

# THE MILFORD messenger

## From the Pastor

JANUARY 2020

One reason I look forward to the turn from one year to the next is the preponderance of lists: books, music, movies, TV shows, essays, news stories, and on it goes. Such lists usually claim to capture and distill the best (or most important) things of the year gone by. The end of 2019 was different from most years in that it also marked the end of a decade: for every year-end list there was a companion list to sum up the 2010s.

Even as I enjoy these lists, I can't help but feel their arbitrary nature. Yes, we like discrete blocks of time and round numbers, but is there really any substantive difference between December 31 and January 1? Between the last day of the 2010s and the first day of the '20s?

What I think this boils down to is an innate impulse to wipe the slate clean, to package up the past in a manageable parcel and place it somewhere it can be admired and appreciated without causing us any of that nasty trouble of resentment, regret, or sour remembrance.

This is all a very roundabout way of (not) admitting that the past has a unique and inescapable power over us. We are products of the past, sometimes its victims, and never its masters. And what's more, when we cast our reflective gaze backward we see with a clarity unmatched either in

our observations of the present or in our prognostications of the future. The clarity of our rearward vision makes the past more poignant in all its influences upon us, but we can mute that poignancy by imagining that we can box, label, and shelve the years gone by, revisiting them only when we please (which is certainly better than suffering their intrusive visitations during restless nights and moments of self-doubt).

There is another reason that we find comfort in an easy-to-digest yesterday: the inscrutability of tomorrow. The 18th century Scottish philosopher David Hume once famously argued that though we might expect the sun to rise tomorrow morning because that's what it did every previous morning, we can't know that it will do so until we observe it. It's an extreme way to make the point, but the point is clear: the future is fundamentally uncertain. The laser-focus we enjoy as we look backward is completely obscured when we turn our gaze into the fog of the future, resulting in all manner of fear and fretting.

While we crave the comfort of clarity, there is a goodness about the future's indeterminacy that we must be careful not to miss. The past is clear to us, but it is closed—full stop. The future may be hazy, but it is open. The future has not been written yet. Yes, it will be

riddled with untold tragedy and pain, some of which will surely befall you and me. But at the same time, it is rich with possibility. That is the trade-off we make as we turn our gaze ahead; we sacrifice certainty, but we gain hope.

At times, hope comes easily, and the future is bright with possibility. And there are times in life when it takes real courage to look ahead, times when even the smallest foothold of hope seems impossible to find. But as those who have just finished celebrating that light has come into the world and darkness has not overcome it, and as those who now journey toward the cross on the hill which reveals the weakness of the death-dealing powers of this world, there is always hope to be had. In worship, week after week, we wrap ourselves in the story of God which is from start to finish a story of persistent hope and God's unfailing presence, come what may.

As you turn your gaze toward a new year (and a new decade), it is my prayer that you will find reason for hopeful expectation and that we will all be sustained by God's presence as we venture forward together.

In Christ,



## Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in and attended the December cantata performances of *His Name Is Jesus*.

This year, we were excited to have a live orchestra made up of our very own MPC members... adults and Youth together shared this joy-filled musical tribute to Jesus. Thank you!



## Music Sunday

We are already looking forward to Music Sunday on May 17, a day to celebrate all of the musical gifts our church has to offer.

# Youth

## 30-Hour Famine Results

In November, our Youth participated in a 30-hour famine in order to raise awareness of the need for clean and accessible drinking water around the world and to raise funds to replace and upgrade a "hydration station" at MPC. The goal was to raise \$1,508.61 (the cost of the drinking fountain unit itself). But our Youth raised well over \$2,000 which helped to cover most of the labor of the install and a memorial plaque. Thank you to all who contributed!

## 2020 Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes will begin in late January. Any Youth in sixth grade or older who has not yet been through this important process is encouraged to join. Classes will take place immediately following service for about 90 minutes on the following dates:

January 26, February 9, March 8, March 22, April 19, and May 3.

A celebration dinner and ceremony will take place Saturday, May 9, for all 2020 confirmands and their families.

## Upcoming Youth activities include:

- January 17-19, SPRING HILL! A second volunteer female adult is needed to join us.
- February date TBA, Ski/Snowboard at Alpine Valley
- April date TBA, Curling at the Detroit Curling Club
- June 14, Youth Takeover Service
- June 14-20, BLAST Mission Trip in Detroit

## Euchre Tournament/Uno Evening **Saturday, January 11, 5:30 pm**

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. You don't want to miss this. It doesn't matter if you have a partner or not, just come and have fun. Instruction begins at 5:30 pm and games begin at 6 pm. Please bring a finger food or snack to share.

## Brunch

### **Sunday, January 19, 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.

## Soup and Salad and Bread Cookoff **Saturday February 8, 5 pm**

Polish up your prizewinning recipe(s) in any of the three categories and join us for fellowship and a bit of friendly competition. More information coming soon.

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## 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 Classroom 224. Joyce Herriman (248) 714-8779.

### **Men's Weekly Bible Study**

Wednesday morning at 7:30 am in Classroom 224. Bob Trombley (248) 887-2878.

### **Community Women's Bible Study**

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in Classroom 224. Jan Keef (248) 685-8738.

## Chapel Open for Worship

While we had certainly hoped to have our new elevator operating by this time, we are working hard to make the best of it. We will have our lower-level Chapel situated for worship for those who cannot enter the sanctuary because of the stairs.

# Thank You!

## **"E1E" Thank You!**

Thank You to all of the wonderful 2019 "E1E" volunteers! What a blessing it has been to have so many faithful volunteers to help with the monthly lunches at "Everyone Eats" during 2019! All the E1E clients and the Working Committee are especially thankful for their great help!

**Virginia Mantela**

## **Membership and Fellowship Thank You!**

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the members of the Membership and Fellowship committee and everyone who has volunteered to help us set up and serve throughout 2019. We'd also like to thank everyone who came and took part in the events. We look forward to more fun this year!

**Kathy Donn**

## **Community Sharing "Loves the Cereal Church"**

The volunteers, clients and especially the children are so very happy with all the wonderful (sugar) cereal donated by MPC members and friends. The children run first to the MPC cereal shelf when shopping with their parents. It is such a special treat to get to pick out a box of cereal like those found in the grocery store shelves.

# This 'n' That

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## 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 church office. You can also complete the form online at **[milfordpc.org/forms](http://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 (248-882-4415 | [hanneloreetb@gmail.com](mailto: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 the tax change this year, it may be more advantageous than in the past. **Check with your tax preparer.**

## Everyone Eats

### December 2019 "E1E" Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, December 18, Sandi Muirhead and Virginia Mantela assisted volunteers from other Presbyterian partner churches in serving clients a Christmas dinner of ham, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, rolls and butter, and dessert. Christmas gifts for children were also distributed to parents.

### "Everyone Eats" for 2020

During January, February, March and April many of our regular volunteers become "snowbirds". We will need drivers and volunteers to help on the fourth Wednesday of each month (January 22, February 26, March 25, and April 22) to serve clients lunch at "Everyone Eats". Please contact Virginia Mantela at 810-388-8168 or vae.piemaker@gmail.com if you have questions or are able to volunteer. All are encouraged to participate in this wonderful experience at least one time. We meet at MPC at 9:30 am to load food and then carpool to Trinity

Episcopal Church (previously "Spirit of Hope Church") in Detroit. We are thankful for a few new folks who have said they can help on some days during these months. However, "MEN ARE NEEDED" to help carry heavy items up and down stairs into the kitchen.

## Baby Bottle Drive

Our annual Baby Bottle Drive is here. Pick up a bottle and fill it with change, bills, or checks. Bottles will be available January 5<sup>th</sup>. Monies collected support Another Way Pregnancy Center.

## Meals on Wheels

If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer a couple hours every month or so, we would love to have you join us as a Meals on Wheels driver. Please contact Kathleen Donn at kathledon@aol.com or 248-245-8037.

# Community Notes

## In Our Thoughts & Prayers

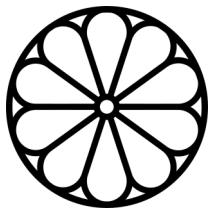
Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoeft, Janette Gabel, Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Chris Beebee, Tom Reynolds, Roger Voorheis, Barbara Good, George Wootton, Mary Lou Gharrity, Pat Oman, Larry Cepuran, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Tom Neff, Adam LaPratt, Ted Rancont, Joanne Hansen, Dave Matejko, Ted Byrne, Gail Stith, 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, Patrick Gazley & Amanda Gilcrest & their baby Everly, Rich Johnston, Bob Trombley,

Dick Sands, Lee Holman, Judy Nelson, Jim Stevenson, Clayton Maxwell, Bob & Ann Kirsch, Bill Finley and all military personnel of our congregation.

### Service persons of our congregation:

- LCpl Dawson Innis
- AP2 Kevin Warford

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 10  
Milford, MI

Return Service Requested  
**Time Value**

*"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](mailto:banderson@milfordpc.org)

**Kelly Carey, Sunday School Coordinator**

[kcarey@milfordpc.org](mailto:kcarey@milfordpc.org)

**Marcus LaPratt, Music Director**

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**Marcus LaPratt, Youth Director**

**Rick Moore, Organist**

**Lisa Nathan, Office Administrator**

[lnathan@milfordpc.org](mailto:lnathan@milfordpc.org)

**Bob Parrett, AV Coordinator**

[rparrett01@gmail.com](mailto:rparrett01@gmail.com)

**Dianna Speier, Wedding Coordinator**

[diannaspeier@comcast.net](mailto:diannaspeier@comcast.net)

**Harold Swenson, Treasurer**

[hswenson@milfordpc.org](mailto:hswenson@milfordpc.org)

**Stephanie Wiseman, Nursery Coordinator**

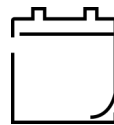
[swiseman@milfordpc.org](mailto:swiseman@milfordpc.org)

**Mandy York, Children's Music Director**

[myork@milfordpc.org](mailto:myork@milfordpc.org)

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

**Phone:** 248.684.2805



## Dates to Remember

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### January 11

Euchre Tournament/Uno Evening

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### January 17-19

Youth—Spring Hill

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### January 19

Brunch

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### January 22

Everyone Eats

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