



THE MILFORD
messenger

From the Pastor

APRIL 2018

Religion and science have a complicated history. During the long infancy of science, there was little friction between these two disciplines. In fact, there was hardly any distinction at all between the two. But the explosion of learning that took place during the European Renaissance, followed by the Enlightenment—sometimes called the Age of Reason—caused a seismic shift in the way that these two modes of thought interacted with each other.

In the western world, the power of the church was predicated on God's absolute authority in every sphere of life: the home, the state, the church, and the academy. And God's authority was (surprise, surprise) exercised through the church. And for many centuries, the church's power was absolute. But as Europe emerged from the so-called Dark Ages, science (along with philosophy and the arts) began to move toward a new center of authority: human reason and the pursuit of knowledge. And with the institutions of knowledge and learning no longer taking cues from the church and its doctrine, the church felt its authority

weakening and did what any power-hungry entity does when beginning to lose its grip: it fought back.

In the early 16th century, Nicolaus Copernicus posited a universe with the sun—and not earth—at its center, breaking with longstanding Catholic thought and doctrine. This mostly went unnoticed until it was made a *cause célèbre* by a fellow named Galileo. As the scientific evidence mounted in favor of the Copernican view, the church mounted its case against science, condemning Galileo as a heretic, and cementing the church's place as the arch nemesis of modern scientific advancement.

A new crisis was stirred by one Charles Darwin in the mid-nineteenth century, sending shockwaves through both Catholic and Protestant churches, this time not only in Europe but in North America as well. By the early 20th century in the United States, Christians were mostly divided into two camps: the fundamentalists, who took the Bible at its (literal) word and mostly ignored the advances of science; and the liberals, who subjected scripture and

Christian doctrine to the unsympathetic instruments of reason and the scientific method.

Though these two sides were deeply entrenched one hundred years ago, the battle lines have become less pronounced in recent decades. Conservatives are more nuanced in speaking of the role of natural processes in creation. Liberals are less hard-nosed about denying the supernatural aspects of the biblical story. And in 1992, the Catholic Church officially acknowledged its error in accusing Galileo of heresy (better late than never, I suppose). But the battle is far from over.

Recently, in the space of three weeks, the world lost two giant figures who illustrate the resilient nature of the perennial divide between religion and science. The Rev. Billy Graham, evangelist *par excellence*, passed away on February 21. And on March 14, the noted astrophysicist Stephen Hawking finally succumbed to ALS at the astonishing age of 76.

The Christian world had a lot to say about Graham after his passing: his work, his character, his legacy. My

Events & Activities

Church Ladies Movie Club

Monday, April 2, 6:30 pm

The Church Ladies Movie Club will meet on Monday, April 2 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor. The evening's movie will be "The Secret Life of Bees," the story of a young girl who is taken in by the bee-keeping Boatwright sisters. Surrounded by the unexpected love, grace and spirituality she encounters there, Lily forms a bond with each of these uniquely gifted women. Please join us in watching this wonderful film about family, independence and the power of love along with popcorn, dessert and beverages. If you would like further information please contact Susan Linn at 248-310-4493 and feel free to bring a friend.

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, April 11, 6-7:30 pm

April's WNL is for "Moms and Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, brothers and sisters, and young and old." The activity will be provided by The SHAC. Something large, something fun... a mystery. Please save your plastic bottle caps, all sizes and colors (milk, pop, cleaners, etc.) until April 8, and then give them to Andrea Perry. They will be used on this fun-filled evening.

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, April 15, after worship

You are invited to stay after worship and enjoy a delicious hot brunch in Fellowship Hall provided by MPC's Men's Presbyterian Association. Suggested donation is \$5 per person, \$2 for children under five, and \$10 for the whole family.

New Member Class

Begins Sunday, April 15

If you are interested in joining the church on the corner as a member, please make plans to join us on Sundays April 15 & 22 immediately following worship. To sign up, visit milfordpc.org/membership. Contact Pastor Anderson for more information.

Blood Drive

Monday, April 23, 1-7 pm

The Church on the Corner is sponsoring a Blood Drive. To make an appointment, please contact Barb Klein, (248) 437-6193 or visit redcrossblood.org.

Rebuilding Together

Saturday, April 28

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization that brings volunteers and communities together to provide free housing repair and neighborhood revitalization for low-income homeowners in Oakland County, Michigan. On Saturday, April 28, we will gather with as many volunteers as we can muster to make a wide range of repairs to a home right here in our community.

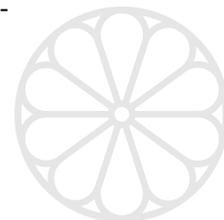
Keep April 28 clear on your calendar and make plans to spend the day transforming a home and the lives of those who live in it. There will be ways for everyone to help, regardless of your skill level. Visit milfordpc.org/rebuild to register as a volunteer, and watch for more information in the next few weeks.

Vacation Bible School

July 23-27, 6-8 pm

Planning is underway for VBS 2018! We will be taking kids on the adventure of a lifetime while on a "Rolling River Rampage." This year's program will be offered in the **evenings**, July 23-27, at Milford United Methodist Church. Families can enjoy dinner together from 5:15 - 6:00 pm. Then VBS will take place from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Registration information will be available in May's newsletter and on our website.

We need your help to make this year's program a success. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please contact Kelly Carey at (248) 240-2101 or kcarey@milfordpc.org.



Music

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday was a fun musical celebration with the Praise Team processing into our sanctuary with palm branches and cheers! Thank you to Isaac and Lincoln Perry who accompanied this anthem on bass and guitar. With Rick at the piano, and the Chancel Choir, these children sang their loud Hosannas remembering and celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Easter

On Easter Sunday, our sanctuary walls will shake with the beautiful booming brass sounds of trumpets, a trombone, a french horn, and a tuba. We have such

gifted musicians in our midst at MPC and I am excited to have these players enhance our celebration services.

The Chancel Choir will also sing an anthem accompanied by a subset of ringers from the Westminster Handbells group. All are invited to join the Chancel Choir... no audition necessary! You only need a love for music and a bit of time on Wednesday evenings. No, you don't need to know how to read music. We'll help you!

Praise Team & Kids Bells

The Praise Team and Kids Bells will rehearse in April on the 15th and 29th in preparation for Music Sunday which will take place on May 20.

Youth

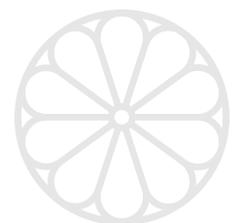
Sunday Evenings

Except for April 1 and April 8 (due to Spring Break), Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings through mid June. Parents of Youth in grades 6-12 can opt-in to receive weekly text updates about our Youth Group plans by contacting Marcus (Cell: 517 388 1316). Most Sunday evening Youth Group gatherings begin with a meal in MPC Fellowship Hall followed by activities and games that foster community and teen development. A special thank you to Chef Neff for the many meals he has prepared for our Youth Group since September. And in recent weeks, Youth families have also planned and prepped Youth Group dinners. Special thanks to Amber and Dawson Innis, Mark Sacher, Gatesmans, as well as Sandi Muirhead and Bob Parrett who are always there supporting the Youth Group.

Spring Break Mission Trip

Philadelphia, April 1-5

On Easter Sunday, a van of ten people will drive ten hours from MPC to Philadelphia. The team of four girls, four boys, and two adults will spend five days working closely with the students and staff of St. James School in a poverty-stricken part of North Philadelphia. We'll tutor, clean, fix, paint, play, share, teach, repair, etc. Pray for these Youth who are committed to serving our world with God's love. Thank you to the MPC Men's Association, and to several other MPC members who have contributed financially to support this important mission trip.



...CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

email inbox and social media feeds were filled with links to an array of articles about this towering American figure who changed the lives of millions and had the ear of presidents.

And by my lights, the Christian world has been largely silent about Hawking. Hawking was an outspoken atheist who believed that the more we know about the universe, the less need we have for supernatural explanations or divine beings. It is not surprising that Christians would shy away from celebrating the life of one whose life's work was ostensibly dedicated to uncovering the secrets of a universe with no need for the Christian God.

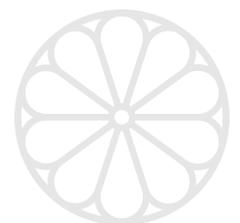
But I am convinced that this shyness grows less out of a conscious objection to the person of Stephen Hawking—his remarkable intellectual achievements in the face of a lifelong, debilitating disease are objectively praiseworthy—and more out of the struggle that Christians still have with the relationship between religion and science.

It is this struggle that leads us to treat scientific facts like articles of faith, speaking of science in terms of belief (e.g., “Do you *believe* in evolution?”). Such thinking trades on the assumption that we either believe religion or we believe science. We need to shake free of the idea that science and religion are two equals in a zero-sum game. The relationship between religion and science is often treated like the relationship between the two finalists in a game of musical chairs: two competitors vying for a single seat, but in the end there is room for only one rump.

Several years ago, I read Hawking's 2010 book *The Grand Design* (a title surely aimed at undermining Christian notions of design in creation). The book provides an engaging overview of the latest in physics, spanning from the formation of stars and black holes to the bizarre and minuscule world of quantum mechanics. By design (see what I did there?), the book leaves no room for God, no need for the supernatural, no foothold for the person of faith to mount a counterargument. And I have to say that no book that I have read before or since has instilled in me a greater sense of awe at the natural world. Which is to say, no book (of science) has led me to a deeper reverence for God.

To return to our game of musical chairs, science and religion are not our two final contestants. Science is the chair and the contestants and the music all at once. Religion is the floor. It is the lights. It is the roof and four walls. You can play the game successfully without giving a moment's thought to these things, but without them there would be no game at all. You can engage science successfully without giving a moment's thought to the divine, but it is by the creative hand of a loving God that there is any science to be done in the first place. And as we discover more about this natural world, our gratitude, awe, and reverence will only deepen.

In Christ,



Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoeft, Janette Gabel, David & Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Marty Martin, Sam Carollo, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Beaman Smith, Chris Beebee, Marie Webster, Tom Reynolds, Roger Voorheis, Barbara Good, George Wootton, Mary Weisheit, Jim Morrow, Mary Lou Gharrity, Pat Oman, Larry Cepruen, David Renny, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Chelsea Heron, Tom Neff, Irene John and all military personnel of our congregation.

Service persons of our congregation:

- Sgt. Maj. M.A. McClenahan
- AP2 Kevin Warford
- Cpl. Rebecca Whitworth
- Senior Chief Renata Wilcox Adams

Please call the church office if you wish to renew or add someone to our Prayer List.

Building Update

milfordpc.org/building

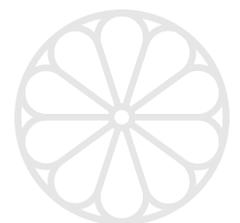
Visit this page on our website to get the latest information about our efforts to improve our facilities.

Meals on Wheels

One of the ways that Milford Presbyterian Church members are ministering to our local community is through our participation in the Meals on Wheels program. For over a decade, we have worked with four other churches in the area by providing drivers to deliver hot meals.

Every fifth week, our drivers deliver approximately 25 meals each day throughout Milford. Western Oakland County Meals on Wheels prepares the meals and we pick them up at the Milford Senior Center. In addition to the hot meals, WOMOW supplies clients with Blizzard boxes to make sure food is available on days where inclement weather prohibits hot meal delivery. Pet food is also available on a short term basis if clients aren't able to get out to purchase pet food for a few days. The pet food is donated to the program through drop boxes at local businesses and donations made by local businesses.

To qualify for meal delivery, a person must be over 60 years of age, live within the service area, and need assistance to leave home. Qualifications are not based upon income. You can find out more about the program on their website: womow.mealsonwheelsmi.org, or by calling: 888-886-8971. Western Oakland County Meals on Wheels also caters for groups of 20 or more. We are blessed with an amazing group of volunteer drivers. If you would like to join us, please call or email Kathy Donn at kathledon@aol.com or 248-245-8037.



Session Report

At its stated meeting on Tuesday, March 20, the session took the following actions:

- reviewed the membership roll (total membership as of March 20 is 465);
- agreed to host a three-day production of *Godspell* (Aug 3-5), produced by the local nonprofit theater company "Fuse" (led by MPC member Karen Nave);
- decided to recommend to the congregation the purchase of the property at 210 N Main St;
- approved a coaching contract with John Laster of Horizons Stewardship; and
- set the date of our annual meeting for Sunday, April 29.

The next stated session meeting is Tuesday, April 17, at 7:00 pm.

This 'n' That

Chancel Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for the chancel in honor or memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event, forms are located in the narthex. You can also complete the form online at milfordpc.org/forms.

Izzard Memorial Garden

Niches are available for members and their immediate family in the Izzard Memorial Garden. If you are interested in more information, contact Hanne Bishop at (248) 882-4415 or haneloreetb@gmail.com.

Thank You!

While Baby Bottles continue to trickle in, we want to thank Milford Presbyterian Church for holding a Baby Bottle Drive for us again this year. Your efforts have raised over \$1500 so far – enough to pay our internet & phone bills for nearly 5 months. These communications are vital to our work and to keeping in touch with vulnerable women in need of our encouragement and care. For those who requested receipts, they will be mailed out soon! We are understaffed, but our hearts are overwhelmed with love.

God bless you!
Another Way Pregnancy Center

Thanks to Many!

Most of us have been told that many hands make light work. This was obvious on March 10, when many hands from our congregation made light work by putting on a wonderful luncheon following a memorial

service. Some prepared desserts and side dishes, others came early to set up the Fellowship Hall while others served and another group cleaned up. It was a perfect example of that motto. Many thanks go to this great team: Jack Baker, Bob Born, Pam Best, Kelly Carey, Madeline Colone, Pat Franklin, Nora Gilbert, Deb and John McGrath, Joan Moore, Sandi Muirhead and Ginny O'Brien. We greatly appreciate your hands and offer you our heartfelt thanks.

During the month of February, the Deacons collected \$1,035 for blankets to be distributed worldwide. Some are used for natural disasters or war and some are used right here in Michigan for the homeless. We are proud to say that the Church on the Corner is very generous. Thank you for your support.

Board of Deacons



Get Involved

Bible Study Opportunities

Please join one of our adult Bible study groups available here at MPC

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the Westminster Room. Barb Muirhead, (248) 684-2702.

Women's Agape Circle

Second Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the Westminster Room. Joyce Herriman (248) 714-8779.

Women's Hope Circle

Third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 9 pm in the Parlor. Sharon St. John (248) 684-6489.

Men's Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday morning at 7:30 am in the Parlor. Bob Trombley (248) 887-2878.

Community Women's Bible Study

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Westminster Room. Jan Keef (248) 685-8738

Everyone Eats

Wednesday, April 25

Everyone is invited and encouraged to select a day this year to serve as a helper at the Everyone Eats lunch program at Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit. Our dates to serve in 2018 are: April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24 & 31, November 21 & 28, and December 19 & 26.

Sign up sheets are on the office windows. We are in need of 8-10 volunteers and 12 dozen cookies for each scheduled date. Volunteers meet at the Liberty door entrance of the church at 9:00 am to load supplies and carpool to Detroit. Cookies may be delivered to the MPC kitchen on the Sunday before or before 9:00 am on the dates we go to SOH. We look forward to seeing many new faces joining us.

Worship

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 1, 9:00 & 11:00

We will hold two worship services on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord together.

Please note that there is no 10:00 service that day.

A note about parking

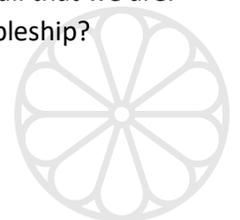
While the former "Pita House" restaurant (corner of Main & Canal) remains vacant, please feel free to use the parking lot on Sunday mornings.

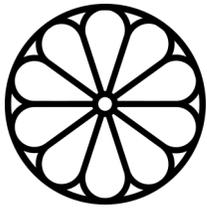
New Sermon Series

All In: The Way of Discipleship

BEGINS APRIL 8

In his ministry, Jesus did not set out to start a religion; his goal was to start a movement. He gathered around himself people who were willing to learn from him and to follow him. These disciples would continue the work—the movement—of the kingdom of God for generations after he was gone. But it is no small commitment to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus asks for nothing less than all that we have and all that we are. Are we willing to walk the way of discipleship?





Milford Presbyterian Church

238 North Main Street
Milford, Michigan 48381
www.milfordpc.org

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"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news!"

Isaiah 52:7

Staff & Contact

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Marcus LaPratt, Music Director

mlapratt@milfordpc.org

Marcus LaPratt, Youth Director

Rick Moore, Organist

Lisa Nathan, Office Administrator

lnathan@milfordpc.org

Dianna Speier Wedding Coordinator

diannaspeier@comcast.net

Harold Swenson, Treasurer

hswenson@milfordpc.org

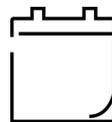
Office Hours: Tu - Fr, 9 am -2 pm

Phone: 248.684.2805

Email: admin@milfordpc.org

Web: www.milfordpc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/milfordpc



Dates to Remember

April 1

Easter Sunday (Worship at 9:00 & 11:00 am)

April 11

Wednesday Night Live

April 15

Sunday Brunch

April 15 & 22

New Member Class

April 23

Blood Drive

April 28

Rebuilding Together
