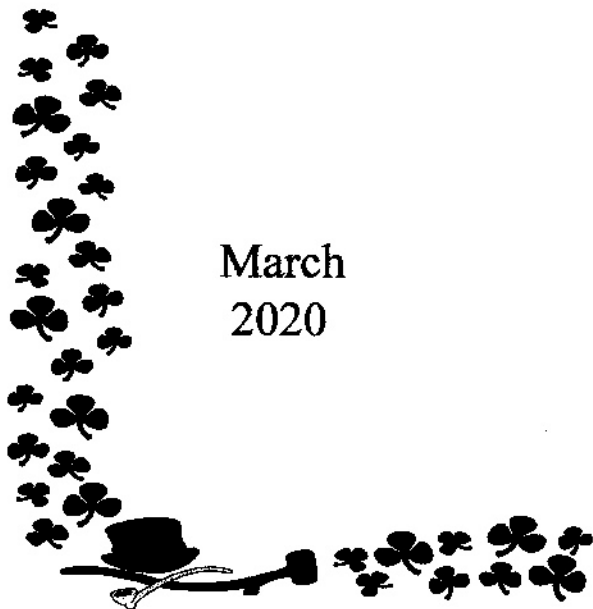


Mayflower Congregational Church



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Telephone and Fax: 517/484-3139

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



March
2020

Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening at Mayflower in March..

- 3/1 Communion
- 3/8 Daylight Savings Time begins
Trustees 12:30
- 3/14 Second Saturday Supper 5 p.m.
- 3/15 Deadtime for Mayflower Notes
Prudential Council - noon
- 3/29 Advent House lunches

Weekly Events

Adult Ed. Classes - 1st, 2nd, 4th Sunday -
Noon

Women's Bible Study - Wednesdays 10 a.m.

Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Thurs. 4 p.m.

Adult Vocal Choir - Thurs. 5:30 p.m.

Exercise class - Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday 4 p.m.



Pastor Mark's Musings

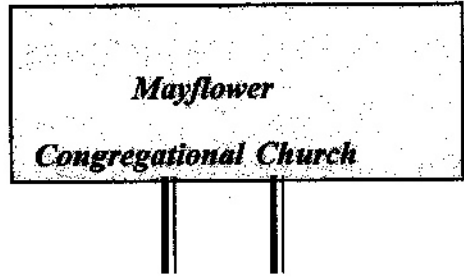
There is irony connected to the church's tradition and observance of Lent. In one sense, it is the most solemn tradition in the church calendar as we remember the sacrifice, suffering and pain of Christ. And it lasts more than six weeks! And yet it is at a time of year when we begin looking forward to renewal, new life and resurrection as we anticipate the arrival of Spring. Although Lent and Easter correspond to ancient pagan traditions, those traditions remind us that nature itself helps us prepare for the most glorious celebration in all of Christendom, Easter. In our tradition as Congregationalists, we don't require or necessarily promote a strict observance of Lent. But I would like to draw our attention to certain aspects of nature which has always attracted the attention of people, whether pagan or religious.

In the Northern Hemisphere, where our traditions have been born, there is an agonizing period of time when the calendar tells us that Spring is near, yet the ravages of winter weather grudgingly tell us otherwise. Then, as warmer weather begins to arrive, we deal with "mud season" as the frost begins to heave. Next, we begin to see more light each day, leading us to the point where nature is symbolically balanced, with equal amounts of light and darkness at the Equinox. Finally, and climactically, plant life begins to stir, reminding us that from death comes life, miraculously. All of these aspects of nature are stark reminders about our lives, our faith and our God.

So, let us gain understanding about the seasons of our lives, the need for patience and endurance, nature's evidence of our faith and the constant force of hope.

Pastor Mark





Thoughts from Your Lay Leader

It Costs Nothing to Dream

I mentioned to you last month that I was anticipating good things happening at Mayflower this year, and I am here to tell you that they have already begun. Since Pastor Mark asked us at our January annual meeting to think of ways we could make our sanctuary handicap accessible to the social hall I have heard a number of ideas being tossed around. Neurons are firing in peoples' brains and enthusiasm is becoming contagious.

Folks, we are so fortunate to have hired Reverend Linda to be a part of the Mayflower team. She is a person with boundless ideas and an experienced resource in so many areas of music and ministry. By the time you read this article she will have led all of us at Mayflower through a painless process of identifying our "core values and bedrock beliefs." Even if you have no idea what that phrase means right now you will soon, and once we develop those, we will know better what we need from our physical plant as well as how we move forth spiritually.

2020 is going to be our chance to hone in on who we are and what we need. It will be a time to clarify what we want to do for ourselves as well as those we continue to help outside of Mayflower. We have the opportunity to identify our dreams which will be the first step in creating a vision for our future. It doesn't get much more exciting than that!

Barb Fuller

Music Notes

From Barb Fuller



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

On Sunday, March 29th the choir will be singing a choral arrangement of the hauntingly beautiful hymn “What Wondrous Love Is This,” one of the best known authentic American folk hymns. This hymn is said to have come out of Appalachia, and because it is a folk hymn, where its words and music specifically came from is unknown. It just appears to be an expression of a people who were inspired by God’s “wondrous love.”

The hymn first appeared in an 1835 collection entitled *William Walker’s Southern Harmony* and is the perfect hymn to sing during Lent.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down; when I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His crown for my soul; Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great “I Am,” while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on, and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on; and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on, and through eternity I’ll sing on.

Mayflower Financial News

The Second Saturday Supper was back in February and was fairly well attended. Proceeds of \$727 were realized. Our new dishwashers in the upstairs kitchen were certainly put to good use for the first time this month. Always plan to come, eat, and work if you can!

We finished up the collection for the Baby Boxes for Haiti, which totaled an amazing \$1500, as well as many infant layette items. The Mitten Tree for Lewton School wrapped up in February, too, with generous donations totaling \$350, in addition to several loads of cold weather items which were brought to Lewton School over the last several months. Thank you!

The following is a summary of our finances as of January 31, which is also the year-to-date for 2020:

Income:	\$ 10,236.94
Expenses:	<u>7,394.20</u>
	\$ 2,842.74

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 18,191.80
Savings:	64,558.72
Heat Fund Savings:	20,854.09
Savings CD:	<u>22,547.34</u>
	\$126,151.95

Detailed information is available in the financial reports in the brochure rack in the office lobby. See either of us if you have questions.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary

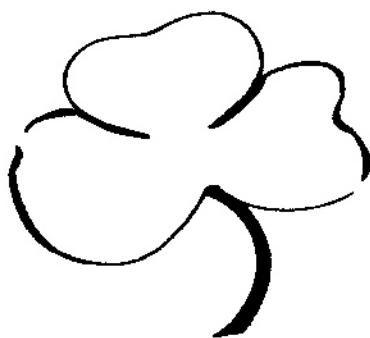




March

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/8 - Jamie Keller*
3/9 - Liz Tingley
3/15 - Peggy Black
3/15 - Marissa Slater
3/18 - Gordon Wilson
3/20 - Lorraine Finison
3/22 - Ardatb Scheffel (95)
3/22 - Donna Slater
3/23 - Gail Sawyer
3/24 - Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis
3/27 - Ruth Lewis (99)
3/28 - April Lakatos
3/28 - Shirley Potts



ANNIVERSARY

- 3/13 - Charles and Jan Fleck (39 years)*

Head Usber

Candy Bywater

Outreach Focus

Advent House

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 24 and 25. Please start checking around your house to find good, saleable things that you don't 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 18 (Moved to the third Saturday because of Easter.)



Beginning March 15, you may order Easter lilies in memory or honor of someone. They will again be \$10 each. See Lorraine or Sue by March 29 to order yours.

Bill and Rilla McHarris
512 Beech
East Lansing, MI 48823

MINISTER:

Rev. Mark McCormick
206/930-6634

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Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis
517/581-5595

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Barbara Fuller
517/574-0576

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