



## The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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

April 2025

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### Hope for Holy Week



As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

—Peter Sulzle

### Sharing our Easter inheritance

After David Clarke's mother died in a cycling accident, she left him \$125,000. Inspired by how his mom had lived, he decided to share that inheritance with his community. Clarke chose four organizations that assist people in poverty, those with special needs and others. Liverpool (U.K.) Kids Plant to Plate received one-fourth of the money to teach urban kids about food growth and preparation. Team Oasis, which provides free meals and positive opportunities to disadvantaged families, also received 25% of the funds, as did two other nonprofits.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we too have an inheritance (see Colossians 1:12). Because we did nothing to earn this abundant love and life — and because God teaches us to serve and care for others — we look for ways to share it.

Unlike Clarke's monetary windfall, however, our gifts of salvation, grace, joy, love and blessing never run out. In fact, the more we share Jesus' love through word and deed, the more we experience it ourselves. As Clarke keeps his mom's spirit alive by following her example, so we, as Easter people, make the Spirit of God known far and wide.

### Special dates

- Holy Week, April 13-20, 2025
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Good Friday, April 18, 2025
- Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 23, 2025

### The blessing of fellowship



Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

# Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

- Water that falls from the sky    1 2 3 4
- Birds lay these in a nest    5 6 7 8
- A newly hatched hen    9 10 11 12 13
- These bloom in spring    14 15 16 17 18 19 20
- A caterpillar transformed    21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29
- Dirt mixed with water    30 31 32

J    5 8 31 20    8 2 3 32    " I    2 30  
 2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6    24 16 30 29  
 F    2 23 10 18 26    2 4 32    29 16 22 1  
 F    2 24 10 25 19    23 16    30 29    G    16 32  
 2 4 32    29 16 31 1    G    16 32  
John 20:17, NIV

**Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ !**

Answer: rain; eggs; chick; flower; butterfly; mud; Jesus said "I am according to my Father and you Father to my God and you God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus said "I am."



Dear Mayflower Congregation,

Thank you for your gift of \$198.00 to Grace Place for Children and Families. Your gift is important for many reasons, the most important is that the impact will be lifelong.

Our continuum of programs guides educational success by engaging families and learners throughout their early learning and academic career.

The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being able to read at home.

Yet, 60% of low-income families do not have even one age-appropriate book at home. The lack of language and literacy exposure at an early age is one of the key reasons children enter kindergarten without school readiness and it is what will keep a student in a low-proficient category throughout their primary and secondary education.

We work with new families to understand the importance of an at home library, building an important foundation for learning. For our older students, proficiency, and a love of learning build from that foundation. The staff of educators at Grace Place are problem solvers and solution seekers. A staff with a love of learning is what makes Grace Place special.

Building that love in students is our specialty. Our work is important. Your support is equally as important because without you, there is no Grace Place for Children and Families.

Thank you for being part of the Grace Place Family.

Best, Lara Fisher CEO



Dear Mayflower Congregation,

Thank you for your generous support of The Shelter. Your commitment goes beyond financial support; it embodies empathy, compassion, and a dedication to making our community a safer place for all. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to provide and expand vital services to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, including shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and educational programs.

I'd like to share a portion of a thank you note from Angela, a survivor of domestic violence:

*"Last year was one of the lowest points of my life. You were like a guardian angel! Not only did you help change my life, but you also saved my life and for that I am eternally grateful!"*

Your kindness and generosity ripple through our organization, uplifting both staff and the survivors we serve.

Together we are creating a safer community for all of us.

In peace and gratitude,  
Linda Oberhaus  
Chief Executive Officer

### **Clothed in compassion**

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we'll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the

care we wear — making it "fit" better for today's generations. —Janna Firestone

### **Easter insights**

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.



**April 17th**



To add to our Lenten practice, Mayflower will be holding a soup and bread dinner at 5:00 PM before our Maundy Thursday service at 7 PM on Thursday, April 17. There will be an assortment of delicious, homemade soups and breads. Your Activities Team will be providing the meal for your donations.

The Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17 at 7 PM is a special commemoration of our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples. We will be listening to His Word and joining together for Holy Communion. Won't you join us for this solemn and memorable service?



## “My Easter Dove”

There came a dove, an Easter dove,  
when morning stars grew dim;  
It fluttered round my lattice bars,  
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,  
aglow with dewy sheen;  
I caught the strain, the incense  
breathed,  
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts  
to calm my soul that day;  
I caught the meaning of the note,  
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter  
dove!  
Above earth’s storm and strife,  
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,  
of light and hope and life.

## Fun and laughter

“Here cometh April again,” said poet  
Charles Lamb (1775-1834). “And as far  
as I can see, the world hath more fools  
than ever.”

That second observation may or may  
not be true, but April does indeed begin  
on a lighter note. April Fools’ Day, which  
is filled with practical jokes, can also be  
a reminder to thank God for laughter,  
joy, funny stories, children’s antics and  
other things that make us smile.

Then one week after Easter, on what’s  
known as Holy Humor Sunday, some  
churches celebrate that God played the  
supreme joke on death. Jesus’

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supreme joke on death. Jesus’

resurrection is cause for joy, smiles and,  
yes, laughter. Even the Almighty joins  
in: “He who sits in the heavens laughs”  
(Psalm 2:4).

## Christian symbol



**PALM BRANCH** — When Jesus  
entered Jerusalem days before his  
death, crowds welcomed him by waving  
palm branches, common symbols of  
victory and rejoicing. Churches still use  
them to remember that occasion,  
knowing that Jesus’ crucifixion was the  
ultimate triumph over sin and death. As  
early as Leviticus 23:40, God  
commanded Israel to use palms in a  
festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-  
10, Christian martyrs carry palm  
branches as they praise the Lamb  
before God’s throne.



**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
ON APRIL 27**



**Happy Spring Everyone!**

**Market Concerns? Retirement Worries?**

**Check out these April 2025 Thrivent Online Events**

APRIL 15, 2025 | 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ET AND ON DEMAND FOLLOWING THE EVENT

**Thrivent Market & 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.

RSVP:

<https://bit.ly/MarketUpdateApril2025>

ON DEMAND EVENT – WATCH ANYTIME

**What's Your Retirement Style? with Dr. Wade Pfau**

Climbing a mountain takes different skills than getting back down. It’s the same with retirement. After decades of saving, you may realize that you need a solid strategy to make your money last

through the years ahead. Join us for “What’s Your Retirement Style”, an exclusive conversation with Dr. Wade Pfau, to learn how crafting the right plan today can help ensure you're ready for the journey. Think about whether you prefer retirement income that depends on market growth, or that is guaranteed no matter how long you live. Discover how much flexibility or security you want in your retirement income strategy. Identify your own income style based on your unique preferences. Don't just plan for retirement—prepare to live it with confidence.

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/RetirementStyle>

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

We help Christians find financial clarity, enabling lives full of meaning and gratitude. All are welcome to attend our free virtual events. Feel free to share these events with your friends and family.

**Want to know more about Thrivent? Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-513**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Book Club 7pm	2 Potluck Dinner 5pm	3	4 Alice & Bob Upshaw - Anniversary	5
6	7	8	9	10 Jim Dishinger - Birthday	11 Priscilla Wallace - Birthday	12 Memorial Service for Nancy Dishinger 11 am
13 PALM SUNDAY  HOLY WEEK April 13-April 20	14	15 Nora Gibson - Birthday	16 Council Meeting 10am	17 Dianne Magrone - Birthday  MAUNDY Soup/Bread Dinner 5pm  MAUNDY THURSDAY Service 7pm	18 Good Friday	19
20 EASTER Dianne & Mike Magrone - Anniversary	21 Marilyn Harmon - Birthday  Glenn Schattschneider - Birthday	22	23 May Masthead Deadline  Administrative Professionals Day	24 Lifeline Screening Event	25	26
27 Annual Meeting - After Church	28	29	30			