



## The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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

April 2026

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### Worship Team

As Dennis and I say au revoir to Mayflower till November, I would like to say thank you to all the folks who make our services run so smoothly. The liturgists who bring us God's word so eloquently, the communion servers, the greeters who smile and welcome our congregants every week, Lou and Ginger who give us all the slides, Scott who records and sends out Mayflower's message every week. How many of you notice the candles – lovingly lit at every service by Priscilla? Did you know that all the beautiful flowers come from Bob and Nina's garden? Thank you so much. Where would we be without our music – the three Jims, Jay and our faithful singers. We are given great bible studies from Rev Bev, constant prayer updates from Shirley, who also manages the welcome desk, wonderful treats after the services from numerous volunteers and we must not forget Judy who pulls together everything for each and every one of us. Pastor Rick has been such a blessing to each of us and we are sad to miss his last service at Easter, he and Cheryl have brought such love to Mayflower. Dennis and I will miss you all over the summer. However, I will be connected to our church council at our monthly meetings so all the news will trickle through. Mayflower is such a wonderful church and we will be praying for you as you welcome Aaron and his family in your midst.

Blessings to you all Marion

### Council Updates

Our Lenten season is drawing towards a bittersweet close. On Easter, we will say good-bye with extreme gratitude to Rick and Cheryl New as they close their Bridge Ministry with Mayflower. Since last August, they have faithfully provided us with inspirational sermons and congregational support. They will remain loved and missed by our congregation! Please plan on staying after worship on Easter to say good-bye to Cheryl and Rick during our Easter Brunch.

On Easter, we will also say thank you to Jay Snyder as our Bridge Music Director. We have been blessed with his extraordinary skill on the organ, musical choices and direction of our choir and handbells! Fortunately, Jay will continue as an active member of Mayflower's congregation!

The sweet part of Eastertide will be the welcoming of our new minister, Aaron Martin, and his wife Julie! Aaron will be starting in the church office on April 7 and deliver his first sermon as our Settled pastor on Sunday, April 12. His office hours will be from 9-1 on Tuesday-Friday, but he will be active in getting to know our congregants and the surrounding community.

Mayflower gives praise and glory to God for sustaining us and providing strong spiritual and musical ministries through this time of pastoral searching.

## Mortgage Payoff Concept Plan from Financial Team

Mortgage Loan Balance	\$108,364.18
Mortgage Account Balance	\$ 69,137.82
Monies needed to Payoff Mortgage	\$ 39,226.86

If 50 individuals would give \$784.54 = \$39,227.00

We would like to pay off loan by 12/31/26!!

Starting 4/1/26, Finance Team is proposing an open invitation to all members and attendees to participate in this endeavor to pay off the Church's mortgage. You can give as much as you can afford at anytime until the end of the year. No rush to submit a donation, it is at your convenience and timeframe. No pressure whatsoever to anyone. Just make sure you indicate the donation is for the mortgage.

Paying off the mortgage will save the Church \$3,796.00 per month moving forward. This amounts to \$45,552.00 savings over one year!

Thank you to everyone who wishes to participate. Any questions, please talk to Scott, Marlin or Pam.

### Special Dates for April 2026

- Holy Week Continues, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2026*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2026*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2026*
- Earth Day, *April 22, 2026*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2026*



Fort Myer's minor league baseball team, The Mighty Mussels, will be hosting a Faith and Family game on Friday, April 17 and we would like to participate. The game starts at 7:05 but there will be a special time of prayer, with all of the faith groups gathered at 6 PM. Mayflower's group will carpool and leave the church parking lot at 4:30, to allow for heavy afternoon traffic. The entrance fee is \$17.00, but we have 4 free tickets Available. Once we arrive, there will be ballpark food available. Sign -up will be on Sunday after church, or by calling Lou at 239-455-7156.

### **The Joy of the Resurrection**



We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the

dead proves that Christ's way alone is God's answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ taught when he walked on earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out, for it is the eternal light of God's glory. Christ's life is the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. His way is the way that makes the most sense for our lives on this earth. The saints throughout history have shown that again and again.

Thank You gift from the Islamic Center for allowing them to use our parking lot on the last day of Ramadan. Candi Tipton has graciously sent them a Thank you note for this wonderful assortment of treats.



## Christian symbol



**PEACOCK** — The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification. Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity. Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.



## Family Food Distribution Supplies

Canned Corn  
Canned Beans  
White Rice  
Dried Beans  
Chicken Broth  
Canned pineapple  
Canned apples  
Boxes of Mac N Cheese  
Powdered Milk  
Granola Bars  
Boxes of Juice  
Bags of Pasta  
Canned Pasta Sauce  
Instant Oatmeal  
Canned Tuna  
Canned Chicken

*Thank  
you!*



### **There's Something Better Coming**

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion.

There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be!

There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.

### **A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message**



C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting. When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue." Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.

## Following Christ's Example of Humble Service



On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples' feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.

## Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

## **The Romans Sent a Message; God Sent One, Too**

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the

dead! God touched the precious body of his Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do — the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed ... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses .... Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!



## **April 2026**

Happy Easter! And Happy Spring!

Check out the below online items and more at your Thrivent Member Network website.

APRIL 14, 2026 | 12:30 PM- 1:30 PM ET

### **April Market and Economic Update presented by Thrivent**

Markets are moving, economic signals are evolving, and energy is back in focus. Join us for Thrivent's Market & Economic Update—a 60 minute live virtual event featuring insights from Thrivent investment leaders who will share perspectives on current events, inflation, interest rates, and shifting market behaviors. You'll get practical guidance to help you feel more confident navigating today's markets, including:

- The state of the U.S. economy, including consumer confidence, inflation, and employment trends
- Interest rates and the Fed: where policy expectations stand and why they matter
- Special guest John Groton with an outlook on energy, oil & gas

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/April26MarketUpdate>

### **Online Article: 6 common investing mistakes & how to avoid them**

Investing has become easier than ever, with many options available at the click of a button. But that doesn't mean investing effectively is a no-brainer.

It's important to learn about potential investment mistakes and the tried-and-true strategies you can use instead to get ahead in your investing journey and reach your financial goals.

We're surrounded by investing advice—from fads on social media to family members and friends swearing by get-rich-quick schemes. With all the noise, you need to know how to filter out the flawed approaches. Here are investing strategies to avoid and smart steps to take instead.

Go to: <https://bit.ly/6InvestingTips>

*No products will be sold at our events. For additional events visit <https://bit.ly/TMNSoutheast>*

*For additional disclosures, see [Thrivent.com/social](https://www.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
<p><b>HOLY WEEK</b> March 29-April 5</p>			<p>1 Potluck Dinner 5 pm</p>	<p>2 Maundy Soup/Bread Supper 5pm  Maundy Thursday Service 7pm</p>	<p>3 Good Friday  Choir Rehearsal 10 am</p>	<p>4 Bob &amp; Alice Upshaw - Anniversary</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday  Pastor Rick New's last day Jay Snyder's last day</p>		<p>7 Welcome Aaron Martin and family to Mayflower UCC  Book Club 7 pm</p>		<p>9 Life Line Screening Event</p>	<p>10 Jim Dishinger - Birthday  Prayer Team Meeting 10 am</p>	<p>11 Priscilla Wallace - Birthday  Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12 pm</p>
			<p>15 Nora Gibson - Birthday  Council Meeting 10 am</p>		<p>17 Dianne Magrone - Birthday  Mighty Mussels Game 7pm</p>	
	<p>20 Mike &amp; Dianne Magrone - Anniversary</p>	<p>21 Birthdays - Marilyn Harmon Glenn Schattschneider Phil Meyer</p>	<p>22 Administrative Professionals Day</p>	<p>23 May Masthead Deadline</p>	<p>24 Prayer Team Meeting 10 am</p>	



