



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

2900 County Barn Road, Naples, FL 34112

(239) 775-0055 www.mayflowernaples.com Mayflowernaples@outlook.com

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

January 2026

Founders' Day Celebration



Join us on Sunday, January 4th for a special service to commemorate our 36 years of worshipping as a Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ! A special offering of \$36 will be taken to remember these years. Brunch will follow!

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

END OF THE YEAR COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2025

The end of the year is fast approaching and I wanted to reach out to all of the members and guests and express my appreciation for all of the hard work everyone has done throughout the year.

With the hard work of both Pastor Rick New and our interim music director-Jay Snyder, we are seeing progress in our membership roles and our financial future.

Both Glenn Schattschneider and Bob Ribinski work tirelessly to improve the landscape of the church grounds, Hats off to both of those hard workers.

Your church council and the various committees have done an excellent job in planning and executing various big projects, ie: Kris Kringle and in February, the Cargo sale.

Since I am leaving the church council , I felt it to be a great privilege to help serve the church and its hardworking and dedicated members.

I only ask that you spread the word of Mayflower and what we can do to serve the community.

God Bless

Jeff Stephenson

When All Else Fails—God Reigns



When we deliberate, God reigns;
When we decide wisely, God reigns;
When we decide foolishly, God reigns;
When we serve God in humble loyalty,
God reigns;
When we serve God self-assertively,
God reigns;
When we rebel and seek to withhold our
service, God reigns —
The Alpha and the Omega, which is,
and which was and which is to come,
the Almighty.
— William Temple
at the Lamberth Conference, 1930

Special Dates for January 2026

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2026*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2026*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 11, 2026*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 19, 2026*

A Purposeful New Year



The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait

What We Really Need

Twelve ministers were on a flight headed to a conference in Seattle when the plane hit a fierce storm. Trying to calm their nerves, they told the flight attendant, "Let the pilot know everything's fine — there are twelve ministers on board!"

A few minutes later, the flight attendant returned from the cockpit.

"Well?" one of the pastors asked with a Grin. "What did the pilot say?"

She smiled and replied "He said he was glad to have 12 ministers aboard, but he would rather have four good engines."

Scripture Keys to a Joyful New Year

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6:10)

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)
— Gus Nichols

The Foundation of Our Faith



Jesus' resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we'd have no Christian faith.

God's power was at work in Christ's death and resurrection. "It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built," said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

Paul understood that the resurrection was the bedrock of our faith: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14, ESV). He continued, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV). The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God: "One of Christ's hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours."

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land." Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us,

strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.

For God so Loved

One of the hallmarks of John's short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here it is verse 16: "This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal." In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God's redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question "What is the meaning of love?" Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

— Michael Card in The Parable of Joy

Christian Symbol



SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the

Bible Quiz



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant

Answer: A (See 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)

cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave – Latin for ship.



Get out your favorite hat or buy a new one! Mayflower's Ladies Tea is happening soon!

On Saturday, January 17 at 12 noon, we will be feasting like royalty! There will be scones, finger sandwiches and lots of desserts, even gluten free!

Tickets are \$20 and will be on sale starting December 28th after church, or contact the church office. Seating will be limited to 50.





WANTED! A FEW GOOD MEN!

On Saturday, January 17, the ladies of Mayflower will be enjoying a special afternoon at a Ladies Tea! We will need a few special gentleman to serve them from 12-1 PM. If you are available, please contact Lou to let her know that you can help out!

Classic
1946
AGED TO
Perfection

It has come to our attention that many of us will become octogenarians this year. If you are one of them, please let Lou know because she wants to plan a group celebration. **Lou D'Amico**
mldnaples@comcast.net



New Year's Resolution!

It's time to clean out your closets and garages! Mayflower's annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, February 7th 8-1 PM.

This is your chance to donate all of your unused items and make room to add more to your household! Bring your items to Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, January 25th or during the week from 9-12. Plan on helping us sort the donations every day from February 2-6th. Come, help sell and shop on Saturday, February 7th from 8-1!





Our Italian Dinner will be held on February 21, 2026 and this year we will be introducing a silent auction in order to raise some more funds. How can each of us help collect items to add to the silent auction? Well think about your talents, think about where you eat out, think about where you get your hair cut, think about where you play golf etc.

The next time you go to your favourite establishment, take a Mayflower letter and ask if the business might give us a voucher or a basket of hair goodies or something from the pro shop or better still a round for 2 people. Think outside the box.

Another thought might be to acknowledge your gifts. Might you bake cookies once a month for six months, or soup? Can you host a dinner party at your home for 4 or 6 people? Could you offer babysitting to a friend or neighbour: bake a cake for a special birthday? Again: think outside the box.

If we manage some larger items – a boat trip, a cottage rental etc, perhaps we might have a live auction which is always fun.

What gifts do you have that we can share and have a fun time raising money.

Donation letters will be placed in the narthex where everyone can pick them up and provide to establishments.



Happy New Year 2026!!

May your new year be bright, happy and full of blessings.

Thrivent is here for you. With banking, insurance, investments and personalized financial guidance, we have products and services that meet you where you're at.

Thrivent Member Network events are open to everyone, including non-clients. We offer financial education workshops, keynote speaker events, socials, generosity projects and more.

JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026 | VIDEO ON DEMAND (ALL MONTH)

[Catching Whimsy: A Fresh Start with Bob Goff](#)

In 2026, pursue joy and savor life's possibilities. Because you can't catch what you don't chase. Step out of the cycle of endless planning and uncertainty and into the curiosity, delight, and possibility waiting for you every day. Hear from Bob Goff, author of *Love Does*, as he invites you to rest in God's love and journey wide-eyed into a life rich with meaning, a faith alive with engagement, and a future shaped with intention. Watch the video on-demand January 1-31, 2026.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/2026BobGoff>

JANUARY 13, 2026 | 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM ET: ONLINE

[Thrivent Market and Economic Update](#)

Hear Thrivent investment leaders discuss how trade policy and tariffs could impact your pocketbook. Plus, get their take on market volatility, inflation, interest rates and the role municipal bonds can play in your investment portfolio.

Join us for our Market & Economic Update on January 13, 2026. Register to join us online at 12:30 p.m. ET, or if you can't make the date, register to receive the recording.

RSVP - <https://bit.ly/2026MarketUpdate>

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

For More Info Call Thrivent Financial Associate David Contessa at (239) 300-513



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's	2 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am	3
4 FOUNDERS DAY	5	6 EPIPHANY	7 Shirley Barnett – Birthday Potluck 5:00 pm	8 Judy Dudley - Birthday	9 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am	10 Taking down the Greens 10:00 am Ladies Lunch 12:00 PM
11 BAPTISM OF THE LORD	12	13	14 Nancy Stephenson – Birthday Val Gow Jr. – Birthday Bible Study 10:30 am	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am	17
18 Rick New – Birthday Annual Meeting 10:30 am	19	20	21 Jim Stanek Jr. -Birthday Council Meeting 10 am Bible Study 10:30 am	22	23 Masthead Deadline Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am	24
25	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:30 am	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am	31

