

# THE MILFORD messenger

## From the Pastor

SUMMER 2020

I am grateful for your patience as we have worked to determine the safest means and timing for the reopening of the church building for worship and other activities. After the thorough and thoughtful work of our COVID-19 Task Force, the session has decided how to proceed based upon the Task Force's recommendations. I want to share the outline of our plans with you here.

### **When will we reopen?**

We will begin in-person worship when Oakland County has moved to Phase 5 in the MI Safe Start economic engagement plan. Phase 5 is the "Containing" phase, which is characterized not only by consistently low infection rates, but also the ability to quickly identify and contain outbreaks of the virus. We are currently in Phase 4, and cases in our county have been on the rise for the last four weeks as of this writing, so it is unclear at this time when we can expect to transition to Phase 5.

### **What will worship look like?**

Worship will be quite different for a while. Perhaps the most jarring change will be the absence of both choral and congregational singing, as

well as unison speaking, which together account for most of the elements of our worship apart from the sermon. The service will be much shorter in duration—probably about 25-30 minutes. We will limit the seating capacity in the sanctuary to 40 and provide (socially distanced) overflow seating in the Chapel and/or Café. Depending on attendance, we may offer two services in order to accommodate everyone safely.

There will not be gathering time inside the building before or after worship; attendees will enter starting about 15 minutes prior to the beginning of worship, and will be dismissed by row at the end of worship and asked to proceed directly to the exits. Irrespective of state mandate, masks must be worn by everyone inside the building at all times.

Once we reach Phase 5, we will begin exploring options for Sunday school for children grade 5 and younger. At the outset, however, there will be no programs for children, and the nursery will remain closed until Phase 6 ("Post-Pandemic"). Our Youth Group may begin meeting again in Phase 5,

though not in the Youth Room.

### **Some other churches are already open. Why are we taking our time?**

The bottom line here is that if we are going to invite people into our building for worship, we should only do so if we are reasonably confident that we are not putting them—or our staff and volunteers—at unnecessary risk.

Even over the course of the six weeks that the Task Force conducted its work, we were learning new things about the novel coronavirus, and not many of them good. Most notably, there is increasing evidence that the virus spreads by aerosolized droplets—droplets that hang (and drift) in the air for up to a few hours—which makes indoor spaces particularly dangerous (especially those with inadequate ventilation). Our sanctuary has virtually no air exchange, which means that we simply recirculate the same air while we worship.

We are also keenly aware of the fact that a majority of our members are over the age of 65, which means a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

majority of our members are at high risk of adverse outcomes if infected. Yes, it is up to each individual to make their own choices and take their own risks, but we also feel a moral obligation (a) to help keep our church family safe and (b) to do our part to keep the virus from gaining a foothold in our community.

### Can I see the report?

Yes, and I hope you'll take the time to read it. Find it at [report.milfordpc.org](http://report.milfordpc.org). If you would like us to send you a hard copy in the mail, please email Lisa Nathan ([lnathan@milfordpc.org](mailto:lnathan@milfordpc.org)) or call the office and leave a voicemail.

There seems to be only one certainty these days, and that is that life is not going back to normal anytime soon. The Task Force, the session, and the church staff are all

doing our very best to care for our church family, to keep us connected, and to maintain the vital ministry of the church on the corner.

If you have comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or you can contact the session via Ron Johnson, our Clerk of Session ([ron\\_48381@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_48381@yahoo.com)).

We are all eager for a return to gathering together in our building for worship, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to do so very soon. In the meantime, I am grateful for your patience and for your continued support.

In Christ,



### WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship is live online every Sunday at 10:00 am.  
Get connected to worship by visiting

**[live.milfordpc.org](http://live.milfordpc.org)**

*If you need assistance, please contact the church office and we will help you!*

## From the Treasurer

	April—June 2020	April—June 2019
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$92,771	\$94,098
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$80,510</u>	<u>\$99,570</u>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	\$12,261	(\$5,472)

Due to the “closed doors” of the Church the expenses are significantly reduced compared to prior years. Through the generosity of the Church’s congregation the receipts have remained fairly consistent with prior years.

The Church has taken advantage of the “CARES Act” in terms of “free” money from the Federal government. Those funds are not reflected in the operations of the Church.

The Act also provides a limited incentive for charitable contributions. A new deduction in the amount of \$300 is allowed “above the line” as an adjustment to adjusted gross income. That means you have a deduction whether or not you itemize deductions.

Despite the challenges and limitations now felt by not being able to make music “the way we used to”, we have managed to find a way to sustain our music ministry remotely through instruments and song. Rick continues to contribute his impressive keyboard skills weekly to our live-stream services. Marilyn has recently begun working with our handbell ringers to bring ringing back into our sanctuary- did you know it’s possible to ring nearly 20 handbells while all ringers are wearing masks and while standing at least six feet away from their neighboring handbell ringer?

Thanks to the many of you who have submitted special music solo recordings for inclusion in our services. The choir library has recently received a bit of an (overdue) update to its inventory/collection. MPC has received special music contributions by many of our talented members. You may have heard various voices singing the refrain As the Deer in recent services. In the near future, we will premiere the MPCVC (Milford

Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir)... nearly 20 MPC voices will join one another to sing an anthem together- all while being isolated at home and separated from one another... thank you, technology!

We will continue to worship our loving and compassionate God through music-making. We will glorify him through uploads and recordings and sound-checks. We will give Him our best whenever we sing praises. We will find gratitude amidst the frustrating limitations and frustrations of trying to create communal music while being physically apart from one another. Our hearts will be grateful. “You alone are my heart’s desire, and I long to worship you.”

Marcus

# Youth

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In early March the Youth Group met in Fellowship Hall to work on a new stage wall graphic. With the guidance and support of Mike York, the Youth had worked together to design and create a unique visual image to enhance the Fellowship Hall space. The group painted the stage wall background. The outline for the new design was applied. Then the world seemed to suddenly “stop”. There was Spring Break. Then the closure of the rest of the school year. And suddenly, there was no more in-person Youth Group at MPC. But we continued our fellowship with weekly Zoom meetings.. And for several weeks throughout the Spring, over a dozen MPC Youth Group members worked together to design, create and participate in a Youth Takeover Service in June. And in early June we recognized and celebrated several HS graduating Youth who have called MPC their home at some point.

In addition to weekly virtual Zoom gatherings, our Youth Group has stayed connected through more than 80 daily or weekly questions. The intention is that one day, when it’s safe to meet again in person, our Youth Group will recognize this unique time in our world by rewarding our special community’s connection through raffle drawings and celebration. Please continue to pray for our MPC Youth as they navigate a formidable time in their lives all while the world navigates a formidable time in history.

I want to give special thanks to Tyler Innis for his dedication in recently representing the Detroit Presbytery as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate at this year’s General Assembly. Tyler, I’m proud of you for your commitment to this experience. MPC is a better community because you are a part of us.

Marcus

## Won't... You Be.....My Neighbor??

Probably a lot of our congregation can say they either lived or had relatives at sometime who lived in Detroit. Whether it was back when Detroit was called the “little Paris of the Midwest” in the 1880s, or the 1900s, or just a few decades ago. De’troit was French for “narrow body of water,” and in this case the Detroit River.

Most streets and neighborhoods were named after something or someone.

I will be taking you down some memory lanes and telling you the story of how they got their names.

### Corktown

The oldest surviving neighborhood is Corktown, named after Cork County in Ireland. Irish immigrants started arriving in Detroit between 1840 and 1870 during the potato famine which killed a million people. It is in the northwest side of the city. They lived in Victorian-style homes and boarding houses.

Polish Village Café, set in a basement of an old hotel in Hamtramck, has been serving up the real deal in Polish cuisine since 1976 (try it once and then head back to Czapski’s).

### Midtown/Cass Corridor

The 1950s and ’60s brought along Cass, Second and Third Street streets burlesque, art galleries and movie theaters. Before that, plots from the famous Cass Corridor Project were sold by descendants of Lewis Cass. Cass was a prominent slave holder and politician in Michigan. In 1976, stakeholders formed Midtown Detroit Inc. to attract retail and new businesses. Now Midtown properties are sky high. They now have the “Q,” Little Caesars Arena, and Detroit Historical Society in this up-and-coming neighborhood.

### Boston-Edison

Edward Voight was a founder of the Edison Illuminating Co. He bought property in the 1880s at the farthest northern part of Woodward. With the Joy and Newberry families he built the stately mansions in 1905. Hamilton, Boston, and Edison Streets are home to over 900

speculator mansions.

Congregation Café and Bar just opened this year in the former St. James Church in this neighborhood. Wonder if they bless the coffee?

### Palmer-Park

Thomas W. Palmer was the son of a well-to-do merchant and grandson of a territorial judge. He became a U.S. Senator for the state of Michigan.

In 1887 he and his wife Lizzie built a log cabin on the north end of Detroit. After his death his son sold the property to Ossian Cole Simonds who designed sub-division homes on unusual winding streets that won many architectural competitions.

### Brightmoor

With the auto industry booming , people flocked to the city and on the scene was a very determined and slick ad man who decided he was going to build a settlement, and fast.

Burt Eddy Taylor threw up cheap houses and only wanted certain type of residents in his neighborhood. They had to be whites from the South and searching for auto factory jobs. Brightmoor was a catchy name and it worked. Brightmoor population grew from 15 to 2,000 people by 1922.

### Jefferson-Chalmers

After the 1805 fire that destroyed the entire town, a territorial judge named Augustus Woodward took this opportunity to design Detroit’s city streets his way. River Road was renamed after his idol and friend, the one and only Thomas Jefferson.

One hundred years later a young auto tycoon built a factory on Jefferson Avenue. His name was Hugh Chalmers. The 1910s and ’20s saw a new interest in this neighborhood of Depression-era middle-class bungalows.

### Highland Park

Highland Park was once named for being the highest point on ground on Woodward between the Detroit River and north on the Pontiac Plank Road. In the mid-19th century it was called Whitewood.

The village of Highland Park was once a small town until Henry Ford built in 1910 the Highland Park Ford Plant. Their population was only 4,210. By 1920 the village grew to 46,399.

Highland park leaders decided after much thought to remain independent of Detroit and become its own city.

### Bagley

John F. Bagley was a wealthy tobacco merchant, successful politician, founder of the Republican party, and Michigan Governor from 1873-1877.

John F. Bagley's will left funds for Detroit's first public water fountain. It included (very rare at that time) ambient temperature and cold water in 1887. It remains today (with no pipes) in Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit.

### Brush Park

This neighborhood was once the "crème of the crop." Elijah Brush purchased large plots of land. He was a prominent lawyer and Detroit's second mayor. He named

streets after his family: Adelaide, Edmund, Alfred, and Eliot.

Detroit's wheelers and dealers all wanted to live in this elite neighborhood. Your neighbor next door might of been J.L. Hudson or David Whitney Jr. It was called "the Little Paris of the Midwest." Most mansions were razed over the decades to widen Woodward Avenue. Few remain but the neighborhood is thriving with new developments.

Many young professionals are buying up condos and leasing apartments in the city left and right. They can walk out their door and have everything Detroit had to offer.

My memory is staying at my grandparents house off Warren and hearing the Shinnny man (junkman) yelling down the alley from his horse and wagon. The houses and yards were immaculate in the 1950's and 1960's.

Happy Reading,  
Sandi Muirhead

## This 'n' That

### 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).

### 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 recent tax changes, it may be more advantageous than in the past. **Check with your tax preparer.**

### Church Office Hours

The Church office will remain closed through Monday, August 10. Beginning Tuesday, August 11, we will be open Tuesday—Thursday, 9AM until 2PM. As always, for assistance, you can call the office (248-684-2805) and leave a message or email Lisa Nathan (lnathan@milfordpc.org).

# Get Involved

## “Everyone Eats” Update

MPC was scheduled to serve lunch on February 26 at Trinity Episcopal Church (previously “Spirit of Hope Church”) in Detroit. Due to an icy morning storm, we cancelled our trip down and notified the staff at the church. They were able to use foods E1E stores at the church to serve lunch that day to clients that were able to get there.

Since Trinity Episcopal Church was shut down due to Covid 19. The Presbytery E1E workgroup churches decided to distribute sack lunches curbside in front of the church for clients during the month of March with a sign instructing: “Take one lunch per person until everyone has had one, stand at least six feet apart in queue, no congregating in front of church – grab and go. Sincere thanks to Sandi Muirhead for planning a lunch of healthy non-perishable foods, shopping, assembling, delivering and distributing the lunches on March 25.

The Presbytery E1E workgroup has been meeting monthly since March via ZOOM. The workgroup was notified in March that the Trinity Episcopal Church would be permanently closing at the end of June. The workgroup is looking into church relocation or other program possibilities for E1E. During the months of May, June and July the workgroup has contributed the monies normally spent on food to 3-4 other food distribution programs: Novi Emergency Food Bank, Northville Civic Concerns, Fort Street Presbyterian “Open Door”, and Bethel AME Church (where Mary Howard serves). Mary Howard has been serving clients of E1E in many ways above and beyond E1E lunches for some time: when Forgotten Harvest delivered food to TEC, when other programs served meals to families, distributed clothing, organized Christmas gifts for children, etc. Sandi Muirhead on behalf of our Mission Committee shopped, assembled and took bags of toiletry items to Mary Howard for distribution to E1E clients during July and will also be doing it for August.

## We Are (Still) the Cereal Church

Community Sharing is in significant need of donations of brand-name cereals. When we were worshiping together in our building, we were donating 50-75 boxes of cereal per month. They need those donations to continue for the sake of the hungry in our community, now more than ever.

Special thanks to all those who continue to donate through this shut down time.

### How to Donate

For those in Milford, deliver your boxes to the home of Sandi Muirhead (305 Caroline St in Milford—corner of Caroline and Huron). There is a container on her doorstep. Place cereal boxes in a tied plastic grocery bag on top of the container, and Sandi will handle the rest. If Highland is closer for you, cereal can be dropped off at the home of Suzanne Jarasz and Beth Burgess (2412 Elkridge Cir in Highland).



# Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers in the passing of my husband, John McGrath.

Your cards and phone calls were greatly appreciated during this time. He spoke a lot about all the wonderful memories he had with you all, whether in bible study or just helping prepare the Wednesday night meals.

Peace be with you all.

**Deborah McGrath**

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit Another Way Pregnancy Center. With your generous support, we raised \$1,517.18.

**Jane Stevenson**

Thank you to each and every one who sent me a birthday greeting. I enjoyed reading every single card and message. It was so good to hear from all of you and you made my 100th birthday celebration complete. I have many fond memories of my 25 years as secretary

of the Milford Presbyterian Church and it's so nice to be remembered.

Thank you!

Much love,  
**Neoma Harris**

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, notes, cards, meals, calls, and distanced visits during my illness. Your love and support is appreciated more than words can say.

**Kathy Donn**

I would like to thank all of the Meals on Wheels drivers who continued to drive during quarantine, the drivers that have promised to return as soon as they are able, and the new volunteers who have started during the pandemic. During the pandemic, the number of meals delivered has increased. Our phenomenal group of volunteers has risen to the challenge and taken beautiful care of those that receive the meals.

**Kathy Donn**

## Community Notes

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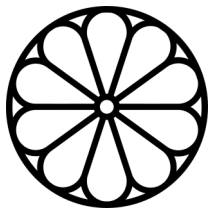
### In Our Thoughts & Prayers

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, Larry Cepuran, Dorothy Bonnell-Tracy, Eddie Bahan, Tom Neff, Adam LaPratt, Ted Rancont, Joanne Hansen, Dave Matejko, Ted Byrne, 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, Rich Johnston, Dick Sands, Lee Holman, Judy Nelson, Clayton Maxwell, Bob & Ann Kirsch, Jan Katz, Peggy Anderson, Diana Paonessa

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](http://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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**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**

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**Bob Parrett, AV Coordinator**

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

**Dianna Speier, Wedding Coordinator**

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**Harold Swenson, Treasurer**

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**Stephanie Wiseman, Nursery Coordinator**

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

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