

Mayflower Congregational Church



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March 2018



Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



What's happening in March:

- 3/8 Trustees - 2:30 p.m.**
- 3/10 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 3/11 Daylight Savings Time begins**
- 3/15 Deadline for April Mayflower Notes**
- 3/17 Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner -
5:30 p.m.**
- 3/18 Prudential Council - Noon
Easter lily orders due**
- 3/25 Palm/Passion Sunday**
- 3/29 Maundy Thursday -
Soup dinner - 6:15; Service - 7 p.m.**
- 3/30 Good Friday (joint evening service
with Grace UMC) - time TBA**



Pastor Mark's Musings

I love journeys, especially road trips. I have had the great privilege to take many of them in my adult life. These have included several across the country, visits to national parks, vacations, and two epic road trips during entire "off seasons" in the tour business, one of which took me 14,000 miles in just four months!

Life itself is a journey. Depending on circumstances, it can be exciting, adventurous, boring or difficult. It has been my great privilege to embark upon a journey with the Mayflower congregation just over seven months ago. It has been anything but boring and definitely is exciting!

There is a journey I would like to take together with all of you, which will last 96 days. It began on February 14, which was Valentine Day. But for us in the tradition of the church, it was Ash Wednesday. We had a beautiful service with Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis giving the homily and the symbolic giving of our failures and sins to God by burning them in the urn which was at the front of the sanctuary. And then we received the sign of the cross placed upon our foreheads, reminding us to whom we belong.. And thus begins the season of Lent. We often give up something to remind us of the sacrificial love of Jesus during his earthly journey. It is a 40-day journey (not including Sundays) as we reenact some of the events in the life of Christ, leading us to the somber reminders of Christ's suffering during Holy Week. We, of course, look forward to Easter, a culminating event for all Christians, but there are 50 more days which will lead us to Pentecost Sunday, the day on which God's spirit was poured out upon His church. With that in mind, may we use this journey to remember that our lives and our church are led by the spirit of Christ which will give us guidance and hope everywhere the journey of life takes us. Everywhere! Bon Voyage!

— Pastor Mark



From the Lay Leader

Barb and I enjoy watching *Fixer Upper* on HGTV and I know that many of you folks do, too. You may know that the episodes start with Chip and Joanna Gaines presenting a family with three different home options that seriously need renovation. With Joanna's design skills and Chip's construction ability, they make a formidable team. Regardless of the home choice their clients make, the outcome is always beautiful and the perfect solution for the family. Not exactly an uncommon situation for HGTV.

Of course, there's more to the story than that, making it unique among reality TV programs. They play off of each other in a comical way that is endearing. Chip is the class clown and daredevil that will do almost anything for Joanna's attention. What's noticeable is the genuine, loving relationship they have for each other that extends to their four children whom they usually include in each episode. It's a very wholesome program that unfortunately is in its last season since, I believe, their various successful businesses are consuming all of their time and Joanna is having another baby. However, not to worry, because I'm sure there will be reruns for years to come.

As a stocking stuffer for Christmas, Barb gave me Chip's book entitled, "Capital Gaines." It's a short autobiography and a look at his rustic philosophy. Again, very comical and endearing but in his own unique way teaches the reader what he believes are the keys to success. It starts with overcoming the fear of failure and trusting the inner voice (God) that leads us forward in every worthwhile venture. Chip says, "Listen to what it's telling you to do. Then act fast and don't waste time second-guessing yourself." The book is easy and fun reading if you're into that. I'll even loan it to you.



— Jerry Fuller

Mayflower Financial News

We had an excellent Second Saturday Supper in January, with proceeds of \$808, thanks to everyone's help and cooperative weather.

In addition to the 100 "new" hymnals we were able to purchase from Plymouth Congregational in December, we were able to obtain 10 more hymnals from them. The total of \$550 was money well spent. We plan to purchase additional hymnals at some point, but we have enough for now.

After a very expensive November and December, due to the flat roof replacement/repair, it was a nice break to have only fairly routine expenses in January!

The following is a summary of our finances as of January 31, which is also the year-to-date for 2018:

Income:	\$ 7,286.16
Expenses:	<u>5,674.67</u>
	\$ 1,611.49

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 7,222.72
Savings:	31,532.53
Heat Fund Savings:	20,841.59
Memorial Fund CD:	5,520.30
Savings CD:	<u>22,390.08</u>
	\$ 87,507.22

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

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

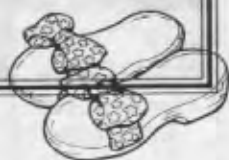




Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 27 and 28. Please start your spring cleaning early and check 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 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, from 10 a.m. to whenever we are done (Noon-ish).



The shamrock

According to legend, Saint Patrick used a shamrock to explain about God,

which looks like clover.

Saint Patrick told shamrock was like

Trinity — that in the one God there are three divine beings: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The shamrock was sacred to the Druids, so Saint Patrick's use of it in explaining the trinity was very wise.



The shamrock, has three leaves,

the people that the the idea of the

Music Notes

It was the mid-1980s when I remember being introduced to the inspiring hymn "Lift High the Cross." I later found that it hadn't even been published in the United States until 1974 when it first appeared in the book *Hymns for the Living Church* by Donald Hustad. By 1989 it was included in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, but the first verse had been replaced because the original was considered to be too militaristic.



George Kitchin, the author of "Lift High the Cross," wrote it in 1887 while he was the Church of England's Dean of Winchester, for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. It is often sung during Lent or Holy Week but can and has been used in any general worship service. We will sing it this year as part of our Lenten experience.

I appreciate a hymn that feels as if its purpose is to truly inspire, and this does not disappoint. It has always felt spirited in its nature, and it continually makes me want to sing it with great enthusiasm. The fact that the hymn begins and ends with the refrain speaks deeply to me. It creates a distinct picture in my mind of the lifting of the cross.

***Refrain:** Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore His sacred name.*

***Verse 1:** Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign. The hosts of God in unity combine.*

***Verse 2:** Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears on the brow the seal of Him who died.*

***Verse 3:** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as Thou hast promised, draw the world to Thee.*

***Verse 4:** So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!*

—Barb Fuller

Christian Education

The Lenten season is so early this year; the coincidence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day occurring together caused me a stumper, as red meat and chocolate are two ways to Chad's heart, yet he couldn't have either. His yearly sacrifice of chocolate for Lent is a ritual of our marriage, as is the chocolate festival he expects in return for Easter!

The rituals of Christianity are soothing, a piece of celebration we share with millions of others around the world. While many things separate us, the things that draw us together are those that have lasted for centuries. Fasting or "giving things up" is not a Congregational tradition, but it is something that can help us feel more connected to God during Lent. The act of abstaining helps us exert spiritual control, and allows us to share in the sacrifice Jesus made.

Instead of giving something up, we can also add something during Lent. Devotionals, a daily study of select Bible passages along with a message, can be a great way to start or end your day. There are many varied ones for sale, and several Christian denominations offer online devotionals for those who embrace technology. You could add additional prayer time, or save change or bottle money for a favorite charity, or donate time to the needy. Another option is to focus on a value -- express your gratitude more openly, share your generosity with others, or embrace simplicity.

The Lenten season is a time for reflection and solemnity, and also a chance for growth. Whatever way you choose to honor our Lord's sacrifice, remember the meaning behind it should express the love He feels for us.



—Liz Canfield



March

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/8 - Jamie Keller
- 3/9 - Liz Tingley
- 3/12 - Kathy Sundermeyer
- 3/15 - Marissa Slater
- 3/15 - Peggy Black
- 3/18 - Gordon Wilson
- 3/20 - Lorraine Finison
- 3/20 - Ben Rutledge
- 3/22 - Donna Slater
- 3/22 - Ardath Scheffel (93)
- 3/27 - Ruth Lewis (97)
- 3/28 - April Fuller
- 3/28 - Shirley Potts

HEAD USHER

Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS

Christian Services



March 17

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Cost for the dinner is \$12; children under 10, \$6. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are now available in the office.