



THE MILFORD
messenger

From the Pastor

LENT 2021

In March of last year, when we first went into lockdown to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus, I suspect that few of us imagined that, one full year down the road, life would still very much be defined by this pandemic. Surely none of us could have imagined the breathtaking toll this disease would claim in terms of our livelihoods, our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, and a truly horrifying amount of death—I write this just days after our nation crossed the grim threshold of 500,000 COVID-19 deaths.

The pandemic has been a cruel teacher, and our nation has learned a number of important lessons. We have learned that a great many people who are truly essential to the normal functioning of our economy are chronically and grossly undervalued. We have learned that the systemic inequalities in American society have deadly consequences. We have also learned that the human family is capable of extraordinary selflessness and courageous sacrifice. We have (re)discovered our dependence upon community, how important the arts

are to human flourishing, and how creative and resilient the human spirit really is.

This experience has also taught us much about the church. For me, the last year has in large part been occupied with the challenge of finding ways to maintain the work and worship of the church in the absence of regular, face-to-face connection. It has forced me to think critically and creatively about what we do, how we do it, and why.

I want to share with you a few of the things I have learned.

We are a gifted congregation.

This, of course, is something we all already knew—people share their gifts in worship every Sunday. But current circumstances have called forth incredible creativity, from musical contributions to technological skill to worship leadership. We have been scattered and isolated from one another, but—and this is a beautiful irony—we have never before had such a diversity of our members involved in our worship services.

Worship is multi-dimensional.

For all of the ways we have been able to leverage technology to maintain something akin to the worship we are accustomed to, there is an inescapably two-dimensional quality to it. When the sound and space and picture pass through the digital meat grinder, what emerges is something like a worship service, but not quite the real thing.

When we worship together, we rely on warm greetings, whole-hearted singing, collective prayer, and the reverberations of word and music in our beloved sanctuary to generate and intensify the experience of communion with one another and with God that is the touchstone of meaningful worship. The sacraments help put a fine point on the physicality of this communion as we engage our senses and partake of God's grace.

The time has not yet come for a full return to worship as it once was, and we don't yet know how much longer we will have to wait. So for the time being, the electronic simulacrum will have to suffice for most of us. But

Instrumental Selections Welcome

If anyone would like to present a Special Music piece during an upcoming service, please contact Marcus. Solo or small ensemble instrumental selections would be a wonderful addition to our in-person/streaming services.

MPC Virtual Choir

The MPCVC (MPC Virtual Choir) will continue meeting virtually for the foreseeable future. All are encouraged to join us in our weekly Zooms (Wednesdays at 6PM) to see how possible it is for anyone to join this unique music group!

Youth

In-Person Youth Group Resumes

Sunday, March 21, 6 PM

Normally, at this time in our Youth Group season, we are discussing our annual Spring Hill retreat weekend. Unfortunately, Spring Hill canceled all winter retreats this year. But we are excited to begin having in-person Youth Group gatherings again. Parents and Youth take note: Sunday, March 21, 6PM- we will have a Covid-safe gathering in Fellowship Hall: Pizza Dinner and an activity for our Youth to help prep for VBS 2021! We will be looking for confirmation so that we can best prepare numbers. Stay tuned for more details.

Alpha Video Series

Our Youth Group has completed the entire ALPHA video series over the past few months during our weekly Zoom gatherings. If you haven't experienced these videos, I strongly encourage all to watch. You can find the videos on youtube.

This 'n' That

Easter Lily Orders

Now through March 21

We are now accepting contributions for Easter lilies that will decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday. The cost again this year is \$20 and you can order by going to milfordpc.org/lily.

Easter lily dedications will be published as part of our in-person worship bulletin as well as our online worship guide.

Arrangements for pickup of your flowers will be announced at a later date.

Daylight Saving Time Begins!

Sunday, March 14

Whether you attend virtually or in-person, you don't want to be late for church. Remember to "spring forward" by setting your clocks an hour ahead.

Happy 185 Years Young Highland

My pal and our own Joan Moore gave me this article on Highland's birthday last year. It's a little late but hey, it's Covid—time is meaningless.

Many of our members are Highlanders and proud of it. Raise your hand if you live there!

I have my first two years of my childhood rooted at Milford Road and Livingston Road on top of the Mereck Realty building.

It used to be a country market (name escapes me) downstairs and a huge apartment upstairs. My family and my aunt, uncle and two cousins lived there.

We all lived together because our dads Milton and Richard Trosen were owners of the Dog House Diner (now Duke's) in the late 40's and early 50's.

The name was prior to when they purchased it. The previous owner put his dogs' names in neon lights above the windows. I know...strange for a diner...I know.

My friend Brook Qualman (master miniature building builder) made a replica of it for the town of Highland for their railroad display. Always appreciated that.

Here are some of the highlights of the making of Highland.

April 1835 - the early settlers organized the township of Highland.

1846 - the Village of Highland was plotted at M-59 and Harvey Lake Rd. When the post office came in 1857 it was renamed "Spring Mills." Do you think that is how the school got its name?? I believe so.

1856 - a grist mill was built at Spring Mills to grind farmers' grain until the 1940's. Highland's "Chill at the Mill" project constructed by Rick Hamill will honor this industry. This is near the Highland Library. Rick is also Supervisor of Highland and I went to school with him.

1871 - The Holly, Wayne and Monroe Railroad was built through Highland and Clyde.

1881 - The Highland Pickle Works was built on E. Livingston Rd and produced hundreds of barrels and employed dozens of locals before burning in 1896.

1880's - Mary Needham (famous highland name) was canning her own secret pickle recipe at home. Her business grew and her husband William built a small factory at now M-59 and Milford Rd. They then moved the family and business to the then burned down Pickle Works factory. The Domestic Pickle Works was cranking out the fermented cucumbers until 1960's. Wow... there was a lot of pickling going on in Highland in the 1880's.

1912 - A major fire destroyed several stores and homes in Highland.

1928 - Asa and Jean Smith moved to Highland and began (which is now a icon) running his gas station which is now maintained by his son Roscoe. Roscoe is a very familiar face anywhere in Highland.

Funny story: Our parents used to tell us we would hang out the window facing Asa's station and yell and wave to Asa while he pumped gas. Rumor has it there were no screens on the windows. Where were our moms???? Another time....another place.

1934 - Acrobat and vaudeville performer Llewellyn Waring (stage name Bert Mayo) bought the Highland House Hotel at E. Livingston and St. Johns. He converted it into a dance hall and tavern. It later became Highland Producers and Highland Feed and Supply until burning in 2015. We were all saddened to hear the devastating news.

1946 - Armstrong Millworks opens and soon became a international name. It's assortment of quality hardwoods still stands and has made it Highland's oldest family business of seventy years.

1983 - the "Lone Tree" which was a giant 250 year old white oak was cut down because of safety reasons at Lone Tree and Milford Rd. Hence the name "Lone Tree Rd."

Today Highland is thriving down M-59 with many businesses and more. Highland House and Colasanti's (Snook's Gourmet Market) no doubt has put Highland on the map.

Sandi Muirhead

what a joy it will be when we can celebrate a congregational homecoming and engage in the many dimensions of our worship together.

God's story anchors us.

Early in the pandemic, I believed that it was my job as a pastor to somehow make sense of our upended lives. But I was as bewildered as everyone: I had no great wisdom, no stunning insight, no magic method to bring order into the chaos of that time.

But what we did have was the story of God, told and retold, week-in and week-out as we engaged together in regular worship and study. Scripture yields no easy answers when it comes to the big challenges of life. But the more we dwell with and absorb the story—the more we internalize the movements of judgment and grace, of brokenness and restoration—the more we find that a world once spiraling out of control is now spinning around and toward a center. The story of God has a centripetal force that draws us and holds us. It may still feel like things

are spinning wildly, but discipleship keeps us locked in the orbit of this powerful story.

As long as we keep God's story at the center, we remain capable of generosity and compassion, of forgiveness and kindness, of selflessness and sacrifice, no matter how crazy the world gets.

I continue to pray for you and for our church during this long separation. Though our struggle is not yet over, I am hopeful that there are many more days of hardship behind us than there are ahead of us, and I look forward to the day when we can all gather together again.

In Christ,



Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Larry 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, 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, Jan Davis, Pat Gordon, Marie Jackson, Joe & Hanne Bishop,

Marlene Neff, Tina Talbot, Bill Watkins, Jerry Breen, Avery Nagelkirk, Butch Maxwell, Don Hart, Rich Johnston, Dick Sands, Lee Holman, Judy Nelson, Clayton Maxwell, Bob & Ann Kirsch, Peggy Anderson, Martin Stith, Randy Fields, Jim Osborne, Barb Muirhead, Harold Burton, Jim Thompson, Jolie Wing, Mary Burley, Sharon St. John, Gail Perrin

and all military personnel of our congregation.

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

Get Involved

Rebuilding Together

Mark “April 24, 2021” on your calendar!

This is an opportunity to work with MPC members and friends to help with outdoor home chores, repairs, etc. for a client home through “Rebuilding Together Southeast Michigan” on April 24, 2021. Mark Sacher is our church’s project leader. Over the next few weeks, project leaders are meeting for training, planning, and home assignments. Watch our Friday emails for further information as planning progresses.

AWPC

Each year MPC has sponsored a Baby Bottle Drive to support “The Another Way Pregnancy Center”. This year we will do a virtual drive from March 1st - 31st. AWPC offers help and hope to women and men facing a crisis pregnancy. They offer free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, parenting resources, support groups, etc. Let’s help AWPC provide “faith-based support and compassion, while encouraging self-respect for those experiencing pregnancy or related concerns”. Donations can be made through the link in the MPC Friday Enews, by going to the church website (milfordpc.org), or by mailing a check, made out to AWPC, to the church (238 N Main St, Milford, MI, 48381).

Everyone Eats

Members of E1E are still busy during this pandemic helping in their own way.

Volunteers are delivering food, packing boxes, and putting them in vehicles at Calvary, St. Johns and New Bethel A.M.E.

Our friend Mary Howard is now handing out food at her own church New Bethel A.M.E. instead of on the side walk at Spirit of Hope our former church where we previously served lunch.

Rumor has it (heard it through the grapevine) that the empty wooded lot next to SOH will now be a Brewery and that SOH has been sold.

You didn’t hear it from me.

Sandi Muirhead

The Cereal Club Church

November and December cereal count was 137 and was divided between Community Sharing and Mary Howard’s Ministry.

January and part of February count was 79. That included Sandy Cole’s 20 boxes that she has delivered every month directly to CS. Thank you to all who deliver boxes of cereal to my outdoor table. They still magically appear almost everyday in the rain, snow or sunshine. Kinda like the Postman but with sweeter and better stuff.

And many sweet thanks to our Cereal Carrier, Roger Brooks, who picks up and delivers our cereal to Community Sharing.

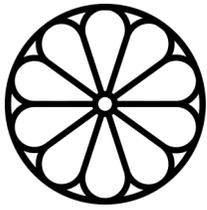
Sandi Muirhead

Worship

In-Person Worship

In-person worship has resumed, reservations are required. For more information and to reserve your spot, go to reopen.milforpc.org or call the church office at 248-684-2805.

In addition worship continues to be available live online every Sunday at 10:00 am. Get connected to worship by visiting live.milfordpc.org.



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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