



## The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

2900 County Barn Road, Naples, FL 34112

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

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

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### Holy Interruptions



Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour? Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

"Interruptible faith" is a posture of openness. It's saying, "Lord, here's my plan—but I trust Yours more." It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* May we have the courage to let Him.

### The Sounds of Worship

Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you?

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"* (Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren't just background noise — they're invitations to worship.

God designed a world that sings. Worship isn't limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it's woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.

## From Knowing to Becoming

Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll

## The Beauty of Stewardship



Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children,

become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.

—Ned Erickson

our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

## Bible Quiz



The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm, and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.

Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15)

## The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.

## Christian Symbol



**VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM** — Latin for “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever,” this motto of the Lutheran branch of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther’s earliest and most influential supporters, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments worn at his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords, and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in standing firm in their faith.

### Special Dates

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion  
Sunday, *October 5, 2025*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation  
Sunday, *October 12, 2025*
- Columbus Day, *October 13, 2025*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 13, 2025*
- Canadian Thanksgiving, *October 13, 2025*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 26, 2025*
- Reformation Day, *October 31, 2025*

## The Surpassing Grace

The word “surpass” means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul refers to “the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:14, NRSV). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: “You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:13-14, NRSV).

Consider how you can share God’s surpassing grace with others in need.

## Providence and Pastries

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, “Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery.”

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!



Your Kris Kringle elves are reminding you to shop on Saturday, Nov. 1 for gifts for your friends and relatives—jewelry for your granddaughters, treasures for your friends, and decorations for your home.

There will also be baked goods, frozen dinners and candies so you aren't stuck in the kitchen cooking!

The Kris Kringle Fair will be open from 9-1 on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be drawing for the raffle prizes starting around 12:00! If you aren't present, we will call you if you're a winner.

## Just show up!

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you've been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I'm not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It's a waste of time.
- It's too much work.
- Who do you think you are?



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.

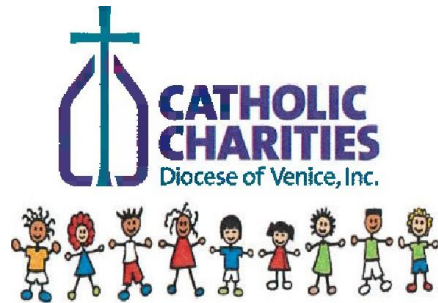
For a mother escaping abuse, a warm blanket means safety. For a child, a toy brings back joy. For a family starting over, furniture and household items offer stability and hope. These are more than just things, they are reminders that healing is possible, and that kindness still exists. Your generosity 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.

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.

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).

With deepest gratitude,

Linda Oberhaus  
Chief Executive Officer



## UNDY SUNDAY IS BACK

It's that time of year again for Undy Sunday! This is such a great cause where we are able to supply needy elementary school-age children with new underwear and socks in sizes Small, Medium and Large.

The donation boxes will be delivered by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October.

The first donation weekend will be October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> donation weekend will be October 25<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup>. Items will be picked up for the donated articles the following week.

Catholic Charities has sent their gratitude to Mayflower, recognizing our continuous participation in this yearly project and is proud to have our congregation as a special partner in this worthy endeavor.





## **Our Grace Place Food Pantry Needs Our Help**

Please join us with a “new idea” for helping to collect more foods for many local families in need.

As you know our congregation has always supported the Grace Place Food Pantry with our weekly food donations in the Narthex.

We recently learned that there is an increased need for more food items with many more families registering for help.

Other local churches like ourselves are also collecting food donations to help and one church shared a new theme called:

### **“Cans for Communion”**

This helps church members to remember 🙏 that when it’s “Communion Sunday”, please bring **can goods** into church for the local Food Pantry.

Please help us to fill the baskets in the narthex so we can deliver these vital foods to families in need.

Every Friday hundreds of people are in line trying to put food on their tables to feed their children.

## **Let’s kick off our next Communion Sunday on October 5th with everyone bringing to church some canned goods for the Food Pantry**

Food donations are still welcome **anytime** you have extra to share, any **Sunday** or at our **Potlucks** together.

Thank you for all you do to support our Mayflower Missions together 🧡

Blessings from your Mayflower Missions Team







Pumpkin spice is back in style! Happy October!

Pastor Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 12, 2025.

Thank you to all of our pastors and clergy for all you do!

You are invited to join us for these free online events:

OCTOBER 14, 2025 | 12:30 PM ET & ON DEMAND

#### 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,

miss the opportunity to hear Thrivent's perspective and what the latest trends may mean for you.

*\*Available on-demand following the live event.*

**RSVP - <https://bit.ly/MarketUpdateOct14>**

OCTOBER 21, 2025 | 12:00 PM ET OR 6:30 PM ET

#### Power of Membership

Come learn who Thrivent is today. Did you know that as a Thrivent member, you have access to a suite of tools and resources designed to assist you in living a more content, confident and generous life? From helping you be wise

with money to supporting your desire to live generously, Thrivent is here to guide you on your journey.

**RSVP - <https://bit.ly/MembershipOct21>**

*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](mailto:SoutheastTMN@thrivent.com) or see what's happening at [thrivent.com/southeast](https://thrivent.com/southeast) or at [Facebook.com/SoutheastTMN](https://facebook.com/SoutheastTMN).

**Questions about Thrivent? Want to become a member?**

**Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-5139.**



Would you like to learn how to do different things on your computer?

Lou and Ginger will be offering lessons on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10 AM. Other dates will be decided upon later.

Sign-ups will be available on Oct. 4 and 11 before worship. At that time, please let us know if you would like to learn more about:

- The Internet (safety)
- Paying bills online
- Face Book
- Instagram
- Something else \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to bring your own Tablet, iPad or laptop, feel free to. We will use a laptop and projector in the Family Life Center.



Everyone is invited to join Mayflower's Elves as we continue to get ready for our Kris Kringle Fair on Saturday, November 1 from 9-1. We will be working on Monday and Wednesday mornings from about 9-12. Drop in whenever you can-stay for as long as you can!

During the week before the Fair, we will be working every morning. From October 27-31 we will work every morning from 9-12ish. We appreciate everyone who can work at the Fair on November 1<sup>st</sup> from 8-2. There are jobs for everyone-from parking staff, to baggers, to table helpers, to cleaner-uppers!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Potluck Dinner 5pm	2 Robin Dick - Birthday Linda Saling - Birthday	3 Sandy Clary - Birthday	4
5 Joanne Spotts - Birthday	6	7 WM – Freedom Park  Book Club 7pm	8	9	10 Prayer Meeting 10 am	11 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12pm
12	13	14 WM – Eagle Lakes Park	15 Council Meeting 10am	16 Priscilla Hamilton - Birthday	17	18
19	20	21 WM – Botanical Gardens	22	23 Lifeline Screening Event	24 Prayer Meeting 10 am  Masthead Deadline	25
26	27 ALL WEEK - Final preparation for Kris Kringle Fair	28 WM – Sugden Park	29	30	31 Choir Lunch 12 pm  	