



THE MILFORD messenger

From the Pastor

FEBRUARY 2020

One aspect of my role as your pastor is my involvement in our presbytery. Though I don't speak of it often, it is an important part of my work. One of the vows I took when I was ordained was a promise to "be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church." To the extent that my duties of church and home permit it, I have tried to be faithful to that promise.

The most recent meeting (January) of our presbytery has spurred in me a desire to update you on some of what is happening there in order to make you aware of a small part of the life of the larger Presbyterian Church (USA).

First, let me answer the question that some of you are surely asking: What is presbytery? In our denomination, there are different levels of governing bodies: local, regional, and national. A presbytery is a regional collection of churches which works together in mutual ministry and support. Our presbytery is the Presbytery of Detroit, which roughly maps onto the Metro Detroit area. Each church within a presbytery sends commissioners to

its meetings: ministers and a certain number of elders, depending on the church's size. These commissioners are empowered with voice and vote to conduct the business of the presbytery.

For me personally, presbytery is an opportunity to engage our congregation's elders in the broader concerns and theological discussions of the church, as well as an opportunity for fellowship and connection with colleagues and friends who serve churches in other parts of the Detroit area.

The Presbytery of Detroit is in the midst of tremendous change and transition, much of which was exhibited at our recent gathering. Here are some of the highlights.

We elected two retired ministers to serve as acting heads of staff of the presbytery. Our long-time Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Allen Timm, retired at the end of 2019, and we are just beginning our search for a "transitional" (i.e. interim) Executive. In the meantime, this new pair of pastors will help keep the presbytery moving forward. I participated in an open discussion about the kind of person that would be well suited for

this transitional role, and this discussion was characterized by anxiety and hope in equal measure. There is a clear sense in our presbytery that the future will not be easy for us (more on that below) but it is rich with possibility.

We elected a new Stated Clerk. Ed Koster, who has served the presbytery in that role for nearly twenty years, will be retiring as of April 1.

Two task forces made their final recommendations to the presbytery in the aftermath of an incident in which a white committee chairman used the N-word in a confrontation with a young black man who was on the presbytery staff. This incident unveiled the painful reality that as a presbytery straddling city and suburb, there are racial tensions which remain unresolved. Recommendations were made to help us address this together in months (and years) to come.

Another challenge we face is financial. The presbytery is supported by the financial contributions of its churches, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Chancel Choir

This is a great time to join (or re-join) the Chancel Choir. No experience necessary! We rehearse Wednesdays 7:30-9PM in the sanctuary. You even get to wear one of the stylish blue robes if you join us! And as a special bonus, some choir members are known to extend “rehearsals” at Milford’s *Red Dog* Wednesdays after 9PM.

Hand Bell Concert

Sunday, February 9, 3 pm

Please support our ringers at the annual bell concert on Sunday, February 9, at 3 pm at Highland United Methodist Church. This is a special concert featuring the bell choirs of our area, sharing pieces with one another and ringing en masse as well!

Mark Your Calendar

February Music Rehearsals

- Westminster Handbells: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm
- Chancel Choir: Wednesdays, 7:30-9 pm
- Kids Choir: Sundays, 9:15-9:45 am
For all children age 5 through 5th grade

February Music

- All Sundays Chancel Choir in MPC service.
- February 9 Westminster Handbells in MPC service and 3PM Concert at Highland United Methodist.
- February 23 Kids Choir in MPC service.

Youth

Spring Hill

Once again, MPC sent a group to Spring Hill Camp in Northern Michigan in January. Our kids enjoyed high-energy worship services, a great speaker, lots of games and activities, including swimming, 9-square, tubing, an escape room, a prayer lab, ping-pong, broomball, good food, good friends, and late nights. Special thanks to Suzanne Jarasz for joining us as a chaperone/driver! And thanks also to LaFontaine for donating a van for the weekend.



Upcoming Youth events in February:

- Evening Youth Group 6-8PM (including dinner) on Feb. 2, 9, and 23.
- Confirmation Class for any youth Grades 6-12 on Feb. 9.
- Ski/Snowboard Outing at Alpine Valley on Monday, Feb. 17.
- *I, Too, Sing America* at First Pres in Royal Oak on Saturday, Feb. 22.

those contributions are decreasing. As we move through a season of leadership transition, we also are facing hard decisions about the structure and purpose of the presbytery.

And yet, at the same time that we feel weighed down by these difficulties, three outstanding young people stood before presbytery and answered questions about the call God has placed on their lives as they move toward ordination or into their first ordained call. They were energetic, passionate, and brimming with hope for the future of the church.

The life of our presbytery is not altogether unlike the life of a church: tight budgets, worry about the future, yet

sustained by the faithful commitment of members and nourished by the hope and joy of the work God continues to do in and through us. As you pray regularly for your church, I ask that you also lift up our presbytery. And if you have a desire to participate in the life of our presbytery, you are more than welcome—just ask!

In Christ,



Events & Activities

Blanket Sundays

February 2 & 9

February is Blanket Month! Deacons will be collecting donations for our annual blanket drive on February 2nd and 9th. CWS, through the generous donations of churches like ours, provides blankets to those affected by fires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, poverty and homelessness in the US and across the world.

Soup, Salad and Bread Cook-Off

Saturday February 8, 5pm

Show us what you've got!

The Membership and Fellowship committee is hosting a Soup, Salad, and Bread Cook-Off Saturday, February 8th in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the sign up sheet in the Narthex for the category of your choice, dust off your aprons and join us for an evening of friendly competition and fun!

**** Everyone who comes to eat gets a vote, so bring your friends (and their families), too!**

Brunch

Sunday, February 9, 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.

Fashion Show

Saturday, May 2

The Membership and Fellowship committee will be hosting a Ladies' Day fashion show and luncheon. Please mark your calendars and look for more information to come.

HOMES

If you live in any state other than Michigan, HOMES means more than one home. But if you live in the Mitten that word means a whole lot of water: specifically, our *GREAT* lakes' first initial.

My brother-in-law Doug recommended going to see the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio. Who knew? We all know about Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point. But this one is closer, bigger, and has Tony Packo's restaurant right down the street. A win-win.

I recommend going in the summer since they have a marina there, bikes to rent, and a Tug and Freighter you can explore. The museum has 500 photos, 250 artifacts, and 45 hands-on exhibits.

Here is some Great Lakes Trivia you can impress your friends with:

Lake Erie is the shallowest at an average of 62 feet. Because of this, it has claimed 700 ships, only 277 of which have been recovered.

Lake Erie has its relentless waves, Superior does not give up her dead, and Michigan—due to its north-south axis and jet stream—leaves little room for a boat to run when storms arrive. Michigan is truly the graveyard of the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are so treacherous that, on average, one ship has sunk every eleven days for the past 250 years.

REALLY.... Can't make this up, its on a sign there.

There are 376 lighthouses, one every 33 miles. The first Fresnel lenses were installed in 1854. It could be seen 20 miles away.

At 40 degrees a sailor had 6 minutes before hypothermia sets in, in November in Superior.

The largest loss of life on the Great Lakes was on board the Eastland in 1915. 844 passengers out of 2,572 were drowned after rolling over.

The worst storm in America's history was "The White Hurricane" in 1913 on Lake Huron, which destroyed 12 ships, stranded 31, and killed 248 men. Forecasters sent out radio warnings about the storm but ships with no

wireless radio sank.

5.36 billion tons of iron ore were shipped from 1900-2000. "Big Mac" used 71,300 tons. 54 billion tons would build the same bridge around the world 15 times.

Ship bells were the most common means of communication. Five bell strikes in quick fashion signaled an emergency.

My favorite: Abigail Becker saved many lives during Lake Erie storms, but November 1854 was a whole different kettle of whitefish.

The ship *The Conductor* went aground and was sinking. Abigail saw the ship and went to the beach and built a fire for a beacon.

She called to the men to come to her. Chin deep in water she grabbed each man and pulled them to safety. By the day's end, the entire crew was safe, alive and dry.

She was presented a gold medal for her bravery. Oh did I mention SHE COULD NOT SWIM!!

Everyone in the "Mitten" and elsewhere loves our Great Lakes. They can be used year-round, not just summer months. Everyone has their favorite lake and buys a t-shirt or sweatshirt to prove it. (Never did like the "Unsalted" thing a few years back.)

Please take a visit to the National Museum in Toledo and then head down the street to Tony Packo's for a coney dog made famous by Corporal Klinger of M.A.S.H. fame. He has donated items displayed there plus framed hot dog buns signed by famous people.

Lastly:

After much thought I have decided not to continue being the MPC Historian. I fell we need a "Techy" person to put a site on our website to click on and read articles and see photos of our church's history. I will be happy to give stories and photos for the site if someone wants to step up and be MPC Historian or Techy. Contact me at 248-310-4286. I will continue writing articles for your pleasure and enjoyment.

Sandi Muirhead

Everyone Eats

January 22, 2020 "E1E"

On Wednesday, January 22, we had the pleasure of adding new volunteers to the group serving at "Everyone Eats". Linda Keenan-Miles, Julius Gliner, Bonnie Taylor, Missy Cartright, Debi Parrett, Bob Parrett, Leslie Nave, Mike Nave, Madeline Colone, and Sandi Miurhead served a lunch of meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, cornbread with butter, bag of candy, and punch to 125 clients at "Everyone Eats".

"Everyone Eats" for 2020

All are encouraged to participate in this wonderful experience. Upcoming dates include February 26, March 25, April 22, and May 27. There will be a clipboard on the table next to the chapel to sign up to serve 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. We meet at MPC at 9:30am to load food and then carpool to Trinity Episcopal Church (previously "Spirit of Hope Church) in Detroit. We are

thankful for new folks who have said they can help on some days during these months. Increasing the number of volunteers will allow folks to alternate months with different groups sharing the responsibility and therefore each person would not be required to be there every month.

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 Sharing

Thank you to all the wonderful folks who continue donating cereal for Community Sharing. During January 100 boxes of cereal were collected. All the cereals that children enjoy are a special treat and joy for client families.

Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

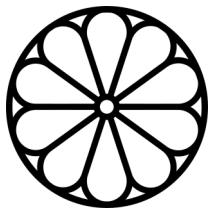
Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoeft, Janette Gabel, Barb Burtch, Liam Klagges, Bill & Linda Baden, Joy Ballard, Steve Baker, Sean McMullen, Jim Burley, Chrissi & Jerry Emerick, Chris Beebee, Tom Reynolds, Roger Voorheis, Barbara Good, George Wootton, Mary Lou 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, Dick Sands, Lee

Holman, Judy Nelson, Jim Stevenson, Clayton Maxwell, Bob & Ann Kirsch, Carol Lawrence 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

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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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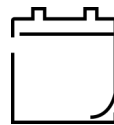
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Phone: 248.684.2805



Dates to Remember

February 2

Blanket Sunday

February 8

Soup, Salad, and Bread Cook-Off

February 9

Blanket Sunday

Brunch

February 26

Everyone Eats
