



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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

November 2025

Giving Thanks for All Things



It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the Storms, too?

Gratitude Shift

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.

Remembering The Saints



When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter "To all God's beloved ... who are called to be saints" (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God. The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God's beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are "called to be saints." About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints' Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

A Day to Honor Our Veterans



On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.

On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).

Take Me to the River

God often works in unexpected ways. Just ask Naaman, the army commander in 2 Kings 5:1-14. Stricken with leprosy, he traveled to Israel seeking healing from the prophet Elisha. Instead of an impressive display or a grand ceremony, Elisha sent word for him to simply wash seven times in the Jordan River. Naaman was not impressed. "Aren't the rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel?" he asked. Why bathe in a foreign, muddy river when the clean, sparkling rivers of home were far more appealing? It didn't make sense. Yet what seemed absurd became the very path to his healing.

We may not be told to wade into an actual river, but we all face "Jordan moments" in life — times when God calls us to take a step that feels uncomfortable, humbling or completely illogical. It is in those moments that trust and obedience matter most.

Naaman's story reminds us that God's power is not limited by appearances or human reasoning. Sometimes the action that feels least likely to work is the one that opens the door to blessing. When God invites you to take the plunge, step into the water. You may find healing and hope waiting there.

—adapted from *Homiletics.com*

Special Dates for November 2025

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2025*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 2, 2025*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2025*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 23, 2025*
- **Thanksgiving Day, *November 27, 2025***
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 30, 2025*

Abundant Blessings

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,
thank you for every good gift—
for the food before us,
the people around us,
and the love that surrounds us.
Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice
in Your constant goodness and grace.
May our hearts overflow with gratitude,
not just today, but every day.
Amen.

A Thanksgiving Hymn That Sees God's Hand Everywhere

For a hymn that captures the beauty and gratitude of Thanksgiving, All Things "Bright and Beautiful" is a perfect choice. Its lyrics paint vivid pictures — flowers opening in the morning sun, birds singing, golden sunsets, purple-topped mountains and rivers rushing by. It all leads to this joyful reminder: *"He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell: How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."*

The hymn was written by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), an Irishwoman with a passion for teaching children about God. She wrote many hymns for her Sunday school class, later collected in *Verses for Holy Seasons*.

But her ministry went beyond music — she spent her life serving the poor, comforting the sick, and caring for the grieving. When she passed away, "a great throng" gathered to remember her, honoring both her faith and the beauty she shared with the world.

Christian Symbol



CIRCLE — The circle is a symbol for God, as well as for eternity, due to its lack of a beginning or an end. It also reminds us of how the church year (not unlike the secular calendar) flows from season to season and moves smoothly from Christ the King Sunday (the culmination of the liturgical calendar) to the First Sunday of Advent (a new beginning). Indeed, the One who rules all is the same One whose first and final comings we anticipate anew during Advent.



Friendsgiving Dinner

Sat., Nov. 22 FROM 5-6:30

Tickets are \$35 each.

**Please invite your friends
and family to enjoy
Friendsgiving Dinner with
your Mayflower friends and
family!**

**St. Matthew's House will be
catering our annual dinner
on Saturday, November 22
from 5-6:30. The
menu includes house salad,
oven roasted turkey, mash
potatoes and gravy, stuffing,
sweet potatoes, green beans,
cranberry sauce, rolls and
butter, and pie.**

**Tickets will be available at
Church and in the office
starting on Sunday, Nov. 2 -
16. They are priced at \$35.**

“Sing a Joyful Song.”

Our Music & Worship Ministry is a vibrant, welcoming community within the church dedicated to enhancing worship, encouraging voices of all gifts, and cultivating spiritual connection through music. You don't need to be a professional musician to join. Whether you love to sing, ring bells, or just enjoy being part of a worship team, there is a place for you here. We gather each week to prepare hymns, anthems, and worship music for Sunday services and special liturgies. These rehearsals help us to build cohesion, polish the music, and deepen our spiritual connection. Once a month, we take time beyond rehearsal to share a meal and fellowship together. It's a relaxed, joyful gathering—an opportunity to get to know each other more deeply, support one another, and strengthen the ties that make a ministry.

Our goal is to support the liturgy, help the congregation enter into worship, and lift voices in praise. We believe music is a spiritual gift, and every voice (or bell, or instrumental contribution) matters. Whether you've sung for decades or are new to church music, whether you prefer harmony or melody, your presence enriches the whole. We rejoice in diversity of experience, voice, and expression. Being part of the music ministry is more than performing — it's a way to serve, to grow in faith, and to connect with others through a shared spiritual practice.



Mayflower's Holiday Season

Advent begins on 30th

November, when we will
begin lighting our wreath.
Remember to wear something
purple!

Christmas Offerings

7th December Communion

14th Blue Christmas service at
4pm

21st Lessons and Carols at 9.30

24th Christmas Eve Service at
7pm

25th Have a blessed Christmas
Day!



Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, Nov. 29th at 10

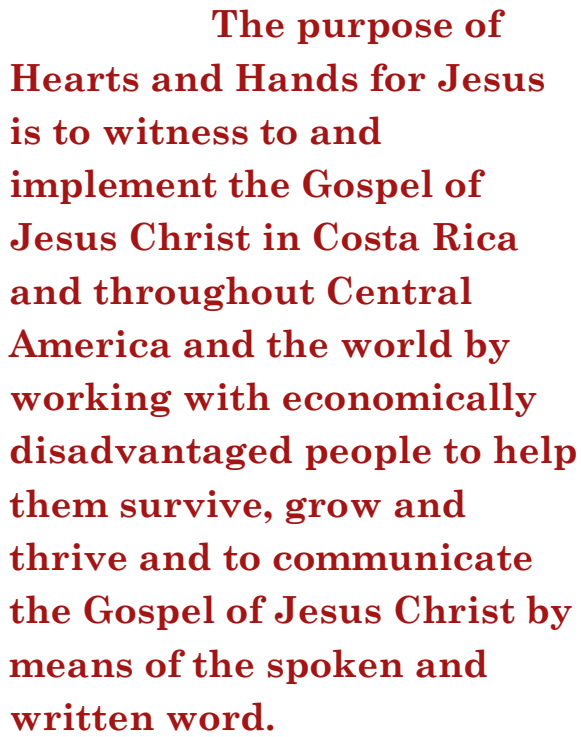
**Join us as we decorate the Sanctuary
for the Advent season! Come on
Saturday, November 29th at 10 AM.
Everyone is welcome and needed.**



A Blue Christmas service is a type of worship service that offers a space for those who are grieving, sad, or otherwise finding the holiday season difficult. We would like to recognize that not everyone feels joyous during the holidays due to loss, loneliness, or other hardships, and would like to offer comfort, hope, and a sense of community through prayer, reflection, and music.

Henri Nouwen's perspective on "Blue Christmas" is about finding joy and light even in darkness by embracing vulnerability and connecting with God's presence during difficult times. Instead of running from pain, he suggests bringing it to God, understanding that the holiday season can be a "manger" for God's light to enter, and finding a deeper, more enduring joy through community and faith despite sorrow.

We would like to invite everyone who has sadness around the Christmas period or if you would like to remember someone especially to come to this service and share your loss or grief in a safe place. 14th December at 4pm at Mayflower Congregational UCC.



**This is accomplished through
the hard work of our
Missionaries, Pastor Sally
and her husband Crosby
Johnson.**

**100% of all donations go
toward fulfilling
the vision and purpose of
Hearts and Hands for Jesus.**





VOLUNTEER



sheets and 2 mattress protectors, one picnic table, one dresser, kids' dinnerware and some toys.

Your kindness has brought comfort, stability, and renewed hope to a family working hard to build a better future. Your thoughtful gift has made a meaningful impact – not just on meeting immediate needs, but on showing that they are not alone on their journey.

Your church's compassion is a beautiful reflection of God's love in action, and we are truly grateful for your partnership in serving our community.

Sincerely,
Diane Ponton
Bright Beginnings Program

Dear Mayflower United Church of Christ,

On behalf of Grace place for Children and Families, and the Tajiboy family we extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible generosity and support. We were able to buy 2 small beds, 2 mattresses, 2 bedding sets, to extra bedding



BEYOND THE BOOKSHELF

Celebrating literacy, resilience, and the dreams of our children



GRACE PLACE®

For Children & Families

DATE: Thursday, December 4, 2025

LOCATION: Grey Oaks Country Club

TIME: 12:00 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE:
Beyond2025.Givesmart.com
 or scanning the QR code: 

Speaker: Maria Shriver

Award-winning journalist, bestselling author, and passionate advocate for women, families, and brain health, using her voice to champion education, resilience, and opportunity for all.



Financial Corner

Possible Proposal to pay off \$127,000.00 mortgage

12 Individuals or Groups each pay \$10,000.00

24 Individuals or Groups each pay \$5,000.00

50 Individuals or Groups each pay \$2,400.00

100 Individuals or Groups each pay \$1,200.00

60 Individuals or Groups each pay \$2,000.00

48 Individuals or Groups each pay \$2,500.00

Paying off the mortgage will save the church \$3,796.00 each month moving forward.

If anyone has any other suggestions or ideas on how to reduce and/or pay off the mortgage, please talk to any member of the Finance Committee (Marlin Dise, Pam Rose or Scott Cressman).



November 2025 Thrivent Events Plus a
Look Ahead!

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 | 1:00 PM ET OR 8:30
PM ET

NOVEMBER 5, 2025 | 9:30 PM ET

Dr. Wade Pfau - "Navigating Decisions for
Retirement Success"

Everyone has a unique generosity story, including you. Join Thrivent to discover the five primary ways each generation expresses generosity. Learn about the factors that shape and influence generosity and ways to create impact in your community. Start exploring your retirement options today, so you can feel confident about the years ahead. Join us for Navigating Decisions for Retirement Success, an exclusive conversation with Dr. Wade Pfau, where you'll learn how mastering retirement income management is key to making informed decisions that help you navigate the important challenges retirees face. This discussion will help you feel more equipped to make smarter choices for the years ahead.

Don't just plan for retirement—prepare to live it with confidence. Join us and explore strategies that are as unique as you are.

**Available on-demand following the live events.*

RSVP -

<https://bit.ly/RetirementSuccess2025>

***ALSO, LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER MAGIC WITH
THRIVENT!**

For discounted tickets and special offers for the
following December 2025 events & more, go to:

[WWW.THRIVENT.COM/MEMBER-
NETWORK/SOUTHEAST/EVENTS](http://WWW.THRIVENT.COM/MEMBER-NETWORK/SOUTHEAST/EVENTS)

Tickets are already available so GET YOURS
NOW!

December 03, 2025 | 4:30 PM ET

Parrish, FL | All Aboard the Thrivent North Pole
Express

**Florida Railroad Museum; 12210 83rd Street
East., Parrish, FL 34219**

December 13, 2025 | 12:00 PM ET

Jacksonville, FL | Thrivent Afternoon at Elf the
Musical

**Alhambra Theatre & Dining; 12000 Beach
Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32246**

December 13, 2025 | 6:00 PM ET

Orlando, FL | Thrivent Night at the Asian
Lantern Festival

**Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens., 3755
West Seminole Blvd, Sanford, FL 32771**

December 13, 2025 | 6:30 PM ET

Thrivent Night at the Fairchild Botanical
Garden!

**Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden; Old Cutler
Rd., Coral Gables, FL 33156**

*No products will be sold at our events. For additional
disclosures, see Thrivent.com/social.*

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

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

**Call Thrivent Financial Associate David
Contessa at (239**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 KK Fair
2 Daylight savings time ends	3 A Wells Ridenour - Birthday	4 Karin Blumenthal - Birthday Scott & Janice Cressman - Anniversary Book Club 7pm	5 Potluck Dinner 5pm	6	7 Marlin Dise - Birthday Choir Rehearsal	8 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12 pm
9	10 Margaret Smith - Birthday	11 	12	13 Mike Magrone - Birthday	14 Alyssa Walker - Birthday	15
16	17 Elaine Tamagna - Birthday	18	19	20	21 Masthead Deadline	22 Lois Minniock - Birthday Friendsgiving Dinner 5-6:30 pm
23	24	25	26	27 Bob Beham - Birthday TD	28	29 Hanging of the Greens 10am
30 Brian Hovey - Birthday						