

New Outreach Project

We will be involved in collecting items for a new Outreach project this fall, South Lansing Ministries. This group, located just east of us on Mt. Hope, provides food as a branch of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, serving over 300 local residents monthly. They also maintain a personal needs closet for those who may not be able to afford them. These items include shampoo, soap, diapers, toothbrushes/toothpaste, laundry/dish soap, etc. Non-perishable food items (especially sources of protein) are also needed and will be collected along with personal needs items. Roy Ketcheson is building a wooden container for collecting items. This will be an ongoing project. We plan to deliver collected items twice a month. Your continued support of this ministry will be greatly appreciated.

For questions, contact Betty Briggs or Roger Kennedy.

After-Church Christian Education Series

Rev. Art Ritter will be with us for much of the next few months as he will be presenting several series on Christian Education topics. On Sept. 10, he will share on the importance of Christian Education. His first series, entitled "Bible Stories for Adults," begins on Sept. 24. He will discuss Bible stories we may have learned as children and put an adult perspective on them. We hope you can join in this wonderful opportunity with Rev. Art, retired pastor of Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi and current moderator of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Mayflower Church Staff

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Mayflower Congregational Church



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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor

It's happening in September...

9/3 - Communion

9/7 - Bell Choir resumes - 4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

9/7 - Vocal Choir resumes - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

9/10 - Educational Series begins with Rev. Art Ritter

9/13 - Women's Bible Study resumes

9/15 - Deadline for October Mayflower Notes

9/17 - Rally Day with Ice Cream Social - Noon

9/19 - Prudential Council - 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Events:

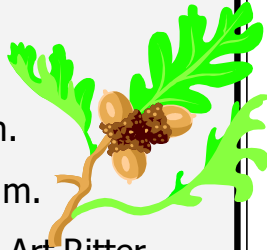
Fellowship/Education Hour - Sundays after church

Women's Bible Study - Wed. - 10:30 a.m.

Exercise - Tues., Wed., Thurs. - 8:00 a.m. on Zoom

Handbell Choir - Thurs. - 4:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will reconvene on Wednesday, September 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Center. All women are encouraged to join us each Wednesday for an hour or so of fellowship and fun. Bring a friend, as well!

DeeAnn McCormick

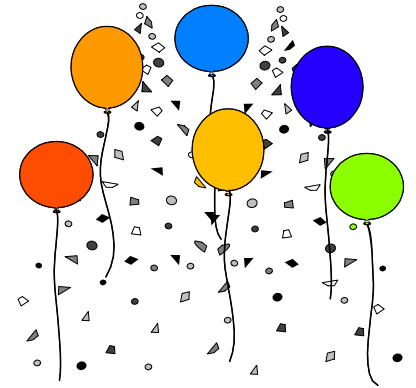
September

Birthday

9/20 - Terry Graham

Anniversary

9/21 - Frank and Linda Wheeler (55 years)



OUTREACH FOCUSES

School Supplies (to be announced)

South Lansing Ministries (see article on back)

CROP Walk

CROP Walk

The annual CROP Walk will again be a hybrid event this year. The Walk will be done in-person, as well as virtually (participants walking on their own, wherever they would like to walk, between October 1 and 8).

If you would like to volunteer to be one of our walkers, please contact Lorraine Finison.

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly emails and in the October newsletter, but please plan now to support this much-needed project to feed the hungry in the Lansing area and in other places around the world. Our help is needed now more than ever.

Checks should be written to CROP Walk or CWS/CROP (not to Mayflower). Cash is also welcome. Questions? See Lorraine.

Mayflower Financial News

We thank you for your continuing financial support of your church. We have been very blessed at Mayflower by your caring and sharing.

We now welcome your contributions to our current outreach projects. In response to the devastating fires and destruction in Hawaii, we are taking donations to be sent to the NACCC's One Great Hour of Sharing. We will take donations until October 8. Also, the CROP Walk is coming soon, and donations will be needed to support our walkers. Read about these projects elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you in advance!

The following is a summary of our finances as of July 31:

Income:	\$ 48,359.34
Expenses:	<u>55,089.87</u>
	\$ - 6,730.53

YTD for Seven Months:

Income:	\$128,096.01
Expenses:	<u>132,540.47</u>
	\$ - 4,443.54

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 73,552.60
Savings:	5.00
Certificate of Deposit:	<u>60,612.52</u>
	\$134,170.12

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

There is often an air of sadness in the Midwest as we think about the ending of summer. School children bemoan the return to the classroom, we anticipate the gradual cooling in the weather, and vacations, while enjoyed and fondly remembered, can fade quickly into the rearview mirror of life. However, I want all of my Mayflower family to know of my excitement as we return to the more routine aspects of church life, yet in practice, anything but routine.

First, I am excited to report that the Bylaws Committee is nearly finished after months and months of hard work. Soon we will be calling a special congregational meeting to approve a new document that will dramatically improve our efficiency and structure as an institution, streamline our ability to utilize talent and make decisions, and greatly enhance our ability to serve our community and world in the cause of Christ.

Second, in the fall we look forward to special opportunities and events designed for fellowship and fun which include Rally Day with an Ice Cream Social and the church picnic, among others.

Third, we begin the fall with the incredible new talent, energy, and dedication of those from other churches and circumstances who have become members this year at Mayflower.

Finally, I am excited to think about the completion of a dream first talked about years ago, whereby we will be able to provide handicapped access inside of our building without fear of inclement weather.

These are just a few of the many things I am excited about as I am now in my seventh year of pastoral ministry here at Mayflower. My encouragement to us is to pray like it all depends on God, and work like it all depends on us. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Mark



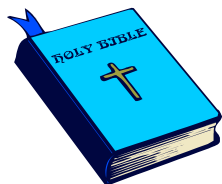
Greetings from Your Lay Leader

One of my favorite books of the Bible is the Book of Ecclesiastes, especially Chapter 3. Maybe it is one of your favorites also. The main reason it holds meaning for me is verse 1, “to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven” NKJV. I have been thinking quite a bit about this verse lately in relation to Mayflower.

What is Mayflower’s season and purpose presently? I view Mayflower as being in a season of great activity. Some examples of that are the campaign to raise funds to install a vertical platform lift; the commencement of an adult bible class; the availability of youth classes as needed; huge organizational effort in the music room; continuing and new mission outreach projects; expanded Deacons’ services; more attention given by the Trustees to physical needs of church property; near completion of revised bylaws; job descriptions and responsibilities updated for staff and committees; policies and procedures and internal controls being reviewed.

Add to all this activity the time devoted by Pastor Mark to his preparation of thought-provoking sermons, visitation of members and non-members, meeting with persons ready to become members and having a vision for Mayflower; plus DeeAnn’s unparalleled piano and organ playing; Kim’s video knowledge; Barb’s music direction and hymns selection; Lorraine, Linda and Jennifer’s financial and office skills, plus most importantly, the hours given to Mayflower by volunteers. I believe this is Mayflower’s season.

But Ecclesiastes 3:1 states there is not only a season for everything, but a purpose. So what is Mayflower’s purpose of all this activity? Ecclesiastes 3:12 states there is nothing better than for man to rejoice and do good in their lives. By Mayflower being a happy place, may it increase the joy of all who attend here so that others who see them are curious about the source of that joy. May it also encourage Mayflower attendees to do good in their lives. May it ever be so for Mayflower.



Ruth L. Pasch

Music Notes from Barb Fuller



Three months have passed since the handbell choir played and the choir sang for a worship service, but to me the time that has gone by has felt like a flash in the pan. As you well know, life does not come to a standstill here at Mayflower just because of summer. I thought you would be interested to find out what has been happening behind the scenes in our music department through these hot and hazy days, and as your Director of Music, I am pleased to pass this information on to you.

1. The planning for Sunday morning services has continued with Pastor Mark and me meeting, emailing, and texting back and forth throughout each week so that we can have continuity in what we bring to you. We have also helped to plan and provide music for at least one memorial service.

2. We have been working on a major overhaul of the music office this summer. Jen Hall has spent countless hours taking an inventory of our existing choral and handbell libraries as well as the music given to us in the past year from The First Congregational Church of St. Johns and Plymouth Congregational Church. We are in the process of moving the music from the filing cabinets and shelves of the music office into special storage boxes to be housed on the existing shelving there. As she is doing this, she is also entering every piece into our PowerChurch program on the computer so that all of the information regarding these pieces is easily accessible, not only at church but from home, as well.

3. Our music department received a \$7,000 check from Plymouth Congregational Church this summer which was part of an endowment left to them by Clarence and Tomiko Carlson, longtime faithful members of Plymouth’s choir. This was particularly meaningful to those of us who sang in the Plymouth choir with them for years. Because of that gift we are in the process of exploring the possibility of acquiring a lift chair that would help to get physically challenged musicians up to the platform where the lectern and pulpit are, thus leaving them with only a couple of steps to negotiate into the choir loft. The beauty of this possibility is that it would also be usable for others that are limited by the stairs to get into that area of the sanctuary. It’s all very exciting!

Barb Fuller