



## **The Masthead**

**The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ**

**2900 County Barn Road, Naples, FL 34112**

(239) 775-0055 [www.mayflowernaples.com](http://www.mayflowernaples.com) [Mayflowernaples@outlook.com](mailto:Mayflowernaples@outlook.com)

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

**August 2025**

---

### **Welcome Back Pastor Rick and Cheryl New**

Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ is pleased to welcome Pastor Rick New starting Sunday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Pastor Rick was our Bridge Pastor in the past and has agreed to rejoin us as the Search Committee continues its duties in pursuit of a Settled Pastor.

Pastor Rick will be in the office on Friday mornings, if you need to contact him.

Join us in welcoming Pastor Rick and Cheryl back to Mayflower.

Council President  
Jeff Stephenson



## Need a vocation vacation?



“It is not more vacation we need,” said Eleanor Roosevelt. “It is more vocation” — in other words, something that God calls you to do. God uses his people to accomplish amazing things, even during the summer! Call it a “vocation vacation.”

If you’re planning a trip, call ahead and offer to serve at a local homeless shelter or urban ministry. If you want to be outdoors, ask a Bible camp or recreation department if it needs volunteers. Other possibilities include assisting with programs that help elderly residents or people with special needs enjoy outdoor activities.

You’ll enjoy summertime fun (vacation) *and* the knowledge that God is working through you (vocation).

## Beautiful feet

“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15, NIV). Such beauty has nothing to do with the feet being clean, newly pedicured, elegantly clad. They may be the dusty feet of aid workers bringing food to drought-stricken areas, or the muddy shoes of those rushing disaster relief to flood zones. They may be the swollen feet of a dedicated nurse after a 12-hour hospital shift, or the tired feet of a parent pacing with a baby at 3 a.m.

In the upper room before Jesus’ arrest, he declared his disciples’ dirty feet beautiful by touching and washing them lovingly, preparing them to go out yet again with his good news for all. And on the cross, Jesus’ own feet — nail-pierced — were beautiful.

After Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, many mourners who paid their respects noticed his shoes. Instead of new, well-polished “dress shoes,” the scuffed items clearly had walked countless steps. They were the sturdy boots of a worker, a pilgrim, a travel companion on the road of life, the journey of faith. They were the shoes — the feet — of a disciple of Christ willing to go wherever needed to bring the good news of God’s love. How beautiful!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

## Lifelong learners

"If you don't have wisdom that goes with knowledge, you are only a walking encyclopedia," wrote Jack Wellman, a Kansas pastor. "A book of knowledge is useless without the wisdom to know how to apply that knowledge. ... Information without transformation leads only to frustration."

Consider the many benefits of wisdom — and how you can use what you've acquired to serve God, your church and your community. To better fulfill your calling, what wisdom might you yet need to acquire?

As another school year begins, here's a prayer for students of all ages: All-wise, all-knowing God, make us willing learners and seekers of your wisdom, not for the gain of knowledge for its own sake, but that we might handle every situation we face with the wisdom of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

## No reserve, retreat or regrets

William Borden (1887-1913) was a Yale grad and the heir to his family's fortune. But he left behind a life of riches and comfort to become a Christian missionary. Before arriving in China, where he had hoped to share the gospel with the Kansu people, Borden died of spinal meningitis at just 25 years old. According to legend, the words "No Reserve," "No Retreat" and "No Regrets" were later found in Borden's Bible.

Unlike the men who told Jesus they had to handle some family business before following him (see Luke 9:57-62), Borden didn't waver or stall. Some people might say Borden "didn't make a good trade," writes Kyle Idleman in his book *Not a Fan*. Borden "gave up his family, his fortune and a future career to follow Jesus," Idleman writes, "and he died before he reached the mission field. But this man ... knew he had made the right decision."

By committing completely to Christ, Borden inspired other mission workers and pastors, including Idleman. "Say no to self and yes to Jesus every time," Borden wrote in his journal. More than a century after his death, that no-regrets message lives on.

## Fixer-uppers



Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."

For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV).

Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project!

—Stephanie Martin

## Why Christian community is key

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible!


A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.

A real Christian is an odd number. He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen; talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see; expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another; empties himself in order to be full; admits he is wrong so he can be declared right; goes down in order to get up; is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest and happiest when he feels the worst. He dies so he can live; forsakes in order to have; gives away so he can keep; sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which passes knowledge.

—A.W. Tozer

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: “Friend, there’s grass growing on your path.”



# PUZZLE

## WHO AM I?

---

*Did you know that some Old Testament books are named after prophets? Use the clues to figure out each prophet's name and write it on the lines. Then unscramble, use the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.*

---

1. I was called to preach to Nineveh, but I ran from God instead. My book is number 32 in the Bible.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. My book is number 37.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. My book is number 28.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises of comfort. It is book 23.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
5. I had dreams and visions. My book is number 27.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I was often in danger because of my prophecies. I angered officials. My book is number 24.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. My book is number 30.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.
8. My book contains descriptions of strange visions. My book is number 26.  
I am \_\_\_\_\_.

Prophets are \_\_\_\_\_.

Received 10 July 2002; accepted 10 July 2002



## Christian symbol



**ALTAR** — This central furnishing in a Christian worship space is usually large, with a solid front that may be decorated with symbols or words. The flat surface, often covered with a cloth, is where the Communion elements are prepared and placed, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God. In some churches, the altar looks more like a table, with open legwork. We remember that Jesus invites us into fellowship with God no and to the heavenly banquet for eternity. We place offerings on the altar to symbolize our sacrificial response to God's redeeming love.

## Captivity transformed

In Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18, NRSV). Then he declared this Scripture fulfilled — in him. Ever since, in countless ways, Jesus has transformed captivity and dead ends into freedom and new beginnings.

A modern instance is a lovely new apartment complex built out of Lorton (Virginia) Reformatory, a prison that operated from 1910 to 2001. The beautifully renovated apartments — fittingly named Liberty Crest — opened in 2017. This project demonstrates wise stewardship by channeling new life into an old space, and care for people in need by reserving more than 25% of the units for low-income renters. Whether this project's developers are disciples of Jesus or not, the divine power of resurrection has been at work through them.

We're all held captive by something: illness, debt, oppression, violence, our own sin or another sort of dead end. But Jesus brings liberty where only prison was known. He transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into bright new beginnings. May we who follow him do the same.

## **“Summer”**

'Tis summer, I know by the blue of the sky;  
By the trees' deeper green, as beneath them I lie;  
And more than all these, by the lovely wild rose  
That now in the woodland its pink blossom shows. ...

I feel the warm west wind fan gently my cheek  
As I sit on the grass, far too happy to speak;  
And then in the twilight I see the faint spark  
Of the fire-fly, flitting alone in the dark.

Oh! long happy days, when 'tis full of delight  
To roam in the meadows from morning till night!  
Oh! summer, sweet summer! glide slowly away,  
For I love in your warmth and your fragrance to stay.

—H.P. Nichols

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

What are we learning in our drop-in series, Lectionary Bible Study? The main thing has been discovering what the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is. It's the Bible readings (lections) on any given Sunday that are being used by 39 protestant denominations in every part of the world. If you went to church

at the Indonesian Chistian Church or Anglican Church of Australia next Sunday, their scripture readings would be the same as ours. The idea behind the RCL is that over three years (Years A, B, and C) most of the Bible will have been read. We are in Year C right now.

There's one exception to this pattern of readings, and that's if the preacher decides to do a sermon series on one subject, as Dr. Wolf has been doing this summer on the Ten Commandments. In a case like that, the preacher chooses scripture that fits with her or his theme. (It's been a wonderful series, and we're not happy to see his time with us come to an end.)

Our class has been reading aloud the scripture selections for the upcoming Sunday. Then we discuss where there might be a theme or a common idea amongst them. Since there are four readings (though our pastors generally use two) we read an Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures), a Psalm, an Epistle, and the Gospel for the day.

Starting on Sunday, August 3, Rev. Rick New will, indeed, select from the lectionary as the basis for his sermons. We are excited to welcome him back, and the class will be listening intently to see if the lectionary scripture passages that WE studied inspired him in at all the same way! (The drop-in Bible Study class will meet July 30 and August 6 and 13---as of the moment.)

Rev. Bev Duncan



Thank you so much for your generous support of the Grace Place Back to School Bash through your donation of backpacks! Thanks to your kindness, Grace Place was able to distribute over **940 backpacks** to students across the Golden Gate City community.

The joy on the faces of the students and their families was truly heartwarming. In addition to receiving backpacks, they enjoyed a fun-filled morning with engaging activities, exciting games, and delicious snacks—made possible by the participation of over **27 local organizations** from the Naples area.

We've included a few photos of this successful event that we thought you might enjoy



Melisa Mast – Volunteer Manager 4300 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW, Naples 34116 239-255-7275  
[Melisa.mast@graceplacenaples.org](mailto:Melisa.mast@graceplacenaples.org)







Dear Mayflower Church Members,

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation to the Shelter.

Your gift directly touches the lives of survivors, providing comfort, dignity, and essential items during their time of need.

For a mother escaping abuse, a warm blanket means safety. For a child, a toy brings back joy. For a family starting over, furniture and household items offer stability and hope. These are more than just things, they are reminders that healing is possible, and that kindness still exists. Your generosity makes it possible for our participants to receive the everyday essentials that so many of us may overlook but mean everything to someone starting over.

With deepest gratitude,  
Linda Oberhaus  
Chief Executive Officer

Your donation carries a powerful message of hope, showing survivors of domestic violence that they are seen, supported, and never alone on their path to healing.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generous gifts of welcome baskets filled with essential needs and the homemade baskets for their new home.

Together, we can continue to prevent, protect, and prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking. To learn more about expanding your involvement, please call 239-775-3862 or visit [naplesshelter.org](http://naplesshelter.org)



Dear Mayflower Church,

Thank you so much for Mayflower's support of the Guadalupe Center's school supplies collection for this upcoming school year. Your congregation has so many loving members with "teacher hearts" and we really appreciate your generous help and thoughtfulness in providing all the school supplies to fill an entire classroom bin.

We have more than 35 classrooms to stock this year in our After-school Tutoring and Summer Enrichment programs, and I wanted to personally thank all of the lovely folks at Mayflower for helping to make learning possible for more than 1,100 students! Your generous support goes directly to helping students maintain their academic gains, keeping their brains stimulated, and having fun!

All summer long, our students have been strengthening their foundational math and language arts skills through individualized tutoring sessions and fun, educational games. **Thanks to your support, our students are excited and academically ready to get back into the classroom this fall.**

Sincerely with our teams  
gratitude and appreciation for all  
you do!

**Emily**

**Osterhaus** | Philanthropy Coordinator

**Wendy Wagner** | Community &  
Volunteer Engagement  
Coordinator

2640 Golden Gate Parkway,  
Suite 205 Naples, FL 34105  
Direct: 239.944.9988  
Main: 239.657.7711  
Cell: 239.248.6006

## Personal Preparedness

When disasters strike, it is important that you have all the necessary information easily accessible to ensure a smooth recovery process. We encourage you to use this envelope to store essential documents that will ease your recovery process. Be sure to store it in an area that is easily accessible in the event of an emergency and potential evacuation

### Household Identification

- Vital records: birth certificate, marriage license, divorce decree, adoption paperwork, custody paperwork
- Identification: passport, driver's license, social security card, green card, military identification, naturalization documents, other
- Pet information: ID Tag information, vaccination records, microchip identification, emotional support/service animal documentation, prescriptions

### Financial and Legal Documentation

- Housing: lease or rental agreement, mortgage, home equity line of credit, deed
- Vehicle: loan documents, VIN, registration, title
- Financial Obligations: utility bills, credit cards, student loans, alimony, child support, elder care, automatic payments such as gym memberships
- Insurance Policies: homeowners, renters, auto, life, flood, appraisals, pet, photos, and list of valuable items

- Sources of Income: pay stubs, government benefits, alimony, child support
- Tax Statements: federal/state income tax returns, property tax, vehicle tax
- Bank account information: retirement, investment, savings, checking
  - Estate Planning: will, trust, power of attorney

### Medical Information

- Health/dental insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, VA Health Benefits
- List of medications, immunizations, allergies, prescriptions, medical equipment and devices, pharmacy information (including glasses/contacts)
- Living will, medical power of attorney
- Caregiver agency contract or service agreement

- Disabilities documentation

- Contact information for doctor/specialists, dentists, pediatricians, veterinarians

### Emergency Contact Information

- Family/friends
- Employers/supervisors, schools, houses of worship, social service providers → Homeowners Associations

**\*\*Keep some cash in your emergency kit to pay for emergency purchases in the event that ATMs are not functioning or banks are closed. The amount of cash should be based on the basic needs of your family, including food, gas, and other things you use on a day-to-day basis.**

***Adapted from FEMA - Safeguard Critical Documents and Valuables:***

[https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema\\_safeguard-critical-documents-](https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/fema_safeguard-critical-documents-)



## **Get Your Retirement Plans in Order**

### **Check Out Thrivent in August 2025**

AUGUST 19, 2025 | 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  
ET OR 8:30 PM – 9:30 PM ET

AUGUST 20, 2025 | 9:30 PM-10:30 PM  
ET

#### **Heather Schreiber - "Key Milestones on Your Journey to an Empowered Retirement"**

How do you envision retirement? While there are many answers to that question, the key is to dare to discover what's right for you. Anticipating the milestones you face – as early as age 50 and continuing into your 70s – will help you prepare. Join us for an exclusive conversation with Heather Schreiber at "Key Milestones on Your Journey to an Empowered Retirement." She will share expert advice on ways to save more, reduce taxes, and make the most of Social Security. Dare to prepare for the retirement you envision. Join us and build a plan that's as unique as you are. *(Available on-demand following the event.)*

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

#### **A Retirement Income Roadmap for Women**

More women are working and taking charge of their own retirement planning than ever before. What does retirement mean to you? Do you

dream of traveling? Pursuing a hobby? Volunteering your time, or starting a new career or business? Simply enjoying more time with your grandchildren? Whatever your goal, you'll need a retirement income plan that's designed to support the retirement lifestyle you envision and help reduce the risk that you'll outlive your savings.

Things to consider:

**When will you retire?**

**How long will retirement last?**

**Project your retirement expenses.**

**Identify your sources of income.**

Unfortunately, there's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to retirement income planning. A financial professional can review your circumstances, help you sort through your options, and help develop a plan that's right for you.

At Thrivent, we believe money is a tool, not a goal. We've inspired generations to make financial choices guided by their Christian values. We provide the expertise and support that enable our clients to take care of themselves and others.

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.

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Sandy Schattschneider – Birthday Scott Cressman - Birthday	2
3 Welcome Back Pastor Rick and Cheryl New	4	5 Mike D’Amico – Birthday WM – Baker Park	6 “Drop-In Bible Study” 11am Potluck Dinner 5 pm	7	8 Prayer Meeting 10 am	9 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12pm
10 LaVerne & Joanane Spotts - Anniversary	11 Marilyn Gow - Birthday	12 WM – Greenway Park	13 “Drop-In Bible Study” 11am	14	15	16
17	18	19 WM – Botanical Gardens	20 Council Meeting 10 am	21	22 Prayer Meeting 10 am Masthead Deadline 11:30 am	23
24	25	26 WM – Freedom Park	27	28	29	30
31						