

Meadowbrook Messenger



NOVEMBER 2019

Meadowbrook Congregational Church

A SPECIAL MARKING OF TIME

Those new to the Congregational way might think that we are trapped living in the past. A visitor once told me, "It looks like you worship the Pilgrims!" Our worship space is called the Meeting House. Our Adult Education discussion is Mayflower Café. Our youth group is Pilgrim Fellowship. Many of our sister churches carry names like Mayflower, Plymouth, and Pilgrim Congregational Church. But we are proud of our spiritual and historic ancestors and this time of year it is most appropriate and perhaps necessary to reflect upon their achievements and their gifts to us.

We are about to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Plans are being made to observe the historical date with anniversary events in New England. The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is meeting in Portland, ME next summer, as close as we could find available space and reasonably priced hotel rooms to Plymouth. A special team called Plymouth 400 and the Congregational Library is publishing education materials and information that will remind us of the significance of 400 years of Congregationalism in America. You will see some of their work in our bulletins and in our Mayflower Café gatherings next spring. The emphasis is that marking of time is not just an observance of history but an impetus to understand our modern identity.

What does it mean to be a Congregationalist? Here are some talking points, courtesy of Plymouth 400:

The Pilgrims were different from other Reformers in their view of the power and authority within the church. Pilgrims or Separatists believed that the local church could and should exercise all powers that Christ gave to the Church. They believed in church governance by church members, submitting to God's will through prayer and Scripture.

The Pilgrims were also unique in that they saw each church gathered as a company of believers living in covenant with one another, under God. There was no statement of faith or creed to which individual members must submit.

The Pilgrims unique approach to church governance offered a workable pattern for self-government. The Mayflower Compact was the first document to establish a civil government in America in the absence of immediate royal authority. The Congregational Way influenced the government of the American colonies and ultimately inspired the American Revolution.

Although early Congregationalists were Calvinist in theology, today's Congregationalists hold a wide variety of theological views. We take such diversity to be a strength. We listen respectfully to one another and believe that the Holy Spirit speaks to us even through those with whom we disagree. Congregationalists were and are proponents of a well-educated clergy and laity, founding colleges such as Harvard and Yale, Oberlin, and Michigan's own Olivet College.

And finally, if you need to mention some well-known Congregationalists, try these - William Bradford, Jonathan Edwards, John Adams, Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Antoinette Brown (the first woman ordained to Christian ministry in the US), Katharine Lee Bates, Washington Gladden, Calvin Coolidge, and Lloyd Douglas.

This November and beyond we can proudly celebrate our Pilgrim heritage, not simply as history lovers but as those who wish to carry a proud and important movement into the future.

Peace and grace,
Art



God's Blessings on Your Special Day in November



Happy Birthday

1 Jan Covert	20 Jim Miller
2 Shirley Champeau	21 John Emmert
John Streit	Barb Miller
4 Phil Michalski	22 Kathy Takeshita
Matthew Wonnacott	26 Jim Medeiros
5 Bethany Grace	Matthew Wright
8 Don Gaines	27 David Milligan
13 Katie Kachadourian	28 William Ahrens
16 Sarah Scheller	Marilyn Clayton
17 Mary Crockett	Frank Maynard
John Webster	
Lois Winters	
18 Edgar Vela	
19 Jim Lewis	
Dave Wonnacott	

Happy Anniversary

10 David and Jody Scheller
23 Robert and Carol Graham

FLOWERS WERE GIVEN BY...

... Tom and Joanne Dewey in loving memory of Joanne's father, Edward Hulbert
 ... Pat, Christine, Melissa, Jeffrey and families in celebration of Dick Dunwell's 80th birthday on October 4
 ... the Deacons to the Glory of God.
 ... Deb and Art Hirshfield in loving memory of their son Joshua Hirshfield.
 ... Michele Fecht in loving memory of her parents, Ezra Blanton McElmurry and Doris Jean Dickinson McElmurry.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE...

September 29 = 92
 October 6 = 112
 October 13 = 102
 October 20 = 101
 October 27 = 87

IN OUR CIRLE OF LOVE IS...

... Charlie and Patti Hokett on the birth of their granddaughter, Margaret Josephine Stefanson, born on September 30
 ... Lois Winters who fell and broke her hip.
 ... Nancy Huyck and family on the passing of Noel on October 18.
 ... Sarah DiPasquale, daughter of Jody and Dave Scheller, sister of Bethany, wife of Michael, mother of three young children, being treated for breast cancer.



Deacon on Call

Bonnie Hyde

Fellowship Hour

3 Stewardship Luncheon
10 Michele Fecht
17 Host still needed!
24 Pilgrim Potluck

Greeters

3 John Buckland and Michele Fecht with Steve Kellar
10 Don Gaines and Vicki Gaines with Denise Parr
17 Walt and Jan Covert with Dave Wonnacott
24 John and Marianne Webster with Beverly Dudley

Liturgists

3 Lisa Munerance
10 Steve Broda
17 Lisa Barry
24 Marilyn Worth

Tellers and Trustees

3 Jim Miller and Marilyn Worth with Dave McKillop
10 Steve Kellar and Carrie Skronek with David Sparling
17 Don Gaines and Dave Wallen with Thelma Kubitskey
24 John Goodpasture and Carol Riddell with Kristin Ulfig



The Meadowbrook Messenger is a monthly newsletter of Meadowbrook Congregational Church. The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads in Novi, Michigan. The Senior Minister is Rev. Art Ritter. Sunday Worship Service and Church School begin at 10 am. Meadowbrook is a member of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The church telephone number is (248) 348-7757 and the mailing address is 21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375-5245. Web site is www.mbccc.org. Email contact is office@mbccc.org



PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP: PF, Meadowbrook's youth group, is open to all 6th through 12th graders. PF meets regularly throughout the school year for discussions, service projects, field trips and retreats. Upcoming meetings:

November 3: Corn Maze Outing (rescheduled from October 27) Bring \$10 and a signed permission slip; we'll leave from Meadowbrook at 1pm.

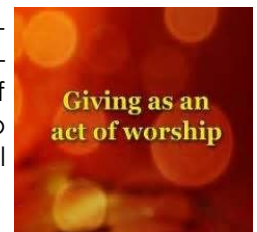
November 8-10: Michigan PF State Retreat at Arbor Grove Congregational Church in Jackson

November 17: Bowling with Mt. Hope Congregational Church. Meet at Novi Bowl at 3:00 pm; bring \$12 for two games of bowling and shoe rental.

November 24: Following the Pilgrim Potluck, we will head out for our annual Christmas shopping trip for a family in need.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY is November 3. This is the day in which as an act of our worship of God, we bring our Estimate of Giving cards forward in response to the recognition of God's blessings in our lives, and the need for us to return to God a portion of those blessings. Those cards have been mailed and will also be available in the worship bulletin that day. Following the service of worship the Stewardship Ministry Team will provide a lunch for all.

Before November 3, prayerfully consider what your giving to the church might be in 2020. Please note that there are two separate lines for giving; to the Operating Fund (mortgage, utilities, salaries, supplies, insurance, building and ground maintenance, etc.), and Benevolence. In making your pledge, be mindful of the church's regular financial needs that are supported through the Operating Fund only. If you have not pledged before, contemplate making this statement of faith. If you pledged last year, consider how an increase in giving might make a statement about your faith. All of us look forward to seeing you on November 3. Let's gather to celebrate God's goodness and how we can create a ministry with a Christ-like heart.



NORTHVILLE HOLIDAY LIGHTED PARADE: Our Mayflower float will again be part of Northville's annual Holiday Lighted Parade on Friday, November 22. The theme this year is "Northville Is Sweet." We need lots of volunteers to make this happen. If you would like to help decorate the float or walk in the parade on November 22, please sign up in Fellowship Hall. Parade marchers should dress warmly and wear a "lighted" accessory (Santa hats, earmuffs, etc.). Meet at 6:00 pm at the Northville Library parking lot. Parade starts at 6:30. Come join the fun!!!

SHARE THE HARVEST/SHARE THE WARMTH: Bring your donated items to worship and we will bring them forward before the children's message each week in November. Thank you for your generosity to those in need.

- As is our tradition, during November we will collect non-perishable food items for our local food pantries. Suggested items are tuna, stew, soups, boxed meals, cereal, boxed potatoes, and other non-perishables.



- We will also collect new or gently used winter coats, hats, mittens, boots and snow pants for the Free Store.



PILGRIM POTLUCK: Thanksgiving is especially significant for Congregationalists who remember the Mayflower Pilgrims as they celebrated their harvest following a difficult first year in the New World. Meadowbrook's Pilgrim Potluck will be on **November 24** following the worship service. Begin signing up in Fellowship Hall to indicate how many will be attending and if you will bring a main dish, side dish, or salad. The Deacons will provide the rolls and dessert. We look forward to sharing a meal with our church family the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL COLLECTION: The special envelope collection on Thanksgiving will go to NACCC Fair Share.



HOLIDAY FAMILIES 2019

The holidays are just around the corner and it's time once again to be thankful for all we have. We are blessed at Meadowbrook Congregational Church to be able to give in so many ways to those less fortunate. Once again the Outreach Ministry is working with Holy Family Church in their "Christmas Sponsor-a-Family" program. This program allows our church to help families in need during this special time of year. The Outreach Ministry will be putting up the "Holiday Families 2019" board on Sunday, November 3. We're hoping members of our congregation take every tag! If you are willing to help one of our families, please choose a tag (or tags!) from the board and fill in your name and phone number on the remaining tag. Return your wrapped gift or gifts by Sunday, December 1 and Outreach Ministry will deliver the gifts to Holy Family Church to be delivered to each family. (More detailed directions will be on the Holiday Family board at church). If, for any reason, you take a tag and are unable to purchase the gift, please contact Cindy Lyon before December 1 at 248-425-0443 or e-mail Cindy at lyonce19@gmail.com. Thank you for your generosity and Merry Christmas! Outreach Ministry

FAIR SHARE

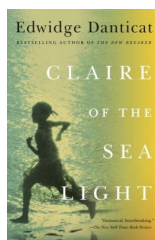
The NACCC asks that each member church make an annual contribution to their Shared Ministries Fund, directly supporting their programs and services for which we all benefit. Meadowbrook's "Fair Share" contribution is \$14 per member which totals \$3,318.00 yearly. This payment is made from our budget, whether each member gives or not. Have you given your Fair Share this year? If not, please make your contribution soon. You can put a check in the mail or in the offertory plate at church, marking "Fair Share" in the memo line. Thank you!

BROADWAY DINNER THEATER

Join us Saturday, November 30, at 7:00 pm for the 3rd Annual Broadway Dinner Theatre! It's fine dining and great music, and what better place to get that than in Fellowship Hall. We will be performing famous songs from Broadway paired with a fantastic meal. Tickets for adults are \$35 and children 12 and under are \$20. Get your tickets today at <https://mpp-dinner-theatre.square.site/>

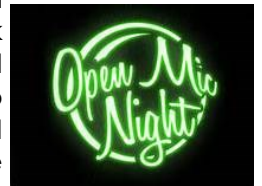
BOOK CLUB

This month's selection is *Claire of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat. This is the story of a missing young girl and the secrets and startling truths that arise as the community searches for her. Copies of the book are available from Colleen. We will meet on Monday, November 11, at 7:30 pm for discussion and treats.



3rd ANNUAL MBCC OPEN MIC

On Friday, November 1, from 7:00-9:30 pm, Meadowbrook Church will host the 3rd Annual Open Mic Night! Come listen to the famous MBCC House Band and various performers. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Sign up today so we know how many to expect. This event has proven to be a fun and exciting night for all. Please join us!



CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve services will be at 6:00 and 8:00 pm. The early service will continue to have a children and family focus. Both services will feature candle lighting with the singing of "Silent Night." We need help at both services with handling the lights, the silhouettes, and various other small jobs. If you can help, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

RED KETTLE BELL RINGING

Save the dates of December 19 and 20. We will be ringing at the Kroger store in downtown Northville. Sign up sheets will be available soon.



ICE MELT NEEDED

We are in need of salt and Ice Melt to keep the walkways clear of ice this winter. If you can donate some, please leave it inside the north doors.

DONATE YOUR OLD ATHLETIC SHOES

We are asking for gently used athletic shoes to recycle for the MORE foundation. Free recycling/repurposing of athletic shoes helps fight poverty, hunger and global warming. It keeps them out of landfills and helps plant tree nurseries in villages in Africa. For more information, see the MORE website <http://www.morefoundationgroup.org>

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch invites all women of the church to join them on Thursday, November 21, at 11:30 am at Ardiana's (formerly the Honey Tree at 10 Mile and Meadowbrook Rd.) for lunch and fellowship. A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, November 16, at 8:30 am at George's Senate on Haggerty, south of Six Mile. If you would like to attend, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

The group is reading *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books can be ordered from Amazon for about \$13. We meet on Thursday mornings from 10:00 until 11:15 am. Please join us!



COOKIE WALK

Calling all bakers and makers! Beginning **Sunday, November 3**, the Cookie Walk committee will have a sign-up table in Fellowship Hall for members and friends to assist with this popular event. **Sign-ups will continue each Sunday until December 8.**

The **9th Annual Cookie Walk & Holiday Boutique** is **Saturday, December 14**. This event is a major undertaking for our church and we need an army of volunteers. In addition to the thousands of delicious homemade cookies, breads, candy, fudge, spiced nuts and other yummy edibles, shoppers can also purchase holiday-themed items such as gift tags, tableware, ornaments and more at our new holiday boutique. If you sew, cross stitch, or are a master crafter with

a glue gun, this is for you! We also will accept donations of holiday gift items in excellent condition. There is a basket in Fellowship Hall for boutique items.

How can you help?

- **Cookies.** Cookies are the mainstay of this event. We are looking for holiday cookies, both fancy and traditional. The committee can provide suggestions. We are asking each baker to make 12 dozen. Yikes! Yes, that can send a baker into a sugar coma. If you can't bake 12 dozen, we'll take whatever you are able to make. As in the past, **we will distribute trays to cookie bakers at the sign-up table. Trays will include instructions and delivery date information.**
- **Bakers & Treat Makers:** Do you make a mean pumpkin bread, fudge or other holiday treat? These items are popular sellers and work great for gift giving. You provide the goodies and we'll handle the packaging.
- **December 13 Prep Help:** Plating, covering and tagging thousands of cookies is a Herculean task so we need a team of elves to help in this effort. Please consider helping for even an hour or two.
- **December 14 Cookie Walk & Holiday Boutique Helpers:** We need volunteers for cashiering and check out, customer assistance, parking lot monitoring, cookie replating, clean up and more. The event is from 9 am to noon so it won't take up your entire day.

One of the best promotional events for our Cookie Walk & Holiday Boutique is **Northville's Holiday Lighted Parade**. This year's parade is **Friday, November 22**. The theme (appropriately) is *Northville is Sweet*. The Chamber is offering suggestions of gingerbread (works for us!), candy and more.

First and foremost, we need creative members and friends (you know who you are) to pull together a team for decorating the Mayflower float. We also will need a driver to pull the float in the parade and many, many walkers. There will be banners and signs to carry as well as postcards and candy to pass out along the parade route. The postcards will highlight our cookie walk as well as our Christmas Eve services. Please consider joining us at 6 pm in downtown Northville in the library parking lot on Cady Street. Step-off is at 6:30. Dress warmly. We have lighted headgear and necklaces for parade participants who need them.

Sign-up sheets for parade decorating and parade participation will be on the cookie walk table. **We also are accepting candy donations for the parade.** There is a bin in Fellowship Hall for donations.

For more information, contact Lee Gross or Laura Ritter.



FOOD BANKS: We are collecting **peanut butter and jelly** for Northville Civic Concern and the Novi Emergency Food Bank. They appreciate your generosity!



COME ONE, COME ALL! JOIN IN THE FUN!

Trivia Fund Raiser

November 15, 6:30 pm

Antonio & Robyn:

Professional Trivia Hosts

\$25 each or \$150 for a table of six

Dinner, Trivia and Door Prizes

50/50 Raffle

We are selling tickets every Sunday, both before and after church, The tables seat six so bring your friends! This is a fund raiser for the church so we're hoping for a good response!

MAYFLOWER C.A.F.É.

The Mayflower C.A.F.É. (Casual Attire, Faith Explored) is a gathering time for discussion and learning about our faith. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights. Coffee and light refreshments are served. Please join us!



November 5: NO SESSION

November 12: Video and Discussion: "The Hope of God in an Age of Science." Mike McHague, author and host of the "Ask Science Mike" podcast.

November 19: Presentation and Discussion "Are We What We Eat?" How does our diet and our food choices speak about who we are? How does our faith inform what we choose to eat? Rev. Art Ritter will talk about Biblical perspectives and Laura Ritter will present modern thought and science regarding plant based diets.

November 26: NO SESSION

December 3: How Not To Be a Victim: Novi Police Department will talk about electronic fraud and other issues.

December 10: DVD Presentation and Discussion: Adam Hamilton's "Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph" Raising a Child Not Your Own and The Journey to Bethlehem.

B3- BEER, BELIEF, AND BANTER

Our next B3 meeting is Sunday, November 3. B3 is for folks who want to engage in informal conversation about culture and faith while sharing a tasty brew. We meet the first Sunday of each month from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Rusty Bucket, 18785 Traditions Dr. in Northville, (Haggerty and Seven Mile roads). To begin, there will be a topic sheet distributed with some statements to "prime the pump." We will then share our thoughts, our stories, and our questions with one another. You are invited to attend, even if you simply want to listen! Each person is responsible for their own beverage tab. If you have questions, please contact Art Ritter. We hope to see you



DIME WAR RETURNS!

The U of M vs. MSU Dime War is raising money for the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing or Ann Arbor. U of M and MSU will play on November 16. Our Dime War will run November 3 - 17. Pick your favorite team and the school who wins will be able to fly their colors in Fellowship Hall. By placing dimes or paper money in your school's container you earn points. By adding the appropriate negative forms of change into the opposing school's container, you deduct points. The list of points is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. In the last nine years, we have raised over \$1,744 for Ronald McDonald House! Let's see what we can do this year! Brought to you by the Outreach Ministry Team.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will hang the greens on Saturday, November 30 at 9:00 am. Join us as we set up the trees, decorate them, assemble the crèche, hang wreaths and arrange the candles in the windows. This is always a great time of fellowship and service.

What's Going On at Meadowbrook

11/1	Open Mic Night, 7:00 pm	11/18	Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm Trustees, 7:00 pm Messenger Deadline
11/3	Daylight Saving Time Ends Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Consecration Sunday - Share the Harvest/Warmth - Sermon, "Up A Tree," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am B3 at Rusty Bucket, 7:00 pm	11/19	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm
11/4	Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm	11/20	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
11/5	Election Day Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am	11/21	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am Deacons, 7:00 pm
11/6	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	11/22	Northville Lighted Parade, 6:30 pm
11/7	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am	11/23	Preschool Room Clean-Up, 9:00 am Set-Up Pilgrim Potluck
11/9	Dinner Theatre Rehearsal, 2:00-4:00 pm	11/24	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Share the Harvest/Warmth - Sermon, "Thanksgiving Choices" Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, Pilgrim Potluck, 11:00 am
11/10	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Worship - Share the Harvest/Warmth - Sermon, "Dead Questions," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Property Team, 11:30 am	11/25	Dinner Theatre Rehearsal, 7:00 pm
11/11	Show of Hands Puppets, 6:30 pm Book Club, 7:30 pm	11/26	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am
11/12	Faith Discussion at Pomeroy Living, 10:30 am Mayflower C.A.F.E., 7:00 pm	11/27	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
11/13	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm	11/28	Thanksgiving, Office Closed
11/14	Women's Faith Group, 10:00 am	11/29	Dinner Theatre Set-Up, 7:00 pm
11/15	Trivia Fundraiser, 6:30 pm	11/30	Hanging of the Greens, 9:00 am Broadway Dinner Theatre, 7:00 pm
11/16	Dinner Theatre Rehearsal, 2:00-4:00 pm		
11/17	Choir Rehearsal, 9:00 am Outreach Ministry, 9:00 am Worship - Share the Harvest/Warmth - Sermon, "Preparing for the Worst," Rev. Art Ritter, 10:00 am Fellowship Hour, 11:00 am Prayer Chain Ministry, 11:15 am Advisory Council, 11:30 am		



As a Congregational church, Meadowbrook traces its roots to the Pilgrims. Those daring people believed they should be free to interpret God's Word for themselves and to do so responsibly.

Like the Mayflower, each Congregational church is its own ship, autonomous and self-governing. We are not bound by any formal statement of faith or creed. We promote study and reflection that strengthen minds and soften hearts. Our sacraments are open to everyone.

Just as the Pilgrims had a compact, our community of faith is brought together by a covenant - a promise to serve God in Jesus Christ and support one another in our journey of faith.

Serving the area since 1982, Meadowbrook invites you to come ashore and experience God's love and grace.



Great Harvest Bread Company

139 E. Main Street
Northville

**Thank you for contributing
the communion bread.**



The Flower Alley

Winner of
People's Choice Award



248-305-9190
25914 Novi Road - Novi, MI

Colleen Foster: cfoster@mbccc.org
Abbie Holden: office@mbccc.org

Rev. Ritter: aritter@mbccc.org
Danny Reeves: dannymusicreeves@gmail.com

Address Correction Requested

21355 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, Michigan 48375-5245
248 348-7757 www.mbccc.org

The Meadowbrook Messenger