

THE MILFORD messenger

From the Pastor

FALL 2020

This is not “the new normal.” Maybe you’ve heard that phrase as much as I have in recent months. There *is* going to be a new normal, but this isn’t it. We’re in the midst of an impermanent disruption, a temporary upheaval that will give way (eventually) to a more enduring way of life. That way of life will not look exactly like the world before COVID, but it won’t look like today either.

In some ways, I am reminded of the way a family’s life is altered during pregnancy. The schedule is adjusted to accommodate frequent doctor appointments; activities change to comply with new limitations on physical exertion; the home is reconfigured to create space for a new resident; work expectations and future plans begin to shift around the expected arrival. In fact, by the eve of the baby’s birth, there is little in life that *hasn’t* been affected in some form or fashion.

But at no point in the process does anyone say, “I guess this is the new normal.” On the contrary, everyone involved is acutely aware of how profoundly *abnormal* it is. But it is not abnormal like a visit from out-of-town family: an interruption which comes and goes and leaves no trace on the landscape of what we call

“normal” life. Rather, it is a process of reconfiguring life as we know it. It is the coming to be of something unexpected, something different, something new.

You will surely not be surprised to know that I’m not the first to arrive at this metaphor; Paul the Apostle got here long before me. He writes,

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves...groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies (Rom. 8:22-23).

In Paul’s view, all of life is lived in this abnormal in-between, waiting for God’s work in us and in creation to be brought to completion. The life of faith itself is a prolonged act of waiting, preparing, and reorienting, so that when we are “adopted” (to use Paul’s language)—when the kingdom of God is made real among us—we will be ready to receive it joyfully.

So let’s not be too eager to get back to “normal.” This in-between time is a good reminder to us that even what we used to think of as *normal* is not the world as God intends it to be. We can use this time and its many

discomforts to train ourselves *not* to get too comfortable with the world’s brokenness, to find new ways to cultivate our spiritual health, and to use our imaginations as we continue to pursue faithfulness in an ever-changing world.

Things will settle down eventually. We will find our new normal someday. And when that day arrives, let us meet it with resilience and hope, trusting that one day our groaning for the kingdom will give way to joyous celebration, as the new normal of God’s kingdom remakes us and the world around us.

In Christ,



Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir Rehearsals have begun. It's a new type of "rehearsal." We're currently rehearsing via Zoom. And we're not actually singing much/at all during these rehearsals. Instead, we're discussing music theory and upcoming songs that each choir member will be recording individually and then submitting for the MPCVC (Virtual Choir). We intend to have a more regular MPCVC participation in our Fall services.

If you or your family would like to participate musically in the upcoming Advent/Christmas season, please contact Marcus. There are some creative ideas forming about how to create a memorable and meaningful season of music during the month of December. Please contact Marcus for more details.

Special Thank You to Mandy York for filling in during livestream services!

Youth

Weekly Meetings

The Youth Group has begun their regular weekly evening meetings. However, they are currently taking place on Zoom, Sundays at 6PM. Marcus and adult volunteers are joining Youth weekly for games, activities, discussion of life events, and prayer. If you know any Youth who are in grades 6-12, please let Marcus know so that they can be invited and included in all Youth Group activities.

Fall Kickoff

Saturday, September 26, 5 to 8 pm

The Youth Group Fall Kickoff is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 26, 5-8PM at the Bonhard Home. Parents will be sent details about this fun dinner and game-filled evening via email and REMIND. All MPC Youth and Youth Parents are encouraged to sign up to receive REMIND notifications about Youth Group activities and events. Anyone can sign up for this by visiting: <https://www.remind.com/join/mpcythgrp>

A LaPratt Family Update

If you've been a regular viewer of MPC's streaming services, you've noticed that regular song-leading by Marcus has recently been song-leading by Mandy. It is with many mixed emotions that I want to share with our MPC family that *our* family has decided to live in Switzerland for one year.

In early August our family packed for what we thought might be just a two-week vacation to visit Sylvia's family. While here, we decided to enroll our girls in school. Then after just three days of "normal" schooling for the girls here we made the commitment to stay for the entire school year.

I am appreciative that MPC's Session will allow me to continue working *remotely* in my two official positions (Music Director and Youth Director) during this year. I'll do what I can to keep these programs vital to the life of our church family. And when *in-person* leadership is needed, I will look to the many talented friends and colleagues at MPC who have offered to fill in... Special thanks to Mandy, Bob, Sandi, Jennifer, Jennifer, and Brian! We will miss all of our MPC friends this year.

We look forward to staying connected remotely. Stay tuned for LaPratt Family updates!

You're a Michigander if.....

You've heard this phrase before.... now get comfy.. read... laugh... agree..

Point on your hand where you live.

Use an "s" in many words.... Krogers, Meijers and Fords to name a few.

Michigan accent: described as saving time and making things easier.

Melk for milk.

Rel-a-tor for realtor.

Yuhgonnawanna for you're going to want to.

Sposta for you were supposed to.

Boating license before driving license.

Ohio is a cuss word.

Ate at least once at Frankenmuth and after trip to Bronner's.

Euchre's a card game were jacks are high and completely confuses pinochle players.

Michigan practices Lent every Fish Fry Friday.

You buy liquor at a Party Store not balloons and party favors.

You say pop not soda and have a favorite Faygo flavor.

Calculate distance in minutes not miles.

Own tons of year round outdoor sports gear.

Think November 15th (opening day of deer season) should

be a legal holiday.

Wear Halloween costumes over your winter coat.

Vernors is in your medicine cabinet.

Carry salt, sand or kitty litter in your trunk.

Michigan's Seasons:

Winter when snow fillsthe potholes and Construction season when the orange cones fill the potholes.

Can go to Hell and get a cold beer or ice cream cone.

Family not speaking after a Michigan and Michigan State game.

Know what homes really stands for: all the Great Lakes.

Pronounce Mackinac correctly.

Weird looks when calling a sliding door a door wall.

Eating a brat is not eating a snotty kid.

And last: Getting misty eyed when you hear Tim Allen's soothing voice on our Pure Michigan ads. Don't deny it!!

Ok.... Are you a true Michigander after all?

Stay safe, wear your mask and stay a Michigander 6 feet apart.

Happy Reading,
Sandi Muirhead



Homeschool Help!

MPC member Byron Perrine has established a website for support of parents who will be "homeschooling" their children during the pandemic. The site may be viewed at either christianclassical.education, or, HeritageRestorationProject.org. Contributions from parents are invited. Byron has also published two books during the pandemic: "The Public School Curriculum That Made America Great" (this is a reader for use at home); and, a modern language release of Flavel's treatise on keeping the heart, titled "The Corruptible and Redemptive Nature of Habits of the Heart." These books are available in both paperback and Kindle electronic formats on Amazon.com.

Get Involved

“Everyone Eats” Update

E1E is helping Calvary Presbyterian in Detroit to pass out food boxes once a month. Gayle and Dan Lafferty went down last month and passed out fruit and veggies in boxes on a very hot day. Thank you. They had about 75 cars that day and many were picking up for two families. We are not sure how that works when colder weather is upon us.

There is talk about serving meals there possibly after this covid thing is over. Which might be a long time.

Also MPC is delivering toiletries to Mary Howard who we are connected to by Spirit of Hope. Mary, I doubt, will be passing out food after a few months unless she finds a indoor facility. Will talk to her about how we could maybe help, possibly serving hot soup and drinks.

The Cereal Church gets Serious..

When we started out Suzanne Jarasz and Sandi Muirhead were delivering approximately 47 cereal boxes a month to Community Sharing. In August, we had over 100 boxes delivered. Some of our members, like Sandy Cole, are

sending their orders straight to Community Sharing. Virginia and Gerry Mantela deliver theirs personally which you could do also. If you do please text me (Sandi Muirhead, 248-310-4286) so I can get a count for the month.

With lots of kids at home now, cereal can be a breakfast item or afternoon snack.

Thank you all for leaving boxes of cereal daily on my out door chair and thank you to Roger Brooks for being our faithful cereal delivery person.

Warm Hats Happy Heads

Monday, September 28, 10:30 AM

We will be meeting in the new Café area to catch up and talk about hat distribution. Contact Sandi Muirhead (travelermom@comcast.net) for more information.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

The Women’s Community Bible Study has returned. The group meets at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings at MPC. Contact Jan Keef (248) 685-8738.

This ‘n’ That

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 (248-882-4415 | hanneloreetb@gmail.com).

Retirement Giving Option

If you must take a “Required Minimum Distribution” (RMD) from your retirement plan, you might want to consider making a “Qualified Charitable Contribution” directly from the plan. With recent tax changes, it may be more advantageous than in the past. **Check with your tax preparer.**

Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoeft, Janette Gabel, Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Chris Beebee, Tom Reynolds, Roger Voorheis, Barbara Good, George Wootton, Mary Lou Gharrity, Larry Cepuran, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Tom Neff, Adam LaPratt, Ted Rancont, Joanne Hansen, Dave Matejko, Ted Byrne, Sandy Cole, Jordon Loch, Jan Davis, Pat Gordon, Marie Jackson, Joe & Hanne Bishop, Lynda Garrity, Marlene Neff, Tina Talbot, Bill Watkins,

Jerry Breen, Avery Nagelkirk, Mary Fishell, Butch Maxwell, Don Hart, Rich Johnston, Dick Sands, Lee Holman, Judy Nelson, Clayton Maxwell, Bob & Ann Kirsch, Peggy Anderson, Diana Paonessa, Martin Stith and all military personnel of our congregation.

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

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship is live online every Sunday at 10:00 am.
Get connected to worship by visiting

live.milfordpc.org

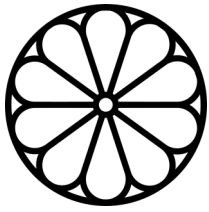
If you need assistance, please contact the church office and we will help you!

Fall New Member Class

Thursdays, October 8 & 15, 6:30 pm

If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, or would like to learn more about who we are and what we are about, we would love to have you participate in our new member class. The class consists of two sessions—Thursday, October 8, and Thursday, October 15—both taking place at 6:30 pm on Zoom, lasting roughly an hour. Contact Bryant (banderson@milfordpc.org) with any questions.





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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