



MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

JUNE | JULY | AUG 2021



Join us

JUNE 6th
MAYFLOWER
ANNUAL MEETING
immediately following worship

*There will
be cake!*

RETIREMENT
RECEPTION FOR
Pastor Jonathan White
following the Annual Meeting

Welcome back!

We are so excited to see you again in-person on Sundays - NO RESERVATION NEEDED - and at the fun events planned for the summer as we re-engage in a new normal after such a trying season.

Guest Sermon Series - Inviting new Voices with unique Vision into our church



MAYFLOWER Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 - 5:30PM

49UP Spring Soiree at the Roths

Join your 49UP Friends (singles and couples, age 49+ with no top age limit) for a barbecue at the home of

Karen and Tom Roth -- 1104 Idema Drive SE

Roths will provide barbecue pork sandwiches.
Bring your own beverage and a dish to share.

RSVP with your choice to bring an appetizer, salad, potato-type dish, or dessert to Susan Jones (sjones9200@aol.com or 458-0305)



THURSDAY, JUNE 17 - 5:00-7:00PM

69UP Group Get-Together!

Join the fun and fellowship at

Sandy Armbruster's home -- 6385 Thornhills Ct.

Bring an appetizer or bottle of wine to share.
RSVP to Murry Idema (ridema58@gmail.com; 616-243-2764)



MAYFLOWER NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

If you love to needlepoint, please join the Mayflower Needlepoint Guild.

We meet every other Wednesday in the Atrium from 12:15-2:15pm. Angels are available in full kits online from artist, Joan Thomasson, at www.stitchinstuff.com or feel free to join us to stitch any other projects you may be working on.

**JUNE 9, 23 | JULY 7, 21
AUGUST 4, 18**

Invite and share with your friends and neighbors!

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



**TUESDAY, JUNE 22
5:30PM**

Church Ladies' Dinner

We hope that you can join us at **Noco Provisions** on Cascade Rd at Forest Hills Ave

Since seating is somewhat limited, RSVP to Maris Rosema, 616-821-0413

We look forward to seeing you!



Mayflower Church
Ladies' Nights Out

3rd Thursday of the month — 7:00pm

June 17 * July 15
* August 19 *

Bring a chair and a beverage under the portico at Mayflower for a time of fellowship and friendship.



Waterslide Wednesdays!

1:00pm - 3:00pm

* June 9
* July 21
* Aug 11



Slip & Slide on the front lawn and popsicles! Friends are always welcome!!



2345 Robinson Road, Grand Rapids • 616-459-6255

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Congratulations Rachael Cooley & Abby Brooks



Your Mayflower Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that **Rachael Cooley** has accepted the newly created position of **Director of Christian Outreach and Family Ministries**. Susan Orban and Andrea Koster will add the fifth graders to their Christian Education role, and Rachael will continue her work with the nursery.

We are also excited that **Abby Brooks** has taken on the role of **Children and Youth Choir Director**, working with our young people all the way up through high school. We thank Joshua Ledesma for his past contributions as Youth Choir Director.



COFFEE HOUR IS BACK IN THE ATRIUM!

We're excited to be able to return to our sanctuary and in-person worship followed by a welcoming reception (in the Atrium) afterward. Come meet with friends, chat with the service participants, and enjoy special treats...every Sunday throughout the summer. ***See you there!***

MAYFLOWER *Outreach*

***On Sunday, July 18th we are excited to have
Kevin and Susan Fry with us in our worship service.***

Kevin and Susan will be presenting an "update" during the service and we will have a time to pray for them and for Eden Ministries. Stay tuned for more details about meetings and meals with them as well as special planning for our fall sponsorship launch!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ONLINE:

MayflowerChurch.org/programs/outreach/



CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

Trained Stephens Ministers along with the Friendly Visitors group, and the pastoral care team are ready to respond if you, or someone you know, is going through a rough time, needs prayer support, or other personal connection. We are ready to serve.

There is a care team in place if you would like to join or help with ANY need a Mayflower member might have. (Missing from photo: Eric Britcher.)

This team is equipped to pray, do hospital visits, home visits, crisis care, serve the Eucharist, or help in other ways. Contact Amy Hermen to be put in touch with one of our members:

Eric Britcher
Linda Conway
Dale DeHaan
Ellen DeHaan

Murry Idema
Harold Montgomery
Shirley VanderWilt

Ginger Young
Jonathan White
Ruth Bell Olsson
Amy Hermen

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

FIND MORE DETAILS ONLINE:

MayflowerChurch.org/news/pastor-search-update



Voices and



Rev. Dr. Todd Cioffi
June 20 | August 2

Todd Cioffi is a professor of Congregational and Ministry Studies focusing on Missions, Community Development, and the director of the Calvin Prison Initiative. Todd has taught in the areas of systematic theology, philosophy, Christian ethics, and religion and politics. He is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has served several churches and ministries over the years.



Kent Dobson
June 27 | July 25 | August 29

Kent is the Lead Teacher at C3: An Inclusive Spiritual Community, in Grand Haven. He is the editor of the First Century Study Bible and author of the book *Bitten by a Camel*. He also leads wilderness retreats designed for spiritual and psychological growth. He's currently working on a new book and has a podcast called *Hints and Guesses*.



Rev. Dr. David A. Van Dyke
July 15

Throughout his ministry, David has been active both locally and nationally. He served the longest term as Moderator of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. He is a founding board member of Ujamaa Place, a Saint Paul organization working with African American men ages 18-30. He was a founding board member of the Interfaith Coalition to Stop the Death Penalty.



Alexiana Fry
September 5

Alexiana Fry is a PhD candidate of Old Testament at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, and adjunct professor of Bible here in the West Michigan area. She is currently working on a book about Trauma, Speech Act Theory, and the Bible to be released in 2023, and has published two chapters of work with the Centre of Bible and Violence.

Vision

Inviting new Voices with
unique Vision into our church

MayflowerChurch.org/news/summer
for more biography details



Rev. Katherine Lee Baker
July 18 | August 22

Rev. Katherine Lee Baker is an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America. Having served in various parish, clinical, campus, and non-profit ministry settings on the East Coast and in the Midwest, she is passionate about community engagement, intersectionality, and all things cultivating emotional agility and spiritual resiliency.



Rev. Ricardo Tavarez
August 1

Rev. Ricardo Tavárez is a Grand Rapid native, Executive Director of New City Neighbors - a youth empowerment ministry that engages in urban farming, and the lead pastor of the En Vivo Church. His pastoral experience includes helping churches engage in community ministry, leadership in the intersection of the gospel and social action.



Jonathan White
June 6 / July 4

A longtime member of Mayflower Church, having recently served as Interim Senior Pastor, Jonathan has a strong background in history and religion. He was fully ordained in 1992 and has served as a parish pastor around West Michigan. Having recently retired from GVSU as Emeritus Professor of Honors, he also served for the Department of Justice with his vast experience in the world of counter-terrorism.



Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson
June 13 | July 11

Ruth Bell Olsson is an activist in spirit and an ally at heart. Her writings and teachings on a variety of subjects wrestle with the deep mysteries of living a life of faith in a complicated world. Ruth earned her Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Wheaton College and her Master of Arts in global leadership from Fuller Seminary. She was ordained at Mayflower Church in 2019 and currently serves as Interim Associate Pastor.

MAYFLOWER *Music*

As we emerge from the isolation of this pandemic and relearn what it means to be part of a live, worshiping, growing faith community, we aim to unify our music program, making singing and music-making a central activity of our faith formation and growth. Abby, Scott, and Julia are working together to engage everyone. We are excited to bring live music back into our lives. Plan to participate in choir, no matter your age, experience or ability. All are welcome!

CHILDREN & YOUTH CHOIRS AT MAYFLOWER

Starting in August, Abby Brooks, who currently directs our four children's choirs (ages 2 to 5th-grade) will also direct our middle and high school choirs. Please join us in welcoming Abby to her new, expanded role at Mayflower.



With a Master's degree in Music Education from Michigan State University and a Bachelors of Music in Education and a Bachelors of Arts in Dance Education degrees from Hope College, Abby brings expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to her expanded role here at Mayflower.

Please reach out to Josh Ledesma and thank him for his work with our middle and high school youth, especially during this past year. He will continue as a section leader in our Chancel Choir.



Congratulations Confirmands!

**Mikey Beusse, Ryan Brinker, Sophia Conway,
James Dempsey, Rory Edelman,
Samantha Lovell, J.C. Poortenga,
Ben Ruppert, Liesel Trost, Taylor Waite,
James Wiener, Evelyn Wing**

Visit [MayflowerChurch.org/news/confirmation](https://www.MayflowerChurch.org/news/confirmation)
to read excerpts from their Statements of Faith



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**.

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 Church.

Billy Beusse (EGR)
University of Miami

Ceci Cary (EGR)
Michigan State University

Caroline Grin (EGR)
University of Michigan

Emma Israels (EGR)
University of South Carolina

Natalie Koster (EGR)
University of Michigan

Colin Krause (EGR)
Michigan State University

Spencer Millwood (EGR)
Butler University

Whitaker Oosterman (GRC)
Northern Michigan University

Abby Ward (EGR)
University of Denver

Emma Wert (EGR)
University of Michigan

Christian Education

At the end of May, the Christian Education team wrapped up our “**Sunday School Home Edition**” bi-monthly mailings. We hope the children enjoyed receiving these mailings as much as we enjoyed sending them over the past nine months!



In the next few weeks, 4-year-olds through 3rd-graders will receive personalized Mayflower facemasks to use as needed when visiting all the fun summer places. We hope to receive some great pics with the masks that we'll post on social media.

Andrea Koster and Susan Orban will be thrilled to welcome the children back to church in September and are hard at work planning a fabulous fall!



TUESDAY, JUNE 22 - 4-8PM

We will meet at New City Kids, and help to spruce up the outside of their building before their Summer Jam concert. We will be spreading mulch, edging, planting flowers, sweeping, power-washing and cleaning outdoors.

SATURDAY, AUG. 14 - 8AM-1PM

Mayflower will be sponsoring a refreshment station along the New City Kids Bike Tour route between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. Come encourage the riders while pouring Gatorade and unwrapping granola bars. All for a great cause!

For more information or

to sign up for either event, please contact:

Allison Houlihan (allison@mayflowerchurch.org)
Rachael Cooley (rachael@mayflowerchurch.org)

A MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN

Dear Friends,

This is a letter to say goodbye and thank you for the past year of support. It has been an incredible privilege to work in this holy place that ordained and launched me into a part-time career as a pastor.

This past year has been very strange for all of us. As Julia, Ruth, Scott, and I led worship by focusing on a camera, we often wondered if anything was being broadcasted. Your answer was overwhelming.

Mayflower was in a storm, and we weathered it together. Now we can see the cloud of the pandemic is waning and the church is emerging into sunlight, a metaphor from darkness to light. Surely, this is a reminder of resurrection.

Thank you for allowing me to both serve the church and to retire for a second time. Even though this is goodbye, I'm not going anywhere. I'll be sitting with my friends in worship and "waiting in the bullpen" when Mayflower needs a guest preacher on a Sunday when the pastors are away. I also hope to lead book studies and adult education. As our business manager noted, if you want me, you only need to dial 1-800-Watermark Country Club.

Thank you for calling me as your interim pastor, with special gratitude to Jim Rogers and Susan Jones.

Additional appreciation goes to the people who volunteered for the ad hoc COVID Task Force and multiple committee members who attended seemingly endless Zoom meetings. Please also accept my gratitude for the many phone calls, letters, texts, and e-mails of support and encouragement. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I love this church and know that you do, too.

May Mayflower Congregational Church and its members be always blessed.

In Christ, Jon

COMING UP - THIS FALL!!

MUSIC IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR LIVES TOGETHER AT MAYFLOWER

If music brings you joy, or is a big part of your life, or if you would like to explore and deepen your faith through music, consider joining one of our choirs this fall.

Our Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Children and Youth Choirs, all have room for you! Our groups include both amateurs and professional musicians ages 3 and up. By making this weekly commitment, you will find a community that embraces you with a common joy of making music.

Come, join us as we explore new horizons, build community, grow in faith, experience beauty and wonder, and connect to God and each other. Wednesday rehearsals will begin after Labor Day.



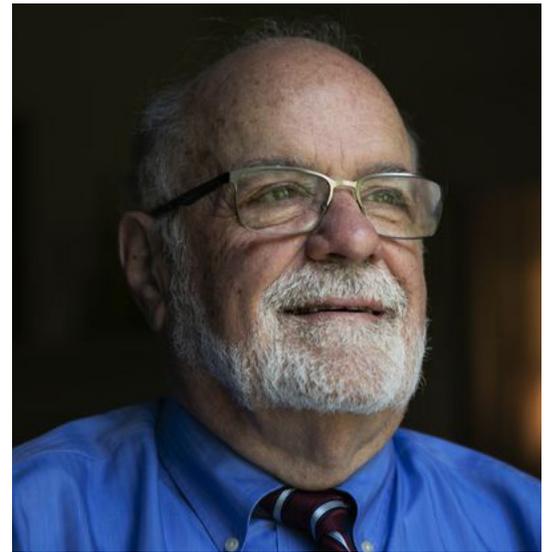
SUNDAY, SEPT. 12 - NOON

MAYFLOWER'S ANNUAL PICNIC

Join us and reconnect!
Live DJ, Backyard BBQ and
Carnival Games for the kids!

Would you like to donate and dedicate fresh
Altar or Lectern and Pulpit flowers for Sundays?

Please contact Amy Hermen in the office or go online to signup:
mayflowerchurch.org/news/flowers/



The Mayflower Congregational Church Personnel Committee and Council are pleased to announce that The Reverend Steven W. Armfield will join us as Interim Senior Pastor immediately after Labor Day, 2021. Steve has served most recently as the Interim Senior Pastor at Second Congregational Church in Grand Rapids. A graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, Steve has pastored churches in Arizona, California, Minnesota, Stockholm (Sweden), and Grand Rapids. His strengths include preaching, pastoral care, and church revitalization. We look forward to welcoming Steve and his wife, Janet Lindblom Armfield, to Mayflower in September while eagerly awaiting the call for a new senior pastor as the search committee continues to work steadily toward the goal of finding the right person for our church.

Youth Pastor Search

The search has begun for an experienced Youth Pastor to grow and lead our Elevate activities. If you know of anyone who would be interested in working with our youth, please invite them to apply at:

MayflowerChurch.org/about/youth-pastor

or contact Allison Houlihan
or Ruth Bell Olsson.