



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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

March 2026

Worship Team

Already we are a couple of weeks into Lent and Easter is approaching fast. Our Ash Wednesday service was led by Pastor Rick and we had a good attendance.

On March 6 we will be celebrating
 World Day of Prayer – our church sanctuary will be open from 10am until 4pm

for prayer and meditation. Please visit at your convenience and spend as long as you would like in private prayer. There will be printed prayers and suggestions for bible readings for anyone who would like.

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on March 29th. There will be Maundy Thursday Service on April 2nd at 7pm and then Easter on 5th April.



The windows above the altar have been professionally cleaned! Now it's time for everyone to join us on **Saturday, March 20th at 8:30 am** to spruce up the rest of God's house and Fellowship Hall ! There are many small tasks that you can do to help while others are climbing the ladders to wash the windows.

Special Dates for March 2026

World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2026*
Daylight saving time begins, *March 8, 2026*

St. Patrick's Day, *March 17, 2026*

First day of spring, *March 20, 2026*

Holy Week, *March 29-April 5, 2026*

Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2026*

Faith That Blooms Anew



“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, *“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”* (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus’ words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter’s gray. God’s reliability is woven into creation itself. As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

*God does not send strange flowers
every year,*

*When the Spring wind blows o’er the
pleasant places,
The same dear things lift up the same
fair faces,
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

We Have Tomorrow!

During the Korean conflict, journalist Marguerite Higgins, a courageous and award-winning war correspondent, spoke with a young soldier shivering in the bitter cold. He was eating from a tin can, his face streaked with mud, when she asked, “If I could give you anything in the world you wanted, what would you ask for?”

The soldier paused for a moment, then answered quietly, “Give me tomorrow.” What a simple yet profound longing. For those living in hardship, tomorrow represents hope—the chance to see another sunrise, to experience peace, to begin again.

As Christians, we live with the blessed assurance that we not only have today, but also tomorrow—an eternal tomorrow promised through the risen Christ.

Scripture reminds us, “Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54, NRSV). And again, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

Because of Christ’s resurrection, we no longer fear what tomorrow may bring. Our future is secure, our hope unshaken. In Him, tomorrow is already ours.

Revs Institute® is a world renowned car museum, dedicated to the study and preservation of historically significant automobiles. Visitors to its museum in Naples, Florida, will discover an 80,000 square foot working facility that maintains over 120 important cars, including those of the world-renowned Miles Collier Collections. The Archives and Research Center at Revs Institute, located in Ft. Myers, Florida, is a leading repository of automotive artifacts, publications, and ephemera. Revs engages with the meaningful car community locally and worldwide. Two-hour docent lead tours are available for \$45. (Group rates apply if we have 10+). Walk through self-guided tours are \$25.

Mayflower would like to book a tour for **Saturday, March 28 at 10:30**. Sign-up will begin on Sunday, March 8. Your friends are welcome to join us!





Join Mayflower's congregation at Hammond Stadium in Fort Myers on **Friday, April 17** for a pre-game prayer at 6:00 and post-game fireworks. The first pitch is at 7:05 PM.

Traditional baseball stadium food is available for dinner.

Admission is \$17 or \$14 if we have at least 15 going for a group rate.

We can carpool and leave church around 5 PM.

Sign-ups will begin March 29.





The Florida UCC Women are gathering from April 24-26! The conference will be in Parrish , Fl - northeast of Sarasota. It's about a 2 ½ hour ride and we will carpool. If you are interested in joining your friends at a retreat for a couple of days, sign-up will start March 8. More details will be available then.



The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday. Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prizeworthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”* They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king. Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, *“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”* Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, *“Here is your king.”* The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, *“We have no king but Caesar!”* When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared: **“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”**

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. *“What I have written, I have written,”* he said. Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts

17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.”

— *Revelation 17:14*

I Believe...

I believe in the God of fruit time and harvest who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand; I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full; I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all for which we are grateful and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;

I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger; for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit. —John Killinger in *Lost in Wonder, Love & Praise*




GRACE PLACE
For Children & Families

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026
BONITA BAY GOLF CLUB

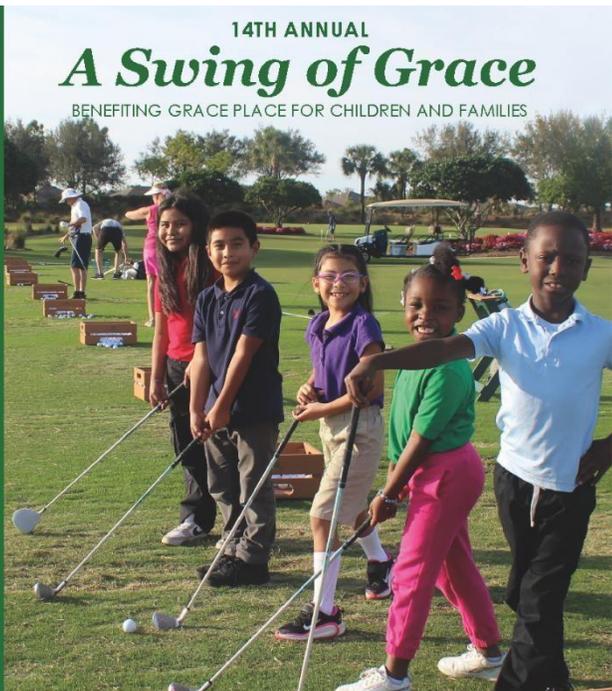
Join the fun—reserve your foursome today!

This golf tournament sells out every year, raising almost \$500,000 last year!

Register online at grace2026.givesmart.com or scan here 

Learn more about Grace Place by visiting graceplacenaples.org

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Food Distribution Volunteers Needed

A new method for distributing perishable and non-perishable grocery items to the Grace Place families is beginning on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month in the Grace Place courtyard.

The next distribution is this Thursday, February 26

- Families from the morning pre-school and adult ed classes will go home with boxes of food
- Families from the after school program will receive boxes of food in the car line or the pick up line as they leave for the day
- Distribution will be done the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month
- Volunteers are needed to assist with moving food boxes, distributing food, registration of families, riding the bus to assist families and breakdown/clean up.
- Job responsibilities will be assigned as volunteers arrive
- All volunteers must register for a shift in advance
- All volunteers must sign in when they arrive to their shift

All volunteers are asked to park in the rear parking lot for these shifts ***if possible***.

To sign up, please click on the link of the time you are available below:

[11:30 am - 1:30 pm Food Distribution Shift](#)

[5:15 pm - 6:15 pm Food Distribution Shift](#)

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



ROOSTER — The rooster reminds us of Peter’s threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial (Matthew 26:34, NIV). Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness—especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus’ words about being alert for his return: “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn” (Mark 13:35, NIV).

THE CHOICE TO BE HUMAN

Both Adam and Jesus faced the same temptation—the lure to “be like God.” Adam reached for divinity and stepped over the line, bringing sin and separation into the world. Jesus, however, chose humility. He remained obedient, fully human, and through His obedience brought redemption to all.

Adam’s choice turned humanity into a burden; Jesus’ faithfulness made humanity a blessing. The irony is striking: the one who tried to be God failed even to live as a man, while the one who was content to be human became known as the Son of God.

As Philippians 2:6-8 (NIV) reminds us, “[Christ Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage... he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross.” May we follow His example in humility and obedience.

Bible Study



- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A salt solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5)

Lessons From A Little Voice

A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say."

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Faith and Perspective

A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God.

—Robert E. Gibson

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

—Samuel Ullman

The only trouble with Easter coming soon is that we have to walk through a graveyard to get there.

—Barbara Brown Taylor

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

—St. Augustine



March 2026

Join us at our March 2026 Thrivent Client and Friends Appreciation Events!

MARCH 14, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

Thrivent Day at the Central Florida Zoo | Orlando, FL

MARCH 21, 2026 | 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM ET

Thrivent Day at ZooTampa | Tampa, FL

ZooTampa, 1101 W. Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL

Join us for a fun-filled day at ZooTampa, perfect for families, couples, and anyone who loves spending time outdoors with animals and great company. We're looking forward to a relaxed day of exploration, connection, and making memories together. This event is a great opportunity to enjoy one of Tampa's most

popular attractions at your own pace. Reserve your spot today!

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/ZooTampa2026>

MARCH 28, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET

Thrivent Night at the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp | Jacksonville, FL

VyStar Ballpark, 301 A Philip Randolph Blvd , Jacksonville, FL 32202

Thrivent is excited to host a special night at the

additional events visit
<https://bit.ly/TMNSoutheast>

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) 300-5139



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Jim & Kay Stanek, Jr – Anniversary Book Club 7:00 pm	4 Delilah Archibald – Birthday Bible Study 10:30 am Pot Luck Dinner 5:00	5	6 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am World Day of Prayer	7 The Night Train Band 4:00 pm
8 Daylight Savings Time	9	10	11 Bible Study 10:30 am	12	13 Prayer Team 10:00 am	14 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12 pm
15	16 Nina Ribinski – Birthday Michele Wonicker - Birthday	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 Council Meeting 10:00 am	19	20 Spring Cleaning 8:30 am	21
22 Michelle Falco - Birthday	23	24 Masthead Deadline	25	26	27 Prayer Team 10:00 am	28
29	30 Bob Ribinski - Birthday	31				

