

# MAYFLOWER

*Join us!*

Congregational Church

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

**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**  
*Tou*  
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

## SUMMER NEWS FEATURES:

- Council Updates
- Upcoming Music Events
- Youth Information
- Event Dates to Note
- Guest Preaching Schedule
- Ministry Photo Album

### *Hello Mayflower Church Family!*

When I take a moment to reflect on the last 10 months here at Mayflower, I'm grateful and excited. I'm grateful for the calling to shepherd and serve as your pastor, and also for the ways that God is at work in our spiritual community. I'm also very excited about where God is leading us and the future ministry opportunities that lay before this church. In short, God is doing good things at Mayflower, and he has great things in store for us!

This year so far we've spent some time in the Psalms, experiencing how our faith, prayers, and worship encompasses every aspect of human life—pain and joy, trust and doubt, need and gratitude. We spent five weeks of learning before Sunday services as we looked at great truths of our faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed. We celebrated the power of Christ's resurrection and the revolution it started, and we heard the gospel invitation to join in that revolution today. In our series on the book of James, we've heard about who God is and we've been challenged and called to live into deeper faithfulness as disciples. I've found it a pleasure to walk through these parts of Scripture with you as a church as we all find encouragement and exhortation in hearing the Word of the Lord together.

Mayflower is opening up! This year we've further opened our facilities to our community, hosting various groups, meetings, and ministries from throughout the city. Now with our parlor open we have all our amazing facilities available to serve this church and the world! We'll continue to grow in this area, finding even more new partnerships, new groups and events, and other ways we'll be using our building to show love for God and neighbor.

Of course, the church is the people, not the building, and we've further opened our spiritual community! We've welcomed many people as members who went through the multiple new member classes since last summer. We've also welcomed several children into our community through baptism.

In short, we're growing in all sorts of ways! The Lord is good, God is at work in our midst, and I'm very glad to be here and be a part of what God is doing at Mayflower.

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](https://www.MayflowerChurch.org).

# COUNCIL UPDATE

The Congregational vote for Council and Committee members will take place on June 4. To view current nominees, visit the website at [mayflowerchurch.org/about/leadership/](http://mayflowerchurch.org/about/leadership/)

If you are planning to be gone during the summer, there are two ways to securely give electronically while you're away! Follow directions below:

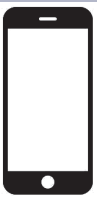
## 1. VIA QR CODE



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.

## 2. TEXT TO GIVE



On your phone, simply text the word: GIVE To: 16163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.



David Baker  
Moderator

## Trust

The last week of April, Sunday service was dedicated to our graduating seniors. I could hear whispers and soft murmurs from proud parents behind me. Four years ago, my daughter Gloria stood among graduating high school seniors and has now achieved her BS at GVSU. How time flies! I still vividly remember holding her as an infant as she said her first words at 2am in the morning. She looked at me, said 'DaDa' and fell asleep content in my lap. Pure Grace. God must feel that way when we trust in him.

Little did we know her first year at college would intersect with the Covid epidemic. Our world changed forever. Over a million American families would never be the same. Every Mayflower congregant underwent some change. Students struggled with online classes, unable to interact in person with peers and teachers. Grandparents couldn't see their grandchildren. Our society underwent great turmoil. Mayflower held all services online for a year and could only slowly gather in increasing groups. Our membership contracted.

But we have persisted. We put our faith in God. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your path"* Proverbs 3:5-6. Now on the other end of the pandemic, we have changed but we are still here. Mayflower's sails are intact. Our light shines bright. Our good ship, through the Grace of God, has weathered the storm.

One thing these last three years have taught me about our Mayflower Christian community. We have trusted in God's promise. We persist. We aim to spread the love and word of Christ in the community. We want to minister to each other as we go through life's challenges. Members have given selflessly and continuously to serve God. We have a vision and commitment that will strengthen and help lead us into the future. If we listen to his Spirit, and follow his Word, and trust him, he will bless us. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13

David Baker  
Moderator '22-'23

Note from Pastor Shawn:

We are thankful to David for his past year serving as the Moderator for Mayflower. His heart for the Lord and love of the church has shown in every step of the way. We truly appreciate all that he has done and are a better community because he has been a part of the leadership. Thanks, David!

**Do you or someone you know have interest in becoming a member at Mayflower? A new member class will be offered in the fall. Please contact the office to get on the class list - [Office@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Office@MayflowerChurch.org)**



Visit: [MayflowerChurch.org/Programs/Music](http://MayflowerChurch.org/Programs/Music) for more information, recorded performances, and other musical opportunities

## Summer Organ Encounter: a Program for Teens

June 23 | 1pm

Mayflower is again one of the venues for this wonderful local program that introduces the pipe organ to teenagers. This year there are 6 high school students that auditioned to receive three weeks of free individual organ instruction (each week a new instructor at a different organ), with a closing program open to the public. Mayflower is hosting lessons during week three, and the closing program. You are all invited to attend a concert of young beginning organists playing our beautiful Tellers/Lauck organ on Friday, June 23 at 1pm.

More information on the Summer Organ Encounter can be found at [soegr.org](http://soegr.org)



**Julia Brown**  
Music Director & Organist

## Organ Concert

June 26 | 7pm

Julia is a guest performer at this year's American Guild of Organists' Regional Convention in the Twin Cities (July 6 at 2pm at St. Mary's Chapel, Saint Paul Seminary. More information at [northcentralago2023.org](http://northcentralago2023.org).) To prepare for this, she is performing at Mayflower on Monday, June 26 at 7pm. The program includes music of Bach, Buxtehude, Scheidemann, Krebs, Couperin, Correa de Arauxo and a world premiere of a new organ composition by Wolfgang RübSam.



**Scott Bosscher**  
Chancel Choir Director

## Handbell Workshop

September 6 | 4pm - 7pm

**Mark your calendar to join the Handbell Workshop at Mayflower with Stephanie Wiltse on Wednesday, September 6, 4-7pm.**

One of the founders of the community handbell ensemble Embellish, Stephanie Wiltse has been music director of the group since 1998, in addition to serving as conductor for mass rings and directors' events in California, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, north Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Vermont. She brings her knowledge, expertise and good humor as she works with children, youth and adults, both beginners and advanced ringers. Put this event on your calendar and come find out why bell ringers have so much fun! More information will be available later this summer.



**Abby Brooks**  
Children & Youth Choir Director





# CHRISTIAN ED

*Faith*  
at Mayflower  
Bible • Stories • Creativity

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 11 | LOVE

June 18 | JOY

June 25 | PEACE

Aug. 6 | KINDNESS

Aug. 13 | FAITHFULNESS

Aug. 20 | GENTLENESS

Aug. 27 | SELF CONTROL

Sept. 3 | Holiday, no Sunday School

Sept. 10 | Fall programming begins

## Fruits of the Spirit are coming to Summer Sunday School at Mayflower!

Sunday mornings children will learn about the Fruits of the Spirit through stories, songs, games, and crafts. A popsicle and playtime on the playground will make this time together meaningful and fun! (See the summer schedule on the left.)

**During the month of July, we will not have Sunday School** class for children as many are enjoying the beautiful lakes and time with family. There will be coloring pages available for children to work on during the service on Sundays in July.



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

## 69UP GROUP EVENT | June 15 – 5-7pm

Sandy Armbruster's

6385 Thornhills Ct SE

Those wishing to carpool should meet in the middle parking lot at Mayflower, where arrangements can be made. Please **RSVP to Murry Idema, 616-243-2764 or [ridema58@gmail.com](mailto:ridema58@gmail.com)** with what you plan to bring, an appetizer or bottle of white wine to share, and if you would like to car pool to the event.

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

## WATERSLIDE WEDNESDAY | August 9 & 16 Church Portico and Middle Parking Lot

Cool down with us on August 9th, 12-2pm and/or August 16th, 5-7pm as we enjoy popsicles and the inflatable waterslide! Just show up and have fun! Reach out to **Rachael Cooley** with any questions. [Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org)

EVENTS  
*Connect*  
at Mayflower  
Fellowship • Community • Fun

## SAVE THE DATE: FALL PICNIC | SEPTEMBER 10





# JULY GUEST PREACHERS



## July 2 | Rev. Dr. Jonathan White

A longtime member of Mayflower Church, having recently served as interim senior pastor in 2019, Rev. Dr. Jonathan White 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 executive director of homeland security, he also served for the Department of Justice with his vast experience in the world of counter-terrorism.



## July 9 | Rev. Dale Cooper

Rev. Dale Cooper is a resource specialist for liturgical spirituality at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, as well as chaplain emeritus and adjunct faculty in the department of Congregational and Ministry Studies at Calvin College. He has served as pastoral mentor in the Jubilee Fellows Program in the CMS department. Dale is the author of *Coop's Column*, a collection of spiritual reflections on Christian worship.



## July 16 | Rev. Ruth Lemmen

Rev. Ruth Lemmen grew up in the Grand Rapids area and is a graduate of Calvin University and Calvin Seminary. She is ordained in the Christian Reformed Church and has been a pastor here in Michigan, and has served in other cross-cultural contexts. Ruth currently works for an organization in Grand Rapids that facilitates short term cross-cultural service experiences.



## July 23 | Rev. Ricardo Tavárez

Rev. Ricardo Tavárez is a Grand Rapids 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.



## July 30 | Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Rev. 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.



# THIS IS MAYFLOWER - So Much More Than Sunday Mornings!

Boy Scouts help replace the torn flag



Chancel Choir and Children's Choir



Children's Bell Choir



Guitarist, Jeremy Verwys, at the Lenten Music Series



Handbell Choir



Congregational Care Card Making



69UP Event at Lovell Hand Center



EGR Day of Caring students help organize the IHN closet



Monday Morning Men's Bible Study



High School Breakfast Club at Wolfgang's Restaurant



Students at Midweek Dinner







Confirmation Class



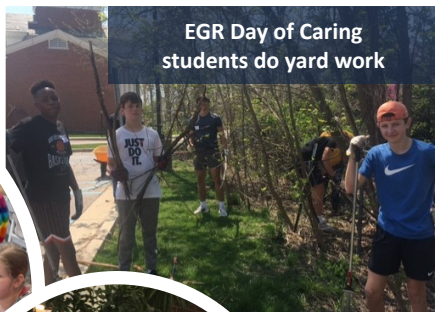
Easter Brass Ensemble



Priscilla Circle Bake Sale



Midweek Worship in the Chapel



EGR Day of Caring students do yard work



Maundy Thursday Meal



Priscilla Circle Luncheon



No Cook Wednesday Participants



Senior Sunday Participants



Pottsmen Concert



Cross Awards Ceremony



# MAYFLOWER Prays

## 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. A prayer list is emailed weekly, along with our bulletin. *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.

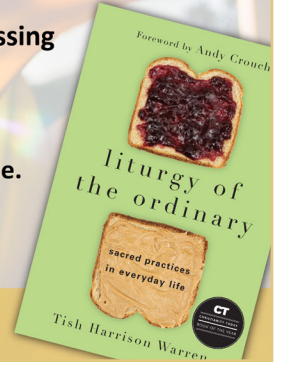
# Join Us!

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Wednesday Mornings June 7 - August 30 7am - 8am

Join us THIS SUMMER for an early morning Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays beginning June 7th through August 30th from 7am- 8am.

We will be reading and discussing *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren.

Bring your lawn chair and coffee. We will meet outside or in the Atrium as weather permits.



Contact Rachael Cooley with any questions: [Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org)

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS FOR MEMBERS

### JUNE COURSE

June 14, 21, 28  
6-7pm

### AUGUST COURSE

August 13, 20, 27  
9-10am

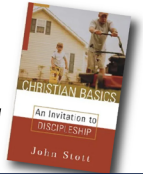


Topics include: core Christian beliefs, how we at Mayflower fit into the 2,000-year Christian tradition, how we are called to serve and support the church, and how we live the Christian life.

Whether you've been a member at Mayflower for a few years or a few decades, join us this summer!

We will read and discuss the book *Christian Basics* by John Stott. Copies are available in the church office, or use the QR code to the left to download the first 3 chapters. Come to the first session ready to discuss!

\*Childcare available upon request, contact: [Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Rachael@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  
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**Scott Bosscher**  
Director of Chancel Choir  
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**Karen Roth & Gwen Wallin**  
Wedding Coordinators  
[Office@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Office@MayflowerChurch.org)

# MAYFLOWER Church

Join us!

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/channel/UC...)