

MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

SEPT/OCT 2023 NEWSLETTER



YOU'RE INVITED!

MCCCC Evening Worship
*Growing Young
with Music*

October 20 | 7:30-8:30

contact Eric Britcher for more
information at
debrit2@comcast.net

Hello Mayflower Church Family!

As you can see throughout the rest of this newsletter, our church has so many wonderful ministries—both well established and newly developed. In short, I'm confident you'll read over what's happening in our church and think, "God is doing great things in and through us at Mayflower!" So, don't be a mere spectator—get plugged in and get involved!



Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski
Senior Pastor

This fall's sermon series is titled "A Church on a Mission" and we'll be walking through the first half of the book of Acts. The gospel of Luke and the book of Acts are a 2-volume unit, telling the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (Luke), and the story of his followers when the Holy Spirit was poured out on them (Acts). More than mere first century history, the book of Acts shows us what it means to be the church, today. In other words, the book of Acts gives us our purpose. We'll look closely at the mission God has given the church: the new way of life we live together as a church, the gift of Jesus that we share with the world, and the revolutionary gospel movement we're a part of. I'm very excited about this series as we all seek to answer the question: what does it mean for us, today, to be the church?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Shawn

If you are not already receiving Mayflower emails,
SIGN-UP NOW ONLINE at MayflowerChurch.org.

Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit...

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:

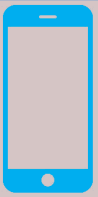
1. VIA QR CODE



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

COUNCIL UPDATE



Rachel Blair
Church Moderator

Meet the New Church Moderator

My name is Rachel Blair, and it is my pleasure to serve as Mayflower Congregational Church's Moderator this year. Having attended our church since 2014, I am particularly excited about the season ahead for all of us -- the horizon is bright! This September we have the fall picnic, the return of our Chancel and Youth Choirs, middle and high school youth groups starting up, and this fall, a forthcoming Care Group opportunity, Deacon support for congregants, and more - what an exciting time to be here!

Taking stock of our current state, Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski has been with our congregation for one year. We are actively hiring an Associate Pastor, and we have continued excellence in our music leadership, youth programming, congregational events, and administrative structures. This fall will see new programming for our pre-K through 1st graders in Worship Center Sunday School led by volunteers trained by Paula Gaylord, a long-time MCC leader. Rachael Cooley and Abby Brooks will grow our 2nd-5th grade students on Sunday mornings in Bible Alive and Wednesdays during Midweek. Allison Houlihan, in partnership with our new Associate Pastor, will support our middle and high school students. We are planning opportunities for our youth to learn, serve, and grow in their knowledge of God. Musically speaking, Julia and Scott have Sunday morning music and fall concert series planned and Murry Idema along with Pastor Shawn will be leading our Deacons as they explore Prayer during the Sunday morning CE Hour and more.

In FY 23, our Strategic Planning Committee completed MCC's Strategic Plan, and this fall, Council will be reviewing this for implications to our operations, visioning, and next steps. Committees will be asked to set goals to keep MCC looking ahead. This coming winter, MCC will celebrate Advent and will go through a visioning process - stay tuned!

I am incredibly grateful to be part of this church community, and I am eager to listen, champion, and celebrate next steps for our church body. I hope this year ahead is an opportunity for all of us to deepen our faith, serve others, and love the Lord more fully.

As always, thank you for our partnership and friendship. I look forward to standing beside all of you this fall.

In Christ,

Rachel Blair
Moderator '23-'24

NEW MEMBER CLASS DATES:
Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19

Please contact the office to get on the class list - office@mayflowerchurch.org

EVENTS and MINISTRY GROUPS

BUILDING
FELLOWSHIP AND
COMMUNITY



UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Picnic | September 10 | Following church service

All are welcome to join us in this annual event! Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

69UP Wine and Appetizers Event | September 14 | 5-7pm

Come join us at the Villas of Ada clubhouse, hosted by Judy Vana. RSVP to Murry Idema (murry@mayflowerchurch.org).

Ministry Fair | September 17 | Following church service

From Bible studies to volunteer opportunities for all ages, discover all that Mayflower has to offer! Representatives from all of our ministries will be present to answer your questions. We encourage you to sign up and get involved! Please reach out to Rachael Cooley (rachael@mayflowerchurch.org) with any questions.

59UP Brunch at Bonefish Grill | October 15 | 12pm

RSVP to Susan Jones (sjones9200@aol.com).

MINISTRY GROUPS START IN SEPTEMBER!

59UP | Gourmet Aficionados Group | see above

69UP | Wine & Hors d'oeuvres Group | see above

Needlepoint | Tuesdays | 10:30am

Meets every Tuesday at 1:30pm in the atrium. For more information contact Andrea Koster (a.koster@comcast.net).

Priscilla Circle | September 6 | 12pm

Meets every first Wednesday of month. Priscilla Circle is dedicated to supporting and serving the church in a variety of ways. We have multiple activities planned throughout the year, and we would love to welcome new members!

Navigating Life After 60 | September 13 | 6-7pm

Meets every Wednesday during Midweek. This time will be dedicated to discovering how to live the second season of life well spiritually, mentally and with good health through various speakers.

Vida | September 21 | 6:30-8:30pm

Meets every third Thursday of month in the atrium. Women of all ages and stages are invited to join casual conversation and experience a bit of peace, find friends seeking peace with God in our midst. Contact Courtenay Oosterman for more information (courtenay@oostermadesign.com).

MahJong

For more information contact Andrea Koster (a.koster@comcast.net).

MUSIC at MAYFLOWER

Visit: MayflowerChurch.org/Programs/Music for more information, recorded performances, and other musical opportunities

There is a place for you in Mayflower's long-standing, vital and diverse music ministry. With choirs for children as young as 3, we offer a graded program for voices, Handbells, Chimes and opportunities for instrumentalists. Chancel Choir is comprised of both volunteer and professional singers, singing the very best of sacred choral music, from Chant through the 21st century. Our Handbell program begins the season with a workshop for all ages on September 6 with Stephanie Wiltse.

We look forward to having you be a part of our exciting year of music-making as we minister to each other and the broader community.

CHANCEL CHOIR rehearses in the Tuuk Music Room, **Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm** and sings most Sundays, Sept. through May. Reading music is not required, but helpful. Scott Bosscher is a seasoned vocal trainer, who brings a depth of understanding regarding music in the context of a worship service. **Our first rehearsal is September 6.**

CHILDREN & YOUTH Singing and ringing provides many opportunities for our younger family members to grow in faith and participate in worship services. Abby Brooks' enthusiasm and experience shepherds our younger generation, from 3-year-olds through high school.

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE

4:30-5:00 4's-Kindergarten
5:00-5:30 3rd-5th Chimes
5:30-6:00 Chapel
6:00-6:30 1st and 2nd Choir
6:30-7:15 3rd-5th Choir

ELEVATE SCHEDULE

4:30-5:00 MS/HS Choir
5:00-6:00 MS Bells
6:00-7:00 HS Bells



MAYFLOWER BELLS rehearse in the Bell Room on **Wednesdays, 6-7pm** and ring every 4-6 weeks during worship. Reading music is not necessary, but helpful. The choir is open to new and experienced ringers. Directed by Julia Brown. Workshop with Stephanie Wiltse on September 6 and first rehearsal on **September 13.**

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Handbell Workshop | September 6 | 4pm - 7pm 4-4:45pm Chimes for 3rd-5th grade, 5-7pm Bells for youth and adults

Stephanie first picked up a handbell at the age of 29 when she and her husband moved to Grand Rapids and joined Trinity United Methodist Church. She was invited to join what was then HIS Ringers, and her life was changed forever. Since then she has rung and directed handbells, including helping to found Embellish, which she directed for 25 years until her retirement this year. She currently directs the adult handbells at Calvin Christian Reformed Church. She has also directed handbell programs at Calvin University and Aquinas College, several other churches in Grand Rapids, and has conducted numerous workshops and mass ringing events. Come join her on September 6 to start from scratch or brush up on your skills. To sign up, email julia@mayflowerchurch.org



Intergenerational ALL-COMER'S CHOIR | September 24

Join the choir for a day! Come early on Sunday morning, learn the simple anthems for the service, and lead worship from the choir loft. We encourage families to come together. All ages and abilities welcome. **Rehearsal at 9:15-10am for 10:30am service.**



Julia Brown
Music Director & Organist



Scott Bosscher
Chancel Choir Director



Abby Brooks
Children & Youth Choir Director

MUSIC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 6: Handbell Workshop | 4-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 13: Midweek Kick-off | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 20: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 24: All-Comer's Choir | 9:15am
- 27: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm

OCTOBER

- 4: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 9: Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm
- 11: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 16: Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm
- 18: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm
- 23: Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm
- 25: Midweek | 4:30-7:15pm
Mayflower Bells | 6-7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30-9pm

Mondays at Mayflower

A series of free concerts on Monday evenings, featuring both local and international talent. After many years of consistently hosting high-quality music in our atrium and sanctuary, we are working on growing and expanding our Mondays at Mayflower concert series. The cost to offer these concerts is not covered by the annual church budget, rather, by designated music funds which are slowly diminishing. With the recent approval of Council, we are establishing a **Friends of Mondays at Mayflower**. These Friends are individuals and businesses who believe in our mission to present affordable live concerts featuring world-class musicians and the finest repertoire of sacred and classical music for the cultural enrichment, education and enjoyment of all at Mayflower Congregational Church and the wider community.

We have a wonderful lineup this fall, and we invite you to mark your calendars and spread the news. We also invite you to prayerfully consider supporting our concert series, both by contributing to this new fund and by volunteering. I'm happy to answer any questions and look forward to seeing you at our concerts this fall.

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist

October 9 | 7pm

RICHARD ELLIOT, principle organist of the Mormon Tabernacle

October 16 | 7pm

PERCUSSION DUO, David Hall and Jack Latta

October 23 | 7pm (6:15 Pre-concert conversation)

THE MUSICAL LEIPZIG: GV PIANO CHAMBER SERIES with Sookkyung Cho and friends

November 13 | 7pm

**VIVALDI SONATAS NOS 3, 4, 5 AND 6
Grand Valley Baroque and friends**

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: You also may specify gifts.

Angel (\$5,000+) in memory of:

Benefactor (\$2,500-\$4,999) in honor of:

Patron (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Sponsor (\$250-\$999)

Contributor (\$25-\$249)

Please Print:

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)

Volunteer coordinator

Grant writing

Recording

Coordinate receptions

Housing for out-of-town artists

Fund-raising

Publicity

Photographer

Usher /greeter

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR CHILDREN

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

Programs available for children ages 4 through 5th grade.



Worship Center | 4-year-olds through 1st graders

Meets Sundays during the service following the Children's Message in Youth Room B. Children will be introduced to the wonder of God's presence among us through prayer, Biblical stories, liturgy, and images. They are enabled to respond to God's presence and see themselves in God's image.

TEAM BIBLE ALIVE! | 2nd through 5th graders

Meets Sundays in the Fellowship Hall downstairs following the Children's Message. As members of TEAM BIBLE ALIVE!, children are asked to bring their Bibles weekly and use them as a playbook for growing in their faith. They will learn various "plays" such as The Lord's Prayer, 10 Commandments, Books of the Bible and more. With every winning team, relationships, and community lead to success. Time for prayer and fun activities that correlate with the Bible lesson taught, will be a part of every Sunday morning.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR ADULTS

ADULT FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Studies

Monday mornings at 7:30am
Monday evenings at 5pm
Tuesday mornings at 10am
Friday mornings at 7am

Women's Bible Studies

Monday mornings at 9:30am
Monday evenings at 5pm
Thursday mornings at 10am

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

PRAYER WORKSHOP WITH THE DEACONS

Conversations with God:

Exploring the Practice of Prayer

SUNDAYS | 9-10am
9/24, 10/1, 10/8

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

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

Mondays, 5pm | Eric Britcher | Chapel

Rev. Steve Armfield will begin leading September 11 through October 9.

Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski will be leading October 16 through November 6, studying the book *Christian Basics* - copies can be picked up in the office.

Tuesday, 10am | Harold Montgomery | Parlor

Fridays, 7am | Greg Rhodes | Library

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

Mondays, 9:30am | Melody Johnson | Parlor

We will use the book *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?* by Phillip Yancy. Prayer by definition is the very heartbeat of our connection with God. It is a privilege, not a duty. Polls tell us that 90% of people pray-then why are so many folks frustrated, confused and find mystery in prayer. We will talk together about questions such as:

- Is God listening?
- If God knows everything what is the point of prayer?
- Is prayer really our communicating with God?

Mondays, 5pm | Helen Bell | Library

Thursdays, 10am | Shari Graham | Youth Rooms

We will be starting September 14 with Max Lucado's book - *Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit*. We will spend the year exploring, reading, and discussing topics that will grow our spiritual knowledge and strengthen our personal relationship with God.

YOUTH at MAYFLOWER



LOOKING AHEAD

- Sept. 10 | First Meeting
- Sept. 24 | "Battle of the Bells"
- Oct. 29 | Halloween Party
- Nov. 19 | Friendsgiving
- Dec. 17 | Second Annual Christmas Dinner

HS BREAKFAST CLUB
TUESDAYS 6:30 AM



SERVING OTHERS



Allison Houlihan
Director of Youth Ministries



ELEVATE KICK-OFF | Sunday, September 10

High School will meet from 5-6pm and Middle School from 6-7pm

This fun filled evening will feature a **Q'doba** taco bar, unlimited **Ohana Hawaiian Ice** plus a climbing wall, archery and other outdoor games. Friends are welcome!

2023-2024 School Year

All your favorites return with youth group this year- "Sunday Suppers", wild games, engaged and energetic leaders and outreach opportunities. We'll meet for an hour on Sunday evenings to share a meal together, participate in a large group game, and end with a meaningful discussion.

Our beloved "Sunday Suppers" have become an integral part of our evenings. If you would like to provide dinner for our youth groups this year, please see the sign up for details. (scan QR code)



HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB | Tuesday, September 12

Join us on Tuesday, September 12 for our first Breakfast Club. We'll meet at our usual spot, **Wolfgang's in Eastown**, at **6:30am**. Bring friends, your "Braggs-n-Snags" and \$10 for the Early Bird special.

Volunteer Opportunity at Mulick Park Elementary

Mayflower volunteers are going Back to School too! We are thrilled to be able to mentor children at Mulick Park Elementary this school year. Our group of high schoolers and adults, commit to spending one lunch hour per week reading with a 1st or 2nd grade student at Mulick.

If you would be interested in volunteering this year, please contact Allison Houlihan (allison@mayflowerchurch.org).

FOLLOW US:

 Instagram
[@mayfloweryouth](https://www.instagram.com/mayfloweryouth)

 Facebook
[@mayflowerccyouth](https://www.facebook.com/mayflowerccyouth)

[youtube.com/
@MayflowerYouth](https://www.youtube.com/@MayflowerYouth)



Download the REMIND APP to receive text communications on ELEVATE happenings.

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

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

MIDWEEK

WEDNESDAYS 4:30-7:15PM



Rachael Cooley
Director of Ministries

KICK-OFF | Wednesday, September 13 | 4:30pm

SPECIAL SCHEDULE:

- 4:30-5:15: ALL Children's Choirs meet to rehearse
- 5:15-5:30: Children's Chimes
- 5:30-5:45: Parent Meeting
- 5:15-7:15: Dinner, Playtime, Music and More

NURSERY CARE for children ages birth through 3 years will be provided from 4:30-7:15pm. Nursery care for kids of Chancel Choir members will be available from 7-9pm.



OUTREACH

Mayflower's Outreach team is thrilled to be supporting AYA Youth Collective with a donation of \$15,000 to go towards the extension of Drop-in Hours from 5pm to 7pm. This additional two hours will allow homeless youth to have basic needs of a shower, laundry facilities and dinner as well as engagement in various supports like vital document recovery, education, and employment resources. Please take a moment to go to www.ayayouth.org to find out more about this life changing organization in GR.

Upcoming Outreach Opportunities:

- October 8 | Fall Bake Sale
- October 29 | Sudanese Grace Food Sale
- November | Thanksgiving Meal Drive
- December | Salvation Army Red Kettle Project

The Mayflower staff are grateful for the opportunity to lead and serve the people and ministries of the church!

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

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Shawn@MayflowerChurch.org

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Julia@MayflowerChurch.org

Scott Bosscher
Director of Chancel Choir
Scott@MayflowerChurch.org

Rachael Cooley
Director of Ministries
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Abby Brooks
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Karen Roth & Gwen Wallin
Wedding Coordinators
Office@MayflowerChurch.org



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