

# THE MILFORD messenger

## From the Pastor

SUMMER 2021

I'm going to do something here that I haven't done in at least a year: I'm going to write a newsletter article that has *nothing* to do with the pandemic! (You're welcome.)

This past Sunday during coffee hour, I shared a story from my family history with some folks, and someone said: "Now, why haven't you shared *that* story in a sermon?!?" I will share it here instead.

In April of this year, my father came to visit and brought with him a few things of special value to him that he wanted to pass on to his grandson, my son Owen. He brought a rudimentary wooden toolbox that his grandfather had built for him when he was Owen's age. He also brought a three-ring binder with some pictures and narratives from the life of my great-grandfather.

Included among these narratives is a story that has become legend in our family. My great-grandfather had immigrated from Sweden and was working his way across Canada on the railroad. I share the story with you here in my great-grandfather's own words.

### "My Closest Shave"

On August 4, 1898, I was working with a bridge crew at Glacier, B.C. in Canada. We had cleared the bridge to let the express pass over. The foreman noticed some tools and ropes that were left on the rails and I was ordered to clear the obstruction.

As I reached the center of the bridge, I saw a train approaching at high speed at the snow shed at the end of the bridge with only two feet of space outside the rail! Should I jump fifty feet into the icy Illicillewaet River, which was full of big boulders?

In a flash I remembered a dream months previous and how I had acted in the dream under similar circumstances. Down I went, flat on the narrow space between the rails. In the next split second, the locomotive cylinder brushed over my head.

Our men stood aghast at the end of the bridge, expecting to pick up remnants of a dead Swede. The engineer was at the point of collapse as the train came to a stop. The only casualty that day was my straw hat, which went down the stream.

A dream as God's messenger had saved my life!

\* \* \*

What has always captivated me about this story is that it is as if my life, too, was spared on that bridge more than a century ago. He had no idea what could have been lost to history in that frightening moment. In the same way, we have no idea what richness is lost to this world with every life that ends prematurely—generations of family, cherished friendships, fruitful work, impactful investment in the lives of others, and so on.

Part of what makes every life precious is that life begets life—not only literally in the sense of progeny, but also figuratively in the many impossible-to-trace ways that a single life impacts the lives of others and quite literally changes the course of history. This is what my great-grandfather's "closest shave" taught me.

In Christ,



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Marilyn Burklund on her 30 YEARS singing with the MPC Chancel Choir!

## Music Sunday

We celebrated the Music ministry of MPC on Music Sunday, May 16, with some live mask-free group singing and other special music presentations.

## Summer

For the summer 2021 season of MPC Music, we will have a combination of special music contributions from various MPC members as we've done in recent years, songleaders from the choir loft and of course Rick at the keyboards. Group Singing and Ringing may, or may not, take a summer hiatus as we've done in past years. Instead, we'll be making decisions based on the safety and comfort of all involved on a regular basis. If you or someone you know would like to share a Special Music offering for any Sunday between June 20 and Labor Day, please let Marcus know.

# Youth

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## Youth Takeover

The Youth Group will be participating in a Youth Service on Sunday, June 6 by contributing pre-recorded messages and music.

## Staying Connected

A few of our Youth have continued to meet regularly throughout the 20/21 year remotely on Zoom. There have been some in-person gatherings including special service

projects. And we are looking forward to hopefully re-engaging our program into full-throttle by September. In the meantime, we hope parents and Youth (entering 6th grade through graduating Seniors) will stay connected to our Youth Group programming via email and Remind messages throughout this summer. As Covid restrictions begin to lift, it is our hope to plan some in-person gatherings throughout the summer. Because of the fluidity of these plans, please stay tuned for updates throughout the summer.

## LaPratt Family Update

In early August, we made a difficult and abrupt decision to move to Switzerland for one year. At the time, we had no idea if this would be a foolish choice or a wise one. We may be wondering for years to come which it was. But we are fortunate to have had this option as we are all dual US/Swiss Citizens. Although many imagine Switzerland to be a land of picturesque utopia landscaped by chocolate mountains, fondue waterfalls and Rolex islands, for us, it was simply a place of relative Covid-free refuge with schools that have been consistently open with minimal sign of Covid restrictions. Our girls have solidified their mother's native Swiss German language and can also fairly comfortably communicate with strangers in "normal" German- for this skill alone, I'll be forever grateful. But for Sylvia and me, the year seems to have been filled with a constant search of where to maintain income enough to sustain our one-year "experiment". It's not cheap to live here. e.g. This past Sunday, I filled up our minivan gas tank for \$144.08. And that was the cheap gas station. And we weren't quite yet on Empty. Although we knew that it would be

an expensive year, we had (literally) counted on Sylvia's Michigan employer to follow through on their commitment to allow her to keep her full-time job (and income/insurance) while working remotely from Switzerland all year. They changed their mind four weeks after we'd moved here. Keeping in mind the proverb necessity is the mother of invention, we have been grateful to have found the following supplementary employment and income this year: Chinese food delivery, golf/country club dishwasher, pharmacy medicine sorter, hemp hanger, department store sales clerk, substitute teacher, post office worker, immigrant farm laborer, courier, and doping control officer. Yes, we've gone skiing in the Alps and visited castles and have eaten lots of cheese and chocolate. But we've also been spoiled by Babcia and Opa and Tante Carmen living nearby! We're hoping to conclude our year here with a roadtrip to see the Eiffel Tower- spending our gas-fillup and grocery credit card points on hotels. We are excited to return to our "regular" Michigan life soon by the end of July. And, like many of you, we look forward to seeing and hugging our MPC friends again.

## Welcome New Members

MPC would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members

- Doug & Jen MacQuarrie
- Jim & Norma Rimbald
- Hantao Wang

we look forward to getting to know you. Welcome to our family.

## Neoma Harris turns 101!!!

On June 5th Neoma Harris, long time MPC member and former church secretary, will be 101 years young.

If you would like to send birthday wishes to Neoma, her new address is



Neoma Harris  
American House Elmwood  
2251 W. Auburn Road, Apt. 51  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

## Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women U.S.A.

The Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women U.S.A. was established early last century in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. to honor faithful service to the Presbyterian Women's organization and the church. This membership is represented by a silver membership pin (which symbolizes values held by Presbyterian Women) along with a personalized certificate. Funds derived from this program support Presbyterian Women Leadership grants.

Over the past 70 years over 60 women of our Milford Presbyterian Women's organization have received Honorary Membership in Presbyterian Women U.S.A. During March and April of 2021 four women of Milford Presbyterian Church received this honor, with a silver pin and a personalized certificate. We are pleased to congratulate Mary McFarland, Marlene Neff, Gail Perrin, and Dianna Speier.

Milford Presbyterian Church has been truly blessed to have many women who share their faith and serve the Lord in a multitude of ways in our church and community every day. Although, Honorary Life Membership cannot be presented to all of them, we are continually grateful for those who serve with humility and love for Christ and our fellowmen.

## Thank You!

A "Thank You" to all of the Welcome Team, AV Team, and Staff who helped open our church once again for in-person worship! A Special Thanks goes out to Dean Burklund for his hard work and dedication during this time and all of his efforts to try to keep our church family safe!

**Beth Burgess**  
Worship Committee

### Dear Milford Presbyterian Church Members,

Trisha, Mark and the girls are blessed to be a part of your church family. Rich and I, by extension, are blessed as well. Your many cards, thoughts and prayers lift our spirits and brighten our days. Thank you for your kindness and God Bless.

**Linda & Rich Johnston**  
Parents of Trisha Addy

## Church Picnic

**Sunday, June 13, 12:30PM**

We will meet in Milford Central Park for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please bring a sack lunch for your family, lawn chairs, and your favorite outdoor game. Bottled water and ice cream from Norm's will be provided. We are working with Lisa from Czapski's to have carryout available for those who prefer not to pack a lunch.

## Family Canoe Trip

**Saturday, July 24, 10AM**

As mask requirements and limits on inside gatherings continue to change, we are offering a Family Canoe Trip on July 24, 2021 instead of our usual VBS week-long offering.

We will be canoeing from Heavner Canoe Rental at Proud Lake down to Central Park in Milford where we

will have just a few brief activities for the kids before you are taken back to your cars at Proud Lake. Start time is 10:00 AM. End time is approximately 1:00 PM. Cost per canoe is \$32.00. The link to sign-up is <https://heavnercanoe.com/mpc>. Waivers are also required for this outing.

In case of inclement weather, we will have a backup date in August.

If you are interested, please register early so that we can plan for everyone interested.

Looking forward to being together again.

## Milford Memories Sunday Service

**Sunday, August 15, 10AM**

The weekend of Milford Memories, MPC is planning a family service outside at Milford's Fairgrounds Park. Look for more details as we get closer to the date.

# Get Involved

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## Everyone Eats

The Presbytery of Detroit Everyone Eats (E1E) workgroup consists of representatives from Faith Community Church in Novi, First Presbyterian Church of Northville, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, South Lyon Presbyterian Church, Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church of Detroit, and Milford Presbyterian Church. The workgroup has been meeting via ZOOM every 4-6 weeks since March 2020. The workgroup was notified in March 2020 that Trinity Episcopal Church would be permanently closed at the end of June 2020. The workgroup looked for other program possibilities for E1E in the midst of the pandemic.

During the summer and fall of 2020 the workgroup contributed monies normally spent on food to 3-4 other food distribution programs: Novi Emergency Food Bank, Northville Civic Concerns, Fort Street Presbyterian's "Open Door," and New Bethel AME Church. Mary Howard, who served clients of E1E in many ways above and beyond E1E lunches at Spirit of Hope continued to distribute food to clients using the sidewalk outside the church during the fall months of 2020. She was then able to move to the New Bethel AME Church to distribute food.

The E1E Workgroup provided some food, funds, and volunteers to help distribute food at four Parking Lot Food Ministries during the fall of 2020 and winter of 2021. This will continue through this spring and summer. These Detroit ministries include St John's Presbyterian Church's "Unpack the Truck" (3rd Friday of the month); New Bethel AME Episcopal Church, which provides boxes of food every Wednesday; Calvary Presbyterian Church, providing boxes of food every 3rd Saturday of the month; and Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church's "Free Food on Fridays."

Your contributions to the MPC Hunger Ministry Offering each October help MPC provide food, funds, paper products etc. to these ministries.

## The Cereal Club Church

Everyone is welcome to join the MPC Cereal Club. Just purchase boxes of cereal of your choice and deliver to 305 Caroline St. in Milford and leave on the chairs next to the garage door any time of day. They will be delivered every month by Roger Brooks to Community Sharing to put on the cereal shelves for families to pick from. I'm a broken record on this, but kids RUN for the sugar cereal and it goes first. Also Cheerios, Raisin Brand and Corn Flakes are good for seniors. I love that someone buys Life Cereal. Remember? Give it to Mikey! He eats anything!!

Thanks to all our Cereal Club members for stocking my storage room with cereal waiting for their future cereal bowls.

Sandi Muirhead

## Old Glasses and Hearing Aids

Do you have old glasses or hearing aids that are in good shape? Are you wondering what to do with them? The Deacons will have a box in the coat rack area where you may put them for distribution to others who need them. They should be in a case. Thank you so much for your contributions.

## Used Postage Stamps

I recently learned from a friend that "Wycliffe Associates" (a non-profit that is working to help empower Bible translation in countries around the world) collects used postage stamps and sells them to raise funds to advance Bible translation. I decided that I would cut out stamps on mail we receive to save and give them to my friend for Wycliffe. If you would like to help, the stamps need to be cut off of envelopes leaving a border of the envelope around them. You may give the cut stamps to me and I will also leave a box in the church office for anyone to leave stamps for me to pick up. Thanks.

Virginia Mantela

### Fugitive, Lover, & Nudist

What Founding Father can claim these titles? Give up? Benjamin Franklin.

Ben was born in Boston in 1735. At the age of 12 he became an apprentice for his brother James in his printing company called the New England Courant.

Ben wanted to write articles but James said “No way.”

So “clever “ Ben penned a column under a secret pseudonym entitled “The Silent Dogwood Column.” Mrs. Dogwood (Ben) would write about fashion, marriage, and religion. Things were going great until eligible bachelors wanted to propose to her. Ben had to fess up and James was furious. James was well known for smacking Ben around and this time was no exception.

Ben had enough and fled to Philadelphia, but his troubles were not over.

By law, Ben had signed a contract to work for many years at the printing press. He could be imprisoned or hung for breaking this signed document. But as luck would have it, it never happened.

### Fast Forward in History

Ben Franklin began his life-long accomplishments as he became an inventor and developed many historic items. His favorite was the armonica, an instrument which created beautiful sounds with the touch of a finger. This one gave him the most personal satisfaction.

Rumor has it that Franklin’s kite was not struck by lightning. Experts said he would have been a “Fried Franklin.” The kite merely picked up ambient electrical charge from the storm.

Other familiar ones from Ben were the bifocals and the Franklin stove.

### Fun Facts about Mr. Ben

He was the first weatherman and wrote the Farmers Almanac (still in print).

Ben started the first Post Office in Philly, and he founded the first fire department and named it the Ben Franklin Bucket Brigade.

Sorry... but what you will now read is true about this great man. Remember he is still a male.

Ben belonged to sex clubs and when he started his own newspaper called the Pennsylvania Gazette, he wrote sex and gossip columns. Way before Dear Abbey.

His sex drive, they say, helped win the American Revolution. He persuaded French ladies to convince their men to send troops to help Washington win the war from the Brits. Thanks Ben for taking one for the colonies!!

Ben would take “air baths” and sunbath nude thinking fresh air prevented sicknesses.

Ben was married to Deborah Read from 1730-1774 until her death. They had three children, William, Sarah and Francis.

Ben was the only person to sign all four documents that help create the United States: the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the treaty with France in 1778, the peace treaty between England, the United States, and France in 1782, and the United States Constitution in 1787.

He spoke five languages, and established both the University of Pennsylvania and the first public Pennsylvania hospital. His face is on the one hundred dollar bill.

Benjamin Franklin died from a infection of the lung in 1790. 20,000 attended his funeral. He was buried in Christ Church Burial Ground in Philadelphia.

Sandi Muirhead

# Session Report

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At its stated meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, the session took the following actions:

- accepted into membership Doug and Jen MacQuarrie, Jim and Norma Rimbold, Hantao Wang (membership is now 445)
- approved the budget for April 1, 2021—March 31, 2022
- reviewed the slate of candidates for the Class of 2024: Session—David Baldwin, Kelly Holloway, Betsy Phillips, Lee Vandebussche, and Greg Wahowiak; Board of Deacons - Amber Innis, Suzanne Jarasz and Mary McFarland.

At its stated meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, the session took the following actions:

- total membership as of May 18 is 445
- approved an expenditure not exceeding \$5,000 for refinishing and repair of the MPC front doors
- approved a pre-recorded worship service and an outdoor worship service at the Milford Fairgrounds Park at 10:00 am for Sunday, August 15 (Milford Memories)
- approved the elimination of the reservation system, assigned seating in the pews and seating capacity limits for in-person worship services effective Sunday, May 23
- in deference to recent Michigan DHHS COVID-19 rulings, approved the elimination of mask requirements for fully vaccinated participants at in-person worship services effective Sunday, May 23. Masking requirements will remain for participants at in-person worship services who are not fully vaccinated
- approved the dates of Sunday, May 23 and Sunday, June 13 for the ordination/installation of elders and deacons for the Classes of 2023 and 2024
- approved permission for Isaac Chung, former Pastor of White Lake Presbyterian Church and guest pastor at MPC to solicit financial support for overseas mission work during the MPC worship service of Sunday, August 8.

The next stated Session meeting is Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 pm.

## Community Notes

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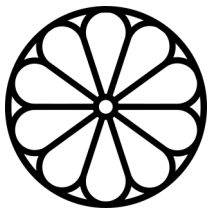
### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Larry Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoefft, Janette Gabel, Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Chris Beebee, Tom Reynolds, 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, Butch Rose, Sandy Trombley, Judy Grasinger, Bill Reid

and all military personnel of our congregation.

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



## 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**

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kcarey@milfordpc.org

**Marcus LaPratt, Music Director**

mlapratt@milfordpc.org

**Marcus LaPratt, Youth Director**

**Rick Moore, Organist**

**Lisa Nathan, Office Administrator**

lnathan@milfordpc.org

**Bob Parrett, AV Coordinator**

rparrett01@gmail.com

**Dianna Speier, Wedding Coordinator**

diannaspeier@comcast.net

**Harold Swenson, Treasurer**

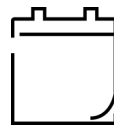
hswenson@milfordpc.org

**Mandy York, Associate Music Director**

myork@milfordpc.org

**Office Hours:** Tue - Fri, 9 am to 2 pm

**Phone:** 248.684.2805



## Dates to Remember

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**June 13**

Church Picnic

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**July 24**

Family Canoe Trip

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**August 15**

Milford Memories

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