

Mayflower

Mayflower Congregational Church - March, 2010



Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,



Lent is perhaps my favorite season in the life of the church because it is truly a time of reflection and renewal.

We began Lent with a lovely Ash Wednesday service and continue this month with our theme of **40 Days to Become God's Best Version of You** through *worship, study* and *outreach*. **Worship** continues with a preaching series call 5 Life Giving Habits 4 Challenging Times. Study is a class on becoming God's best version of you offered Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Your Outreach Committee also invites you to pick one *outreach* opportunity this Lent and to make a difference in our community. Below you will find a list of opportunities and possibilities.

- ◆ March 7-March 21 Sunday Sermon Series:
 5 Life Giving Habits 4 Challenging Times
- ◆ March 3-March 31 Wednesday Lenten Study Series
 The Me I Want to Be at 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
- ◆ March 20 Morning of Renewal (for women and men)
 at Gilda's Club, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- ◆ March 28 Palm Sunday Worship
- ◆ April 1 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ April 2 Good Friday Service at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ April 4 Easter Worship at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

See you in Church!

Mark Barger Elliott
Senior Pastor

Outreach Opportunities for Lent

During the forty days of Lent the Christian Outreach Committee is inviting members to become personally involved in a Christian service project. In addition to participating in IHN rotations and helping with **Dégagé** meal service, we have identified four organizations that have a wide variety of opportunities that span age groups and abilities. They are:

- ◆ **Kids Food Basket**
- ◆ **Feeding America** (Second Harvest Gleaners)
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity** (not only construction labor)
- ◆ **YWCA Domestic Crisis Center**

More detailed information on these organizations can be found on the posters across the hall from the church office.

The Outreach Committee would like you to submit the numbers of hours you serve during Lent either on the forms on the table by the posters or online at www.mayflowerchurch.org/lentoutreach.

Morning of Renewal Retreat



A Morning of Renewal Retreat will be held again this year at Gilda's Club on **Saturday, March 20 from 9:00 a.m. to noon** and will

feature a speaker and a variety of activities to try out—yoga, t'ai chi, massage, healthy cooking demonstrations and tastings, card-making, guided meditation, and Reiki.

A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. A flyer and map are available in the church office. Cost is \$10 for Mayflower members and their friends. Space is limited so register as soon as possible by calling the church office at 459-6255.

Youth Silent Auction & Donations



The fifth annual Youth Silent Auction to support our youth's outreach efforts will be on **Sunday, March 21st**, fol-

lowing worship and plans are under way. Your donations of dinner parties, cottage weekends, lessons, gift baskets and certificates or a special item from your business are needed to make this year's Silent Auction another success.

A donation form can be found in the church office, or by contacting Leah Zawodny, Director of Youth Ministries.

Thank you for supporting our youth in service to others!

Three Study Groups for Lent

Each Wednesday during Lent, February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, there will be three Bible study groups available. At both 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m., Dr. Mark Barger Elliott will lead a group in a study entitled: *40 Days to Become God's Best Version of You*. Also at 6:15 p.m., the study of the book of *Revelation* will continue facilitated by Rev. Britcher.

This can be an exceptional time for spiritual growth as together we move toward Resurrection Sunday, April 4.

Bible Alive

Bible Alive (1st-4th graders) wrapped up the stories of Daniel and his friends in February by compiling a list of when it is the **most** difficult to do what is right:

- ♦ When you are tired
- ♦ When you are angry
- ♦ When you want to retaliate
- ♦ When there is peer pressure
- ♦ When you are the only one who is doing the right thing

When we are in these situations we brainstormed what we should do:

- ♦ Use our faith.
- ♦ Ask for God's help and/or help from an adult.
- ♦ Act silly while doing the right thing – it will distract others.

Our current story is *The Garden of Gethsemane*, found in Mark 14:32-38, when Jesus struggled with the best way to be faithful to God and received strength from trusting God. It's not always easy to be faithful to God but we too can be strengthened when we trust God. Our closing will include a small replica of Jerusalem's Western Wall and our Sunday School offering during Lent will be going to Haiti.

Below are 4th grade finger paintings about the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Church Family News

Congratulations to:

- ♦ **Oliver and Laura Grin**, on the birth of a son, **Oliver Woodhouse**, born December 30, 2009.
- ♦ **Hulda (Grin) and Kyle Black**, on the birth of a son, **James Woodhouse**, born February 10, 2010. Proud grandparents of Oliver and James are **Carolyn and Oliver Grin**.
- ♦ **Brian and Jennifer Hendricks**, on the birth of a daughter, **Natalie K**, born February 8, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Bob and Rachelle Coleman**.
- ♦ The **Bellows/Lareau family**, on the birth of **Natalie Maria Lareau**, born January 2, 2010, great-granddaughter of **Dick and Helen Bellows**.
- ♦ **Ryan and Hannah Essenburg**, on the baptism of their daughter, **Sydney Marie**, on February 14 at Mayflower Church. Proud grandparents are **Tom and Judy Essenburg**.
- ♦ **Erin (Buth) and Chan Walker**, on the birth of a son, **William Buth Walker**, born February 9, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Mary Fran and Steve Buth**.

Thank You:

- ♦ **From Edy Lemke:** "Thank you, thank you for all your prayers, calls, cards, care, comfort, concern, visits and food the past three months. They have all meant so much to me. Hope to be back with you soon."

Trip to Henry Ford

On **Friday, April 17**, why not join us for a day trip to Dearborn and *The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village!* Departing at 7:30 a.m. the chartered 25 passenger bus will transport us to Dearborn where you can choose to tour the Museum or Greenfield Village or a taste of both. Several venues will offer opportunities for lunch: *The Eagle Tavern, A Taste of History Restaurant* or *Mrs. Fisher's Southern Cooking*.

The trip includes a coffee break and a stop for supper. Cost: Bus \$40, Museum \$14, Village \$21. Lunch and supper are Dutch treat.

Call (459-6255) the office (459-6255) to make your reservation, then mail or bring your check to the church. Contact Rev. Britcher for additional information or questions.

Discoverers Spring Lunch

Well, we hope it will be spring by Wednesday, March 10! Meeting in the Parlor at 11:30 a.m., we take the church bus to Turk's Restaurant in Nunica, a unique spot with good food at moderate prices. Cost is \$2.00 for transportation and lunch is on your own.

Make your reservation by calling the church office (459-6255) by Monday, March 8. This is a program change from our previously announced schedule.

The Discoverers are Mayflowers seniors having good times together.

River Bank Run Team

B. J. Taylor and Mark Hoekstra invite you to join them in forming a team to run or walk in the Fifth Third River Bank Run again this year. An initial planning meeting will be called soon. You may run or walk in either of the three races and the team will try to get individual sponsors to raise money for Dégagé Ministries, one of the several agencies partnered with the race.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 8. Call or email Pastor Britcher, 459-6255, or B.J. Taylor, 954-3193, to register your interest.

Thanks to the January/February Fellowship Team

Have you noticed...? There's a thread being woven into the tapestry at Mayflower...connecting caring deeds performed by the membership. Fellowship Teams are the framework. This concept began last summer and is gaining momentum. Of the families who were invited to participate on the January/February team, 70% responded. Thanks to them,

- ♦ Everyone who entered through the narthex for a Sunday a.m. service was greeted with a smile.
- ♦ Those who chose to linger after the service for a cup of coffee and a cookie, enjoyed fellowship in the parlor.
- ♦ 2 families who welcomed a new baby and 2 of those just home from the hospital or dealing with illness, were brought a meal.
- ♦ 10 members who have been in our prayers received cards or notes of encouragement.
- ♦ 10 team members who indicated a desire, participated in a potluck dinner.

Many thanks to the following members who were on the January/February Fellowship Team:

Edith Blodgett
Allison Bradshaw
Bob and Nella Burton
Steve and Kathleen Clark
Bob and Rachelle Coleman
Matt and Cindy Cook
Bert and Lindy Crandell
Carl and Anne Forslund
Bob and Sue Hammond
Brian and Gerry Hotchkiss
Geoffrey and Ellen Johnson
Peter and Kay Luce
Bart and Susan Orban

John and Cindy
Papp Barbara Schoendorf
Randy and Denise Sherwood
Janet Smither
Joel and Betty Soule
B.J. and Jennifer Taylor
Howard and Barbara Uhl
John and Carol Vermeulen
Paul and Nola Wetherbee
Dwight Whipple
Lou and Ardythe Wickman
John and Amy Wiener

We would like to be able to include everyone who wants to participate, for one two-month period during the year. If you haven't yet been on a team this year and would like to be, please contact Fellowship Team Coordinator, Murry Idema at 243-2764 or by email at fellowship@mayflowerchurch.org. The next fellowship team will serve during March and April.

Caregivers Support Group

On Monday, March 15, the folks who are giving care to a loved one, or supervising such care, meet together in the Mayflower Parlor to share and support each other. It's a rather special time that brings encouragement and education with a Christian foundation. Come join us if you can at 1:00 p.m., enjoying some after lunch refreshment as the gathering begins

New Member Class Brunch

For those who are interested in exploring membership at Mayflower, a New Member's Inquiry Class and Brunch will be held on **Sunday, March 14 at noon** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The class, led by Pastor Mark Barger Elliott, will be held in Fellowship Hall and those who wish to join Mayflower Church will be received into membership on Sunday, March 21. There is no obligation to join if you attend the class.

Please call the church office (459-6255) to indicate your interest so that information folders can be prepared and ready for the class. Contact Pastor Elliott for additional information.

Climb Kili for Kids

Mike and Rachel Mraz, members of Mayflower Church, are planning on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2010 in an effort to raise money for the children at Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe. They will cover 100% of the cost of the climb, but need your help to build opportunities for the children. After reaching the summit, they hope to travel to Zimbabwe to break ground for the new building that will be built from the money raised.

Go to www.climbkiliforkids.com for more details and information on how to donate.

New Men's Bible Study Begins

A new Bible study group for men has begun on Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Harry Matthews is the leader and the group is studying *Jesus' Final Week*, a walk through the final week of Jesus' life. It's a special study for the Lenten period. If you can handle an early morning time, then it's the group for you!

Order Your Easter Lilies



Easter is a meaningful time to honor and remember loved ones. If you would like to purchase a potted lily plant to add to the celebratory decoration of Mayflower during Easter, fill out the form below and submit it to the church office **by MONDAY, MARCH 29**. A donation of \$10.00 is asked for each plant and should accompany this form. A portion of your donation will go towards the Youth Outreach Fund. The plants will be in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4. An insert in the bulletin on that Sunday will list the donors and the individuals they celebrate. You are invited to take a plant with you after the service.

Name of flower donor _____ Phone # _____ No. of plants _____

In honor / memory / celebration (circle one) of _____

FAMILY PROMISE / INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK MAYFLOWER'S FEBRUARY ROTATION 2010

Mayflower served six families with nine children under the age of ten during this rotation! Thank you to the many volunteers who work to make this outreach ministry a huge success each rotation. You glorify God with your service.



GROCERY SUPPLIES

Marg Ballew
Kathleen Clark
Ann Debes
Carol Distel
Lynn Barger Elliott
Joan Fleser
Carolyn Grin
Sue Hoane
Tom Hoane
Barbara Hohman
Gerry Hotchkiss
Murry Idema
Linda Lark
Deb Larson
Betsey Linscott
Shirley Mayer
Rusty Petchauer
Kim Peterson
Candy Wilkes-Scheper
Patty Sienstra
Shirley VanderWilt
June VanderZand
Rob Van Patten
Valorie Van Patten
Ann Wells
Carol Whynott
Andrea Wolfe

SATURDAY BRUNCH

Candy Wilkes-Scheper
Garrett Vonk
Gavin Vonk
Heidi Hertel

SET UP

Geoff Evans
Sue Hoane
Tom Hoane
Barbara Hohman
Barbara Mohrmann
David Smither
Janet Smither

TAKE DOWN

Kathleen Clark
Daniel Geller
Kate Geller
Rhonda Geller
Sean Geller
Doug Mohrmann
David Smither
Janet Smither

DINNER HOSTS

Cindy Cook
Brian Farber
Evan Farber
Jamie Farber
Susan Jones
Janet McLelland
Jeff Peterson
Kim Peterson
Anna Stephens
Andy Schutt
Kati Schutt
Heather VanHouten

PLAY VOLUNTEERS

Kathleen Davis (5)
Alex Dermody
Laurie Dermody
Nina Dermody
Alec Distel
Charlotte King
Anna Laffrey
Brad Laffery
Susan Laffery
William Laffrey
Deb Larson
Jess Larson
Sydney Matthews
Katie Peterson
Samantha Peterson
Andy Schutt
Kati Schutt
Danika Sherwood
Daxton Sherwood
Denise Sherwood
Randy Sherwood
Anna Stephens
Abigail Ward
Alexis Ward
Ashley Ward
Brian Ward
Kristin Ward
Edward Whynott
Carol Whynott
Lillian Whynott
Daniel Zawodny
Gabriela Zawodny
Jason Zawodny
Leah Zawodny

DAY CAPTAINS

Jodi Cary
Sydney Edlund
Barbara Hohman
Shelley Kester
Randy Millwood
Jeff Peterson (2)
Kim Peterson (2)

OVERNIGHT HOSTS

Mark Davis
Kevin Kalmbach
Harry Matthews
Sydney Matthews
Bart Orban
Judy Schneider
Anna Stephens
Brian Stephens
Sue Stoddard
Ingrid Nelson Timmer

TRANSPORTATION

Martin Grin (2)
Peter Luce
Larry Robson
Bill Young (2)
Dianne Washburn (2)
Doug Windsor Dutcher (2)

LAUNDRY

Barb Van Ess
Dianne Washburn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—MAYFLOWER'S NEXT ROTATION BEGINS MAY 16, 2010!

March 2010 BIRTHDAYS

Mayflower



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| | <i>1</i> Joseph DeVries Emily Roth Jack Israels | <i>2</i> Kay Collins Janet McLelland Bill Beia Dan Poortenga | <i>3</i> Jonathan Tuuk Kathleen Bulson Daniel Cornelius Ruby Hollis | <i>4</i> Judy Jackson Margot Adams Elizabeth Finzel | <i>5</i> Olivia Paschall | <i>6</i> Patsy Krause Mandy Nixon Allison Bradshaw Robert Butler |
| <i>7</i> | <i>8</i> Audree Box Ellen Johnson Sharon Montgomery Dave Landman Margaret Meier Parker Chuba James Lachman | <i>9</i> Bob Fairman Candace Hinshaw Doug Mohrmann Ann Coyle David Baxter Samantha Older | <i>10</i> David Keyser Rob DeVilbiss Kim Coleman | <i>11</i> Lynne Dominiak Ingrid Orr | <i>12</i> Clifford Brink | <i>13</i> Diane Baxter Kathy Wynsma Danielle Defoe |
| <i>14</i> Mary Taber Bob Redd Stephanie Currie | <i>15</i> Jane Balkema Benjamin Trube Vincent Rogers Megan Laidler | <i>16</i> Betsey Linscott Barbara Schoendorf Rob Trost Alex Clark Daniel Geller | <i>17</i> Jim DeBoer Dave Sawinski Karen King Edward Whynott Madeleine Wilson Anna Edleman | <i>18</i> Marg Ballew Ted Etheridge Ken Goodson Susie VanSkiver William Butler | <i>19</i> Peter Knape | <i>20</i> Jean Miller Lance Erickson Ross Brenneman Elizabeth Gritter |
| <i>21</i> Jaunita Thompson Don Nestor Carol Distel Kara VanPatten Barbara Mohrmann Emma Soda Corbin DeVilbiss | <i>22</i> Lynn Mapes Greg Orr Abby Boers Caroline Mehney | <i>23</i> ALana Bates Elizabeth Maine Robert Huff | <i>24</i> Carolyn Grin | <i>25</i> Katharina Picard Elijah VanSkiver Jonah VanSkiver | <i>26</i> | <i>27</i> Jann Bidwell Mary Kay Bethune Carol Vituj Doug Oosterman Austin Richards Rob Richards |
| <i>28</i> Jean Edgar Katie Kimball Eric Wynsma Faith Hubbard Megan Hubbard | <i>29</i> Donald Hesselschwerdt Stewart Johnston Jeff Haeberle Sally Doyal Natalie Bradshaw | <i>30</i> Jane Tornga Mary Tuuk Susan Haun Luke Elder | <i>31</i> Linda Jarvi Katherine Lime | | | |