

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 26, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

Prayer request cards may be placed in the offering and will be added to our prayer list.

As you enter the sanctuary quietly, we invite you to prepare your hearts for worship.

Please silence all devices and be present with us.

If you need to step out, the service is live-streamed in the Chapel.

PRELUDE

Sheep May Safely Graze
by J. S. Bach

Dr. Julia Brown

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson & Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Shari Graham, Vice Moderator

INTROIT

Because you live, O Christ

Chancel Choir

Music from 1685, Amsterdam; words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

Because you live, O Christ, the garden of the world has come to flower,
the shadows of the tomb are flooded with your resurrection power.

The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison! O sing this Eastertide, for Jesus Christ has risen!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ken Goodson

Leader: You have led us, O Lord, to the edges of the quiet waters. You have settled our souls in the velvet green of your grace. But the world is waking up hungry, and the valley is wide and cold. The staff is now in our hands; the gate is left unlatched for us to go.

People: Jesus, you say: "Then feed my sheep."

Leader: We have sat at your table while our enemies watched from the shadows. We have tasted the oil of your blessing and the wine of your cup. But there are those outside who faint for a crust of bread, and those in the thicket who have forgotten the sound of a friendly voice.

People: Jesus, you say: "Then feed my sheep."

Leader: It is easy to lie down in the pasture and dream of your goodness. It is harder to walk the rocky path where the lost ones stumble. Awaken us from our rest! Anoint our feet for the journey. Turn our comfort into a compass that points toward the broken.

People: Jesus, you say: "Then feed my sheep."

Leader: For your goodness and mercy shall not only follow us, but shall flow through us, until every valley is filled, until every wanderer is gathered, and the fold is finally full. We go now, not just as the sheep of your hand, but as the shepherds of your heart.

All: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 261 (stand as you are able)

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

GLORIA PATRI (remain standing)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

Now the Green Blade Riseth
by Kevin McChesney

Mayflower Bells

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 759

Rev. Dobson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Shepherd, the Gatekeeper, the Gate

Rev. Bell Olsson

4. There is a need for shep-herds ev - ery - where.
5 We who have strayed like sheep must learn to care.
9 We who have known the Shep-herd's love to - day
13 must shep-herd one an - oth - er in God's way.
17 *Refrain* There is a need for shep-herds in this hour.
21 There is a need for Love to show its power!

Words: Mary Nelson Keithahn; music: John D. Horman, © 1992, 1997 Abingdon Press. Used by permission One License #729334-A

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*
by Virgil Thomson

Chancel Choir

Text to this anthem may be found in the Hymnal No. 52

DOXOLOGY (stand as you are able)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN 210 (stand as you are able) *Now the Green Blade Riseth*

FRENCH CAROL

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE

Now the Green Blade Riseth
arr. Michael Burkhardt

Dr. Brown

The altar flowers are placed by Nadene Graham
in loving memory of her daughter, Teresa Graham, for her birthday.

Please join us for coffee and cookies in the Atrium after the service.

If you would like to provide cookies for the Sunday reception,
please email Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

**SIGN UP
BY 4/30!**

LIFE LEGACY WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 | 11:30AM | CHAPEL

We are all going to *leave a legacy* of some kind...

What is your legacy going to be? How will you *be remembered*?



These are big questions to ponder, and in this workshop we will explore your spiritual legacy, your financial legacy, and your memorial legacy. A workbook will be provided.

There will be a light LUNCH provided.

**To RSVP, please call the
church office 616-459-6255.**

LIFE LEGACY

Weekly Calendar

**Words in italics denote partnering organizations that meet at Mayflower.*

Today, April 26

10:30am | Sunday Worship

THIS WEEK

- 27 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Men's Bible Study | 5pm
- 28 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Men's Bible Study | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
*Cub Scouts** | 6pm
Council Mtg. | 6:30pm
- 29 *Garden Club** | 9am
Mayflower Bells | 6:30pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30pm
- 30 *Women's City Club** | 11am
Women's Bible Study | 10am
*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm
- 1 Men's Bible Study | 7am
Calvin Alumni Choir concert | 7:30pm
- 3 Sunday Worship | 10:30am
Life Legacy Workshop | 11:30am

LOOKING AHEAD...

Annual Meeting | May 17 | following worship
Grief Workshop | June 7 | following worship



**LIFE IS GOOD.
GIVE BLOOD.**

Scholarship Blood Drive Mayflower Congregational Church

2345 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.**

All donors who join us will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card as an incentive to give!



TOY DRIVE | APR 13 - MAY 1

Are you doing some spring cleaning?
Donate your gently used toys and games to GOGO
REPLAY TOYS.
Bring them to Mayflower April 13 through May 1.

TOYS/GAMES/PUZZLES FOR ALL AGES ARE ACCEPTED. PLACE IN THE BOXES AT THE PORTICO ENTRANCE.

(TOYS MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO EGR MIDDLE SCHOOL ON MAY 2.)

RePlay Toys partners with Guiding Light, Girls & Boys Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other local organizations. Find out more at: gogosreplaytoys.org

Honoring High School Seniors

Last week we recognized our high school seniors.
Pray for them as they embark on their post high school journey.



MADY BAAR

Favorite Mayflower memory: Hallie grabbing my hand and taking me on little adventures around the church and when the children sing in the choir during the holidays.

Mayflower through the years: Midweek, and Sundays with children and youth



ALEX BARNES

Favorite Mayflower memory: Youth Group and Confirmation

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring



JOHN BARNES

Favorite Mayflower memory: Earning my first choir cross from Miss Heidi.



ETHAN BRINKER

Favorite Mayflower memory: Youth group gift exchange at Christmas.

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring



CHLOE CUSTER

Favorite Mayflower memory: Every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening spent getting to know the people at Mayflower!

Mayflower through the years: Midweek, and Sundays with children and youth



CATHERINE GRIN

Favorite Mayflower memory: Christmastide Sunday and Midweek dinners and going to Breakfast Club.

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring, Choir, Breakfast Club



EMILY GRIN

Favorite Mayflower memory: Singing in the choir with Miss Heidi and going to Breakfast Club.

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring, Bells/Choir, Breakfast Club



MATTHEW KOSTER

Favorite Mayflower memory: The Christmas Eve services and the Chicago mission trip.

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring

Honoring High School Seniors



KELLY McMAHON

Favorite Mayflower memory: Her first time at Midweek with the Grins and the Halloween parade.

Mayflower through the years: Mulick Park tutoring, Choir, Breakfast Club, Midweek, and Sundays with children and youth



JESSIE MITCHELL

Favorite Mayflower memory: Playing games, like hide and go seek throughout the church, with friends during Midweek.



TAJ OSBORN

Favorite Mayflower memory: When he and several of his friends attended Christmas Eve 10pm service together.

Mayflower through the years: A/V Tech team



BLAKE SHERMAN

Favorite Mayflower memory: SuperBowling and breakfast club my freshman year with my brother.

Mayflower through the years: A/V Tech team, Breakfast Club



DYLAN STEIN

Favorite Mayflower memory: Sunday School with his Mom teaching.

Mayflower through the years: A/V Tech team, Breakfast Club



WYATT STEIN

Favorite Mayflower memory: The trip to Chicago with the youth group.

Mayflower through the years: A/V Tech team, Breakfast Club



GRACE TAYLOR

Favorite Mayflower memory: Mid-week with my friends and Miss Heidi.



LEXI WISEMAN

Favorite Mayflower memory: Going on the Chicago mission trip.

LENT and EASTER at MAYFLOWER



Mayflower Small Groups: *Building Community*

Get plugged into Mayflower, consider joining one of the following small groups. To get involved, contact the church office (616-459-6255 or office@MayflowerChurch.org). These groups meet on a regular basis either at the church, or a restaurant, or someone's home, if noted. For up to date information, check the web calendar.

29UP (For ages 29+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

69UP (For ages 69+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

Chancel Choir – Wednesdays | 7:30pm

Doubts on Draft

Next meeting: May 21 - Final Meeting until Fall

Have questions about faith, spirituality, the Bible, your own story? Gather with Pastor Kent Dobson over a pint for informal conversation and community.

Grown-ups Gather & Graze (For ages 49+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship. Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choice.

High School Breakfast Club – Tuesdays | 6:30am

High school students meet at Wolfgang's restaurant for breakfast.

Ladies' Luncheon

Women of all ages and stages gather for a time of food and fellowship at various local restaurants.

LGBTQ Support Circle

4th Thursday of the month | 6pm | Library
Support for parents, grandparents, and friends of LGBTQ. This group is open to any who are seeking community as they support their LGBTQ loved ones.

Mayflower Bells – Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Needlepoint & Stitching – Tuesdays | 10am | Atrium

Priscilla Circle

1st Wednesday of the month | 11am

Next meeting: May 6

The women of Mayflower's Priscilla Circle volunteer and raise funds for causes associated with the church and our community.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Studies

Mondays | 9:30am | Cindy DeBoer

Mondays | 5pm | Helen Bell

Thursdays | 10am | Pastor Steve Armfield

Men's Bible Studies

Mondays | 5pm

Tuesdays | 8am

Fridays | 7am

Partnering Organization Small Groups

These groups meet at Mayflower on a regular basis.

AI-Anon – Wednesdays | 7pm | Parlor

Boy Scout Troop 271 – Thursdays | 7:30pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesdays | 6pm

Mayflower ART CAMP!



This year we welcome artist, Joel Schoon-Tanis, to Art Camp! Joel's artwork will be on display at church throughout the week and he will open each day of camp with instruction and a demonstration on the creative process, visual literacy, and faith and art.

JUNE 8-11 | 9am-12pm
REGISTRATION OPEN-\$100/child
Rising Kindergarteners-5th grade

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER TODAY



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: SUMMER YOUTH WILDERNESS TRIP

August 4-8, 2026 | New River Gorge, WV

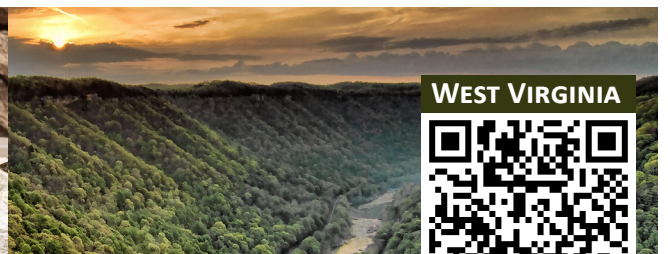
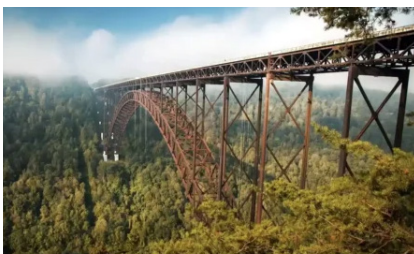
Float the river, camp on the Appalachian Trail, repel the cliff walls, learn wilderness skills, spiritual practices and experiences, have fun in the wild without modern distractions, seek a deeper more connected life with God and the natural world. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**

Registration is open, \$1,000*/participant. Scan the **WEST VIRGINIA** QR code to sign up.

▶ **OPEN TO YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AGES 12 AND UP**

▶ **OPEN TO ADULT PARTICIPANTS**

*\$100 deposit due at sign-up. Pricing subject to change based on # of participants and fundraising.



WEST VIRGINIA



MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

This excursion will be led by Pastor Kent Dobson.
Email questions to Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

Praises and Prayers

If you would like to receive prayer, or make note of someone to be added to the weekly Prayer List, please contact the church office to be included on the list (616.459.6255 or office@mayflowerchurch.org.) Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.

PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with our **16 high school seniors** on their many accomplishments and the future that lies ahead.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Gary Wallin**. He fell in Florida and is at home recovering. (4/21)

PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

Please pray for Ann Lowrey, friend of **Ray and Susan Lovell**. Ann fell and is recovering at Mary Free Bed. (4/21)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Please pray for **David and Cheryl Blair, Rachel Blair, and Blair and Wesley Haddad** as David's mom, **Ruth Blair**, passed away on April 14. On May 1 at 10am there will be a visitation at Beacon Hill Auditorium, (behind the main building, 1919 Boston Street) and a memorial service at 11:00am followed by a luncheon. (4/15)

Shari Graham's brother in law, Peter Peliotas, passed away on April 9. Pray for his family. (4/15)

We mourn with **Ron Schaver** as his husband, **Jim Meurs**, passed away in Florida on March 26. A memorial was held on April 18. (3/26)

We pray for **Rev. Bob Livingston** and his family as they mourn the sudden passing of his wife, **Laura**, on Mar. 24. A memorial service was held in Ann Arbor on April 4. (3/26)

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY & OUR WORLD

As people all over the world celebrate the resurrection we take this as a prayer:

Lord, save us from the war, violence, and strife that plague our world, our country, our community, and our hearts. May we be peace seekers, peace makers, peace builders, and peace lovers today and always. Amen.

Pray for the child of a Mayflower member who was recently deployed to the Middle East.

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

Your generous gifts ensure Mayflower's current and future ministry. Thank you.

For your convenience we offer electronic giving options:



Scan the QR Code with your phone to give/pay directly through E-Zekiel: no sign-up required.

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



TEXT TO GIVE

On your phone, simply text the word: GIVE To: 6163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.

Calvin  **1876 Alumni Choir**
UNIVERSITY
MAY 1 | 7:30PM

Join the Calvin Alumni Choir for an evening of choral excellence
Sean Ivory, director
Dr. Julia Brown, accompanist

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | MAY 1 | 7:30PM
-No tickets required-

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 | 616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Senior Pastor | Rev. Kent Dobson, Associate Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music & Organist

Rachael Cooley, Executive Director of Youth, Outreach, & Operations

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager

Murry Idema, May-Flowers Ministry | Rachel Blair, Congregational Care Coordinator

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator | Kathy Tetzlaff, Facilities

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | Dr. Mark Webb and Melia Colwell, Midweek Choir Directors

Brennen Kartes, Director of Midweek Bells | Aaron Wheeler, Children's Choir Accompanist

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.

GOD'S REVELATION

261

All Creatures of Our God and King

St. Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226

Geistliche Kerchengesäng, Cologne, 1623

Trans. by William H. Draper, 1855-1933

Harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Unison

1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift
 2. Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, Ye
 3. Thou flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make
 4. And all ye men of ten - der heart, For -
 5. Let all things their cre - a - tor bless; And

up your voice and with us sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 clouds that sail in heav'n a - long, O praise Him, Al - le -
 mu - sic for thy Lord to hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -
 giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, O sing ye, Al - le -
 wor - ship Him in hum - ble - ness, O praise Him, Al - le -

lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en beam, Thou
 lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, Ye
 lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright, That
 lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear, Praise
 lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, And

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8 with Alleluias

"He," "Him," or "His" may be replaced by "God(s)" or "You(r)."

Third verse: "That givest us (or all) both"

Fourth verse: "And all ye folk of tender heart" or "All who possess a tender heart"

GOD'S REVELATION

sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,
lights of eve - ning, find a voice,
giv - est man both warmth and light, O
God and on Him cast your care.
praise the Spir - it, three in One.

praise Him, O praise Him, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

Creator God,

May the majesty of Your creation forever remain a mystery, that we may know wonder and awe, and with joyful hearts sing Alleluia.

May the creative power of Your spoken word be made available to us through the understanding of Your written word, that we may sing Alleluia with grateful hearts.

For the miracle of birth and Your gift of rebirth through Jesus, may we sing Alleluia with loving hearts.

While You remain omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient, may all come to know You as trusting friend and personal Savior, and with new and clean and faithful hearts sing Alleluia.

Amen.

Joellen Hoth

THE TRIUNE GOD

210

Now the Green Blade Riseth

John M. C. Crum, 1872-1958
Oxford Book of Carols, alt.

French Carol
Harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875-1958

1. Now the green blade ris - eth, from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
 3. Forth He came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that He nev - er would a - wake a - gain,
 Je - sus who for three days in the grave had lain;
 Je - sus' touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come a - gain, like wheat that spring - eth green.

FRENCH CAROL
11.10.10.11