

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



Mayflower happenings in December...

- 12/9 Second Saturday Supper -
5:00 p.m.
- 12/10 Last day to order Poinsettias
- 12/14 Trustees Meeting - 2:30 p.m.
- 12/15 Deadline for January
Mayflower Notes
- 12/17 Prudential Council - Noon
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service - 7:00
p.m.
- 12/25 Christmas Day - Church Office
closed
- 12/31 Advent House lunch packing



From the Pastor's Desk



This last month has been a momentous one for Mayflower Church, as well as for me.

The Installation Service represented much hard work and preparation on the part of so many. While DeeAnn and I were happy that many of our friends and family were able to attend, we were deeply humbled and gratified to “officially” be installed as Pastor and wife at Mayflower. This is a congregation we have grown to deeply love in such a short period of time. So, while we have been humbled, we are also very proud of the talented and capable leadership on display here at Mayflower Congregational Church.

It was a blessing for us to join as members along with five others on October 29th. This is the only time I’ve been able to count myself as a member of the local congregation while at the same time serving as Pastor. The only thing that makes this possible is the uniqueness of the “Congregational Way”. We are truly co-workers together in the Kingdom of our Lord!

Just prior to the Installation Service, I spent two days at the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches in Livonia. Again, I was very proud to represent Mayflower and to get to know many others, some of whom responded with last minute invitations to the Installation Service. I made new friends and my desire is to participate fully in the vital ministry of shared values and common purpose. Thank you for providing the funds which allowed me this great opportunity.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you for providing me a laptop computer which was such a surprise. It has been so useful as I continue to learn all the capabilities of the MacBook Pro Apple computer. I would also like to thank Kim Finison for his expert advice on the choice and features, and for both he and Lorraine who spent an evening at Best Buy to make the purchase on behalf of all of you. Your sacrificial gift of love shall never be forgotten.

In Humble Service,

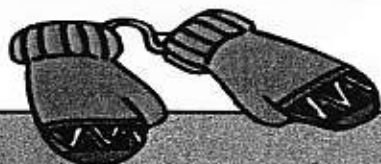
Pastor Mark

Lay Leader's Report

In our neighborhood, one of the most common topics of conversation this fall has been RAIN. At Mayflower Church, that topic has revolved around LEAKS. You may all know that rain came through the ceiling of the pastor's office (in several places) just in time for his installation and has repeatedly leaked in smaller amounts ever since. Since we have had trouble with that ceiling before, the usual containers were brought out to catch the water in the usual spots - plus a new one over the window. The roof over the offices, restrooms, and lobby is flat, and it has been repaired before. The roofer says that this time a more serious fix is called for, and the Trustees have signed a contract for the application of a new surface that is promised to be impervious for years to come. The roofer is working on another project right now, but we are next on the list. When it actually gets done will depend a lot on the weather, of course, but it may be as early as next week - so you may be seeing a new roof as you read this!

By the time this newsletter is distributed, we will already have enjoyed the Congregational holiday (i.e. Thanksgiving) and will be planning for Christmas. Among other things, I am happy to report that so many people have signed up to ring a bell for the Salvation Army that we have almost completely filled the slots on two days instead of just the one that we had been asked for. I think Bill and I may take turns during our assigned period, with one of us ringing while the other shops!

Rilla McHarris



The Mitten Tree...

will be going up on Sunday, November 26th. All mittens, scarves, gloves and hats will be accepted. If you wish to donate money this year things have changed... money will be given to Lewton School for their discretionary fund in case needs are identified by teachers or the staff.

We will not be doing the shopping this year.

Mayflower Financial News

We had a bigger crowd for the October Second Saturday Supper, with proceeds of \$750. Thanks to all who played a part in making the supper another successful one.

On a less positive note, the rainy day and evening of the Supper revealed substantial leaking in Pastor Mark's office. It was literally raining in his office! Close examination by a roofing company has revealed that the integrity of the flat roof over the lobby/restroom/office area is compromised and it needs to be replaced. We are facing a huge expense (over \$14,000), but the process used by the roofing company is a newer technology which has proven to be very successful and long-lasting. Hopefully, the work will be completed by the time you read this.

Following is a summary of our finances as of October 31:

Income:	\$ 8,847.84
Expenses:	<u>5,408.44</u>
	\$ 3,439.40

YTD for Ten Months:

Income:	\$ 82,858.88
Expenses:	<u>66,201.69</u>
	\$ 16,657.19

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 5,738.99
Savings:	46,530.00
Heat Fund Savings:	20,840.01
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$100,940.00

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



— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



Advent Decorating

Calling all able-bodied people.

We will be decorating the sanctuary for advent on Thursday, November 30th at 7:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided as well as a beverage.

Please help if you can, it only takes an hour. Many hands make light work!



Christmas Eve Service

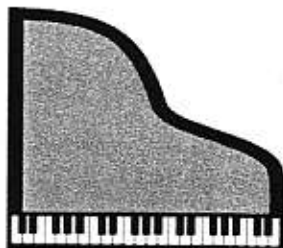
Our traditional Christmas Eve Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. This will once again be a wonderful service of gospel readings, reflections and inspirational music. The offering will once again go to the Salvation Army.

There will be a reception and time of fellowship immediately following the service in the Social Hall. Please bring a favorite snack to share. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone or an event are again available to enhance the sanctuary. The cost is \$10, order deadline is December 10th. Please contact Sue or Lorraine to sign up.

Music Notes

From Barb Fuller



I'm sure you have heard the phrase, "It's not the destination it's the journey. As I have prepared for something special in my life I have often found that by the time the event arrives, I have gained more satisfaction from the preparation than from the actual happening. The celebration of the birth of Christ "the destination" is a rare exception of that saying for me. The season of Advent, "the journey" takes a close second to Jesus' arrival, but I love every minute of it. And so the more I study hymnology and the hymns that are present in my life year after year, the more I feel the hymns of Advent reaching out to me in very special ways.

The Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" speaks of great anticipation.

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free:
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.
The Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" speaks of great hope.
O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in all heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's
peace.

And finally, the Advent hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" speaks of great joy.

So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, Until the glorious crown be won.

Let me suggest that you borrow a Pilgrim Hymnal from Church for a week or two and read through the words of the Advent hymns starting with #102 and going through #115. I believe you will find them inspiring and spirit-filling. I believe that through the busy-ness of our modern-day Advent season, you will also find quietness and peace.

Christian Education

October 31, 2017, was the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church, beginning the Protestant Reformation and shaping modern Christianity. We began to touch on this fascinating subject in the November Lunch and Learn, and I wanted to share some of our discoveries and thoughts with the larger group this month. Please note this is an extremely high level overview of some very complex theological ideas – we dug deeper in our class.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 to trading class parents. His father, Hans, was ambitious and wanted his eldest son to be a lawyer. Luther dutifully went off to university at 17, but dropped out of the legal studies almost immediately, after finding himself drawn to theology and philosophy. His tutors encouraged him to be deeply suspicious and to only believe what he tested himself through experience. While riding back to school after visiting his family, he found himself caught in a ferocious thunderstorm. Fearing divine judgement, he cried out, "Help! Saint Anna, I will become a monk!" Luther viewed his deliverance from the storm as a holy vow and became a monk, in spite of his father's anger. Luther studied hard as an Augustine monk, earning several degrees culminating in a Doctor of Theology in 1512. He became the provincial vicar of Saxony and Thuringia in 1515, overseeing eleven monasteries.

In this time period, representatives of the Church sold indulgences, which were a way for people to pay money to free themselves or deceased loved ones from Purgatory, a "waiting room" for souls not yet ready for Heaven or Hell. These sellers frequently exaggerated Church doctrine, leading the general populace to believe their donations purchased absolution. Luther objected to this practice, insisting forgiveness was God's alone to grant, and that Christians could not weaken on following Christ's teachings with the hope of purchasing an indulgence to make up for shortcomings. He wrote a paper on

In our December lesson, we'll continue on with the Church's response to Luther, the role of the other Protestant reformers, and a round table discussion on how these ideas we take for granted upended a social order in existence for thousands of years. I hope you're able to join us on December 3rd!



December



BIRTHDAYS

- 12/6 - Pastor Mark McCormick
- 12/8 - Carleen Brammell
- 12/9 - Mike Graham
- 12/22 - Remington Graham
- 12/25 - Darrell Watson



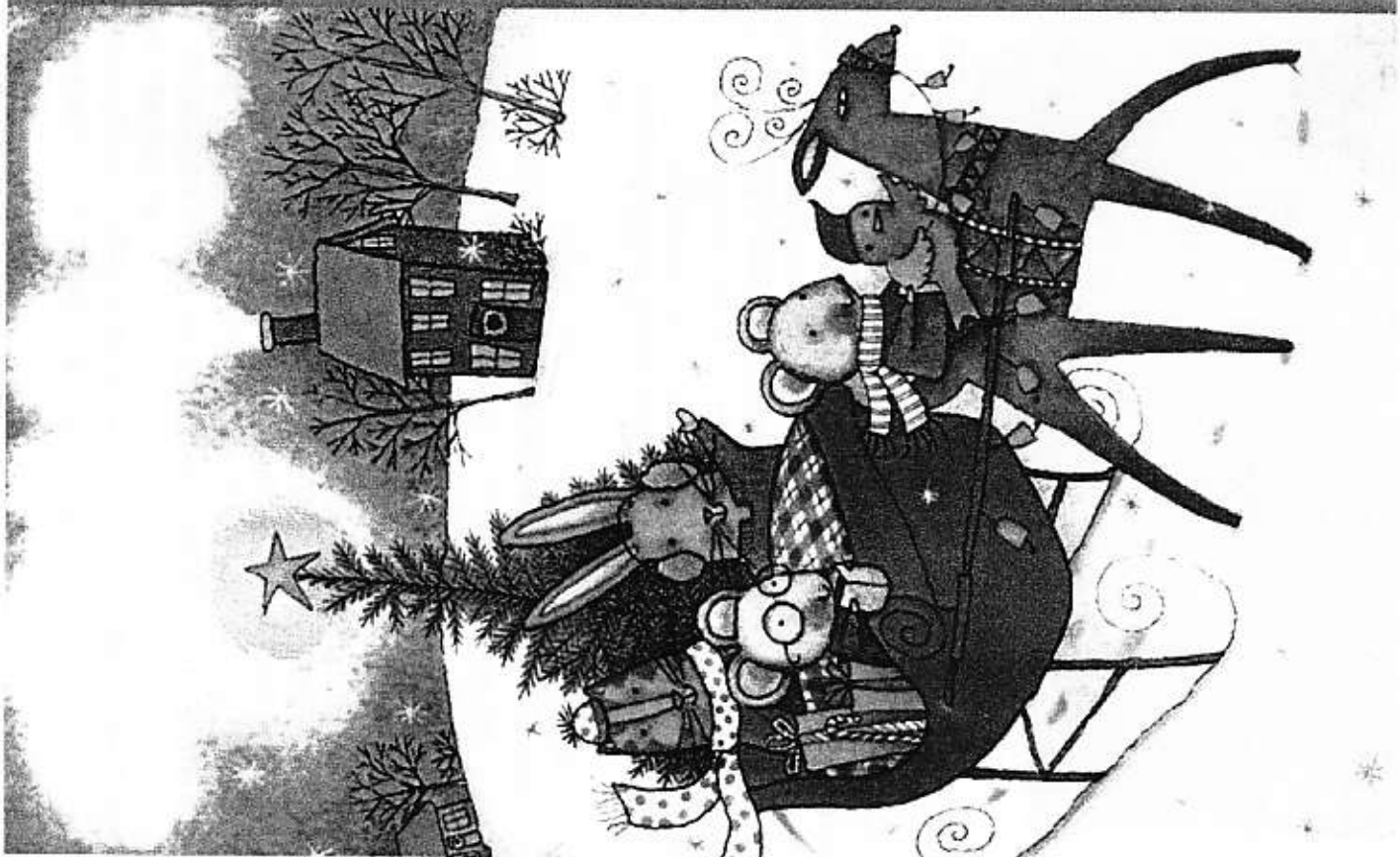
HEAD USHER

Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS

Mitten Tree, Salvation Army





DECEMBER-2017

January
 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
 28 29 30 31

January
 1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 2
						3 4 5 6 7 8 9
				Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30		Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
						10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Last Day for Poinsettia orders				Trustees 2:30 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	Deadline for Mayflower Notes	
						17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Prudential Council Noon				Handbell Is 4:00 Choir 5:30		
						24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Advent House Lunche s	Christmas Day Office Closed					