

MAYFLOWER

News

APR | MAY 2021

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

April 1 - 5-6pm
Silent Meditation in the Sanctuary

Good Friday

April 2 - Noon Livestream Service

Easter Sunday

April 4 - 9:00am
Outdoor Service | Coffee Reception

10:30am
Streamed Service



A MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings, Mayflower family!

The cold weather took a short pause then returned before we could miss it. I saw some daffodils take the bait yet hope they are no worse for wear – their optimism inspires.

The weather may be drab but the upcoming calendar at Mayflower is anything but, with a **very special outdoor worship service** planned for Easter Sunday.

In February, the Search Committee saw maybe just a tip of its shadow, indicating the possibility that the search could bear fruit in April or May or could extend a bit longer. God's hand will guide the committee as they proceed with interviews, assisted by your prayers. Search Committee Chair Ginger Young will continue to give updates as they are available.

It is nominating time, and **we need committee members!** Please visit the Leadership page of our website (MayflowerChurch.org/about/leadership) to learn more about the Council and find a nominating form link to volunteer or make nominations.

A date has been chosen for our 2021 Annual Meeting. **Mark your calendars for June 6!** Details will be communicated closer to the event.

Finally, be on the lookout for information regarding the **phased reopening of in-person services at Mayflower beginning the week following Easter Sunday!** The entire plan will be communicated via multiple channels very soon.

Peace and Joy to us all!

~ Jim Rogers, Moderator

MAYFLOWER

Music

Your music staff continues to look for ways to engage our music volunteers, professionals, children and youth.



MAYFLOWER
Congregational Church



ÖSTERREICH 180
Ludwig van Beethoven
200. Geburtstag
GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY
Marcelo Lehninger, Music Director

CHAMBER MUSIC AT MAYFLOWER

Join us for a virtual concert on **Friday, April 16 at 7pm** as we celebrate Beethoven's 250th Anniversary with musicians of the Grand Rapids Symphony conducted by John Varineau



The FREE livestream program includes Beethoven's Octet for Winds in E-flat, Op. 103

To enjoy this free concert, or for more information, please visit www.MayflowerChurch.org

YOUTH CHOIRS

The children and youth choirs have been working hard to prepare for the musical *The Lost Boy* on April 25th!

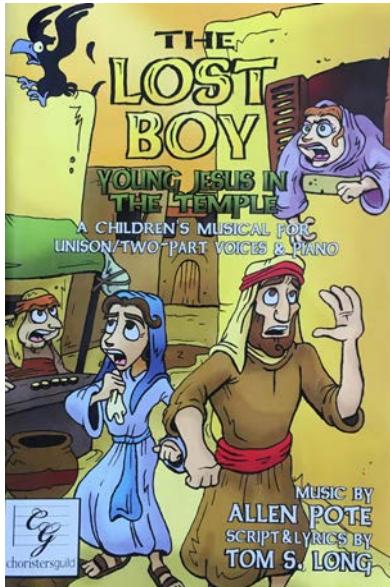
We have been meeting in the atrium and the children have been filling the space with wonderful singing.

We are so excited to share this musical with all of you and hope you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed preparing it for you.

The Cross Awards Pizza Party will take place outside at Mayflower on **April 25th at Noon**. We will have pizza and celebrate our unusual but memorable choir year!

We will finish the year with a final Midweek Fling from April 14th - May 5th.

Our final Midweek will be a Cinco de Mayo celebration!



In the upcoming months you will experience some Mayflower music traditions as well as new and exciting repertoires and ideas. Here is what you can look forward to:



ART SONG IN THE ATRIUM

Our weekly series **Art Song in the Atrium**, which features beautiful voices from Chancel Choir and the beautiful new Bosendorfer piano in the atrium, will continue through the end of May. I am especially looking forward to Benjamin Britten's Canticle II, a dramatic musical setting of the story of Abraham and Isaac, beautifully sung by Ben Zuzelski (who sang Amahl last December) and Scott Bosscher. In addition to the music videos posted on Monday mornings, you can download a devotional that includes a translation of the sung poetry, scripture, commentary and images. As I enjoy these weekly videos, I continue to be grateful for the Mayflower families and individuals who contributed generously towards the purchase of the new piano.

MayflowerChurch.org/programs/music/artsong

Outdoor Easter Service, April 4 at 9am. Chancel Choir and Handbells will lead us in a Call to Worship and two Easter hymns.

Streamed Easter Service, April 4 at 10:30. A grand, joyful service with Handbells, organ, Hallelujah Chorus and traditional Easter hymns.

Grand Rapids Symphony at Mayflower, Friday, April 16 at 7pm. A free, livestreamed concert in our sanctuary featuring wind players from our symphony in a concert celebrating Beethoven's birthday.

The Lost Boy, Children's Musical, April 25, 10:30am streamed service. Abby, Josh, and our youth have been rehearsing and preparing this year's musical. Recording in small groups in the atrium allows our children and youth to present a virtual version of the musical. Dialogue, solos, choir, clarinet and costumes come together to bring to life the story of Jesus lost in the temple. Don't miss this heart-warming, inspiring worship service.

~ Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music



CELEBRATING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES! SENIOR SUNDAY JUNE 6!

After navigating an extraordinary year, we are excited to bring back a beloved Mayflower tradition recognizing our high school seniors with the **Harold Grill Award** (named after the first Sunday school superintendent.)

Originally the award was given to the senior who demonstrated leadership in youth activities. Our hope this year is to recognize the contributions of all our seniors as they boldly pursue their future. With this award, we express our appreciation for their participation in church activities, encourage them to be active church members wherever they may go, and remind them they will always have a home here at Mayflower.

Please respond by May 1 if your senior would like to participate.



Elevate will wrap up the year with one FINAL "Sunday Supper" on April 18. Watch your weekly email for details.

Christian Education

11TH COMMANDMENT FLOWERS

Imagine if you could ask God to make an 11th Commandment...

What would you like it to be?

The Christian Education Team will be sending flowers to all grade school children for them to write on it what they would make the 11th Commandment if God asked them to. These will then be collected and hung on the trees around church to welcome spring.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ONLINE VIDEOS

We hope you are enjoying our weekly videos on our YouTube channel playlist: [Mayflower CE Team](#).

Also, found in the weekly News email!



SUNDAY SCHOOL HOME EDITION

The spring, Home Edition Sunday School packets will be sent again with a Bible lesson, crafts and children's bulletins. We will continue to send these through May to children four years old to third grade.

If you are interested in receiving our [Sunday School Home Edition](#), please contact Susan Orban at Susan@mayflowerchurch.org or Andrea Koster at Andrea@mayflowerchurch.org.

8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION 2021!

We are looking forward to beginning our Confirmation classes after spring break. We will have an **Informational Lunch Meeting on Sunday, April 18 at 12:00pm** for both parents and participants. Our class will meet at noon on Sundays for four weeks (April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16). On **Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we will celebrate the Confirmation** of these students during our morning worship service!

Please keep the following 8th graders in your prayers as they seek Confirmation at Mayflower: Sophia Conway, James Dempsey, Rory Edelman, Samantha Lovell, J.C. Poortenga, Quincy Stiffler, Liesel Trost, and James Wiener.

If your child would like to pursue Confirmation this spring, please email Allison Houlihan at allison@mayflowerchurch.org

MAYFLOWER *Outreach*

Thank you for contributing to the efforts and donations of Mayflower by giving and supporting our community.

Mayflower Outreach has supported many wonderful charities with your generous donations. Visit the website page for more details on how we have supported Baxter Community Center, Eden Children's Village, AYA Youth Collective, D.A. Blodgett/St. John's Home, and Habitat for Humanity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ONLINE:

MayflowerChurch.org/programs/outreach/

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Things are progressing for the Search Committee, though not as quickly as we had hoped.

Upon reviewing the four finalists that fit Mayflower's profile and requirements for a new leader, we watched introduction videos and sermon samples, discussed resumes, and then chose three individuals for the committee to interview via Zoom. We proceeded with two finalists remaining and decided to meet and talk with each of them in person.

After meeting one of the candidates, we made the decision not to move forward with him. While he had many fine qualifications, we determined that he was not the right person for our membership. The committee will be connecting with the remaining candidate and his wife via Zoom, to keep the process moving.

Making these decisions is not something we take lightly, nor without a great deal of soul searching, exploration and discussion. Please understand that we, as a committee, represent ALL of you. While this is not going as quickly as everyone had hoped, the committee remains committed to prayerfully working the process led by Vanderbloemen and their years of experience and expertise in pastoral searches.

Our new spiritual leader will be chosen in God's time. Please continue to pray for us to have patience, wisdom and discernment, and to listen for God's calling and be touched by the Holy Spirit within us.

FIND MORE DETAILS ONLINE:

MayflowerChurch.org/news/pastor-search-update

MAYFLOWER ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 6th, 2021

**Visit MayflowerChurch.org/about/leadership
to submit a nomination for 2021-2022 committees**

THURSDAY, APRIL 22 - 7PM

MAYFLOWER LADIES NIGHT OUT

Bring a lawn chair and a beverage and meet at the church for an outdoor get-together.

Friends are always welcome!

SUNDAY, MAY 23 - NOON

FAMILY FUN RUN

A Fun Run will be held at Mayflower! All the children of the church will be encouraged to participate to raise money for their favorite Mayflower Outreach ministry. Music, food, and fun will abound while the children run their laps

Come and cheer them on!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

We are actively praying for many members and friends of our congregation, so if you know of anyone who might appreciate being uplifted by this supportive ministry, we invite you to send us their name. The committee is busy creating and sending cards to people on the Prayer List. Our group maintains a connection with church members who are homebound or experiencing various challenges.

If you would like to join us or know of someone who would welcome a call or a card, or would like to create greeting cards, please contact Murry Idema at murry@mayflowerchurch.org.

MAYFLOWER NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

If you love to needlepoint, please join the NEW Mayflower Needlepoint Guild. We will meet in the Atrium from 12:15-2:15pm for afternoon tea and stitching on the following dates: March 17 / 31, April 14 / 28, May 12 / 26.

Invite and share with your friends and neighbors!

The Angels are available in full kits online from artist, Joan Thomasson, at www.stitchinstuff.com but feel free to join us to stitch any other projects you may be working on.

For more information, email Andrea Koster at Andrea@MayflowerChurch.org.