

Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911
Telephone and Fax: 517/484-3139

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

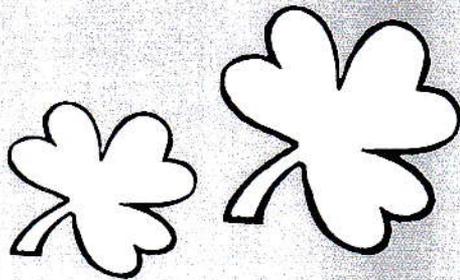


Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



What's happening in March. . .

- 3/6 Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.**
- 3/9 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.**
- 3/10 Daylight Savings Time begins
("Spring Forward" one hour)**
- 3/10 Trustees - Noon**
- 3/15 Deadline for April Mayflower Notes**
- 3/17 Prudential Council - Noon**
- 3/31 Advent House Lunches after church**



Pastor Mark's Musings

I am constantly reminded as I prepare for sermons, have devotions, and study the Bible, how often the stranger, alien, foreigner, outcast, poor, weak, and marginalized are the focal point and emphasis of the ones to whom the gospel was intended to be given. We are culturally conditioned to gravitate toward people who are most like us, even in the life and ministry of our church.

There is something perfectly natural about this, but we have to constantly remind ourselves and others that the gospel ceases to be the gospel if we save it for ourselves only. One minister had a question on the wall of his study which read, "Why should anyone hear the gospel twice before everyone has heard it once?" It is so easy to isolate ourselves from those who do not think, act, and look like us. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people thought that God intended blessings to be given to them and them only. In the New Testament, Jesus constantly encountered difficulty by challenging the entitlement of those who thought that God's grace and blessings were for them only. This problem has existed through the ages. Of course we would like to see our church grow with people who are just like us, but we are challenged by the mission and message of Christ, which compels us to share the good news with those in our neighborhood, community, and wider world who are different than us. And sometimes God places those people who are different from us within the walls of our church so as to provide us a laboratory for the most basic lessons of a gospel we proclaim and preach. How are we, Mayflower, doing in this regard?

Pastor Mark



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From Lay Leader Sue Mott

March is always such a long month for me. After all, the first day of spring is in March. So why is it March is usually so cold? And it seems to go on forever! Many of you have asked if Bob and I wish we were back in Arizona this winter. Of course there are times we do -- like the two weeks of bitter cold and snow we endured in February. But we like our Michigan home and friends and know that there will be warmer days.

March brings the beginning of the Lenten season for Mayflower Church. On Ash Wednesday (March 6), we will again worship together to provide everyone with the opportunity to personally commit to one's own Lenten season. Many choose to fast or give up something meaningful for the 40 days of Lent. There is no one, right way to observe Lent. I personally look forward to hearing Rev. Dr. Marilyn Danielson's message and making my own spiritual choices for making a difference in my life leading up to Easter. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to mark the start of Lent in your own personal life.

Spring Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 26 and 27. 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 Easter service on April 21. 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 22-25 (Monday to Thursday) from 10 a.m. to Noon-ish. The clean-up day will be Monday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to whenever we are done (Noon-ish).

Music Notes from Barb Fuller

Have you ever felt a bit “let down” as you head into the Lenten season? The weather here is often dreary and the hymns and anthems at church are sad sounding. You have Palm Sunday to look forward to because that is generally upbeat, but then with the progression of Holy Week comes the overwhelming feeling of betrayal on Maundy Thursday and then the doom and reality of Good Friday. Will Easter ever come?

There were two shoe salesmen who were sent to a primitive island to determine business potential. The first salesman wired back, “Coming home immediately. No one here wears shoes.” The second one responded, “Send a boatload of shoes immediately. The possibility for selling shoes is unlimited.”

In my life I am continually reminded that the outcome of the challenges I am faced with are at least in part influenced by my attitude toward them. I can react from my “gut” or I can take a step back and use some reasoning with them. I like to think of the second approach as a beginning toward a vision of what my response needs to be.

Having a vision, whether it be toward the solution of a problem or an approach of how to obtain something we want in the future, can be very helpful. Thus, as Christians we can approach Lent not with sadness and gloom but with the anticipation that something very special is coming toward us, similar to the way we look at Advent.

The hymn “Be Thou My Vision” is a lovely Irish poem that was first translated into English in 1905 by Mary Byrne, a research worker and writer for the Board of Intermediate Education in Dublin, Ireland. The words were eventually put to a lovely traditional Irish tune. It is the perfect hymn/prayer for Lent, giving us hope and showing us that God can help us create our visions.

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me save that Thou art--Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.



Mayflower Financial News

The February Second Saturday Supper was well attended for a winter month, with proceeds of \$753. Thank you to everyone who came to eat and work. We can always use all the help we can get!

We concluded the Baby Boxes for Haiti outreach project at the end of January. A check for \$810 in donations, plus a number of purchased items for the layettes, was presented to Dorothy Frederickson of Soaring Unlimited (the sponsor of this project) at our service on February 3. She thanked the congregation for its generosity and commented that it was the largest donation they have received from a church. Thank you, Mayflower! The Mitten Tree continued through February. Many handmade and purchased knitted items were taken to Lewton School, along with a check for \$150. They are so appreciative. Thanks again!

A generous donation has allowed us to purchase 25 new hymnals for the sanctuary; at the same time, we purchased 20 more hymnals from the general church funds. Thank you to our special friend!

The following is a summary of our finances as of January 31, which is also the year-to-date for 2019:

Income:	\$ 6,593.45
Expenses:	<u>7,146.98</u>
	\$ - 553.53
<u>Fund Balances:</u>	
Checking:	\$ 9,041.76
Savings:	46,542.79
Heat Fund Savings:	20,847.84
Savings CD:	<u>22,468.57</u>
	\$ 98,900.96

A detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. Feel free to ask if you'd like more information or have questions.

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer





March

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/8 - Jamie Keller**
- 3/9 - Liz Tingley**
- 3/12 - Kathy Sundermeyer**
- 3/15 - Peggy Black**
- 3/18 - Gordon Wilson**
- 3/20 - Lorraine Finison**
- 3/22 - Ardath Scheffel (94)**
- 3/23 - Gail Sawyer**
- 3/27 - Ruth Lewis (98)**
- 3/28 - April Fuller**
- 3/28 - Shirley Potts**

HEAD USHER

Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS

Advent House

