

# MAYFLOWER

*Join us!*

Congregational Church

WINTER/SPRING 2023

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

**EVENTS**  
*Connect*  
at Mayflower  
Fellowship • Community • Fun

**MID WEEK**  
*Together*  
at Mayflower  
Music • Fellowship • Workshops

**OUT REACH**  
*Serve*  
at Mayflower  
Time • Treasure • Resources

**MUSIC**  
*Sou*  
at Mayflower  
Choir • Handbells • Organ

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

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

**UP GROUP**  
*Social*  
All Ages & Stages • Fun & Friendship

## Easter Lilies

Order yours for \$15 by filling out the envelope in the pew racks or ordering online **BY SUNDAY, APRIL 3.**

Lilies will be available to be taken home after the 10:30 service on Easter morning.

### ***Hello Mayflower Church Family!***

Throughout this newsletter you'll read about the different ministries and activities going on in our church community. God is doing great things here, and I'm happy and humbled to be a part of it as your pastor! I'm especially excited about all of us answering the Lord's call into deeper discipleship and exploring what that might mean for each of us regarding Mayflower. Perhaps it's serving in one of our service project events, or regularly participating in Sunday worship, or joining a Bible study or small group, or serving through one of our committees... there are so many opportunities at Mayflower to serve, to be connected, and to grow spiritually!

Our church has been blessed by God with amazing facilities—from the sanctuary to the atrium to the now fully functional kitchen to the new parlor to our sound system—and as we come out of the time of pandemic restrictions, we're looking for more ways we can unleash what we've been given on the world for the sake of the gospel. Over the next few months, you'll be hearing about new partnerships, new groups and events, and other ways we'll be using our building to show love for God and neighbor.

Finally, I'd like to once again thank everyone for the warm welcome and help in my family's transition to Grand Rapids. We've settled in nicely to our new city, new house, and new church community. While it's been just a bit more than six months, Mayflower has quickly come to feel like home for us!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Shawn



Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski  
Senior Pastor

If you are not already receiving Mayflower emails, **SIGN-UP NOW ONLINE** at [MayflowerChurch.org](http://MayflowerChurch.org).



Scan the QR Code with your phone to give/pay directly through E-Zekiel - no sign-up required.

Download the app to create an account for future secure scan-and-go transactions.

## Midweek Chapel-Meaningful, Eclectic and Informal

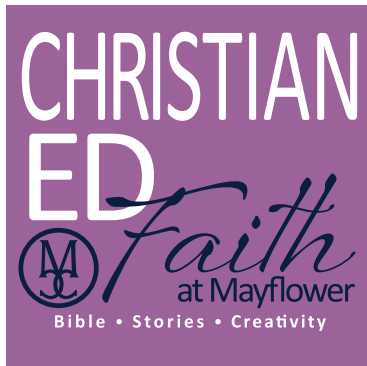
**COME AS YOU ARE** on **Wednesdays** to worship with live modern music, an inspiring message and an opportunity to give prayers and offerings in experiential ways. All ages are welcome!

### SCHEDULE

- 4:30-5:00 3's - Kindergarten Choir
- 5:00-5:30 3rd-5th Grade Chimes
- 5:30-6:00 1st-2nd Grade Choir
- 6:00-6:45 MIDWEEK Chapel
- 6:00-7:00 Mayflower Bells (Adult)
- 6:00-7:00 Bible Study with Rev. Eric Britcher in the Library - join in anytime!
- 6:45-7:30 3rd-5th Grade Choir
- 7:30-9:00 Chancel Choir (Adult)

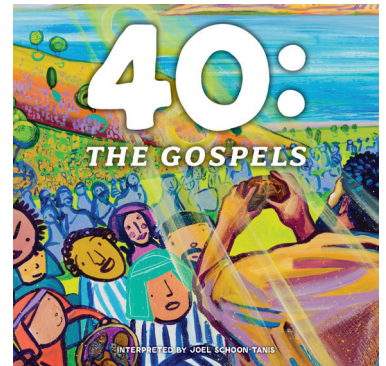
**DINNER** will be served 4:30-6:00pm. \$5/person.

**NURSERY CARE** for children ages birth through 3 years will be provided from 4:30-7:30pm. Nursery care for Chancel Choir members is available from 7-9pm.



Throughout Lent, children will experience the Bible stories of those who encountered Jesus and how they were changed.

Sunday mornings are filled with songs, stories, crafts and hands-on learning that plants God's Word and the love of Jesus deep in the hearts of the children.



### The Elementary Chime Group

What a wonderful year so far! The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade players work hard during rehearsal and are becoming confident ringers. They are preparing for Ash Wednesday, as well as playing in "Imagine God", the children's musical.

The chime group has been a wonderful addition to the children's music program at Mayflower and we are excited to see it grow!



## March Monday Meal, Music & Meditation

Come join us for a time away from our busy world and hectic schedules. We begin with a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:30pm, followed by a time of reflection and music. These are **FREE** events!

Mar. 6 - Linda Nelson, violin

Mar. 20 - Alicia Eppinga, cello

Mar. 13 - Jeremy Verwys, guitar

Mar. 27 - Kristi Burghart, soprano

## You are invited to sing with us!

Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7:30-8pm beginning February 8. We sing Sunday morning, March 19.

For more information, see Scott or Julia.



## Children's & Youth Musical

Join us on Sunday, March 26 at 10:30am for a service lead by our children and youth. They will present the musical *Imagine God* which explores the many ways to express God. Come learn and listen to the children as they sing about God as Mother Eagle, Shepherd, Wisdom, Breath, Bread, Rock, Friend and more.



## Our choirs are always accepting new members.

We are a family within our church community. We care about each other, we learn together, we share our love of music and add beauty and depth to our worship services.

***Come join us on this journey!***





**Mayflower and its members are dedicated to the care of those in need throughout our community, country, and the world.**

Throughout the year there are various ways to be involved with this important aspect of Mayflower’s ministries. This spring we are excited to once again host families through the **Family Promise IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network)** program. This is a ministry that has been dear to our hearts for many years. The ability to provide a place to rest, yummy food to eat and fellowship is a privilege and a gift that we not only give but receive.



**Our Host Week is  
March 26 – April 2.**

There are many ways to volunteer throughout the week: **host a dinner,**

**play with the children, stay overnight, be part of Saturday’s activities, wash laundry, donate food and more.** Prior to our host week, personnel from Family Promise will conduct two information sessions, Mar. 6th from 10am-11am and Mar. 7th from 5pm-6pm that will help us provide a healthy and positive environment for the families. Please plan on attending one of these sessions and being a part of this amazing outreach opportunity!



**Weekly Prayer List**

As a congregation, there is nothing more powerful that we can do for one another, than to lift up cares, concerns and praises in prayer. Here at Mayflower, we have a weekly Prayer List that is emailed. ***If you would like to receive, or make note of someone to be added to the weekly Prayer List,*** please reach out to the office to be included on the email list. ***Prayer Cards are also in the pews*** and collected during Sunday morning services.



*Missing: Dale & Ellen DeHaan*

**The Board of Deacons**

Our Congregational Care Team at Mayflower has been doing such great things, we’re expanding their breadth and reach! We have formed a Board of Deacons to assist with pastoral care in our community, building on the already excellent work of the Care Committee. Working in cooperation with our pastoral staff, the Board of Deacons is charged to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to anyone who may be in distress.

Jesus tells us, “... whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:43–45). While of course all Christians are called to be servants, deacons are believers who have been called to serve in a specific role of service in the local church—one of sympathy, witness, and hospitality, following the example of our Lord.

If you notice a need in our Mayflower community or you have an idea as to how we can better meet care needs, let us know. Please bring any of your pastoral care needs to Pastor Shawn, Murry Idema, or anyone on the board of deacons—we’re here to help and serve you!



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



**Mayflower Church is excited to partner with Cook Valley Estates in providing weekly shuttle service for Sunday morning services.**

The shuttle picks up at the Big House at 10:00am to arrive at Mayflower for the 10:30am service. Following the service, the shuttle will pick up from the portico entrance at Mayflower and return residents to Cook Valley.

We invite all Cook Valley friends to join us by taking the shuttle on Sunday mornings. If you are unable to ride the shuttle, but still wish to be a part of Mayflower’s worship service, please join us online at [MayflowerChurch.org](http://MayflowerChurch.org).

If Porter Hills Village residents want to participate, let us know in advance and a convenient pickup location will be determined.

Contact Rachael Cooley, Director of Ministries, at [rachael@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:rachael@mayflowerchurch.org) or 616-459-6255

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

Please  
 sign-up for  
**SUNDAY  
 SUPPERS!**

MayflowerChurch.org/elevate-youth

*Thank you to  
 all those who  
 supported the  
 special Youth  
 Advent Dinner  
 this season*

## During second semester we will engage in a variety of activities with MS and HS youth groups.

Bowling, Trivia, Games and an opportunity to give back by hosting dinner for IHN families in March will round out our activities for the year. **Friends are always welcomed, and food is always served!!!**

**February 5** - Movie in the Atrium with all the movie theater treats!

**February 12** - SUPER BOWL SUNDAY - "Super Bowling" at Eastbrook Lanes. Meet us there - MS will bowl from 1:30-2:30pm | HS from 2:30-3:30pm



Olivia Griffin & Ben King, Leaders  
 Allison Houlihan, Director of Youth Ministries



## Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation class continues to meet on Sunday afternoons from 4-5pm. We are looking forward to Sunday, March 12 when they will be confirmed as members of our congregation.

Please pray for the following confirmands during this process:

**Carly Conway, Jackson Cooley, Caroline Dempsey, Patrick Houlihan, Jack Israels, Cole Sherman, Quincey Stiffler, Luke Wing, Sam Winks**

## May 7 - Celebrating High School Graduates

Please join us in celebrating Mayflower's high school graduates. During worship we will recognize their contributions to our church and express our appreciation for their participation in church activities. Our desire is to encourage them to be active church members wherever they may go and remind them they will always have a home here at Mayflower.

*If you have a senior that would like to participate, please email allison@mayflowerchurch.org by April 10.*

### FOLLOW US:



Instagram  
 @mayfloweryouth



Facebook  
 @mayflowerccyouth



Download the REMIND APP to receive texts on ELEVATE happenings.

MS - Send a text to: 81010  
 | message: @462482

HS - Send a text to: 81010  
 | message: @3ah6ag

Thank You to everyone  
who supported restoring  
the Mayflower Parlor



# THANK YOU!

## AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM

THANK YOU to all those  
that have been involved in  
the fundraising  
and execution of the  
AV/Sound project.

The new sound system  
has **FINALLY** been installed!

## APOSTLES' CREED Series this Lent

Sundays, Feb 26 - Mar 26 | 9-10am | Coffee & baked goods in the Chapel | Child care available

*What is the Apostles' Creed? Where did it come from? What does it say? What does it mean? Why does it matter?*  
Join Pastor Shawn for a 5-week series looking at this ancient statement of the great truths of our Christian faith.

MAYFLOWER HOLY WEEK

# Maundy Thursday Meal

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6 - 6:00pm

Join us at the table  
as we remember  
the events in  
the upper room

**MAYFLOWER**  
Congregational Church



# Good Friday Music Meditation

**Good Friday**  
April 7 - 6:00pm

A performance  
of *Stabat Mater*  
by G. Pergolesi

Join us for a  
musical depiction  
of Mary's grief  
at the foot  
of the cross

Howell Petty, soprano  
Brennen Kartes, alto  
L'Invenzione Baroque Ensemble

# Encountering Jesus

**Ash Wednesday**  
February 22 - 6:00pm

**Lent 1**  
February 26

**Lent 2**  
March 5 - Communion

**Lent 3**  
March 12 - Confirmation

**Lent 4**  
March 19 - Rutter Requiem

**Lent 5**  
March 26 - Children's Musical

**Palm Sunday**  
April 2

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6 - 6:00pm

**Good Friday**  
April 7 - 6:00pm

**Easter Sunday**  
April 9 - 10:30am

## Do you or someone you know have interest in becoming a member of Mayflower?

Another new member class is being arranged.

Please contact the office to get on the list - [office@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:office@MayflowerChurch.org).



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

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

Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski  
Senior Pastor  
[Shawn@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Shawn@MayflowerChurch.org)

Dr. Julia Brown  
Director of Music & Organist  
[Julia@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Julia@MayflowerChurch.org)

Scott Bosscher  
Director of Chancel Choir  
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Abby Brooks  
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Murry Idema  
Director of Congregational Care  
[Murry@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Murry@MayflowerChurch.org)

Karen Roth & Gwen Wallin  
Wedding Coordinators  
via [Laura@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Laura@MayflowerChurch.org)

Kristen Van Stee  
Communications  
[Communications@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Communications@MayflowerChurch.org)

MAYFLOWER  
Join us! 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: [MayflowerCongregational Church](https://www.facebook.com/MayflowerCongregationalChurch)

IG: [MayflowerChurchGR](https://www.instagram.com/MayflowerChurchGR)

YT: [Mayflower Congregational Church - Grand Rapids, MI](https://www.youtube.com/MayflowerCongregationalChurch)