

# Milford Presbyterian Church

238 North Main Street, Milford, Michigan 48381

[www.milfordpc.org](http://www.milfordpc.org)

## THE MILFORD messenger

### From the Pastor

SEPTEMBER 2018

This summer, we began a process together that we named “Reimagine the Possibilities”—a process of conversation and reflection about who we are as a church and what God has in store for us. Over the course of two weekends, we held two workshops—each in three identical sessions—which were designed to collect thoughts, feelings, perceptions and attitudes about our identity, purpose, and future. Both workshops drew participation from more than seventy people. Our consultant, John Laster, guided the groups through small- and large-group discussion around a variety of questions that encouraged us to think hard about the church on the corner. The input from these conversations was collected and compiled, resulting in a document fully ten pages long and filled with honest, reflective, and hopeful ideas.

At the end of August, a team of five combed carefully through the feedback and began the work of drawing out the trends, highlights, and recurring themes. But our current task is bigger than collecting and categorizing feedback. As the work continues, we are moving in two primary directions. First, we want to determine some concrete steps that we can take in the very

near future to strengthen the life and ministry of the church. And second, we want to develop a succinct summary of the DNA of this congregation—what matters most to us, what our purpose is, and where we are headed. It is to this second task that we now turn in earnest.

During the month of September, we will be building on the great work of the summer workshops by seeking input from as many members and friends of the church as possible. In a variety of ways, we will ask you to consider some possible core values—the things that matter most to us as a church and lie at the heart of our distinct identity as a community of faith—and to tell us which ones you think best capture who we are at the church on the corner. In addition, we will invite various groups in the church—Bible studies, committees, deacons, session—to reflect together on the same potential values.

The session will then take the information that is gathered this month and incorporate it into their discussion, which will move us ever closer to clarifying and articulating who we are, what we are about, and where we are going.

But this is only the first step. This process will do much more than produce new language for our

website and letterhead. It is my sincere hope that we will take away from these discussions (and the discernment and reflection that they inspire) a clear and motivating sense of purpose that will propel us forward into a new chapter of ministry, worship, service, growth, and engagement with our community. I believe, as we unite around a common vision of where God is leading us, that God will open up new arenas for service, new energies for ministry, and new passion for personal transformation.

In the meantime, please keep praying for your church. Pray for our elders, our deacons, our staff, and other leaders who serve in so many capacities. Pray for God’s will to be done among us and through us. And pray for God to show you the part that you can play in the exciting things that are happening at Milford Presbyterian Church.

In Christ,



# Youth

## Fall Kick-Off Party!

**Sunday, September 9, 5:30-8:30 pm**

Maureen and Bruce Bonhard will once again host this fun outdoor dinner/game evening at their home, 2.5 miles S of MPC. All MPC Youth and their friends are invited!

## Horsin' Around

**Sunday, September 30, 11:30 am -3:30 pm**

We will attend the Fall Open House at Horses' Haven ([www.horseshaven.org](http://www.horseshaven.org)). Each Youth needs \$5 to donate to Horses' Haven. Lunch and activities are included. Reservations are needed. We'll depart MPC at 11:30 am and return to MPC by 3:30 pm.

## Sunday School

MPC Youth (students grades 6-12) meet for Sunday School in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings (except the first Sunday of each month) after the Chancel Choir sings their anthem. The Youth Room is behind the stage in Fellowship Hall. This year MPC Youth will be following the Intersections curriculum created by LeaderTreks Youth Ministry during Sunday School. Parent Guides are available in Marcus's mailbox next to the elevette at church. Please take one if you're interested. You can learn more about the Intersections curriculum here: [www.leadertreks.org/store/intersections/](http://www.leadertreks.org/store/intersections/)

## Sunday Evening Youth Group

All Youth (friends too!) are welcome to our Sunday Evening Youth Group activities and games. In general we meet Sunday evenings at 6PM for dinner followed by various activities from 6:30-8PM. This Fall we'll meet on the following Sunday evenings: 9/16, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 12/2, 12/9. "Chef" (Tom) Neff will prepare dinner for our Youth on 11/4 and 12/2. Adult volunteers are needed to prepare a meal for the group on the remaining dates listed above. We typically plan to feed between 12 and 15. Please let Marcus know if you are willing to prepare a Youth Group dinner on one of the evening dates listed above.

## New Messaging Service

MPC Youth Group will now be using the REMIND texting platform to communicate with MPC Youth and Parents. The MPC Youth Group is currently set up as a "class" with Remind. You can download the Remind App onto mobile devices and/or access it online from a computer ([www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)). Search for and join the "class" @mpcythgrp if you would like to receive regular MPC Youth Group messages.

## School Activities

One of the things I enjoy most about my role as Youth Director is getting to experience the Youth of MPC "in their element". I love to support our Youth at their school and non-school events. I've been to swim meets, violin recitals, volleyball and softball games, marching band competitions, football and soccer games, stage performances, job sites, etc. Parents, please keep me updated throughout the school-year with your child's activities and events. I would love to attend whenever possible!

As always, I can be reached via text or call almost anytime: 517-388-1316

## Mark Your Calendars

### 30-Hour Famine

*November 17 & 18*

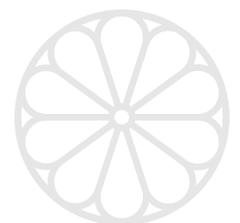
### Spring Hill Winter Retreat

*February 22-24*

### Presbyterian Youth Triennium

*July 16-20, 2019*

(open to entering freshmen through graduated seniors)



# Music

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## Something for Everyone

Music opportunities are available to anyone at MPC!

### Children's Music

**Praise Team** children's choir (for grades K-4) rehearses Sundays, 9:15-9:45 am, starting September 16.

**Kids Bells** (for ages 4-10) rehearse Sundays, 11:15-11:45 am, starting September 16.

Contact Marcus (mlapratt@milfordpc.org) or Kim (ksewald45@aol.com) with any questions.

### Westminster Handbell Choir

Our bell choir will begin rehearsing September 5 on Wednesday evenings in the Music Room. There is a need for both regular ringers and substitute ringers this season. Please let Marilyn or Marcus if you can be on either of these lists.

### Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is open to anyone, regardless of experience or skill level. Seriously! No audition necessary and no attendance requirement. The Chancel Choir rehearses in the choir loft of the sanctuary Wednesdays from 7:30-9 pm. All are welcome!

### New Opportunity

Finally, there is a new opportunity for anyone interested in playing or singing with a contemporary Christian music ensemble. If you play drums, bass, guitar, keyboard, or any other instrument and are interested, please contact Marcus.

## Singsation!

**Sunday, October 14**

Singsation! is a choral invitational event that MPC hosted last October. Area choirs came together to sing for and with one another. We'll be hosting this event once again. A combined choral performance will take place on Sunday, October 14 at 4 pm. Special guest conductor, Israeli conductor, Yael Front DMA will be our guest conductor for this special event. Please plan to attend this celebratory event of choral music in our area.

## Christmas Cantata

A Christmas cantata performance will take place on Friday evening, December 14 and Sunday afternoon, December 16. Cantata singers are needed to join the regular Chancel Choir members for this seasonal celebration! Stay tuned for rehearsal times and details.

## Special Thank You

Special thank you to all who have prepared and shared their musical gifts this summer during the Special Music moment of our weekly services:

Mandy York, Jennifer Ginther, John Staricha, Dean Burklund, Dianna Speier, Byron Perrine, Kathy Wilson, Rick Moore, and the Baldwin Family! We are fortunate to have so many people with musical gifts who are willing to share. Thank you!

# Worship

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## Miracles | Fall Sermon Series

**Beginning September 9**

Some of the most memorable moments of Jesus's life and ministry are his miraculous deeds—actions that awed crowds and set people talking far beyond the Galilean countryside. Sometimes we treat these events

as mere spectacle: raw demonstrations of God's power and proof of the Christ's divine origins. But there is so much more to these stories. They convey nothing short of the very heart and will of God, and through them we glimpse the greatest miracle of all: God's care and concern for this world and everyone in it.



# Get Involved

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## Sunday School

### We Need Sunday School Teachers

If you are interested in becoming a part of our children's ministry by volunteering once-a-month as a Sunday School teacher, please contact Kelly Carey at (248) 240-2101 or via email to [kcarey@milfordpc.org](mailto:kcarey@milfordpc.org).

Our Sunday School curriculum is Whirl Classroom and it follows a similar format each week:

**Welcome** – Start the class with a warm welcome activity

in the lesson leaflet

**Hear** – Watch the Whirl characters learn about the Bible

**Respond** – Apply the message using their lesson leaflets

**Launch** – Participate in Scripture-based activities, both inside the classroom and at home with their families

If you decide this is an opportunity you would enjoy, you will get a curriculum binder so you will have the lessons ahead of time in order to prepare.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this important ministry in our church. Our kids need you!

# Events & Activities

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## Sunday Brunch

### Sunday, September 23, after worship

You are invited to join us for the first brunch after the summer break. Enjoy hot delicious food served in Fellowship Hall, and 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.

## Everyone Eats Needs You

### Wednesday, September 26

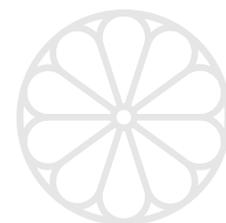
We invite you to join us as we prepare and serve lunch to clients at "Everyone Eats" at Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit. We need helpers to travel with us the fourth Wednesday of each month (September 26, October 24th & 31st, November 21st & 28th, and December 19th and 26th). We meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to load the food and then carpool to "Everyone Eats". We also need 14 dozen cookies for each of these dates. Sign-up sheets are on the church office windows. Please select a date or two to help out. Remember many hands make less work for all. If you have questions contact Virginia Mantela at [vae.piemaker@gmail.com](mailto:vae.piemaker@gmail.com) or 810-388-8168.

## Blood Drive

### Monday, October 1

The Church on the Corner has a Blood Drive scheduled on Monday, Oct. 1, from 1pm to 7pm.

We are ready to schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org). You can also contact Barb Klein at [bklein.2@comcast.net](mailto:bklein.2@comcast.net), or call the church office at 248.684.2805, to make an appointment.



# A Look Back

Safaris, Singing, Shopping and the Smithers

That would just about sum up our South Africa Trip. I would have put “Buffet” in the title but it starts with a B! The food—local or not—was delish...except the burgers. I’m not quite sure what kind of meat they use, but as usual I hit my McDonalds like in every country I visit. I’m Lovin It! But KFC reigns in SA.

We were on nine flights over the course of the trip. We got to visit Doha, Qatar, the richest city in the world. Marcus and others took a tour during our layover. Others like me went to the hotel and had our first of many buffets. It was interesting to sample local cuisine. Oh, and by the way, it was 105 degrees at 2 am. The airport shopping was like Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Even had a Harrods.

Of course, the Safaris were the best part, I think. Six of us went on an elephant walk in the bush. The mother’s name was Three, and her daughters were Hannah and Marty. Funny—when we got home, Hallmark had a “Love on Safari” movie which, out of all the reserves in SA, was filmed at one we visited. Afterwards, we were taken to an awesome Thai eatery on a farm in a tent with white tablecloths. The food was excellent.

We stayed two nights at Pilanesberg National Park, and here we got to see four of the “Big Five”: elephant, rhino, water buffalo, and lion. A few from our group saw a leopard from afar on another safari, so we hit them all. The hippos were quite impressive—and the most dangerous of all the SA wildlife. Wild animals roamed outside your door (behind a fence, thankfully). Two families of warthogs came within a few feet of Jenny Ginther while she was reading her book. The “Hide” was an underground tunnel that took you to a room from which you could watch wildlife without being seen. I saw a hyena and wow they are big and scary! And of course the Lodge had a breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet.

Some of us celebrated Dan Lafferty’s and another person’s birthday at a local bar. The food, music and company were awesome, but the neighborhood was a tad bit sketchy. Who knew? But Uber got us all home safe and sound.

Marcus and his choir group were busy singing when we got to Tshwane. We visited Marcus’s friend Bragi’s school to tune up our vocal chords. Janet, Lina, and I chased monkeys around the campus.

Shopping was on a whole different level with vendors

hounding you every minute to buy from them. Had to help sweet Sylvia with her haggling skills. She just couldn’t bring herself to argue a lower price. Just ask anyone about Chameleon Market! Janet, Marcus’s mom Holly and I got real good at it. Other things our group did were: safari on horseback, walking with lions, lion parks, cultural heritage tours, toured Nelson Mandela’s Museum and home, sang with other choirs in the hotel bar, and had high tea and dinner at the Oyster Box (voted most luxurious Hotel in the world in 2011). Much more fun than this was had by all, but you get the picture.

Tshwane, SA was where the World Choir Games were held. The city was packed with choirs from everywhere. From small children to adults were there to compete and for the love of singing. There was singing in the elevators, halls and on the streets. But as for me, I was out exploring and helping to keep the SA economy going. Everything was so cheap, I couldn’t help myself!

We then flew to Durban on the Indian Ocean. The water was cold but Marcus, Lina and Grace didn’t mind and plunged in. Most of us just got our feet wet. The outside markets were fun to snoop around in. Fresh sugar cane drinks and fried corn were two food choices we picked. Who tried Durban’s fave food Bunny Chow? A cut out oblong loaf of bread with a spicy lamb curry. The boardwalk was a prime people-watching spot and the sand sculptures were nothing like I have ever seen before. Whalebone Pier is considered the most beautiful pier in the world, with copper whale bones lining the sides of the pier.

I think everyone came home craving SA’s favorite dessert called malva with a creme brulee sauce to pour over it. I skipped the malva and ate bowls of the custard. It was THAT good!

There is so much more to tell—Janet made a book for her and me, and it came out to 72 pages! Bless her picture-taking heart.

Now for Key of Hope. We can’t really describe what we saw, did, and felt that day taking food to families on a mountain and spending time with them and the KOH children’s choir. Dan and Rachel Smithers, who started Key of Hope eleven years ago, are truly amazing and brave souls. They packed up their girls from Ann Arbor and headed into the unknown of

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Community Notes

## “Together in Service” Ingathering

The women of Milford Presbyterian Church join together with women from Presbyterian churches through the Presbytery of Detroit to gather clothing and other needed items for over 30 agencies within the Presbytery that help poor children and families. Please check the bulletin board along the hall going into Fellowship Hall, take a balloon, purchase the item, tape the balloon to the item, and place it in the bin in Fellowship Hall. All items are due by October 7, 2018. Many of the items are also listed below.

- 1 Men's size XL sweatshirt
- 2 pkg size S women's underwear
- 1 Men's size XL sweat pants
- 2 pkg size M men's underwear
- 2 Women's size L sweatshirts
- 4 pkg size S Girl's underwear
- 1 women's size L sweat pants
- 2 pkg size L Boy's underwear
- 2 Boy's size M sweatshirts
- 2 pkg Women's socks
- 2 boys size M pants
- 2 pkg Men's socks
- 2 Girl's size S sweatshirts
- 2 pkg Girl's socks
- 2 Girl's size M pants
- 2 pkg Boy's socks
- 1 size 3T toddler outfit
- 2 bath towel and washcloth sets
- 2 Women's hat & mittens
- 1 Men's hat & mittens
- 1 Girl's hat & mittens
- 1 Boy's hat & mittens
- 1 twin size quilt or comforter
- 2 full size quilts or comforters
- 1 twin size sheet set
- 4 baby receiving blankets
- 1 baby formula, can powder
- 2 pkg disposable diapers
- 2 baby wipes
- 1 Boy's size S navy or black pants
- 1 Girl's size M navy or black pants

- 1 backpack
- 2 Children's Bibles (New International Reader's Version)
- 2 Children's or infant's toys, books, games (no stuffed animals)

## MPC in South Africa

In July, 17 people from Milford Presbyterian Church traveled to South Africa. We joined 30 others (mostly members of the Dearborn Community Chorus) on this 16-day trip with three major goals: to experience African wildlife, to attend the World Choir Games, and to offer love and aid to needy children with Key of Hope. I am so proud to be part of the MPC community that committed to this unique experience. Because of the financial commitment of several MPC members, some children that we met in Africa will receive medical attention, clothing, food, and educational support for an entire year. Once again, the MPC community has shown God's love through its members' generosity and abundance of time and resources. I want to thank our MPC contingency for trusting and joining me on this trip. I look forward to being a part of similar opportunities in the future!

Marcus

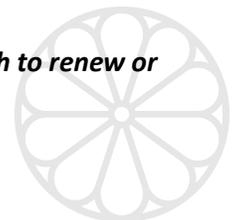
## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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, Jim Morrow, Mary Lou Gharrity, Pat Oman, Larry Cepuran, David Renny, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Chelsea Heron, Tom Neff, Irene John, Adam LaPratt, Ted Rancont Joanne Hansen, Dave Matejko and all military personnel of our congregation.

### Service persons of our congregation:

- Sgt. Maj. M.A. McClenahan
- AP2 Kevin Warford
- Cpl. Rebecca Whitworth

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



## ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

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Durban, SA. Today they have 1500 kids in their weekly programs. KOH had a wonderful Braai (BBQ meaning "burn the meat") waiting for us when we returned. We sang America's favorite songs and their kids choir sang their native songs. (Rachel sent me information on the tea she is hosting in December in Sterling Heights to raise money for KOH. I will put info about it in our newsletter in the fall. She would love for anyone to attend.)

I do want to mention what a great job of getting around our MPC Group did. Fran, Jenny, Karol, Debbie, and others were definitely up to the challenge. Climbing up buses, stairs and avoiding obstacles they did with finesse. Hands down, Jerry Breen was the happiest and sweetest person on that trip.

And the biggest praise goes to Marcus for taking 48 bodies halfway across the world like it was across the state line. Thank you from all of us in making this adventure life-

changing. Rumor has it in 2020 Germany for Passion Play, Belgium for Choir Games and Switzerland to visit Sylvia's breath taking native country. Do they have buffets there? Oh yeah... cheese fondue buffets!

Sandi Muirhead  
MPC Historian (and World Traveler)

## Thank You!

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### **Everyone Eats Thank You**

On Wednesday, August 22 we served a lunch of macaroni and cheese with bacon bits, pickle, roll & butter, watermelon, punch and an ice cream sandwich to 95 clients at the Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit. Many thanks to Mike Nave, Leslie Nave, Tom Combs, Dianna Speier, Haley Douglas, Bob Parrett, Debi Parrett, Jane Stevenson, Janet Heidrech, and Sandy Muirhead for their volunteer service

Thanks and blessings,  
**Virginia Mantela**

### **Kudos to Barbara Muirhead!**

Members of the Mission Committee and all the "Everyone Eats" volunteers give thanks and kudos to Barbara for faithfully laundering the aprons we use each month when we serve lunch at Spirit of Hope Church in Detroit.

Through her dedication, hard work and prayer (I'm sure), she manages to get all the food stains out of the white MPC aprons. They always look so clean, bright and crisp when we put them on each month. Barbara is

one of many in our church family who serve our Lord in many small quiet ways. Bless you Barbara .

### **Dear Milford Presbyterian Church,**

Engamela; "to lean over, to protect or provide." This Zulu word describes the heart behind a brand new child sponsorship concept we are working on here at Key of Hope.

Before I say any more, let me take this opportunity to thank you for "leaning over" us, and the many children of Key of Hope, through your connection with us.

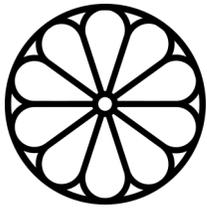
We are thankful that you chose to lean over and support one of our children, Colan.

Your donation each month provides Colan with access to the full range of our programs, including Choir, Sports, Youth Night, Kidz Klub, and Hope Academy, plus weekly Home Visits, as well as access to medical care and documentation assistance whenever she needs it.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
**Hannah Girard, Key of Hope**





## 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

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## Staff & Contact

### **Bryant Anderson, Pastor**

banderson@milfordpc.org

### **Kelly Carey, Sunday School Coordinator**

kcarey@milfordpc.org

### **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

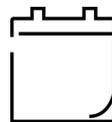
**Office Hours:** Tu - Fr, 9 am -2 pm

**Phone:** 248.684.2805

**Email:** admin@milfordpc.org

**Web:** www.milfordpc.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/milfordpc



## Dates to Remember

### **September 9**

Youth Group Kickoff Party

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### **September 23**

Sunday Brunch

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### **September 30**

MPC Youth, Horsin' Around

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### **October 1**

Blood Drive

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