

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 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

Le Rendez-vous de chasse (Giacomo Rossini)

Horn Quartet

Daughter of Zion (G. F. Handel)

Urlicht from *Symphony No. 2* (Gustav Mahler, arr. Richards)

Lützow's Wild Ride (von Weber)

Divertimento (W. A. Mozart)

Andante (Anton Bruckner)

Blessing and Honor (G. F. Handel)

La Réjouissance from *Music for Royal Fireworks* (G. F. Handel)

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.**

INTROIT

This is the Day
Jacobus Gallus (1550-1591)

Chancel Choir
and Horn Quartet

This is the day the Lord hath made: we will all rejoice, be glad in it. Alleluia! (Psalm 118:24)

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Schneider

Leader: Easter begins in darkness and despair.

People: The One whom we loved and followed is missing.

Leader: We wonder who will roll away the heavy stone of our anguish and hopelessness for us?

People: It is all too much for us to bear.

Leader: Then Easter takes us by surprise. The bright light of hope and possibility arrives and becomes our new norm.

People: Yes...Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: In joy, and with one voice, let us worship God!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196 (stand as you are able) *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

(Please note: If you are sitting in the balcony, be aware that the loud trumpet from the Gallery organ will be used during this hymn.)

OPENING PRAYER

John Schneider

Giver of new life, we come to worship this Easter morning with alleluias and songs of praise on our lips. We come to proclaim and affirm the wonder of Jesus' resurrection. Because Jesus Christ is raised from the tomb, we can now live with hope, and with the promise that Christ's resurrection power can enter into each of our lives today to lift and transform us. Be with us as we seek to be inspired, filled, and renewed. In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. Amen.

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 768

Rev. Dobson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Whom Are You Looking For?

Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 197 (stand as you are able) *The Day of Resurrection*

LANCASHIRE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Day of Resurrection*
by Thomas Matthews

Chancel Choir

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;

The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God, from death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,

Out Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light; and, listening to His accents, may hear so calm and plain His own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin, the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein; let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend, for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end. Alleluia!

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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING COMMUNION

We practice an open table and all are welcome to participate. The feast is for everyone. The ushers will come forward to release you by rows. Take the bread and eat it; take the cup and drink it. You may deposit the cups in the baskets provided. Please return to your seat by the side aisles. You are also welcome to take the elements to your seat and partake when you are ready. If you would like the elements brought to you, signal an usher. Our sacramental elements are gluten free bread and grape juice.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Set Me as a Seal
by Richard Nance

Chancel Choir

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it. (Song of Solomon)

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.

ANTHEM(stand as you are able) *Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah*
by George F. Handel

Chancel Choir

You are invited to join in singing the *Hallelujah Chorus*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson & Rev. Dobson

POSTLUDE

Finale from Symphony No. 1
by Louis Vierne

Dr. Brown

Please Return the *Hallelujah Chorus* scores for future use.

We welcome our guest musicians this morning:
Mary Beth Orr, Tricia Ruffer, Paul Austin and Nicole Minney

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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



Easter Flower Dedications

Flowers adorning the sanctuary were purchased by members of our church family to honor their loved ones.

Jeff and Kim Peterson in celebration of their grandchildren Hallie Grace Newton and Henry Oliver Peterson

Sue Stoddard in celebration of David and Mark

Dave and Kris Wilson in honor of their children, Madeleine and Matthew

Dave and Kris Wilson in memory of their parents, Louis & Wallene Poteau and Jim & Ann Wilson

Jenn Tendero in memory of her grandma and grandpa

Don and Ann Kelley

Wendy Jacobs in memory of her husband, Tom

Andrew and Kate Reed in honor of Annie & Lucy

Betsy Willey in memory of her mother, Betty Wood

Helen Bell and Family in memory of Robert Holmes Bell

Dan and Elizabeth Bogo in celebration of their family

Cheryl, Curt, Dina, and Bram Britcher in memory of their Mom and Dad, Eric and Dorothy Britcher

The Larsons in memory of Pastor Eric Britcher

Stiffler Family in memory of their parents, Richard & Thalia Stiffler and Frank Yacopino, and Kris's sister, Lisa Yacopino

Ingrid Nelson in memory of her grandmother, Helen Brown

Larry and Sally Robson in memory of their parents, Mr. & Mrs. William King and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Robson

Perii Hutchings in memory of Bob and Eileen Brown

Terry and Carole Zylman in memory of their parents, John & Frances Zylman and Stewart & Marcia Sweet

Frank and Susan Lovell

Sylvia Semplonius



If you purchased flowers, please feel free to take them with you after the service.

Weekly Calendar

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

Today, April 5

10:30am | Easter Sunday

THIS WEEK

6 Women's Bible Study | 5pm

Men's Bible Study | 5pm

7 Men's Bible Study | 8am

*Cub Scouts** | 6pm

8 Mayflower Bells | 6:30pm

*Al-Anon** | 7pm

Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

9 Women's Bible Study | 10am

*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm

10 Men's Bible Study | 7am

12 Sunday Worship | 10:30am

LOOKING AHEAD...

College Exam Care Package Snacks/Assembly April 14 | 10am



Do you have a college student? Come and join other parents of college students as we assemble Final Exam Care Packages filled with snacks and fun. Bring a box and a bulk item from the sign up (click on QR code).

Senior Sunday | April 19 | 10:30am

We will be honoring our High School Seniors during the Sunday service on April 19. If you have a graduating senior, please reach out to the church office so that we can have them be a part of this special milestone.



SUNDAY, April 19
following worship

Spring Bake Sale

HOSTED BY PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to make and bake your best recipes! Please bring your donated baked goods to the Atrium prior to the Sunday service on 4/19.

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 29 **new members** (and their 16 children!) in joining Mayflower Church on March 15.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Susan Ellis is recovering from a fall and would appreciate prayers for her recovery. (3/23)

Please pray for **Gary Wallin**. He fell in Florida and is in a rehabilitation hospital. (3/3)

PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for Milt Stainbrook, a friend of a church member, who is experiencing kidney failure. (3/4)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with **Ron Schaver** as his husband, **Jim Meurs**, passed away in Florida on March 26. On Sat. April 18, Mayflower will host a visitation at 1pm and memorial at 2pm with a reception following. (3/26)

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

Mindy Feder, a long time Mayflower congregant and former youth director, passed away on Feb. 25. Please keep her family in your prayers. (3/24)

Steve Draft friend of **Dale and Ellen DeHaan** has passed away. Prayers appreciated for Steve's wife Ellyn, and their family. (3/24)

Barbara Schoendorf passed away Saturday, March 14. We pray for her family as they mourn her passing. A visitation was held March 23 followed by a service. (3/14)

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.



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**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 that day will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card as an incentive to give!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: SUMMER YOUTH WILDERNESS TRIPS

May 29-31, 2026 | Manistee National Forest, MI

Two nights of backpacking, followed by a canoe float down the Manistee River. Learn basic wilderness skills, hiking and canoeing, spiritual practices and experiences, have fun in the wild without modern distractions, swim in the river and celebrate life. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**

Registration is open. Please scan the **MANISTEE QR code** to sign up today.

▶ **OPEN TO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS - \$100/STUDENT***

▶ **OPEN TO A LIMITED ADULT PARTICIPANTS - \$150/ADULT**

*There will be a mandatory fundraising event for students to attend to cover additional costs.



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

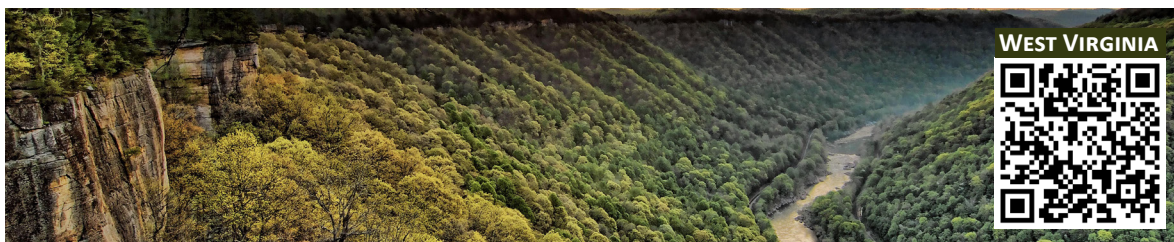
Float the river, camp on the Appalachian Trail, repel the cliff walls, learn wilderness skills, spiritual practices and experiences, have fun in the wild without modern distractions, seek a deeper more connected life with God and the natural world. **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**

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.



MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Both wilderness excursions will be led by Pastor Kent Dobson.
Email questions to Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org



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



TOY DRIVE | APR 13 - MAY 1

Are you doing some spring cleaning during spring break? 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.)

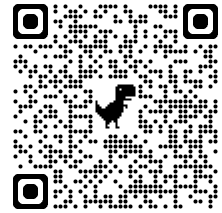
RePlay Toys partners with Guiding Light, Girls & Boys Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other local organizations. Find out more at: gogosreplaytoys.org

Boy Scout Troop 271 Fundraiser

The Boy Scouts are selling hanging flower baskets and more for a fundraiser! All proceeds will be used for adventures, exploring nature, and learning valuable scouting skills! **Thank you to Mayflower Congregational Church for your continued support!**

The QR code links directly to a Google form to place your order. It will allow you to select what kind of flower and color you would like. After you submit your order, someone from the troop will contact you for payment (cash, check or venmo).

The sale ends on Thursday, April 23. Baskets will be ready May 9.



**Scan to order
or contact**

Laura Koster

mrs.kosterite@gmail.com



geranium • full sun

10" Cutting Geranium
Hanging Basket

Available in: red, pink,
and violet

Price: **\$25.00**



petunias • full sun

10" Petunia Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, pink, purple
and white variegated mix,
or yellow

Price: **\$25.00**



impatiens • part shade

10" Impatien Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, pink shades,
white, purple, orange, or mixed

Price: **\$15.00**

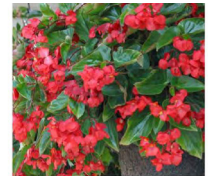


begonias • shade

10" Tuberous Begonia
Hanging Basket

Available in: pink, orange
yellow, or red

Price: **\$25.00**



begonias • part
sun/shade

10" Dragon Wing
Begonia Hanging
Basket

Available in: red, or pink

Price: **\$25.00**



boston fern • part shade

10" Boston Fern
Hanging Basket

Price: **\$20.00**



patio pot • full sun

10" Mixed Patio Pot
Mix of Marigolds,
Petunias, Ageratum
and Dusty Miller

Price: **\$25.00**



mixed basket • full sun

10" Specialty Mixed
Hanging Basket

Mix of three specialty
annuals. *actual colors/
combinations may vary from
photo

Price: **\$25.00**

Troop 271 Fundraiser Hanging Flower Baskets

Thank you for your support!

*All proceeds will be used for adventures,
exploring nature, and learning valuable skills.*

Baskets will be ready on May 9th
between 11am-12pm
at Mayflower Church

Questions?

Contact Laura Koster

mrs.kosterite@gmail.com

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

3rd Thursday of the month | 5pm
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
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

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.

BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT EMAILS

On Tue, 24 Mar 2026 at 13:10 Ruth Bell Olsson
ruth.mayflowerchurch@gmail.com wrote:

Good morning **name**, do you have a minute?

I'll be going into a meeting now and I may not be able to talk, so just reply.

Pastor Ruth

NOT a legitimate Mayflower Church email address

Some of you have received fraudulent emails from a sender email address made to look like Pastor Ruth's or another staff person's. Please note that Mayflower does not solicit donations via email. If you have a question about whether or not correspondence you have received is legitimate, please reach out to the church office (616-459-6255).

From: Ruth Bell Olsson <ruth.mayflowerchurch@gmail.com>
Date: March 25, 2026 at 4:30:11 AM HST
To: [>](mailto:@gmail.com)
Subject: Re: Task(URGENT)

Ok. I'll be in between meetings today and won't be by my phone much. I need you to get me some gift cards, I promised to help some people and it totally slipped my mind that it's time already.
Let me know if it is possible for you to get them so I can tell you which product we would need and the amount, you will be reimbursed.

Church staff emails are from the "**mayflowerchurch.org**" domain and a response should be addressed to the mayflowerchurch.org email address. However, these email addresses can also be hacked, so if you are ever unsure, call the office.

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.