From The Pastor

Dear People of Mayflower,

The Christmas season usually lasts for 12 days, from December 25 to January 6th. January 6th is liturgically the first day of Epiphany, a season when we look for the light of Christ to shine brighter. The season always begins with the story of the Magi visiting Jesus. We will begin our Epiphany season a little bit early by focusing our worship service on the beautiful story of the visitation of the Magi.

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman writes, "The Magi are ready and willing to discern God's will in the outward tangible signs of Creation (the star) as well as the inner contours of their minds (a dream). God is in it all, and they are paying attention. Is this what it means to be wise?"
As we begin a new year, we can ask ourselves, "How can I pay attention to God a little differently this year?" What kind of spiritual practice do you want to incorporate into your life this year that will bring you closer to God?

Since this is the first Sunday of the month, our worship service will include the sacrament of communion. Even as we eat and drink at Christ's table, we are also reminded to share our bounty with others, and so I encourage you to remember to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Bank.

Join us this Sunday, in-person or on Zoom.

Blessings,
Amy

Fellowship Family Movie

We will be going to see *Sing 2* at Windsong Theaters at 2456 Central Ave. Showtime is 1:00 pm. Cost is $6 for kids, $8 for adults. Please RSVP by Thursday night!
You can watch the trailer [here](#).
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hannah Hansen is in Richland, Washington working toward an MA as a Speech Pathology Therapist. Miles Hansen is studying at MSU-Bozeman toward a Degree in Agricultural Business with a goal to be a rancher.

Correction from last week:
Hannah Roche graduated from MSU-Billings with a degree in elementary education.
Ryan Roche graduated from MSU-Northern, studied at NDSU in Fargo for a semester, then transferred to the AT-C MA program in Missoula in June 2021.

Holiday Office Hours

The office will be closed on Friday, December 31st.
Book Study Begins January 9th

Join us in a discussion/study of Cynthia Rylant’s book, “God Got A Dog,” a comforting collection of poetry. Through her poetry we will explore the way we think about God and our relationship with God. We have scheduled 3 sessions, in which we will enjoy the poetry and share our thoughts. If you are unable to come to all of them, join us when you can. There is no expectation of “homework” or preparation ahead of meeting, unless there is a particular poem you would like to share.

A Virtual Mission Trip

Resilience and Innovation in the Face of Climate Change: A Virtual Pilgrimage to Bangladesh.

Learn about how the people along the coastlines of Bangladesh are responding to the challenges of climate change, rising ocean levels, salination of land, frequent natural disasters, and consequent disruptions and displacement.

Pilgrimage participants will engage with the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) to learn about their climate resilient agricultural practices, alternative skills training, and women’s initiatives for social and economic development through a series of presentations, reflections,
and conversations. This virtual pilgrimage is a collaboration between CCDB and Global Ministries and will take place during January 25 - 28, 2022 for a cost of $25.

Click here for more information about the schedule and registration. Sign up today and invite others to join in this pilgrimage of listening, learning, sharing, and walking in solidarity with our siblings in Bangladesh!

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**Online Giving**

Joyfully we are able to give knowing that our gifts will help others to see the blessed miracle of God’s creative joy. We invite you to donate to Mayflower church, so that our ministry may continue. You can donate here. Thank you for your support of Mayflower.

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**Prayers**

For unto us a child is born. And that child is Emmanuel, God with us. Come be born in us again, this Christmas, O Jesus, and hear the prayers we offer you this day. We pray for all those feeling overworked and overwhelmed, bring to them a rest that is restoring, O God.

We pray for the people of Western Kansas who are experiencing dust storms and fires due to climate change, bring to them your strength and stamina as they turn toward a new year, O God.

We pray for people's safety during this season. Relieve the stress and strain of those who are traveling during this holiday season. And help us prevent fires in our homes. Be to us a shelter in the storm, O God.

We pray for people who are being evicted and those who are homeless during this time. And
work with those in places of leadership to reimagine how all may find some shelter in their time of need, O God.

We pray with thanksgiving for the gift of your birth. We know you too were born during a time of suffering and turmoil. And so be born to us this day to bring new life and joy in our world.

And finally, we pray with thanksgiving for the life of our friend, Ian Elliot. We praise you with humble hearts and trust in your great mercy and wisdom to receive Ian into your eternal care. We praise you for your steadfast love for him all the days of his earthly life. We thank you for all that he was to those who loved him and for his faithfulness to the church of Jesus Christ.

We thank you that for Ian death itself is past and that he has entered the home where all your people gather in peace. Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last, we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

If you have Prayer Requests or Visitation Needs, please email or call them into the office. Please notify the office of any necessary removals from or changes to the current prayer list. Thanks.
Thurs., Dec. 30
5:30 PM -- Women's AA

Fri., Dec. 31
New Year's Eve (Office is Closed)
1:00 PM - Fellowship Family Movie

Sat., Jan. 1
New Year's Day

Sun., Jan. 2
Communion & Food Bank Sunday
10:00 AM -- Worship
3:00 PM -- Junior High OWL

Mon., Jan. 3
9:45 AM -- Con Spirito Rehearsal

Wed., Jan. 5
5:30 PM -- Younger Youth Group
6:30 PM -- Youth Group
7:00 PM -- Choir Practice
Gratitude Journal

As the church year ends, I want to offer gratitude for the many ways everyone has supported our church. As we have negotiated our worship services, meetings, and other gatherings. I am extremely grateful for the grace and goodwill we have all extended to each other. You are living out your calling as Christ’s body.

Report from the Stewardship Committee:

There have been 79 pledges totaling $232,879.00.