



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

2900 County Barn Road, Naples, FL 34112

(239) 775-0055 www.mayflownaples.com Mayflownaples@outlook.com

Office Hours: 9:00-1:00 Monday-Friday

January 2025



35th Anniversary of Mayflower Congregational UCC

January 7, 1990 – January 5, 2025

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND VISITORS ARE INVITED TO JOIN MAYFLOWER AS WE'RE CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FOUNDING! THERE WILL BE A PRE-SERVICE SLIDE SHOW, OF WHO AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE OVER THE PAST YEARS.

COME ABOUT 9:10 AM TO SEE IT FROM THE BEGINNING! THERE WILL BE A SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS.

IN RECOGNITION OF THIS SPECIAL OCCASION, PLEASE CONSIDER A SPECIAL GIFT OF \$35 OR \$70 OR \$105)

Giving your best



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

MLK on what really matters



Exactly two months before his assassination, Martin Luther King Jr. preached his final sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. On February 4, 1968, the civil-rights icon spoke about how he wanted to be remembered at his funeral. He preferred that people recall not his education or achievements but that he “tried to give his life serving others” and “tried to love somebody.” Adapting a 1952 homily by J. Wallace Hamilton, King decried the “drum major instinct — a **desire** to be out front, a desire to lead the parade.” Humans often want to be great and first, as evidenced by the disciples James and John requesting prime seats in paradise. But King urged listeners to focus on the “reordered priorities” of Jesus, who wants us to “be first in love.”

As Jesus showed, “everybody can serve,” King said. Your background or

status doesn't matter, as long as you have "a heart full of grace" and "a soul generated by love."

Special dates

New Year's Day, *January 1, 2025*
Epiphany, *January 6, 2025*
Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2025*
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 20, 2025*
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2025*

New Year's blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew.

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find
yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages
to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the
end.

Every day may you trust your
belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove
yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to
you.

May this year be a year of grace and
hope.—Steve Garnaas-Holmes,
unfoldinglight.net

Christian symbol



NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the "Great Flood" in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God's judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: "And baptism, which [God's rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ..." (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

Hopes great and small

"The Christian lives with three hopes, two great and one small," writes Bryan Wolfmueller. In his "Wednesday What-Not" blog, the pastor explains: "Our first great hope is in Christ our Redeemer, whose death and resurrection are our forgiveness, life, salvation and great hope. Our second great hope is in Christ the King returning soon to judge the living [and] the dead, and establish the new heaven and earth where the righteous dwell. This is our hope for the resurrection and the life of the world to come."

Amazingly, there's more! "Sandwiched between these two great hopes is our small hope, our lesser hope, our hope

for tomorrow, our hope that we might begin to love and serve our neighbor, and do some little something to bless the people around us,” Wolfmueller continues. “This is the hope that energizes our vocations, that motivates our love, and that is the reason we make New Year’s resolutions. We hope that we might do something a little bit better tomorrow than we did yesterday.”

The pastor concludes, “If this was our only hope, it would be despair. But sandwiched between the love of Christ and the joy of the resurrection, this little hope is wonderful, and certainly not to be despised.”

Bible Quiz



When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days

D. 7 days

Answer: C (See Luke 2:46.)

God in church or nature? Yes.

Church isn't designed to be an alternative to the real world. Worship is a time and space apart from the world in order for us to find our way out into the world. Worship isn't a man-made place distinct from the beauty of the natural world; at its best, church is a place where we realize God's glory in the world we find ourselves in. ... Do I find God in a church? or out in nature? Yes. ... In church I hope to sharpen my senses so I can discover the house of God everywhere.—James C. Howell, *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*

A prayer for spiritual growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

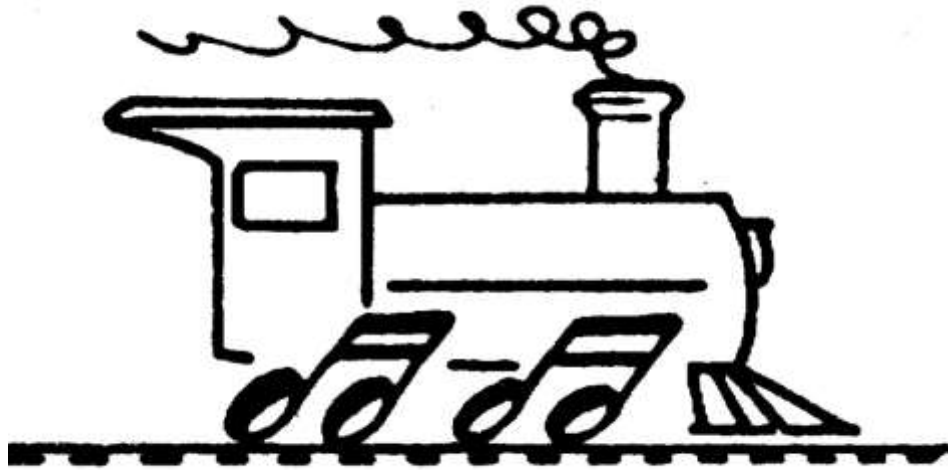
When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, *Prayers*



THE NIGHT TRAIN BAND

WILL BE PERFORMING YOUR FAVORITE

50s and 60s music

FEBRUARY 15TH 2025 TIME: TBD

MAYFLOWER UCC

2900 County Barn Road, Naples

239-775-0055

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT CHURCH OR ONLINE

\$25 PER PERSON OR \$45 PER COUPLE IN ADVANCE

\$30 AT THE DOOR

SILENT AUCTION

MOCKTAILS, NIBBLES AND DESSERT



AFTER CHRISTMAS CLOSET CLEANING

Clean out your garage!

Clean out your kitchen cabinets!

Clean out your clothes and linen closets!

It's time to get ready for Mayflower's Annual Garage Sale on Sat. Feb. 1!

We are now ready to receive your donations! Encourage your neighbors to also donate unneeded items. Suggested items include kitchenware, clothes, tools, toys, wall art, collectables, books, puzzles, clothes, electronics, furniture, and sports equipment.

Please bring them by any morning between 9-12 and leave them behind the blue screens. If you need help with getting them here, please call the office (239-775-0055) and Judy will have someone call you to arrange for a pick-up.





Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!!

Thrivent continues into 2025 with new, online and in-person events.

Join us!

JANUARY 14, 2025 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET:
IN-PERSON EVENT (DOORS OPEN AT
6:15PM)

[The 5 Love Languages® with Dr. Gary Chapman](#)

St. Luke's Lutheran; 2021 W State Rd 426, Oviedo, FL 32765

Discover the keys to unlocking deeper connections and fostering lasting intimacy in your relationships as Gary Chapman shares his decades of wisdom and experience. Whether you're seeking to strengthen your bond with a partner, deepen familial ties, or enhance friendships, this event promises invaluable insights into the diverse ways we give and receive love.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/5LLOrlando>

what the latest trends may mean for you.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/GrillsmithUpdate>

No products will be sold at our events. For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://thrivent.com/social).

Contact us at SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com or see what's happening at

JANUARY 14, 2025 | 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
ET: ONLINE

[Thrivent Market and Economic Update](#)

Are the current markets making you wonder how to best navigate your financial strategy? Join us for a livestream of Thrivent's Market and Economic Update, presented by Thrivent leaders. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Thrivent's perspective and what the latest trends may mean for you. Register below to attend the event and/or receive the recording.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/MarketUpdateJan2025>

JANUARY 30, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM ET:
IN-PERSON EVENT

[Dinner with Thrivent: Market and Economic Update](#)

Grillsmith - Carrollwood; 14303 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618

Join us for a Market & Economic Update dinner viewing event for our clients and guests. Thrivent's investment leaders will share their perspectives on the health of today's economy, inflation and interest rates, explore factors influencing growth at large companies, and understand the market implications of current global geopolitical events. We'll also discuss

thrivent.com/southeast or at
[Facebook.com/SoutheastTMN](https://facebook.com/SoutheastTMN).

For More Info Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.



Thank you so much to all of our Mayflower Family for making such a difference in so many peoples lives and for your loving generosity in supporting the many important Missions that we strive to help and serve.

Together we helped to provide food for many families in need. We helped to wrap many families with the warmth of our love and with blankets & quilts to shield them from the cold weather. So many donations of children's gifts and books filled our Narthex and brought such happiness to the families that received these wonderful acts of kindness.

Our "welcome baskets" for the families that enter the Shelter for Abused Women & Children provide a much appreciated gift of comfort and safety as many have to leave their homes with nothing.

Thank you to all for your tender loving care💕



Dear Mayflower Church, From all of us here at Guadalupe Center we want to thank you for your support in making this holiday extra special for our families. Through our Holiday Gift Shop we were able to serve more than 500 families! We wish you a wonderful holiday and a happy new year.

Our best,
Guadalupe Center Team



Grace Place for Children and Families thank you for helping to fill 65 food bags for our Grace Place Food Pantry Families. The bags were delivered on Friday 12/20 to the many families at the at the Food Pantry and were received with many thanks and appreciation. The food pantry will be closed for 2 weeks and these generous extra bags of groceries with some sweet gifts inside will help families put food on their tables.

Thank you for all your help and support in making this such a successful mission outreach💕



Saturday February 15, 2025

Mayflower Church will be hosting a concert with the popular group Night Train Band! They will be playing 50s and 60s music that will set your feet to tapping and your body dancing. In addition, there will be a Silent Auction, appetizers, desserts and mocktails.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4 Memorial Service for David Ehart – 11 am
5 FOUNDERS DAY	6 EPIPHANY	7 Shirley Barnett – Birthday Judy Dudley - Birthday	8 John Deeney Jr. – Birthday Memorial Service for Frank Leaf – 2 pm Potluck 5 pm	9	10	11 Taking down the Greens – 10 am
12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	13 Holocaust Memorial 10 am (sign up was requested)	14 Nancy Stephenson – Birthday Val Gow Jr. - Birthday	15 Council Meeting 10 am	16	17	18 WEEK OF
19 PRAYER FOR	20 CHRISTIAN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	21 UNITY Jim Stanek Jr. - Birthday	22 WEEK OF	23 PRAYER FOR	24 CHRISTIAN Masthead Deadline	25 UNITY
26	27	28	29	30	31	

