



THE MILFORD
messenger

From the Pastor

MARCH 2020

Sacrifice is counter-cultural. It has never been easy—it is difficult by definition—but I doubt that cultural currents have ever (at least in living memory) flowed quite so powerfully against our halting efforts to expend ourselves in the service of goods greater than ourselves.

We live in a time of unprecedented affluence and convenience. Things which were luxuries a generation ago are commonplace today, from artisan coffee and craft beer to exceptionally well engineered vehicles and undreamed of technologies. While we used to wait for the evening news or the morning paper to get caught up on the latest headlines, today they come at us in real time (whether we like it or not). Instead of visiting our local library, we type in a few search terms to get information. Instead of driving from store to store in search of a good deal, we “shop around” while sitting still at our computer or on our phone (and in a fraction of the time). And Novi will soon have a vending machine that dispenses cars (no joke).

Our social environment has been restructured and revolutionized by

digital media which reward self-attention and self-promotion. These media shine their brilliant light upon those who invest in the cultivation of interesting personas. Meanwhile, their sophisticated algorithms know not what to do with humility and self-effacement. Attention is the coin of the realm: either we transact with that currency or we find ourselves penniless.

These dynamics are truly just the tip of the cultural iceberg. All of our culture’s momentum surges toward ease and expeditiousness, toward self-improvement and self-importance, toward convenience and consumption. Which is why the moment we attempt something that places us at odds with these overwhelming forces we are quickly swept asunder, our efforts foiled and our intentions frustrated.

Enter Lent: a season of discipline and self-sacrifice honored by the Christian church since long before smartphones and electronic media attached themselves like parasites to our living. Even before these modern pitfalls, Christians understood the difficulty of sacrifice, as well as its importance.

Lent is a forty-day wilderness journey intended to prepare us for Easter by inviting us to sacrifice those things which tether us to the world’s relentless push to fool us into thinking that we are what matters most. When we sacrifice a creature comfort, we are awakened to the ways comfort numbs our mind and spirit. When we engage a challenging discipline, we are reminded of what makes for inner strength. When we give a little more than we think we can—time, money, compassion—we discover that we have more than we think we do.

So may your Lent be difficult. May it be trying and tiring. May it be self-emptying and other-enriching. And may you experience the deepest blessings of God.

In Christ,



Chancel Choir

The MPC Chancel Choir needs you! Tenors and Basses are always especially encouraged to join us. I know that many of you are aware of the “need” or “plea” for singers to join us. Know that we are not desperate... we just want you to join in the fun social musical experience that our choir has to offer. We will have a choir at MPC whether we are 16 singers or three singers. But what we want everyone to know is that ALL ARE WELCOME! Please consider joining us... especially if you’ve never sung in a choir before. ...especially if you think you cannot sing. ...especially if you claim to not know how to read music. Ours is a choir for all. For anyone and everyone. Our collective voices are a way to enhance our MPC worship services. In recent months and years we’ve had long-time “regular” members retire, move, or even sadly pass away. Although those voices can never be replicated, we have a place for you. Attendance is never taken. Just show up Wednesdays from 7:30-9PM if you can, and you’re “in”.

Westminster Handbells

Similarly, the MPC Westminster Handbells are always looking for dedicated ringers. This unique instrument requires a bit more of a musical understanding and commitment, although, again, no experience is necessary. Handbells rehearse Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15PM. Contact Marilyn Burklund if you have questions.

Kid’s Choir

The MPC Kids Choir will sing in service on March 22. Rehearsals for the Kids Choir take place Sundays from 9:15-9:45 in the Kids Choir Room. Children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to join this group.

Youth

Volunteers Needed

Sunday Evenings

Volunteers are needed! Most Sunday evenings our MPC Youth (6th-12th graders) meet for fellowship, food, and fun from 6-8PM. We are in need of volunteers to prepare and serve dinner for our kids in fellowship hall. All expenses are reimbursable. But if you have a favorite recipe you’d like to share or a new one you’d like to try out, please consider volunteering to provide a meal to our Youth Group. We need volunteers for each Sunday evening in March as well as six other Sunday evenings later in the Spring. Please contact Marcus if you’d be willing to offer this important service to our Youth Group.

Ken Castor’s “Grow Down”

In March, our MPC Youth Group will be studying text from Ken Castor’s Grow Down: <https://kencastor.com/>

grow-down/. And on Sunday evenings in March our Youth Group will be preparing and executing some artwork that you’ll see in Fellowship Hall. Keep an eye out for this!

Thank You!

Thanks to the MPC Mens Group and proceeds from the recent soup & salad event- eight of our MPC Youth were able to enjoy a snow-filled day at Alpine Valley skiing and snowboarding on Presidents Day.



Easter Lilies

Orders taken March 8 through March 29

Beginning March 8 we are accepting contributions for Easter lilies that will decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of a loved one, please visit milfordpc.org/lily or fill out the bulletin insert and leave it in the designated box at the back of the sanctuary. The last day to submit orders will be Sunday, March 29.

Brunch

Sunday, March 15, 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.

Game Night

Saturday, March 21, 5:30 PM

MPC Membership Committee is sponsoring a Bunco/Yahtzee/Uno Game Night in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Bring a snack or finger food to pass and join us for instruction at 5:30 PM or just attend the Bunco Game Tournament at 6:00 PM. All the games are easy games for ages 8 and up. Written instructions will be available at each table as well as

verbal instructions prior to the start of the game. Prizes will be awarded. Come learn a new game/meet new people/and interact with church members of ALL ages. See you there!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 29, after worship

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, March 29, immediately following worship. At this meeting, we will provide a financial update, present the budget and Annual Report, and elect new classes of elders and deacons.

Blood Drive

Monday, April 27

Mark your calendars, MPC has a Blood Drive scheduled for Monday, April 27. Look for more information in the April newsletter or contact Barb Klein at 248-437-6192.

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.

Worship

Last Words

Lent Sermon Series

When the four gospel accounts are combined, Jesus speaks seven times from the cross, commonly referred to as the "Seven Last Words" of Christ. During the weeks of Lent we take a careful look at these important sayings of Jesus, spoken in his dying moments. In so many ways, they distill not only his own life, teaching, and purpose, but also our own experience of life before God.

Libraries With Four Legs, Mane, and Tail

I love horses, I love books, and I love history!!!

And this article has them all.

During the Great Depression, President Roosevelt initiated the Works Progress Administration, or WPA for short. It was started to help raise up America since unemployment rose to 40% in the Appalachian region in 1933.

And from this came the famous "Pack Horse Library." Two hundred people (mostly women) were employed with paid salaries to ride on horseback carrying packs of reading literature to remote mountain homes. A county had to have a library to which the ladies would travel to collect their beloved cargo.

Local schools covered the cost, but books, magazines and newspapers were all donated. They were so desperate they would take any book in any condition. If books or magazines were worn or tattered the librarian would cut and paste them into scrapbooks. Crafts, recipes, and canning scrapbooks were always in demand. Books if possible were repaired and old Christmas cards were given out for bookmarks to prevent readers from dog earring the pages. Their book packs could hold up to 100 books at a time.

The Book Ladies rode up to 120 miles a week on their own horses. Their routes were designated and their salary was \$28 a month. One librarian walked 18 miles when her mule died from old age. They rode in all weather conditions. Some had to leave their horses and walk if the area was too remote. Feet frozen to stirrups was a common issue. The Pack Horse Ladies were mostly locals whom the mountain families knew and trusted. Some read Bible passages to them just to earn their trust. By 1938, 274 librarians were in the saddle riding in 29 counties. The whole program employed 1,000 librarians and riders.

They not only rode in bad weather and climbed rocky cliffs; their duties also included filling book requests, reading to those who were illiterate, and helping to restore local pride. One local commented, "Them books you brought us has sure saved our lives."

Most books were for the little ones. The children would run up to the Librarian while petting her horse and ask "Did you bring me a book to read?" Adults could enjoy current events, history, and religion. The most requested book was (of course) the Bible. Robinson Crusoe and Mark Twain were the favorites with the men on the mountain. Wives loved gazing through illustrated magazines about health, parenting, cooking, and quilting.

In 1936, 33,000 books were packed up and delivered to 57 families. The typical loan for a book was one week.

Reading lessons were also included and the librarians would read aloud to whole families. But many just depended on their younger kin to decipher for them. Sometimes they read too long and had to hightail it down the mountain before dark. Their smart and dependable four legged friends would always know the way and get them back to their warm homes.

Some families refused to move if a county would lack a Pack Horse Library service. But some mountain folk were suspicious if they were outsiders riding around with unknown reading material and told them to stay off their mountain (while pointing a loaded shotgun).

Funding finally fizzled in 1943 during war time after serving 100,000 mountain folk from 1935-1943. It will be a decade later before book ladies resurface in the form of the now popular Book Mobiles.

If you are a reader, there are many books to read about these rough and tough Librarians in (where else) your local library. You don't have to have ladies on horseback deliver it, but wouldn't that be cool if they did? I'm game!! Saddle me up!!

Happy Reading,
Sandi Muirhead

Get Involved

Everyone Eats

February 26, 2020 "E1E"

Due to the snow storm predicted for February 26, the MPC team did not travel to Detroit to serve lunch at "Everyone Eats". We arranged with the Pastor there to implement the emergency plan of either using canned food from our "Everyone Eats" cupboard at Trinity Episcopal Church or ordering pizza for lunch. MPC covered the cost of the food. With bad weather the number of folks showing up for lunch was lower. A couple volunteers at Trinity Episcopal Church helped to prepare and serve the lunch.

"Everyone Eats" for 2020

All are encouraged to participate in this wonderful experience. Upcoming dates include March 25, April 22, May 27 and June 24. There will be a clipboard near 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 9:30 am 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 allows folks to alternate months with different groups sharing the responsibility and therefore each person will 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.

Warm Hats Happy Heads

Monday, March 23, 6:30 PM

We are Looking for a few good hat makers to add to our group. Join us upstairs in room 224. There is no experience necessary to make these cute, warm hats. Contact Sandi Muirhead at travelermom@comcast.net.

Community Notes

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Kim Seagraves, Larry and Pat Teal, Tammy Baker, Christopher Cooper, Alana Hoefl, 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, Jeanne Koresky, Jan Katz and all military personnel of our congregation.

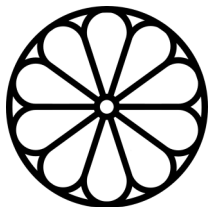
Service persons of our congregation:

- LCpl Dawson Innis
- AP2 Kevin Warford

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

Community Sharing

Thank you to all the wonderful folks who continue donating cereal for Community Sharing. During February 74 boxes of cereal were collected. All the cereals that children enjoy are a special treat and joy for client families.



Milford Presbyterian Church

238 North Main Street
Milford, Michigan 48381
www.milfordpc.org

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Return Service Requested
Time Value

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news!"

Isaiah 52:7

Staff & Contact

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Dates to Remember

March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 8 - 29

Easter Lily Orders Taken

March 15

Brunch

March 21

Game Night

March 29

Annual Congregational Meeting
