

# MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Winter 2024

## DATES TO NOTE

- 4: Advent Alive | 4:30
- 8: Cantata Sunday | 10:30am
- 10: 69UP Christmas Party | 5-7pm
- 12: Grown Ups Gather & Graze Christmas Party | 6-8:30pm
- 15: Poinsettia Orders Due
- 15: Christmastide | 10:30am
- 19: Next Step Christmas Tea | 1pm
- 24: Family Service | 4pm  
Candlelight Service | 10pm



*For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

Dear Mayflower Family,

It is with great joy we send you this newsletter highlighting all of the upcoming events and opportunities at Mayflower in this Advent season.

Our traditions continue with our beautiful Sunday morning worship services including our fabulous Christmas Cantata and Chistmastide. We'll also hold two meaningful Christmas Eve services.

Wednesday nights will host Advent Alive, an all new ring and sing, and an adult Bible study learning and exploring the life of Mary. Throughout the season, various social groups will gather to host holiday events, offering unique and wonderful experiences for you and your loved ones.

Advent, by definition, means "arrival."

We anticipate and celebrate the arrival of Jesus—both historically and in our midst. Hence our invitational theme of "come in the midst of..."

We acknowledge the despair, division, grief and apathy that surround us and we await the arrival of the God of hope, peace, joy and love in human form. This miracle continues to astound and inspire us.

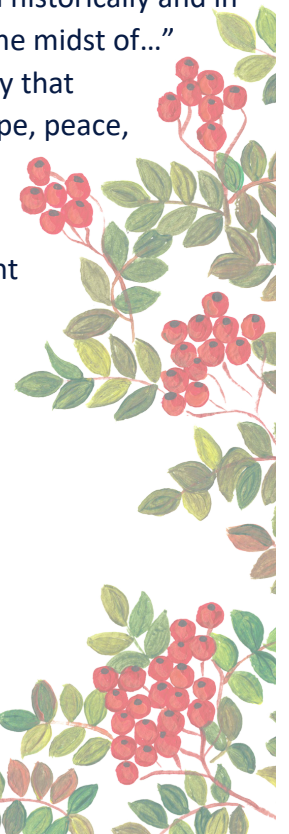
We can't wait for you to join us and be a part of Advent at Mayflower.

May you be richly blessed this Advent and always,

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson



Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson  
Interim 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.

THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE INVITE YOU TO  
*Come*  
IN THE *Midst of...*

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP | 10:30am**

- Dec. 1 | In the midst of despair bring HOPE
- Dec. 8 | In the midst of division bring PEACE
- Dec. 15 | In the midst of grief bring JOY
- Dec. 22 | In the midst of apathy bring LOVE
- Dec. 29 | In the midst of change bring SONG
- Jan. 5 | Epiphany

**DECEMBER 8 | CANTATA SUNDAY**

Chancel Choir, soloists and GR Symphony musicians perform

V. Williams - *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and

J. S. Bach / Kuhnau - *For Us a Child is Born* within the context of worship

**ADVENT  
LEARNING SERIES**



***Mary the Mother of Jesus:  
Favor, Consent, and Action***

**WEDNESDAYS | Dec. 4, 11, 18**

**6-7pm | SANCTUARY**



*Helen Bell and  
Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson*

Come study the life of Mary with **Helen Bell** and **Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson**. We will learn about her extraordinary path to becoming the mother of Jesus and how this changed the world.

*Cantata Sunday*

**DEC. 8 | 10:30AM**

**A music-filled service with choir,  
soloists, and chamber orchestra.**

**V. Williams  
*Fantasia on Christmas Carols*  
and**

**J. S. Bach / Kuhnau  
*For Us a Child is Born***

JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE

# Come IN THE *Midst of...* ...DARKNESS & BRING LIGHT

**Tuesday, December 24**

**4:00 pm** | Family Service with live animals  
**10:00 pm** | Candlelight Service

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

This Christmas Eve, please bring **hats, mittens, and gloves** as your offering to any of the Christmas Eve services. These items will be donated to **In the Image**.



## MIDWEEK ADVENT ALIVE AND CAROL SING

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4 | 4:30-6:30PM

Dinner will be served.

## ADVENT CALENDAR

This Advent season let us join together as a community to bless others through gifts, prayers and knowledge.

Each week of the calendar features an Outreach Partner and their mission. We will be collecting gift items for AYA that will hang from the Giving Tree, pillows for Safe Haven, mittens and hats for In The Image, and adult bike donations for Upcycle Bikes. Hard copies of the calendar can be picked up at church or scan the QR code to download.

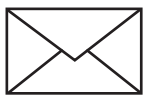
Contact Rachael Cooley  
with any questions:  
([rachael@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:rachael@mayflowerchurch.org))



## Please consider making a YEAR-END FINANCIAL GIFT to Mayflower Church and its mission and ministries.

The people of Mayflower have been within the same boat, voyaging together for 65 years. It is with “terrible loyalty” a phrase coined by Edith Raphael, Ph.D., “a type of loyalty that is fully binding, that pushes a group towards ethical and compassionate responses which in turn draws out the best in those around them,” that we have come to this place in the journey.

May we continue forward with spirits of humility, non-judgement, gratitude and generosity as we follow God’s leading and journey into 2024.



### IN-PERSON/MAIL

Feel free to give via personal check in church or through the mail.



### ONLINE

Scan the QR Code with your phone to give directly through E-Zekiel.

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



### TEXT TO GIVE

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

# MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

Join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30

2345 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506  
616-459-6255 | [www.MayflowerChurch.org](http://www.MayflowerChurch.org)

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Interim Senior Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | Melia Colwell, Children’s Choir Accompanist

Rachael Cooley, Interim Executive Administrator | Murry Idema, Director of Congregational Care

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager

Mark Webb, Interim Children & Youth Music Director | Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator

Jana DeShane and David Schellenberg, Facilities Team



MayflowerCongregationalChurch



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Mayflower Congregational Church - Grand Rapids, MI