

# MAYFLOWER

*Join us!*

Congregational Church

NOV | DEC 2021

**THIS WEEK**  
*& more*  
at Mayflower  
Updates • Events • Happenings

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*Serve*  
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Dear Mayflower Friends,

What a tremendous joy it has been to see so many of you at Mayflower this fall! Our fall launch picnic was fabulous, and the programming for children and adults is now in full swing. Our Sunday worship continues through the Book of Acts and we have enjoyed the blessing of song through our many choirs. If you have not yet joined us in person, we welcome you back! If you are part of our “virtual” community, we love to know that you are with us in spirit.



Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson  
Interim Co-Pastor

We look forward with great anticipation to how God is going to grow our church and our programming through this year’s “Blessed to Be a Blessing” Annual Stewardship Campaign. We trust that God is moving us toward greater engagement in the ministry of Mayflower and we believe that the best is yet to come.



Rev. Steven Armfield  
Interim Co-Pastor

How could we not be excited to end our year with the season of Advent and the arrival of the Christ child? Last year’s inaugural Live Nativity event was so successful, that we had to bring it back this year! So, gather your family and friends and plan to join us outside on Christmas Eve. Then, either in-person or virtually, we can continue our worship in celebration with our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service.

May we seek to be generous as we are, indeed, blessed to be a blessing. And, may “The Blessing” of the birth of Christ be experienced by all.

We have had an extraordinary year. All that we have been through has changed us, and in many ways unified us more than ever. We are now back in person worshipping God together, studying the Bible, singing in choirs, and enjoying the myriad of programming our wonderful church offers.

We thank God for this and recognize that all we have comes from God. When we recognize God’s provision and goodness to us, how can we not want to share this with others?

We have been blessed and it is our opportunity to be a blessing.

**We are invited to ask ourselves:  
“How can I be a blessing this year?”**

Continued on page 7

blessed  
to be a  
blessing

ACTS 20:35



You can find additional details on these events and more by visiting [MayflowerChurch.org/Join-Us/Events](http://MayflowerChurch.org/Join-Us/Events)



**Mayflower  
Needlepoint  
Guild**

**12:15 - 2:15pm**

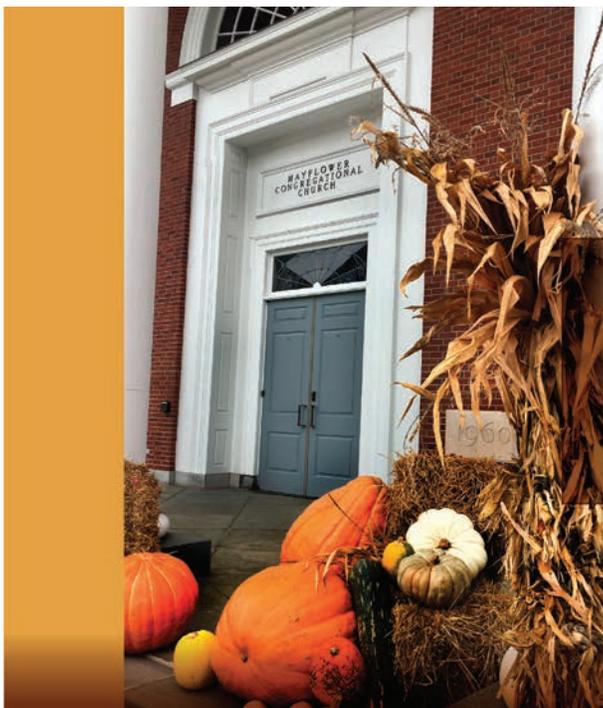
Join us EVERY Wednesday  
in the Atrium

Andrea Koster –  
[andrea@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:andrea@mayflowerchurch.org)

**We Need Your Help** to setup, direct parking, and offer candles for our Christmas Eve outdoor Live Nativity event at 5:00pm.

**PLEASE SIGN-UP** at [MayflowerChurch.org/Join-Us/Advent-Christmas](http://MayflowerChurch.org/Join-Us/Advent-Christmas)

- MON | NOV 1** **Mondays at Mayflower - BRAHMSFEST - 7:00pm**  
Bösendorfer Piano Dedication with Sookkyung Cho and friends in a program of Brahms' chamber music in the Atrium.
- THUR | NOV 25** **Thanksgiving Service in the Atrium - 10:00am**  
Drummers, Choir, Pumpkin Bread - Join us as we sing, pray, and give thanks for our blessings.
- WED | DEC 1** **Advent Alive - 5:00pm**  
Come together to make Christmas crafts and spread holiday cheer.
- THUR | DEC 2** **49UP Event - Christmas Party - 6:00pm**  
A potluck party gathering with friends hosted by Barbara Hohman.
- SUN | DEC 5** **Workshop: The Bible and Handel's *Messiah*, Session 1 with Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel Reynolds - 11:45am**  
Join us at Mayflower in Youth Room A.
- WED | DEC 8** **Workshop: The Bible and Handel's *Messiah*, Session 2 with Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel Reynolds - 6:00pm**  
Join us at Mayflower in Youth Room A.
- THUR | DEC 9** **69UP Event - Christmas Party - 5:00pm**  
Come celebrate the joyous season at the home of Elaine Matthews.
- SUN | DEC 12** **Cantata - Scenes from Handel's *Messiah***  
Join us for an extra special Sunday morning worship at 10:30am.
- SUN | DEC 24** **Christmas Eve: Live Nativity - 5:00-6:00pm**  
Experience the magic of Christmas with an outdoor candlelit walk among carolers, animals, and a live nativity. Collecting sweatshirts, sweatpants, full-sized shampoo & conditioner, and monetary donations for AYA Youth Collective.
- SUN | DEC 24** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 10:00pm**  
A peaceful evening service of carols and the Christmas story with choirs, handbells, and harp.



*Drummers, Choir, Pumpkin Bread  
Join us as we sing, pray, and  
give thanks for our blessings*

**Thanksgiving Service  
November 25 - 10:00am  
In the Atrium**

*Donations of diapers  
and baby wipes are being  
collected for refugee families*

Outreach supporting  
refugees through  
**Bethany**  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

# The Blessing

Giving Voice  
to the Promise

## WORKSHOPS

Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:45am &

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:00pm

The Bible and Handel's *Messiah*  
with Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel Reynolds

Monday, Dec. 6, 7:00pm - CAROL SING

MayflowerChurch.org | FB Mayflower Congregational Church

## 10:30am SUNDAY ADVENT WORSHIP

Nov. 28 - Dec. 19 - Advent Sermon Series

Dec. 12 - Cantata: Handel's *Messiah*

## Dec. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00-6:00pm Outdoor Live Nativity

10:00pm Candlelight Service

**Christmas is personal**, a fulfillment of promise with you and me as the recipient. When God sent his son into the world, the birth was to bless the human race with a gift wrapped in the person of Jesus.

At Mayflower we will 'unwrap' the Christmas story this season with the theme "The Blessing: Giving Voice to the Promise." With majestic and breathtaking language, Isaiah foretells the Christmas story. On December 12, our Chancel Choir will bring Isaiah's message to us in the magnificent music of Handel's *Messiah*.

Our preaching/teaching will look at the Advent message as told in the lives of Mary, Zachariah, and the Shepherds. Something is stirring within the lives of a young maiden of Nazareth, an old faithful priest in Jerusalem, and a group of common shepherds on the hillside near Bethlehem. God is working to fulfill his promise to them and to us.

**We experience Advent every year. May this Advent season be full of joy, hope, and praise for us all.**

Christmas Eve 5:00-6:00pm

# Join us!

*2nd Annual Outdoor Live Nativity  
Come experience the magic of Christmas  
with an outdoor candlelit walk among  
carolers, animals, and a live nativity.*



Monetary donations will be collected for AYA Youth Collective caring for homeless teens in GR. [www.AYAYouth.org](http://www.AYAYouth.org)



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT MAYFLOWER

As we return to in-person activities and plan our Mayflower 2021 Advent season, we are offering longtime honored traditions along with some new events:

**Monday, December 6, 7pm**

### SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS! – Mayflower's first Carol Sing

Come sing Christmas carol favorites with Mayflower's intergenerational instrumental ensemble comprised of amateur and professional musicians conducted by our very own Terry Zylman. Hot chocolate and cookies will follow in the atrium.

**Join the Band!** If you play an instrument and would like to join the instrumental ensemble please call the church office (459-6255) or email [julia@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:julia@mayflowerchurch.org) by Nov. 15.

Strings, woodwinds, brass, piano, percussion, harp, accordion, etc. The easy arrangements will be handed out in advance for rehearsal on Monday, November 29 at 7pm.

**Monday, December 12, 10:30am**

### CANTATA SUNDAY

A yearly tradition at Mayflower, our Chancel Choir, Children's Choirs, soloists and musicians from the Grand Rapids Symphony will present scenes from Handel's *Messiah*, within the context of worship on Sunday, December 12. The service will end with the whole congregation joining their voices to sing the beloved *Hallelujah Chorus*.

*Messiah* is one of the world's most beloved oratorios and tells one of the world's greatest stories: the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whether it's your first encounter or a yearly ritual, Handel's masterpiece speaks to us with passion, beauty, spirituality, and joy.

**Sunday, Dec. 5 at 11:45am | Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 6pm**

### MESSIAH WORKSHOP

The church is hosting a two-part workshop by the Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel Reynolds, professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary and author of the book *Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah*. She will help us consider the words and the music together, so we can fully appreciate the power and inspirational potential of this beautiful work. The workshop will be held in two sessions. Make *Messiah* a part of your holiday season this year!

### JOIN ONE OF OUR MANY MUSIC GROUPS!

There is always room for you - whether you are young or more mature - whether you have music experience or not. Please contact our music staff.

**Come sing Handel's *Messiah* with us!**

**Come ring beautiful Christmas handbell anthems**

**Choirs for all ages, from 3 year-olds on up!**

# Mondays at Mayflower

We are excited to offer LIVE MUSIC in the atrium this season with a FREE CONCERT, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**NOV 1 | 7:00pm**

**Bösendorfer**

**Piano**

**Dedication:**

**BRAHMSFEST**

In collaboration with Grand Valley State University, we present a program of Brahms' chamber music.

Sookkyung Cho has been captivating worldwide audiences with her personal, thoughtful expressionist style.

Sookkyung is joined by GVSU colleagues, Letitia Jap (Violin), Paul Swantek (Viola) and Pablo Mahave-Veglia (Cello) in this off-campus program of GVSU Piano Chamber Series.



Julia Brown  
Music Director & Organist



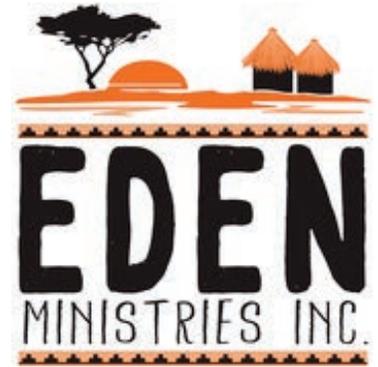
Scott Bosscher  
Chancel Choir Director



Abby Brooks  
Children & Youth  
Choir Director



**Mayflower has once again come together to change the lives of children on the other side of the world!** All 63 children from **Eden Village** in Zimbabwe, Africa are now receiving sponsorship which will allow them to go to school and grow up with the love and support every child deserves. It will be exciting to watch the relationships grow and to dream together as a congregation about one day going to Zimbabwe and meeting our children face to face!



This fall money was given to **Mulick Park School** for a reading curriculum. Our adult and high school mentors from Mayflower will be using this valuable resource directly with their students.

**New City Kids** received funding for new instruments to be used in their three new classrooms. The request was made due to a large increase in registrations this past fall. For more information, visit: [NewCityKids.org/GrandRapids](http://NewCityKids.org/GrandRapids).

**Bethany Christian Services** is hard at work locating housing and fulfilling the needs of refugees that have come to West Michigan and Mayflower is supporting these efforts through funds given.

**Thank you for your continued giving and support!** Mayflower is truly a church family that represents the hands and feet of Jesus by reaching out and caring for others all throughout the world!

# OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY!

## Mentors Still Needed!

Spend an hour a week reading with a student at **Mulick Park School**. For more information, visit: [MayflowerChurch.org/programs/outreach](http://MayflowerChurch.org/programs/outreach). If you would be interested in volunteering this year, please contact Allison Houlihan.



## MayflowerChurch.org/Programs/Midweek



**Last official Midweek of 2021 is December 8**  
Join us for Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols from 4-5pm on Dec 15 and 22 to prepare for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Nativity.



**Hope to see YOU next Wednesday!!**



*Rachael Cooley*  
Director of Family Ministries & Outreach

**YOUTH**  
*Elevate*  
 at Mayflower  
 Growth • Spirit • Relationship



**ELEVATE FUN forming friendships and faith**



*Thank You Mr. Meijer for the Ice Cream Treats!!*



**FOLLOW US:** Instagram (@mayfloweryouth)  
 Facebook (@mayflowercccyouth)



*Kellen Lemler  
 Youth Pastor*



*Allison Houlihan  
 Director of  
 Youth Ministries*



*Sara Burton  
 Youth Intern*

**CHRISTIAN  
 ED**  
*Faith*  
 at Mayflower  
 Bible • Stories • Creativity



Throughout November and December the children in Bible Beginnings and Bible Alive will be collecting mittens, scarves and hats to adorn the Mitten Tree in the Narthex. This act of giving to others along with the Sunday school lessons and Advent crafts, serve as a tangible way to learn about the magic of Advent and God's amazing gift of Love.



*Andrea Koster  
 Christian Ed Co-director  
 Bible Beginnings*



*Susan Orban  
 Christian Ed Co-director  
 Bible Alive*

# “How can I be a blessing to my church and community this year?”

## Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,

October and November are the traditional stewardship months at Mayflower Congregational Church. During this time, we request a commitment from members like you, for funding our next ministry year. Your annual giving estimate is a tangible way for you to support the programming and ministry of our church.

**Pre-Covid, our church’s annual giving was \$1.1 million.  
During Covid, in 2021, the budgeted giving amount shrunk to \$768,000.**

With wise financial management, dedicated and hardworking staff, inspirational clergy, and God’s blessings, we have made it through and are looking forward in faith.

**Our goal for 2022 is to return members’ financial commitments to the pre-Covid level of \$1.1 million, and restore Christian Outreach to a full 15%.**

As a Congregationalist, it is your right to know what is happening in our church. This is Congregationalism in action!

In this spirit of transparency, we have made available online Mayflower’s recent financials for your review - [MayflowerChurch.org/support/be-a-blessing](http://MayflowerChurch.org/support/be-a-blessing). You will find links to weekly postal mailed letters to the congregation including information on the 2019 and 2020 budgets, with comparison to the reduced 2021 Covid budget. You will also see how pledges compared in these three years.

As we enter this stewardship season, we understand that you may have questions, comments, or concerns. Please know that we are available to address these by phone, by email, or in person.

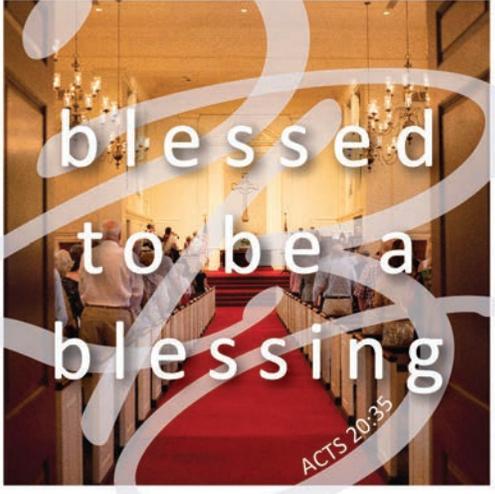
**We ask that you prayerfully submit your 2022 Annual Stewardship Commitment before Thanksgiving.** Cards are available in the church office or you may go online: [MayflowerChurch.org/support/commitment-form](http://MayflowerChurch.org/support/commitment-form).

With gratitude and in Christ,

Barbara Hohman, Chairperson  
[hohmanbarbara@gmail.com](mailto:hohmanbarbara@gmail.com)  
(616) 446-4271

Susan K. Jones, Moderator  
[sjones9200@aol.com](mailto:sjones9200@aol.com)  
(616) 304-4633

Your Stewardship Committee  
Linda Chaffee, Rachel Haddad, Worth Hages,  
Steve Orban, Greg Scott



Barbara Hohman  
Stewardship Chair



Susan Jones  
Moderator

# MAYFLOWER Prays

Have you seen our new prayer cards? You can find them in the pew racks every week. It is our intention to be people of prayer...whether this is in the Sunday service, throughout the week via the prayer list, or individually when a need arises.

Our weekly prayer list (highlighting the praises and petitions of Mayflower members and their loved ones) is emailed every Wednesday. If you would like to receive this and pray for our community, please contact Amy Hermen in the church office.

Mayflower pastors, staff, and Congregational Care Team are here for you.



## SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

*Our committee continues to work together to find our next pastor. We have been meeting bi-weekly since August to stay current and informed. We continue to have weekly updates and discussions with our consultant at Vanderbloemen. He assures us he is with us throughout this entire process and continues to brainstorm with his group and gauge interest from many outlets.*

*We have had about 60 individuals that have reached out to them or they have contacted from their database. Most have lacked the qualifications for our position, and several have progressed to multiple interviews. To this point none have been the correct fit for our church.*

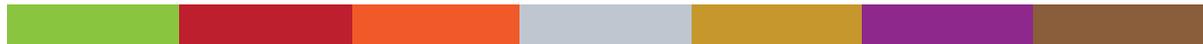
*Our consultant has shared with us that the labor market across the board is currently facing numerous struggles and ministry is no different. We continue to have faith and appreciate the stability and incredible hard work of our current staff.*

*Thanks always for the support.*

*The Search Committee*

[MayflowerChurch.org/join-us/pastor-search-update](http://MayflowerChurch.org/join-us/pastor-search-update)

~ Amy Conway, Rachel Blair Haddad, Phil Idema, Jessica Ruppert,  
Andy Schutt, Steve Waltman, Linda Edgar, Lisa Weaver



## Mayflower Staff is happy to see us all in church!

If you have any questions we would be happy to help.

Rev. Steve Armfield  
Interim Co-Pastor  
[Steve@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Steve@MayflowerChurch.org)

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson  
Interim Co-Pastor  
[Ruth@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Ruth@MayflowerChurch.org)

Dr. Julia Brown  
Director of Music  
& Organist  
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Scott Bosscher  
Director of Chancel Choir  
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Director of Children's  
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Kellen Lemler  
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Karen Roth  
Wedding Coordinator  
via [Amy@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Amy@MayflowerChurch.org)

Gwen Wallin  
Wedding Coordinator  
Via [Amy@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Amy@MayflowerChurch.org)

Courtenay Oosterman  
Communications  
[Communications@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Communications@MayflowerChurch.org)

**If you are not a member of Mayflower, but you consider this your church, we'd love to invite you to be part of our upcoming membership class!**

A new member class is being arranged and we encourage you to join our congregation in faith and community. Please contact Amy Hermen to get on the list.

**MAYFLOWER**  
*Join us!*  
Congregational Church  
Faith's journey • God is good • Jesus saves • Spirit leads

2345 Robinson Road SE, GR, MI 49506  
616-459-6255 - [MayflowerChurch.org](http://MayflowerChurch.org)  
Join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30!

FB: Mayflower Congregational Church  
IG: [MayflowerChurchGR](https://www.instagram.com/MayflowerChurchGR)  
YT: Mayflower Congregational Church - Grand Rapids, MI