

# MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

## LENTEN DATES TO NOTE

### FEBRUARY

- 14: Ash Wednesday | 6pm
- 19: Mondays at Mayflower  
6:30pm - meal | 7pm - music
- 26: Mondays at Mayflower  
6:30pm - meal | 7pm - music

### MARCH

- 4: Mondays at Mayflower  
6:30pm - meal | 7pm - music
- 11: Mondays at Mayflower  
6:30pm - meal | 7pm - music
- 17: Confirmation and  
Youth Music Sunday | 10:30am
- 18: Mondays at Mayflower  
6:30pm - meal | 7pm - music
- 24: Palm Sunday | 10:30am
- 28: Maundy Thursday | 6pm
- 29: Good Friday | 6pm
- 31: Easter Sunday | 10:30am



Hello Mayflower Church Family!

The Lenten season is the 40-day period leading up to Easter, a number drawn from Jesus' 40 days in the desert. It is a time of fasting, prayer, and reflection. It is also a time of repentance. Repentance is a change in direction, it is a turning around in our lives that is empowered by the Spirit. We turn away from sin and turn towards the God who gives us life.

For the Christian, repentance is a practice and a posture. Our relationship with God begins with repentance and is sustained by it as part of our discipleship. Martin Luther famously said, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent!' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Lent, as a season of repentance and renewal, is not an experience of despair but rather a way to meet God's grace again and again.

Our Christian journey is just that—a journey, a pathway, a series of steps throughout the rest of our lives. Along that journey our zeal will inevitably fade, our faith will have seasons of weakness, and our feet will stumble. Lent, then, is a gift to us sojourners. It is a season in which we all can renew our love for God and neighbor and cast off those things that so easily entangle us.

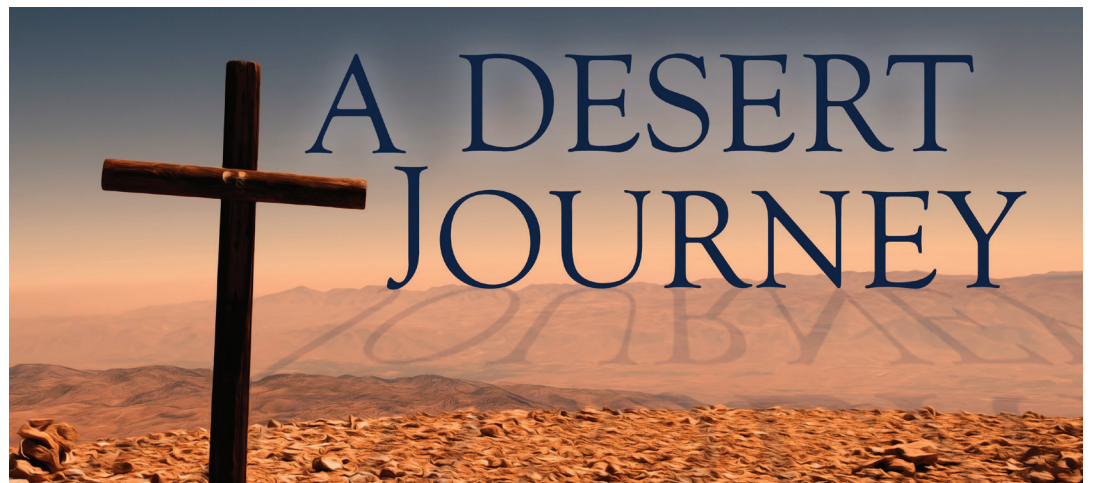
Throughout this newsletter you'll find details about Mayflower's Lenten services and various opportunities to engage in the spiritual practices of this season. With open hands to receive God's grace, and with hearts open to God's redeeming work in us, join us this Lent!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Shawn



Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski  
Senior Pastor



**WE BELIEVE:** Faith is a journey, God is good, Jesus saves, and the Spirit leads us to faith, hope, and love as we honor the dignity of all God's people.

# LENT at MAYFLOWER

## EASTER FLOWERS

Decorate the sanctuary with Easter flowers! Choose from Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, and Lilies.

\$10 orders due by  
March 14.

Order through envelopes in pew racks or online.

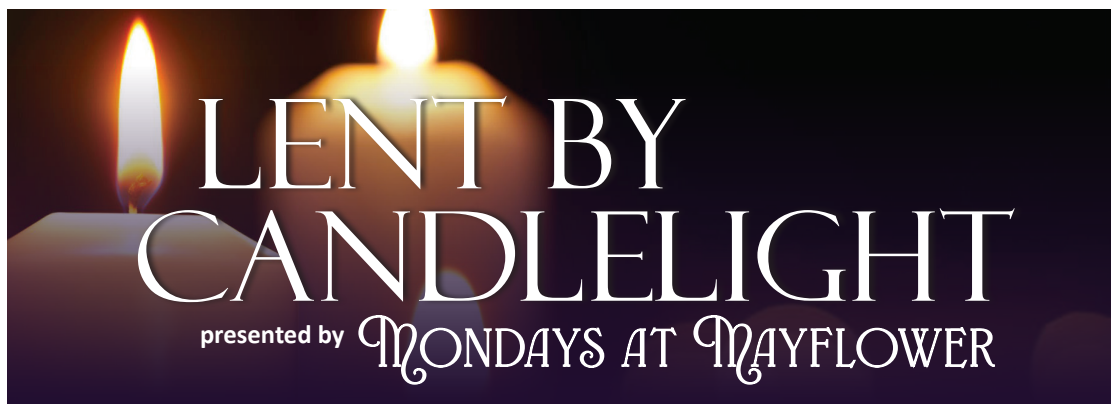
Flowers will be available to take home after the 10:30am Easter service.



## EASTER CROSS

Please bring fresh flowers to adorn the wooden cross on Easter morning!

This Mayflower tradition captures the new life that Easter Sunday brings.



We invite you for a time away from the busy world and hectic schedules. Join us in the quiet of Mayflower's candlelit atrium for a simple meal at 6:30pm and gentle music at 7pm. All concerts are free of charge.

**Feb. 19 | Paul Austin, horn**

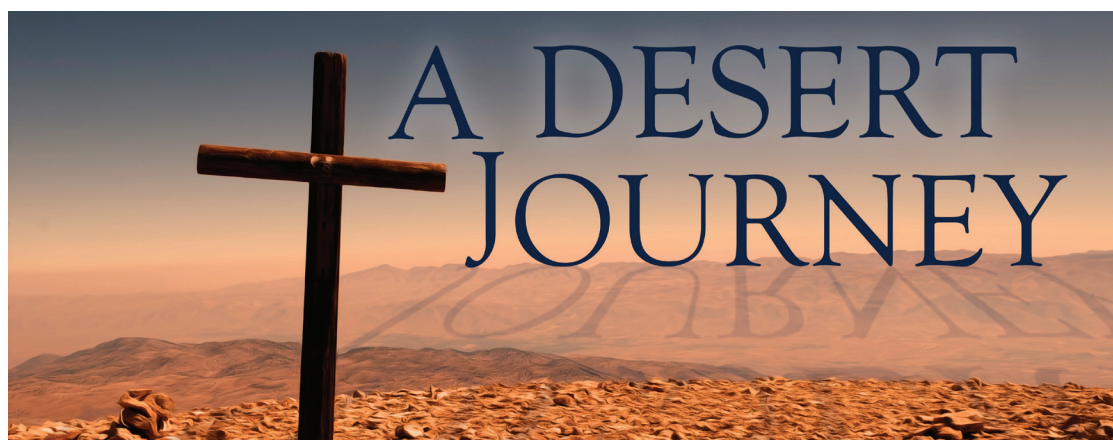
**Feb. 26 | Scott Bosscher, baritone**

**Mar. 4 | Kathleen Gomez, English horn**

**Mar. 11 | Duo Tarasque**

**Howell Petty, soprano and Luce Burrell, lute**

**Mar. 18 | Karolin Ravens-Banik, flute**



**Maundy Thursday | March 28 | 6pm**

Join us in the atrium as we gather around the table and remember the events in the upper room. This is a time for fellowship, for sharing a simple meal and communion.

**Good Friday | March 29 | 6pm**

**LAMENT – a Good Friday Concert**

Join us in the atrium for an evening of music reflecting the grief, passion and drama of Jesus' final hours. We will hear the passion story in a Plainsong setting, as well as vocal and instrumental music of Samuel Barber, John Ferguson, Pergolesi, Victoria, Moses Hogan, John Rutter and more. Kristi Burghart, Brennen Kartes, William Potts, Brandon Harris and Scott Bosscher are joined by Barbara Corbato, viola and Julia Brown, piano and organ.

# MUSIC at MAYFLOWER

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

## Mondays at Mayflower brings you Lent By Candlelight

Join us in the atrium each Monday at 6:30 for a simple meal and conversation followed by music and time for meditation at 7pm. Candles will fill the space creating a peaceful ambience. Give yourself the gift of silence and stillness in the sacred space of the atrium. Musicians from far and near provide gentle music in quiet surroundings lit by candlelight.

These concerts are made possible by our Friends of Mondays at Mayflower. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please contact Julia Brown ([Julia@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Julia@MayflowerChurch.org)) or return the information below to the office.

### I (we) would like to join Friends of Mondays at Mayflower and support the concerts at Mayflower. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution.

Please select a Donor Level below.

My contribution is in honor of:

Please Print:

- Angel (\$5,000+)
- Benefactor (\$2,500-\$4,999)
- Patron (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- Sponsor (\$250-\$999)
- Contributor (\$25-\$249)

Donor's Name (as you wish it to appear)

Address

City, State, Zip

Email

Your support is deeply appreciated, and your gift is tax-deductible. The names of all donors or "memorial" gifts will be recognized in concert programs. **Please detach and return this form** with your tax deductible contribution payable to Mayflower Congregational Church, indicating Mondays at Mayflower in the Memo line to: **Mayflower Congregational Church, 2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

I (we) am/are interested in volunteering (please check all that apply)

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity    | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate receptions           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund-raising          | <input type="checkbox"/> Recording    | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher /greeter                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographer | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing for out-of-town artists |



**Julia Brown**  
Music Director & Organist



**Scott Bosscher**  
Chancel Choir Director



**Abby Brooks**  
Children & Youth Choir Director

## Sunday, March 17 | The Children and Youth Choirs

The Children and Youth Choirs will provide all of the music on Confirmation Sunday, March 17. This will be a beautiful way to honor our confirmands, while also allowing the children and youth of Mayflower to participate in this worship service when our 8th graders take this important step of their faith journey. If your child would like to participate by ringing or singing, there is still time to join and be a part of this celebration! It will be a special morning at Mayflower and all are welcome! Contact Miss Abby ([missabbymayflower@gmail.com](mailto:missabbymayflower@gmail.com)) for rehearsal times and more information.

**CROSS AWARDS**  
immediately following  
the service on March 17



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## FOR ADULTS

These groups can be joined at any time. Please call the church office to find out more information.

### SUNDAY MORNING SERIES WITH PASTOR SHAWN

*The Reason for God*  
SUNDAYS, 9am | CHAPEL  
2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## FOR CHILDREN

Sunday Mornings groups meet during the 10:30 worship service.

Programs available for children ages 4 through 5th grade.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

**Mondays, 7:30am | Doug Congdon & Bill Robson | Library**

**Mondays, 5pm | Eric Britcher | Chapel**

Pastor Eric Britcher will lead us as we study the book: *The Risen Christ!* beginning **Monday, February 19** from 5-6pm in the Chapel.

**Tuesday, 10am | Harold Montgomery | Parlor**

**Fridays, 7am | Greg Rhodes | Library**

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

**Mondays, 9:30am | Youth Rooms**

**Feb. 5-Mar. 25**, we will study the book *Bless the Lent we Actually Have: 40 Days to Reflect, Pray, and Bless our Imperfect Lives* by Kate Bowler. If you can't attend on Mondays with us, take the study home and follow along. Copies of the devotional are at the welcome table. Supplemental readings for the study include: *The Lives We Actually Live* and Kate's newest re-lease, *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day*.



**Mondays, 5pm | Helen Bell | Library**

We will be studying 1 and 2 Peter and the history of the church from 50 to 350 CE.

**Thursdays, 10am | Shari Graham | Youth Rooms**

We will be reading *The World of the End* by Dr. David Jeremiah

# Mayflower ART CAMP!

**JUNE 10-13 | 9am-12pm | REGISTRATION: \$50/Child**  
Rising Kindergarteners-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
[mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp](http://mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp)

Experience God's creativity in playful new ways that will bring inspiration and joy! Engage in 12 different art forms to grow imagination and expand your world.

- Bucket Drumming
- Cooking
- Writing
- Playing Music
- Gardening
- Creating art

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

## Registration Now Open!

# YOUTH at MAYFLOWER



YOUTH GROUP  
SUNDAY EVENINGS

## LOOKING AHEAD

- Feb. 11 | Super Bowling
- Mar 17 | Confirmation Sunday  
Children's Music Sunday  
Cross Award Ceremony
- Apr. 21 | Talent Show
- Apr. 28 | Senior Sunday

HS BREAKFAST CLUB  
TUESDAYS 6:30 AM  
WOLFGANG'S IN EASTOWN

## CONFIRMATION 2024 - What is Your WHY?



Classes begin February 4 | 4-5pm

Confirmation Sunday | March 17 | 10:30am

Our 2024 Confirmation Class will be contemplating their "why" for their beliefs and ways they choose to live their lives. They will hear from people that have gone before them and how they took their faith and made it their own over the course of their lives. Through this process, the students will develop their Statements of Faith and be confirmed within the membership of Mayflower on a special Sunday service on March 17.

Youth Dinner and Talent Show | Sunday, April 21 | 5pm

Children and Youth Dinner and Talent Show Sunday, April 21st at 5pm. Bring your yoyos, your magic tricks and musical talents! Parents, grandparents, friends and members of the congregation are invited to be a part of this fun evening!

Senior Sunday | Sunday, April 28 | 5pm

Mark your calendars for Senior Sunday, April 28th when we honor our High School Seniors and bless them for their journey ahead!



## MIDWEEK

WEDNESDAYS  
4:30-7:15PM



Annual Peeps Prize | Wednesday, Feb. 28 | 5:30pm

The 2024 Annual Peeps Prize will be held from 5:30-6:15 on Wednesday, February 28. This is a tradition that began years ago when our beloved Youth Pastor, Lindsay, creatively combined the love of Art Prize with the love of PEEPS! Every student needs to bring a shoe box and a Bible story to recreate. Prizes will be awarded!

Easter Egg Hunt | Wednesday, Mar. 27 | 6pm

This year's Easter Egg hunt will occur at 6pm during Midweek on March 27th. Please provide a dozen filled eggs for each of your children to be hidden throughout the church lawn. Students can bring their Easter baskets to fill.

# MINISTRY GROUPS and EVENTS

BUILDING  
FELLOWSHIP AND  
COMMUNITY



## Mayflower Deacons

In addition to reaching out to connect with members, our deacons have recently launched several initiatives to help support the congregation.

- New members were welcomed by an assigned deacon and given a tour of the church. They will continue to be supported and connected with their deacon.
- Mayflower members and friends of our church who've been widowed in the past year were invited to a Christmas tea to honor their departed loved one.
- College freshmen have been receiving cards and surprises throughout the year.
- Cards were sent to families who welcomed a new baby, and in recognition of their baby's first Christmas.

Keep an eye out—more initiatives are coming soon!

## Priscilla Circle Update

Priscilla Circle finished 2023 on a very high note! We added new women to our membership, cleaned the sanctuary chandeliers, held a fantastic bake sale that helped cover the costs of the lovely fountain in the atrium, and we once again helped celebrate the Christmas season by “Decking Out the Halls” of Mayflower!

We are busy making plans for the new year, and we would love to welcome new members to help us in our efforts to support Mayflower Church in 2024!

For more information on Priscilla Circle, please contact Shari Graham  
[shari.graham@comcast.net](mailto:shari.graham@comcast.net)

## Meet Your UP Group Leaders

Mayflower offers UP Groups as a way to connect with others outside of the church within social gatherings. Please reach out to the leaders of these groups if you are interested in joining!

69UP – Murry Idema, [murry@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:murry@mayflowerchurch.org)

59UP – Susan Jones, [sjones9200@aol.com](mailto:sjones9200@aol.com)

29UP – Courtney Weiler, [courtneyannweiler@gmail.com](mailto:courtneyannweiler@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 69UP Wine and Appetizers Event | February 15 | 5-7pm

Come, bring a bottle of white wine or appetizer to share and join us at Lovell Hand & Orthopedic Center, 2155 E Paris Ave SE. RSVP to Murry Idema ([murry@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:murry@mayflowerchurch.org)).

### Ladies' Luncheon | February 20 | 11:30am

Join us at the Golden Wok for food and fun! The restaurant is located at 1971 E Beltline Ave NE. RSVP to Maris Rosema (616-821-0413).

# OUTREACH

Contact Rachael Cooley  
with any questions:  
rachael@mayflowerchurch.org

## Baxter COMMUNITY CENTER

### We are your neighbor.

Baxter believes that our neighbors know best what their community needs and how to help each other. We serve as a place where people can come together in the spirit of support and unity to achieve progress.

Baxter's Marketplace provides cupboard staples, fresh fruits & veggies, and clothing monthly. During the winter months, the donations of food reduce, making it necessary to limit the amounts of food neighbors can attain each week.

Mayflower is a generous community and we have been asked to fill Baxter's Marketplace shelves with the food items listed below. **Boxes are located inside the Portico entrance and in the Narthex** to place your donated items in on Sundays or during office hours.

Let's join our neighbor, Baxter Community Center during the Lent season in their Mission, "to serve as a HUB for our Neighbors and Community" and their Guiding Principle, "to be a Christian response to Human need" in love.

- BEANS (BLACK, PINTO, KIDNEY)
- RICE
- COOKING OIL
- CANNED GREEN CHILIES
- SPAGHETTI, DRIED PASTA
- CANNED CANDIED YAMS, SWEET POTATOES
- CORNBREAD MIX
- CANNED TOMATOES
- BLACK EYED PEAS
- CANNED GREEN BEANS
- PEANUT BUTTER
- TUNA FISH

# YOUTH DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Sunday | April 21 | 5pm | Atrium

**\$5/PERSON**  
(for dinner)

Parents, grandparents, friends and members of the congregation are invited to be a part of this fun evening! The many talents of the children and youth of Mayflower will be on stage while we share a meal and fellowship.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Abby at [abby@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:abby@mayflowerchurch.org).

## GIVING

Are you not able to worship with us in person on Sundays? You are still able to give! There are two ways to securely give electronically while you're away! Follow directions below:

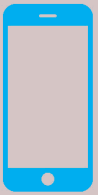
### 1. VIA QR CODE



Scan the QR Code with your phone to give/pay directly through E-Zeiel - 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.

## 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 prayer, or make note of someone to be added to the weekly prayer list, contact the office to be included on the email list (office@mayflowerchurch.org). Prayer cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.***

Greetings, Mayflower friends and families,

I've been reflecting this winter on what it means to close one chapter, and to begin a new one. We recently celebrated the birth of Christ and the beginning of a New Year. Weeks later, the Christmas trees are down, the garlands are no longer strung across our mantles, and the twinkling lights outside are dark again. One chapter has ended, and another has begun.

As we enter more days of winter, and soon, the season of Lent, I'm reminded of the bright days of Christ's ministry, of his conversations with disciples and passers-by, and later, of his betrayal and resurrection. The story of Christ is the ending of one chapter, and the beginning of something entirely new.

This winter and spring, as the days are still long and dark, I encourage you to look for endings, beginnings, and the beautiful stories in between. Ponder Christ's story. What does it mean all these years later? What are the stories within the stories? And how does this particular, amazing story translate to the world around us?

Lastly, join us at church as we celebrate the Lenten season together. I look forward to seeing you and sharing this time together!

With warmest regards,

*Rachel Blair*

Rachel Blair, Moderator



Rachel Blair  
Church Moderator

# MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

2345 Robinson Rd SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
616.459.6255 | [MayflowerChurch.org](http://MayflowerChurch.org)

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