

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Spring 2025

MARCH

- 5: Ash Wednesday Service | 6pm
- 10: Lent by Candlelight | 6:30pm
- 17: Lent by Candlelight | 6:30pm
- 23: Confirmation Sunday | 10:30am
- 24: Lent by Candlelight | 6:30pm

APRIL

- 7: Lent by Candlelight | 6:30pm
- 13: Palm Sunday | 10:30am
- 17: The Last Supper:
Maundy Thursday | 6pm
- 18: Good Friday Service | 6pm
- 20: Easter Service | 10:30am
- 27: Senior Sunday | 10:30am



DAILY LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Sign up through this QR code or via our website

to receive daily Lenten Meditations to your inbox.

Dear Mayflower Family,

I write to you as “family” because that is what we are. A church family. Like many families we have traditions and rhythms and times that are marked by what we do together.

The Lenten season is one of our biggest family events (*if not THE biggest*) of the year and we look forward to spending this season as a family in preparation for our most important Sunday—Easter Sunday.

What exactly is the “Lenten season” and why do we set aside these forty days?

In anticipation of Easter, we designate forty days to prepare ourselves. By setting aside time each day in prayer, perhaps fasting from a food or activity we love or adding in a spiritual practice or discipline, and giving to those in need, our hearts become ready and excited for the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. We are able to orient ourselves around the most incredible event in human history.

But before we get to the joy of death conquered, we start by being reminded of our own mortality on Ash Wednesday.

Here is your invitation to Lent and Easter at Mayflower. Here is your opportunity to respond to this call of God to dive deeper into your faith and experience the risen Christ like never before.

With love and anticipation,

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson



Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson
Interim Senior Pastor

THE CALL

Join us this Lenten season as we respond to THE CALL to dive deeper into our faith

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 and EASTER at MAYFLOWER

"THE CALL"

March 5 | Ash Wednesday | 6pm

"The Call to Mortality"

We will celebrate Communion

March 9 | Sunday Worship | 10:30am

"The Call to Give"

Special service with Joel Schoon-Tanis, artist

March 16 | Sunday Worship | 10:30am

"The Call to Care"

March 23 | Sunday Worship | 10:30am

"The Call to Join"

Confirmation Sunday

March 30 | Sunday Worship | 10:30am

"The Call to Transformation"

Peeps Prize after the service

April 6 | Sunday Worship | 10:30am

"The Call to Share"

We will celebrate Communion

April 13 | Palm Sunday | 10:30am

"The Call to Decide"

April 17 | The Last Supper | 6pm

"The Call to Community"

Gather in the Atrium for food, fellowship, prayers, music, communion, and the retelling of the Last Supper. All are welcome, please RSVP by contacting the church office 616-459-6255 or office@MayflowerChurch.org.

April 18 | Good Friday | 6pm

"The Call to Sacrifice"

Mayflower's Chancel Choir presents David H. Williams' *On the Passion of Christ* and other choral works portraying the drama and meaning of Good Friday.

April 20 | Easter Sunday | 10:30am

"The Call to Love"

Please bring flowers to adorn the cross

Chancel Choir and Horn Quartet portray the joy of the resurrection story in a music-filled worship service ending with the *Hallelujah Chorus* from *Messiah* sung by all.



LENT FOOD DRIVE

The **Downtown Food Pantry**, a mission of **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, provides an emergency supply of food and personal care items to people in need in the Heartside Community while also promoting self-sufficiency through referrals.

During Lent, please bring the following (for an extensive list, see the welcome table):

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- cereal
- canned goods
- baking mixes
- boxed pastas
- syrup

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- toilet paper
- toothpaste/toothbrushes
- deodorant
- shampoo/conditioner
- razors/shaving cream



The Call to Give with Joel Schoon-Tanis | Sunday, March 9

On Sunday, March 9, we welcome artist Joel Schoon-Tanis to our service. Joel is the artist behind the theme artwork we are using this Lenten season as well as the mural across from the church office. He is a painter who strives to view the world through a child-like lens—full of color, whimsy, and honesty. His goal is to help others unlock a sense of child-like wonder about God's world.



Joel will paint live throughout the worship service to highlight the scripture and message of the week. He will then take that painting back to his studio to complete and give back to the church. **He will also be at the Midweek program on Wednesday, March 12** to bring art to life!



To learn more about Joel and to enjoy his artwork, visit joelschoontanisgallery.com



Peeps Prize Event | Sunday, March 30 | Following the Service

Bro's
DOUGHS



The Peeps Prize is an annual Mayflower event we are celebrating with our church community on March 30 following the service. We will have a speciality coffee bar and Bro's Doughs Donuts. All are invited to be a part of this fun, intergenerational activity!



A Note From the Moderator

Entering Lent, I contemplate my own faith journey. I am humbled and in awe how God works within us and watches us grow. Over 20 years ago my husband, Andy, and I joined Mayflower Congregational Church. We were both raised in different Christian denominations, but it was important for us to find a church together where we could raise our eventual family. Initially we came to Mayflower because of the proximity to our house, the beautiful facility, and the extraordinary music. We stayed because we felt welcomed by the intergenerational faith community, we felt inspired, and challenged from the Sunday morning sermons.



Kateri Schutt
Church Moderator

We have all gone through phases in life. How has God reached out to you during those times? How have you chosen to respond? I remember the fall of 2021, when the church had opened back up from Covid. We all had been out of practice worshipping as part of the church community. I remember having the conversation, "Is this our church?" It was the next week we received an invitation for Mayflower's children's programming. Our kids were so excited about MidWeek, Sunday School and Elevate Youth Group. It was our sign to get back to the community at Mayflower. We chose Mayflower 20 years ago, and I choose Mayflower Congregational Church every week by regularly attending worship on Sunday mornings, giving and volunteering with committees, the staff, in Bible Studies, etc. Faith and your relationship with God are like anything you must constantly continue to nourish and practice. Faith is a journey.

I am halfway through my Moderator year. It is inspiring to serve with so many amazing people who are dedicated to loving God and each other. Mayflower is a vibrant church community, and we remain a beacon of hope for all. During this Lenten season, I invite you to reflect on your faith journey. Where is God calling you?

Peace and Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kateri Schutt".

Kateri Schutt

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

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

Abby Brooks, Interim Children & Youth Music Director | Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator

Jana DeShane and David Schellenberg, Facilities Team



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