

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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**April
2011**

Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Dates to remember in
March...*

April 9

Second Saturday Supper

April 10 & 17th

Fun With Music 10:15 a.m.

April 15

*Deadline for Mayflower
Notes*

April 17

Palm Sunday

April 21

*Maundy Thursday (light
supper 6:15 pm, Service 7 pm)*

April 22

Good Friday

April 24

Easter Sunday



Join Us For:

Sunday April 17th @ 10:30 am – Palm Sunday, celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which begins Holy Week.

Thursday April 21st

6:30 pm – Our Soup & Bread Supper

7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Service, a traditional remembrance of the Last Supper

Sunday April 24th @ 10:30 am – Easter Sunday, celebrating the Risen Lord Jesus

From the Pastor's Desk



SPRING!

I love spring (and summer). I am writing this the week we are supposed to see our 1st day of 60 degrees and sunshine after months and months of cold, snow, gloomy, grey, frozen, bad driving, near zero temps, icy, dark (did I say cold?) weather. Needless to say, just the promise of 60 degrees and sunshine warms my soul and drives away the winter depression. I am thinking golf – warm – sunshine. Thank you Jesus for SPRING!

As you are reading this, we have a couple of weeks until Easter Sunday. The Easter holiday has many connotations: the Easter Bunny, baby chicks, painted eggs, candy, chocolate everything. For millenniums people have celebrated the arrival of Spring; a time when life begins to spring out of the dormant and death of nature.

For us Christians, life springing from death means so much more than trees and flowers beginning to grow again. Spiritual death – separation from God – had taken hold of us; through Adam's sin and our following his example. We were lost and dispirited as we raced towards the moment of eternity. We found could not save ourselves. We'd tried over and over to defeat our sins and shortcomings; to be better human beings. But we continually found ourselves in despair, without God and without hope.

Then Jesus appeared on the scene. Because of **His love for YOU**, God took on human form and lived and died and rose again. Jesus saved us who could not save ourselves, that we might have Eternal Life – living with Him forever and ever in Heaven. Thus, we Christians celebrate Eternal Life springing from eternal death during these different commemorates of Spring. Spring 2011 is here – I am ready to party! Easter 2011 is here – I'm ready to rejoice forevermore.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

LAY LEADER'S MISSIVE

Whew! Did the month of March fly by or what?? So many things to think about: Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent), pancake dinner, new music program for youth, St. Patrick's Day (and the implied need to party?), basket-ball finals, corned beef dinner, 1st day of Spring, up-coming school vacations, mission support and MELTING snow. As I reflect upon this passed month, I know there are many people to thank for their participation in the many activities at Mayflower. So Thank you!!

Throughout all our busy-ness there is the realization that this is Lent – a time of reflection and waiting. I came across this article that seems very appropriate at this time.

ACTIVE WAITING

"I am not good at waiting. My type-A, hard-driving personality brings these words to my mind: 'push, pull, or get out of the way.' It is much easier for me to plan my work and work my plan than it is to be still and know that God is God, Lent comes around each year with the important reminder that waiting can be not a waste of time but rather a redemption of time.

Jesus lived 30 years before beginning his 3 year public ministry. Scholars estimate that Paul spent as many as 15 years in Arabia between his conversion and his missionary ministry. These examples help us to see that times of preparation are part of the plan, not a delay of it.

God offers us these days of preparation before Easter in part to help us learn the benefits of active waiting. We do not always have to be producing. We must include periods of time simply to allow the Spirit to get us ready, trusting that God will define the action and prompt us when it is time to do something."

Reprinted from "The Upper Room"

If we are always busy, are we allowing God to prepare our hearts? We are a blessed and grateful congregation. Thanks be to God.



Children's Music Program

During the mid- to late-eighties I taught a preschool music class at Plymouth Congregational called "Fun With Music." The idea behind the class was to get children introduced to and appreciate music at a young age. It also became a feeder class for the youth choirs that the children could join at a little older age. We had many good times in that class including one of the Sunday mornings I took them into the church service to sing. We had practiced our song and knew it inside and out. The moment we got settled and were standing in front of the congregation one of the little girls, Kristen, proceeded to take her dress at the hem line and lift it completely over her head with both hands. She held it there until we were finished singing and then very methodically put it down and marched out of the sanctuary with the other singers. That was the day I learned that the fun in "Fun With Music" had no boundaries! So, twenty-five years later I am launching another "Fun With Music" class. Where this takes us at Mayflower is yet to be seen. My concept of it started as a chance to teach children how to read and appreciate music by throwing in opportunities to sing as well as play the choir chimes. Since I announced this class in church two weeks ago I'm thinking that God is leading us with a more expanded idea — that of an intergenerational class, open to people of all ages. This past Sunday, our first Sunday of class, we had six people attend — two children and four adults. We had a ball! Several of the adults that came told me they wanted to refresh their music reading skills. Another adult has told me she would like to learn to read music so that she can play the handbells. What more can I say? I think that this time around "Fun With Music" should be available to anyone who wants to have fun with music! Come join us in the basement of the church on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 10:40. Let's get together and have some fun (with music.)



CHURCH OF GREATER LANSING FOOD DROP WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND INSPIRATION!!

THANK YOU, MAYFLOWER CHURCH, FOR BEING A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL EVENT.

*Over 2,444 families in our *shared community* were prayed for and blessed. Every home that Mark, Roger, and Lola delivered the Food Box to wanted us to pray with them. One teenage boy led the prayer himself...thanking God for the food, his mom, and the roof over his head. The people receiving the food were so grateful. They were amazed that churches banded together to help people they didn't even know! It was such an awesome experience for us, too!

· *All Food Boxes went out for delivery by 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 26 (that was a miracle!)

· * 2,444 boxes were successfully delivered to recipients by 4 p.m. - the remaining boxes were returned and delivered to Mid-Michigan Food Bank for recipients who weren't home to pick up the following Saturday!

· * Over \$93,000 was raised to purchase food and help about 30 local pantries for additional six and half weeks.

· *40 Local Churches participated in Food Drop 2011

· *Over 250 Event Staff from over 10 churches participated to make event day successful. Over 14 churches participated in pre-event planning, activities, volunteerism and leadership roles. *Thank you to Mayflowerites: Peggy Black, Roger Kennedy, and Linda Williams - who volunteered to help in pre-event activities.

· Thank you Thank you: **Partner Churches** who prayed, gave, served, and promoted the event through your churches locally. Your partnership made this event a success. Your volunteers helped plan, lead and develop the structure that supported this event.

· **Participating Churches:** Additionally, we had numerous churches who sent out the troops to participate on event day thank you so much. With your help we were able to mobilize an army of volunteers to feed and pray with the families in our shared community. Great job rallying the troops!

Thank you for being such a caring church!

Mark & Lola Holmes

Ask, Seek, Knock

The book of Matthew is a fabulous place to read; Chapters 6 and 7 are full of life-giving, upholding words.

Chapter 7:7-12. reads: *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the prophets.*

There are at least three great messages in this passage. Verse seven declares that we open ourselves to God; open and ask. Probably we need to learn something about the specifics of the asking—that we ask for what we really need to have a spirit-filled, whole life. Is it a need or a want? How much is enough? What will feed the soul? Ask God to lead. And don't knock once, timidly. Stand at the door and let God know that you are *In*.

And the timing (read age) does not matter; if you are the first or the last, God wants you. Boldly go forth, with Jesus at the helm. Ask your fellow humans for help; they are God's ambassadors. Keep seeking, keep knocking; God is with us.

Many thanks to Barb Fuller for teaching beginning music; please join her class at 10:15 on Sunday mornings.

High Schoolers are welcome to sing in Chancel Choir; we rehearse on Thursday at 7:30 p.m..

If you would like to sing for Easter only, come to choir on Thursdays in April at 8:20 p.m..



Chrisann

The Joy of Giving

by Ron Chewing, Stewardship Advisors

There is a story of a woman who saw a poor barefoot child roaming the street of a large city. She took the child by the hand to the closest shoe store, and bought the little girl socks and shoes. With "happy feet" the little girl ran gleefully from the store.

Disappointed that she had not even received a word of gratitude from the child, the woman paid for the socks and shoes. As she walked out the shop door, the little girl came back to the store, eyes bright with excitement. "Are you God's wife?" she asked the woman. Smiling, the woman said, "No, but I am God's child." The little girl said, "I knew that you were some kin of His."



As God's people, nurtured by Worship and Sacrament, we are transformed into His likeness. Christ's character becomes our character, and we become more like Him. Because His goodness flows through us, we are able to offer shoes and socks to those who are in need. Our eyes are opened to opportunities that need our support and our hearts willingly share what we are able. We are stewards of God's love and generosity to the whole world. As Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 20:35)

If you are not experiencing the joy of giving, ask God to change your heart so you can grow in your giving and become a cheerful giver. Through faith, you can take a leap of faith in your giving.

Rob graduated Advanced Training on Feb. 24th! He is now an Ordnance Specialist,
stationed in Germany. His new address is:

PFC Boes, Robert
CMR 415
Box 4343
APO, AE 09114

His deployment papers indicate he will be there for 3 years! He is enjoying the history! The tower on the base is where Hitler reviewed the troops!

He is already looking forward to cards and letters. He has called us 4 times in since Feb. 29th!

Noreen

Easter Lilies



Lilies for the altar on Easter Sunday are available.
If you would like to purchase a lily contact Cozette in
the church office before April 18th. The cost is \$10.

Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Missions