

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
Pastor

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It's happening in February at  
Mayflower...



2/2 Groundhog Day

2/4 - Lunch-and-Learn - Noon

2/8 - Trustees - 2:30 p.m.

2/10 - Second Saturday Supper -  
5:00 p.m.

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/15 - Deadline for March  
Mayflower Notes

2/18 - Prudential Council - Noon

2/19 President's Day



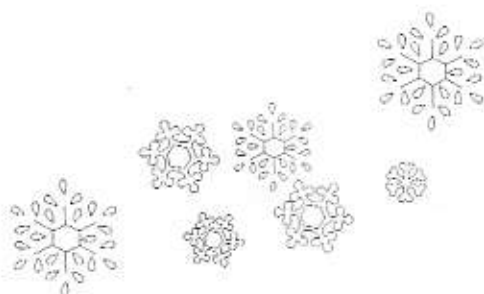
## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

Happy New Year, Mayflower! It got off to a little shaky start for me as I picked up a stomach virus, then had a flight delayed overnight. Thanks to the veterans of self sufficiency at Mayflower, things went smoothly without their minister on December 31st. It's comforting to know there are so many people ready to "step up" at a moment's notice. In this case, Lorraine Finison gave a prepared sermon by the Rev. Bob Williams, a former pastor at Plymouth Congregational Church who set a standard I greatly admire. Thanks Lorraine!

Six months have now gone by since my first Sunday at Mayflower last July. I have learned some of the "ropes" and have gotten to know most all of you much better. I have found my "groove" in the order of worship and understand better the many ways things work around here. We have seen the first signs of new growth, and I have high hopes that because of the friendly nonjudgmental atmosphere of our church, this growth is only a beginning. And I believe 2018 will be a year where we extend our reach, expand our age range, and create new programs and opportunities for spiritual growth, biblical understanding and rich fellowship. It is my desire to help lead our congregation in these directions in a matter which will keep us bound together in the unity of the Spirit, with Christ as the Head. Thanks be to God.

With Great Anticipation,

*Pastor Mark*



### *From the Lay Leader*

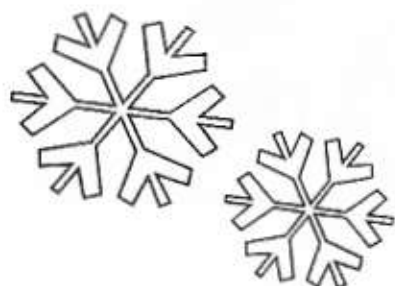
Let me start out by saying, thank you, Rilla, for your service! Many wonderful things happened under your leadership this past year.

I am excited once again to be your lay leader. It's a great opportunity for me to get back in touch with every aspect of Mayflower life. My hope is that I get to follow more than lead. With a congregation as active and dedicated as ours, it's probably better to just get out of the way and with God's help, let it happen!

We have been blessed with Pastor Mark and DeeAnn, who have a real vision for the Church, whether it grows in number or not. But, I have a feeling that growth is inevitable, as witnessed by our recent membership class. I expect new members to be a regular happening in the months ahead. I have been told recently by visitors that we are more welcoming and accepting than most other congregations they have visited. I've always believed that, but it's especially nice when visitors say it. Keep up the good work, everyone!

Hopefully our more expensive facility repairs are behind us for the time being and the Prudential Council can focus on other things this year like expanding our programs, outreach and services to the community. There are several ideas in the works and everyone will have the opportunity to participate in them, so stay tuned!

Jerry Fuller



## Mayflower Financial News

We sold 95 dinners at the December Second Saturday Supper, with proceeds of \$628. Thanks to all who helped!

We received additional thrift sale money, so the total is \$1924. Don't forget--another sale is coming in late April! Get your stuff ready!

The second half of the cost of the new flat roof, \$7135, was paid in December. Even with several large maintenance expenses in 2017, we managed to end slightly in the black for the year.

The Christmas Eve collection for the Salvation Army was \$545. Thank you!

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

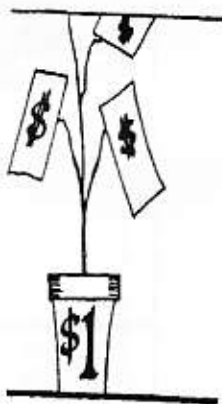
Income:	\$ 8,709.42
Expenses:	<u>15,814.41</u>
	\$ -7,104.99

### YTD for Twelve Months:

Income:	\$ 99,509.53
Expenses:	<u>97,896.61</u>
	\$ 1,612.92

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 5,746.52
Savings:	31,531.72
Heat Fund Savings:	20,841.05
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$ 85,950.29



A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. Let me know if you have any questions.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

## **Thrift Sale**

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 27 and 28. Please check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Plan to hold your stuff until after the Second Saturday Supper on April 14.

Keep in mind that we need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help. Set up dates will be April 23-26 (Monday to Thursday) from 10 a.m. to Noon-ish. The clean-up day will be Monday, April 30.



## **New information on Campbell's Soup Labels**

Campbell's soup has discontinued their education labels program and the schools cannot even submit labels already collected. If you have been saving soup labels for Mayflower's basket, we thank You for helping with this community support effort.

Boxtops for Education labels ARE Still Being processed and we continue to pass these on to Lewton school on a regular basis. Please continue saving these.

**Music Notes**  
From Barb Fuller



As I turned on my computer this morning I knew I wanted to write a piece on our new hymnals, but it was all very vague in my mind. I was aware that I wanted to mention that as of the first Sunday in 2018 we have been using the hymnals and that the more I study them the more I find how much they have to offer. However, I gained real clarity as I reached for my copy of “Hymns for a Pilgrim People” and it fell open to #202 – “Sing a Song of Celebration.”

When I look at an unfamiliar title of a hymn my inclination is to deconstruct it. Do I recognize the words? Do I recognize the tune? In this case it became strikingly obvious to me that I did, indeed, know the tune. It was the same tune as Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” I quickly checked to make sure we still had “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” in the hymnal, and it was there. However, that is not the only familiar aspect of this hymn that I discovered – the new text set to this joyous hymn was written by Jack Brown, former long-time pastor of Olivet Congregational Church who graced us with his presence here at Mayflower not so long ago. How interesting is that?

I was particularly taken with a prayer that accompanies this hymn:

**Composer of all music, Writer of every heavenly song, Inspiration for every spirit: we come, filled with awe at the music of Your universe, with its uplifting and challenging messages.**

**We hear Your voice and feel Your Spirit in the songs of the crickets and the melodies of the song birds; in the drum beat of the ocean and the lonesome wailing of the wind; in the clashing of thunder and in the calling of an infant’s cries.**

**We celebrate Your creation and Your song – a song of deliverance and celebration. We sing to You a song filled with joy and anticipation in the name of, and for the sake of, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

There are so many interesting and intriguing aspects of our new Pilgrim hymnal. I hope you take the time to discover them.

## Barbershop gives special discount to kids who read aloud...

2016-10-27, CBS News

In this small barbershop in Ypsilanti, Michigan, kids pick out a book and head to the chair. It's like clockwork. That's because children 12 and under who visit The Fuller Cut can get a \$2 discount on their \$11 haircut for doing a simple task: reading to the barber. It's a program owner Alexander Fuller and barber Ryan Griffin started more than a year ago. And parents can't get enough of it. The pair can't take credit for the idea. They just happened to hear about other shops around the country taking part in a "read to your barber program," and they decided to get on board. Fuller and his wife started ordering some books and Griffin brought in a shelf. Customers even joined the cause by donating old and used books. Before the pair knew it, kids were grabbing books off the shelf and hopping into the chair to start reading. Roughly 90 percent of kids grab a book that's already on the shelf, Fuller says, but occasionally kids bring in books from home or school as well. "It gives them confidence in reading and helps us understand their comprehension of reading,"

Fuller said. "The kids love it. It's one of the best things that has come along for them." Another bonus, Fuller added, is that it helps kids socialize. Not only does it improve their reading skills, but their manners as well. Whether you can read well or can't read well, the barbers will help you along the way, Fuller reminds his customers. "It's been a great experience so far, Fuller said."





# February

- 2/1 Nancy McKay  
2/9 Lisa Jones  
2/16 Mark Holmes  
2/21 Dick McKay  
2/22 Gwen Tisdale  
2/26 Candy Bywater



## Anniversaries

- 2/18 Janet Hershey and Bob Felter (34 years)

HEAD USHER -

Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS -

Food Bank




JANUARY

S M T W T F S  
 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

# FEBRUARY 2018

MARCH

S M T W T F S  
 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
				Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30		
4 Lunch and Learn - noon	5	6	7	Trustees 2:30 Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	9	10 Second Saturday Supper 5:00
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	Deadline for Notes Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	16	17
18 Prudential Council noon	19	20	21	Handbells 4:00 Choir 5:30	23	24
25	26	27	28	