

Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: www.mayflowerchurch.com

e-mail: info@mayflowerchurch.com



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

November

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 - Ann McClelland
- 11/1 - Dominic McClelland
- 11/2 - Frank Wheeler
- 11/5 - Morgan Smith
- 11/5 - Bob Mott
- 11/9 - Blanche Samohovetz (96)
- 11/11 - Cozette Oxley
- 11/15 - Barbara Fuller
- 11/19 - Fred Lowe
- 11/20 - Ina Martin
- 11/28 - Jaxson Graham
- 11/29 - Mike Rutledge



ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/25 - Roger & Meredith Kennedy



Head Ushers

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Food Bank, Shoeboxes

From The Pastor's Desk



The Joy of Thanksgiving

In his daily prayer for the Colossian Church, Paul mentions ***“giving joyous thanks to the Father”***. I’ll let you read the whole prayer:

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you¹³ to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

As we enter this month when Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States, let us be true to our Pilgrim heritage and be joyously thankful to God for all His blessings. They could have been grumbling and complaining about all their losses the past year, sad and depressed being so far from family in England, missing the luxuries of life they used to have in years gone by, and no drugstores to pick up their antidepressants. But they looked past whatever they had lost and the hardships and were thankful to God for their blessings – and they included their neighbors in the celebration.

May we be known for ***giving joyful thanks to the Father***, not only one day a year but every day of the year. May the thankful spirit of the pilgrims rest on Mayflower Congregational Church and extend to our neighbors as well.

A Power Greater than Ourselves

by Wm. C. McHarris

Let's face it — humans aren't very good when it comes to abstract concepts. We're much more comfortable with down-to-earth, everyday pictures. Concepts such as the distance to the nearest galaxy or the possibility of zillions of other worlds out there don't really make all that much of a lasting impression; yet when confronted by awesome powers of nature here on earth, we immediately realize just how insignificant our species really is. Such was our experience on our recent trip to Hawaii with Rilla's sister and brother and their spouses.

As mighty as the volcanoes on the island of Hawai'i may be, it was the cliffs and canyons on Kaua'i that made us pause, open-mouthed. Especially the Na Pali Coast. Kaua'i is the oldest of the main islands, and one might expect it to be eroded and worn-down. Eroded yes, but definitely not worn-down. The island is only thirtyish miles across, and in this short distance one goes from windward rain forest to semi-arid leeward coast. And the caldera of the old volcano, Mount Wai'ele'ele, is the wettest spot on earth, receiving more than 450 inches of rain each year. Runoff from this much rain has eroded the softer layers of lava into fantastic constructs, including Waimea Canyon, the "Grand Canyon of the Pacific," and the cliffs looming thousands of feet above the ocean on the northwestern coast.

The road goes only a little more than three-quarters of the way around the island — they've tried and tried, but nature and the cliffs (and inland swamps) have defeated all attempts to extend it. And even a trail can make it only eleven miles before confronting impassible, vertical cliffs! This trail, the Kalalau Trail — one of the world's "ten most scenic trails," also, one of the ten most dangerous! — demonstrated clearly the power of nature, a Power far greater than ourselves.

Rilla's brother, John, and his wife, Leslie are intrepid hikers, traveling the world over for spectacular trails — she has now completed eighty percent of the Appalachian Trail. We left them off at the trailhead at 8:00 am, arranging to meet them at 4:00 pm. Meanwhile the rest of us decided to attempt it "a little way." Up and up and up it went, littered with boulders so that one could hop from one to another — up and up and up, ...

I have to confess that with my impeded sense of balance, I had to turn back after about twenty minutes, but the others continued on. After a several hour wait on the beach (complete with a warning sign, "Do not be deceived by the beauty of the beach: it's extremely dangerous, with strong rip currents and sharp coral!"), the others returned, having gone perhaps half a mile. And at 4:00 John and Leslie showed up, exhausted, having made some four miles in and four miles back in eight hours! Experienced hikers, indeed.

The next day we looked down on the Kalalau Valley at the end of the

(Lay Leader continued)

trail from an overlook on the Waimea Canyon road. Breathtaking and scary — several thousand feet of sheer green cliff right down to the ocean, with angry, gray-blue waves pounding the rocks far below. An almost religious experience.

This was Almighty Power in reality, not in the abstract. And it made clear just how insignificant we humans can be. A Power far greater than ourselves.

Musical Notes

Did you know that the first thanksgiving was decreed by Governor Bradford in 1621 in honor of the Pilgrims' harvest and that later George Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789 as a national day of thanksgiving? It really wasn't repeated on a national basis until Abraham Lincoln declared it as a Harvest Festival on November 26, 1861; following that each president and governor had to proclaim it annually. It wasn't until 1941 that Congress passed a bill naming the fourth Thursday of each November as Thanksgiving Day.

It's interesting that our early American leaders thought there should be a day set aside each year whereby people counted their blessings and expressed gratitude for all that they had. In Christianity we take time in November to express our thankfulness to God, and our hymnody joins in that celebration. Hymns such as "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," "Count Your Blessings," "Now Thank We All Our God," "We Gather Together," "Thank You, Lord," "Thanks to God!" and "Let Us With A Gladsome Mind" are all wonderful examples of expressing our gratitude to God through song.

Recent research has found that counting blessings and trying to be grateful on a regular basis can actually help to extend a person's life. Perhaps we need to be singing some of our "Thanksgiving" hymns more often throughout the year instead of keeping them for just the harvest season. At the very least, it won't hurt us to sit down on occasion and reflect on what we do have that blesses us each day.

"A grateful person is a happy one."

Barb Fuller



Shoebox Gifts

It is Operation Christmas Child time once again. Time to pick up a shoebox and fill it with "goodies" for girls and boys around the world (Over 124 million in 150 countries so far). Plastic boxes are available beginning on Sunday October 25th. Liz will once again shop for those who ask her to. A shipping fee of \$7 per box is again requested. The shoe boxes must be returned to the church no later than November 15th.

If you have questions contact Roger Kennedy or Liz Canfield. Let's all participate in this very worthwhile event.

Roger Kennedy



Thanksgiving Alphabet

T ... Turkeys, table-spreads, being together,
H ... Happiness and homes to protect us from all weather,
A ... Aunts and uncles, a reunion in Fall,
N ... Nieces and nephews, family members all.
K ... Kind-hearted kin coming over for dinner,
S ... Surely you'll have fun, but you won't get thinner,
G ... Gourds and pumpkins, mouths open wide,
I ... Indians and Pilgrims we remember with pride,
V ... Very special times-there could even be snow,
I ... Imagine what it was like at Plymouth long ago,
N ... Never forget how the settlers led the way,
G ... Giving thanks and blessing this special day.

Thanksgiving Quotes to Consider and Enjoy

Meister Eckhart: If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you', that would suffice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says: We will speed the day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing... Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last.

Erma Bombeck: No One Diets on Thanksgiving. What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?

George Carlin: We're having something a little different this year for Thanksgiving. Instead of a turkey, we're having a swan. You get more stuffing.

Johnny Carson: Thanksgiving is an emotional holiday. People travel thousands of miles to be with people they only see once a year. And then discover once a year is way too often.

Gerald Good: If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily.

Henri J. M. Nouwen: Gratitude goes beyond the 'mine' and 'thine' and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift.

Rita Rudner: My mother is such a lousy cook that Thanksgiving at her house is a time of sorrow.



November is the month where we take time to be grateful for all we have. Since every two years we have a state or national election, I am always grateful in those even years that the mudslinging and bickering are over for another couple of weeks. Funny how that time period gets shorter every year, isn't it? For this month, I would like to invite you to try a little exercise, much like the "Alphabet Game" we played on road trips. Instead of remembering that Alison is going to Alabama and bringing an aardvark, the list challenges you to find things you are thankful for. I'll share a few of mine to get you started!

T: I am thankful for TOMATOES, for as awful as they are, they are the basis of ketchup and Sweet Baby Ray's Spicy BBQ sauce, two of my favorite condiments in the world.

H: I am thankful for HAIRBALLS in the shower and sink drains, for they remind me how much my husband loves me because he cleans them out regularly.

A: I am thankful for AUTUMN, as it reminds me that to everything there is a season, and a gracious God doesn't dump us directly into snow.

N: I am thankful for NOURISHMENT, for I know many people in the world go without it every day. Not only for the body, but also for the soul.

K: I am thankful for KITES, for they allow me to wonder about the sky above me and how it would feel to fly.

S: I am thankful for STORIES, both the reading and the telling, for they delight my heart and encourage me to dream.

Get creative, and find out what you give thanks for this season!

Liz



Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We plan to have another sale as usual in April, so start saving up your items NOW! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them in the box or bag. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!



Our Thanksgiving Celebration

November 22nd will be an exciting worship service. First, the combined Mayflower and Plymouth handbell choirs will enhance our service. The two groups have worked very hard together to prepare these numbers.

We will also be celebrating our annual Walter Ellis Harvest Festival. Fresh fruits and vegetables will enhance the worship space. Please bring canned or packaged food to add to our donation to the City Rescue Mission. Be sure to stay for coffee hour and greet our Plymouth friends,

We Need Help!!!

We will again decorate the church for the Advent Season on Thursday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. Please come and help us in this time of "fun" and fellowship as we usher in our Christmas traditions.



Mayflower Financial News

We had another successful 2nd Saturday Supper with a total of 100 meals being served in October. A total of \$3,474.48 has been raised this year as of September's report.

A brief summary of our finances as of September 30, 2015:

Income:	\$ 7,382.55
Expenses:	9,607.51
	- \$ 2,224.96

YTD for Nine Months

Income:	\$ 79,400.57
Expenses:	66,338.03
	\$ 13,062.54

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 14,124.02
Bequest Funds Savings	19,012.96
Memorial Fund CD	5,496.18
CD Savings	22,311.76
	\$ 60,994.91

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Dates to remember in November...

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|-------|----------------------------------|
| 11/1 | Food for Salvation
Army |
| | Daylight Savings Time
Ends |
| 11/10 | Trustees Meeting |
| 11/11 | Veteran's Day |
| 11/14 | Second Saturday
Supper 5 pm |
| 11/15 | Deadline for Mayflower
Notes |
| 11/16 | Prudential Council |
| 11/22 | Walter Ellis Harvest
Festival |
| 11/26 | Thanksgiving |
| 11/29 | Advent House lunches |

