other folks would, and is it the lyrics or the tune noted as “Londonderry Air,” or both, that grab at your heartstrings? If you answered that it is the tune, then the information I have written here is especially for you.

The title of “Londonderry Air” comes from the name of County Londonderry in Ireland and was used by Jane Ross of Limavady in the county. It is said that Ms. Ross submitted the tune to music collector George Petrie, who then had it published by the Society for the Preservation and Publication of the Melodies of Ireland in the 1855 book, *The Ancient Music of Ireland*, which Petrie edited.

The actual origin of “Londonderry Air” seems to be a bit mysterious because there is no evidence that any other collector of folk tunes ever ran across it, but it appears to be very old. Nonetheless, many different lyrics have been set to it, including those that have been used as a hymn tune, the most famous one being “I Cannot Tell” by William Young Fullerton.

*I cannot tell why He Whom angels worship,
Should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,
To bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary
When Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world is come.*



There are many more hymns that have been used with the tune of “Londonderry Air,” but the one we have in our hymnal is “Micah 6:8,” the words set by our own local minister, Jack Brown, along with collaborator Kerry Price.

*You may not have the strength to make all right again,
Nor have the time to do all things you should,
But God has shown the way which is required of you,
The way by which to do the greatest good:*

*You must act justly, and you must love mercy,
And ev'ry day walk humbly with your God.
The Lord Most High has shown you what is right and good:
Be just, be kind and humbly walk with God.*

So, no matter what the exact origin of this tune is and no matter whether it is set to secular or sacred words, it will always be special to me.