

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
**Pastor**

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## **It's happening at Mayflower in April...**

- 4/7 Easter Lily orders due**
- 4/13 Second Saturday Supper - 5 p.m.**
- 4/14 Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 4/14 Trustees - Noon**
- 4/15 Deadline for May Mayflower Notes**
- 4/18 Maundy Thursday Service - 7 p.m.**
- 4/19 Good Friday Service - 7 p.m.**
- 4/21 Easter Sunday**
- 4/28 Prudential Council - Noon**





## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

Greetings, Mayflower family! As I write this, DeeAnn and I are enjoying a week in Florida with our dear friends, Hal and Jean. But I just checked the weather forecast in Michigan to see that the high temperature is the warmest since October. It won't be long until life in the outdoors of Michigan will be in full swing. While it can be nice to live in a climate where it is warm year around, especially in retirement, social scientists tell us that folks who live in harsher climates typically are heartier and cope better with changes in life's circumstances. While this may not be universally true, it reminds us of the significance of understanding not only changes in temperature and climate, but in life itself.

As we journey through Lent toward the glorious hope of Easter, we as Christians will celebrate. But Easter is not a once-a-year event when we think about resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is the central element to our faith. But scripture, nature, and our lives remind us of the possibilities of renewal, repair, recovery, and restoration in all the "dead" parts of our lives. Maybe it is a sagging spirit due to failing health, loss of a loved one, financial anxiety, or the mundane aspect of the routines in our lives. Whatever the case, my hope as your pastor is that our celebrations of worship and fellowship will stimulate us to find practical ways to share our belief in resurrection. Only in the death of something can our hope in resurrection be fully realized. Our hope is eternal. But we will be of no good here on earth if we fail to share our hope and joy with others. So let us put to death those things which most hinder us from the joyful expression of our hope in Christ, who conquered death and not only gives us hope, but also inspires us to live it out!

— Pastor Mark



## Music Notes

### From Barb Fuller

This year our Maundy Thursday service on April 18 will be like no other Maundy Thursday service we have ever had at Mayflower. Instead of a message from Pastor Mark, the choir will be presenting "The Gospel According to Judas," a 14-minute piece with narration from the perspective of Judas, who begins by stating, "Do you ask why I did it? Shall I tell you why I did it? It is simple. Because he betrayed me! He betrayed ALL those close and devoted to him! The Messiah -- The Messiah indeed!"

"The Gospel According to Judas" is a composition that will send you away *thinking*. You will witness one person's interpretation regarding the betrayal of Jesus, and if the choir does this right, you will experience the anguish of an excruciating and traumatic decision.

Judas, portrayed by Justin Stephens, will take us through Judas' thought processes, beginning with his curiosity of who Jesus was. "I first saw him talking, quietly but directly. And he saw me. And some current passed between us, about which I then knew little. I then moved closer and listened." He will then take us to the point that Judas makes the decision to follow Jesus. "Force! – Universal Power! – The Messiah! This was a sure thing! – A sure winner!" And finally he brings us to Judas' eventual skepticism, "Yes, I doubted. I was impatient and even admitted to feelings of fear. He was weak!"

You may think you know how this story ends, but can you be sure? Join us on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. for a deep and emotional look into the inner soul of Judas... the betrayer of the Messiah.







## Thrift Sale

Note date change! Our thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on May 3 (9 to 6) and May 4 (9 to 3, with bag time all day). Please check around your house to find good, saleable items that you don't need or want. Please have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, clothes, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'd love to have them! Finally, be sure to come to shop yourself. You may find some treasures!

Please hold your stuff and bring it after Easter Sunday, April 21. We will also need a lot of help (both men and women!) to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (April 29-May 2). Clean-up will be Monday, May 6, from 10 a.m. to whenever we are done (Noon-ish). See Lorraine or Sue to volunteer to help.

Regular-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time. We can also use reusable fabric grocery bags to help people collect their purchases easily. Bring them in at any time. Thanks!



*Mayflower  
Congregational Church*

**From Lay Leader Sue Mott**

I recently discovered, among my many treasures, a picture/poster I purchased for myself many years ago. The picture is a cute drawing of two bluebirds perched on a tree branch. One is resting peacefully, eyes closed, and wings tucked in; the other is wide-eyed with wings flapping and feathers all ruffled. The poster heading is "Why pray when you can worry and fret?" The answer to the question is from the Bible – "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer . . . present your requests to God . . ." *Philippians 4:6*

The timing of this discovery was good – I needed to remember to "let go and let God" handle my worries. Having stressed my way through my younger adult years, I always thought retirement would be worry-free. Ha! We all know better than that, don't we? It's really just a different set of worries. Did I remember to turn off the crockpot – or, did I remember to turn it on? Do I have everything in place for the Second Saturday Supper? Did I get that important bill paid? You know – all the details of our daily lives. Not to mention the concerns for so many friends who are suffering. So, as part of my Lenten devotionals, I am including a quiet prayer every morning during which time I ask God to handle my worry load and free me up to do His work as I go about my routine. And – I give Him lots of details so He won't miss anything!





## **Easter Is the Gift...**

Easter is the gift of HOPE.  
Easter is the gift of PEACE.  
Easter is the gift of LOVE.  
Let us rejoice in Him,  
Who gives them all.



May God bless you at Easter,  
And keep you all year through.  
May God give you all the faith it takes,  
To make your dreams come true.  
May His love and wisdom always help,  
To guide you on your way.  
May His light shine down upon you now,  
To bless your Easter Day.

## **Holy Week Plans**

*Be sure to mark your calendar for our Holy Week offerings:*

April 14 is Palm/Passion Sunday.

We will gather on Thursday, April 18, for our Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m., featuring a special presentation by the choir. Communion will be served.

Our joint Good Friday Service with Grace United Methodist Church will be at Mayflower at 7 p.m. Grace's pastor, Rev. Paul Hahm, will deliver the message.

On April 21, we will present our Easter service, featuring the handbell and vocal choirs and an inspirational message from Pastor Mark.

**See you there!**

## Mayflower Financial News

The March Second Saturday Supper was a sell-out, with proceeds of \$831. We also had great help--thanks to all who participated!

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

Income:	\$ 6,166.44
Expenses:	<u>6,877.28</u>
	\$ - 710.84

### YTD for Two Months:

Income:	\$ 12,759.89
Expenses:	<u>14,024.26</u>
	\$ -1,264.37

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 8,434.85
Savings:	46,543.86
Heat Fund Savings:	20,848.32
Savings CD:	<u>22,468.57</u>
	\$ 98,295.60

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, please ask!

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer





# April

## BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 - Jan Holcomb
- 4/14 - Jeanne Hudson
- 4/20 - Eugene Potts
- 4/22 - Meredith Kennedy
- 4/28 - Rilla McHarris



HEAD USHER  
Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS  
Christian Services