MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP **September 20, 2026**



QUIET MEDITATION *Psalm 114:7-8*

Tremble, earth, at the Lord's coming, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who changes rocks into pools of water and solid cliffs into flowing springs. *-Psalm 114:7-8*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Ego sum panis vivus (I am the bread of life)* Dr. Julia Brown

Motet by Orlando di Lasso, organ intabulation by Heinrich Scheidemann

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson & Rachael Cooley

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP Clay S., Vice Moderator

Leader: Come, let us gather with open hearts.

People: For we do not always see as God sees.

Leader: We measure, compare, count, and keep score—while God offers us enough.

People: Today, let us loosen our grip on what we think we deserve.

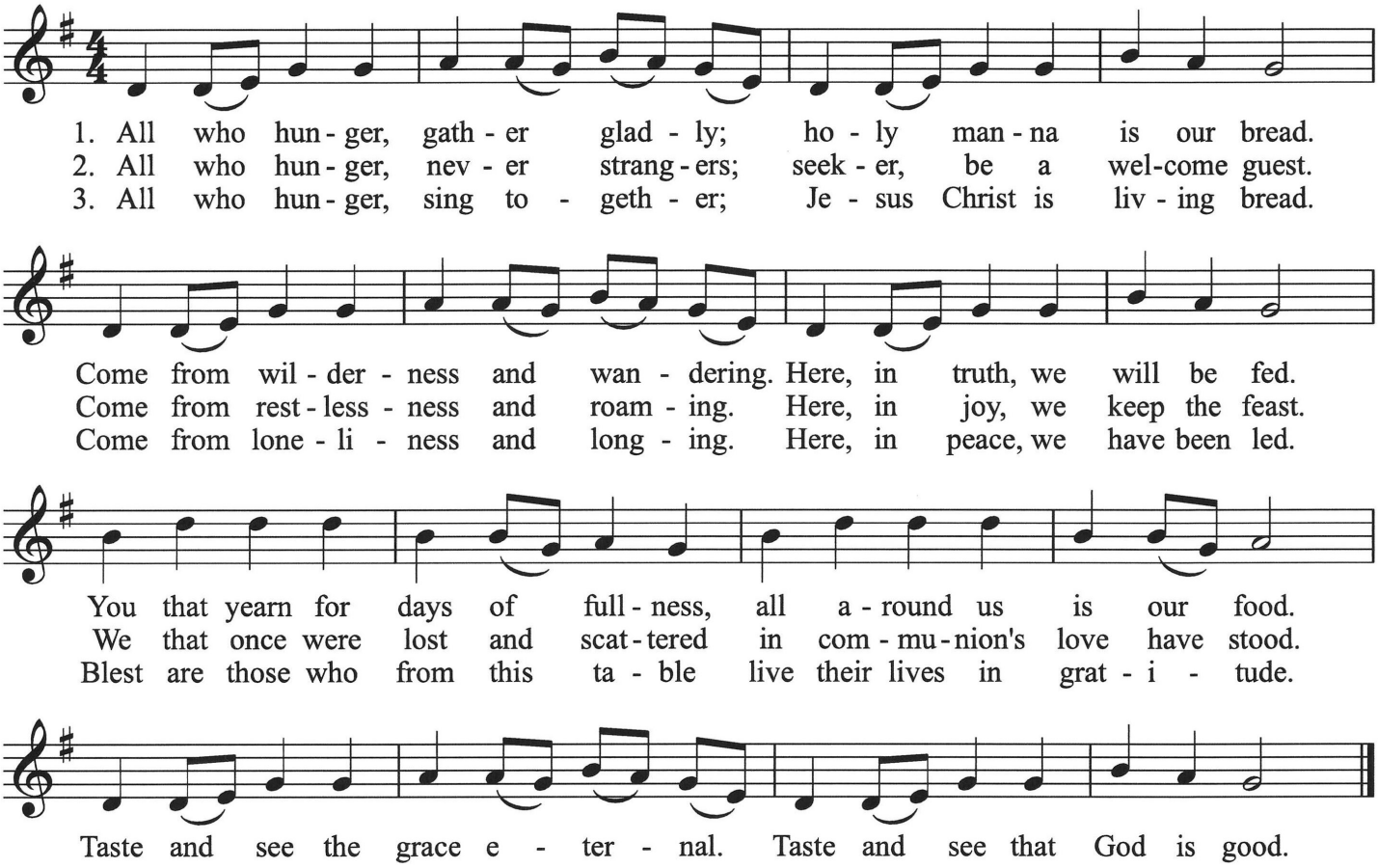
Leader: Let us receive the gifts and blessings before us, trusting the One who provides.

People: Come, let us worship the God whose grace invites us to see the world differently.

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (stand as you are able)

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly HOLY MANNA



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OPENING PRAYER Clay S.

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 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* Chancel Choir
Tradition Southern Hymn Tune, arr. by Virgil Thomson

Text can be found in Hymn 52

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING Clay S.

Exodus 16:2–15
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 51

Matthew 20:1–16
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 697

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Better Life, Better World: Perspective* Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 77 VS. 1, 2, 3 (stand as you are able) *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* ST. PETER

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER Rev. Bell Olsson

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* — Chancel Choir
John Hughes, arr. by Mark Webb

Text can be found in Hymn 432

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.

OFFERTORY BLESSING — Clay S.

HYMN 485 VS. 1, 2, 3 (stand as you are able)

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken — AUSTRIAN HYMN

BENEDICTION — Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE *CWM RHONDDA* by Paul Manz — Dr. Brown

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

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

CAR HOP FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 | 5-6:30PM

The youth groups are hosting a "Car Hop" to raise funds for the fall Middle/High School Mission Trip. Park in the middle lot and be transported back to the 50's. Menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, & root beer.

be there or be square!

FAITH 101 | TUESDAYS | 8-9am

JOIN PASTOR KENT FOR A WEEKLY STUDY ON THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



What we'll cover:

- **The Bible and how to use it**
- **The foundations of Christian practice**
- **Theology for regular people**
- **Living faith in the modern world**

We'll meet in the **YOUTH ROOM**. All are welcome. Attend when you're able, nothing to prepare. We hope this will serve those new to the faith, returning to faith, or those who feel they need a bit of a refresher.

Next Class September 29
*note no class 9/22

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP | OCT. 23-25 | DETROIT





Rachael Cooley and Pastor Kent will lead a group of students to Detroit for a weekend of learning, growth, and service.

We are partnering with Messiah Church, where we will stay and be a part of their community. We will tour Detroit and learn the impact of a collapsed industry and population shift on the neighbors in the city, participate in service work in the neighborhoods, attend the Sunday service, and eat in the neighborhood restaurants.

SCAN QR to Sign Up

Support for this trip will be raised at the CAR HOP, September 27 at 5pm

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2026

MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

mayflowerchurch.org/concerts

OCTOBER 5 | 7PM
LUCES, ASTROS, ESTRELLAS

Musica Ficta, one of the most distinguished early music ensembles, performs music found in Latin American archives



OCTOBER 12 | 6:15 PRE-CONCERT TALK; 7PM CONCERT
VIENNESE DREAMS

Schubert's* Die Schöne Müllerin *with tenor Nicholas Phan

OCTOBER 19 | 7PM | THE BEAUTY OF THE LAUTENWERK

Wolfgang Rübsam playing an all-Bach program

OCTOBER 26 | 7PM | GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY BRASS QUINTET

A tribute to longtime Mayflower member Barbara Gordon

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2345 Robinson Road SE, GR, MI 49506
616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Calendar

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

Today, September 20

10:30am | Sunday Worship
5pm | MS and HS Youth Group

SEPTMEBER

21 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm

22 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
*Blood Drive** | 1pm-7pm
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
Executive Comm. Mtg. | 6:30pm

23 Midweek | 3pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

24 Women's Bible Study | 10am
Bible Study | 5pm

25 Men's Bible Study | 7am

27 Morning Worship | 10:30am
Car Hop Fundraiser | 5pm

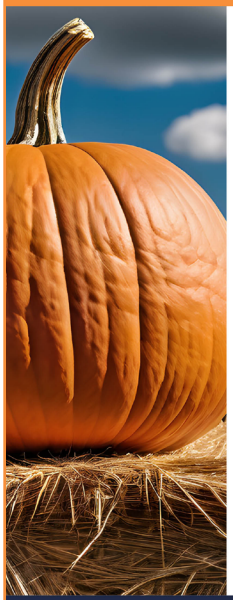
OCTOBER 4 | 5pm

Sing. Learn. Eat.

A Monthly Gathering

All are invited to join us for night church and a light meal on Oct. 4.

GROWN UPS GATHER & GRAZE EVENTS



October 2 @ 4pm | Autumn Hoedown

Dale and Ellen DeHaan's home

Join us at 4pm for a hayride and entertainment by the EASY IDLE STRING BAND. Bring an appetizer to share and beverage of your choice and dress for the outdoors. RSVP to Patty (psienstra@gmail.com or text 616-717-3427). Invite other adults that would like the fun and fellowship, all ages welcome.

Upcoming dates:

Dec. 11 | Christmas Gathering | Barbara Hohman's home

Feb. 5 | Caribbean Bash | Dan and Marjie Gell's home

May 1 | Kentucky Derby Party | David and Cheryl Blair's home

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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

Asher Theodore Edgar was born on Aug. 24. Son to Rob and Anne Edgar and the grandson of **Chris and Linda Edgar**. (9/15)

We give praise with **Melia Colwell,** Director of Children's Music and Worship, and her family on the birth of son, **Franklin Louis** on Sept. 11. (9/15)

We give praise with **Katherine and Patrick Miller** on the birth of their daughter, **Colette Frances** on Sept. 1. (9/2)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Ellen and Dale DeHaan**'s daughter, **Michelle**, who is deployed on a medical mission in Venezuela. (9/2)

Please pray for **Helen Beuker**, who is struggling with health and mobility issues following a recent surgery. (9/2)

We pray for the Mayflower family that is navigating a mental health crisis with their adult child. May God bring divine wisdom, peace, and health. (8/26)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with **Scott and Jane Bosscher** on the unexpected passing of Scott's brother, Michael, on Sept 16. (9/17)

Pray for **Jess Ruppert** and her family as they mourn the passing of Jess's mom, Penny Lumsden. (9/8)

Please pray for **Jeff, Ruth, Zinnia, Oskar, and Kagiso Olsson** as they grieve the passing of Jeff's mother Midge Olsson on Sept. 2. (9/2)

Scott and Jane Bosscher ask for prayers for Scott's sister Sue Kooistra and family as they mourn the death of their grandson/son/brother, Luke Kooistra. (8/26)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

We pray for a better world…

Dear God, this week we pray for your ***perspective***.

Grant us your vision to see our world and your heart to love it as you do. Give us a glimpse of your understanding as to how to discern, how to listen to your voice, and how to pray in accordance with your Spirit. Please help us to not be overwhelmed by the bad news, but to seek the good. Help us to look for ways to be the hands and feet of Christ whenever we get the opportunity to see those in need.

This week we pray for our outreach partner ***God's Vision for Haiti***. We pray for the children they serve and the community they are impacting. May their efforts to provide education, spiritual formation, health and foster care to those who need it most thrive. May joy abound as your light shines in Haiti.

Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS, SUSAN LOVELL!

It bring us joy to share that **Susan Lovell** will be honored with the Community Service Award at the The EGR Schools Foundation Awards Dinner on Oct. 7. Lovell co-founded the *Cadence*, an East Grand Rapids newspaper.



HONORING REV. ERIC BRITCHER AT ARTPRIZE

Rev. Eric Britcher left behind a beautiful legacy with the lives he has helped and inspired. One of those was Erin McDonald, a Salvationist and artist. She entered ArtPrize 2026 with Music Hands, a piece inspired by him. The artist shares, "When he saw the painting, his eyes began to tear up at what I had created. He told me that my hands had made something beautiful. Having grown up hearing him play the piano, I replied, 'It's nothing like what your hands have made.'"

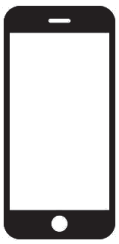
Artwork will be on display at the Salvation Army of Kent County during ArtPrize, Sept. 18-Oct. 3.

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.

MAYFLOWER MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 8/31/26

	Month	YTD	FY Budget
Income	$68,279	$981,782	$1,387,916
Expense	($88,213)	$818,817	$1,387,656
Net Income	($19,933)	$163,965	$260

Pledges received YTD: 69%



DID YOU KNOW?

Each month Mayflower spends over $3,200 on the electric bill?

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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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
Dr. Mark Webb, Chancel Choir Director | **Melia Colwell**, Director of Children's Music and Worship
Sean Ivory, Music Associate | **Zephyr White**, 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.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds 77

John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877



ST. PETER
CM

Most wonderful God:
Please accept the thanks of my heart—
For thinking of me, for loving me, for saving me.
Please accept the praises of my soul—
For embracing me, for treasuring me, for redeeming me.
Receive my joy:
For You are my hope, my peace, and my light.
And it is in the name of Jesus that I pray. Amen.

Rev. Steven Blackburn

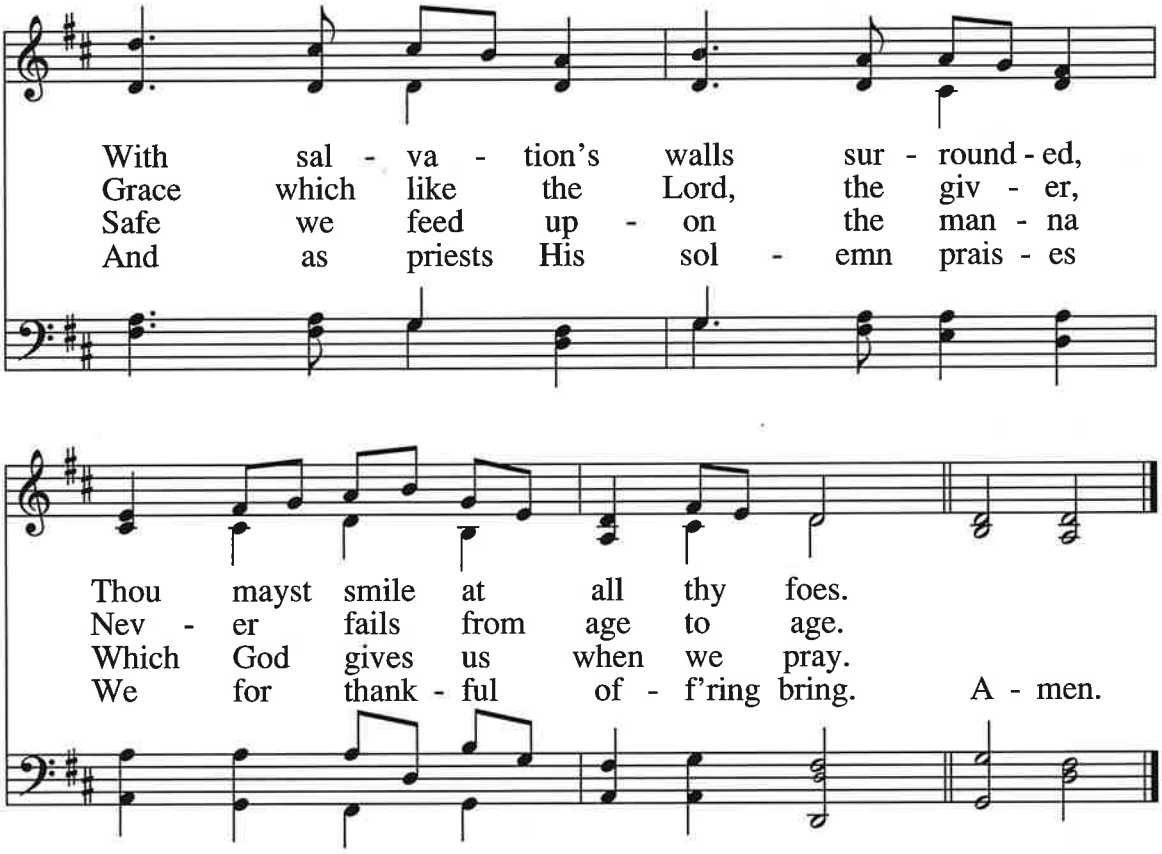
485 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

John Newton, 1725–1807 — Franz J. Haydn, 1732–1809



AUSTRIAN HYMN
8.7.8.7 D

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



Gracious God, the gifts of Your creation abound in our midst. We are filled with prosperity given by Your hand and the power of Your thoughts. We are thankful for these blessings. Teach us, we pray, to be good stewards of this creation, that the generations we birth may also reap the bounty of Your earth.

All-powerful God, we are oft perplexed by the world in which You have placed us. Cries for justice and peace arise from every corner of the earth, yet we hear of wars, rumors of wars and oppressive injustice. Instill in us the vision of Your kingdom, built in grace and love for all peoples, whatever their religion or creed. Teach us the value of grace as we endeavor to love You with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. Give us the courage to absorb the hurt and anger of those who would oppress, and the wisdom to act toward others in the same manner we desire others to act toward us.

God of all creation, remind us of our part today in calling forth each tomorrow through the thousand little things we do to and for our immediate neighbors, friends and family. Remind us of our part today in calling forth tomorrow's world by being accountable in our places of work, worship and influence, and by holding accountable those we have elected to public office. Remind us this day of our partnership with You in creating every tomorrow.

Hear our prayers, O God, for we lift them to You in faith and hope based upon the promises of Your Christ, in whose name we live and move and have our being. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Donald D. Olsen