



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: 8:00-1:00 Tuesday-Friday

May 2026

Update - Musical Director Search Team

We have been advertising and had a number of applicants - some of whom were just not suitable, a couple have found other positions and one felt our church wasn't right for him. We have had three interviews, but unfortunately at this point in time, we have not found our perfect match. We will continue to pray that God has the right candidate waiting in the wings. Team includes Betty Ford, Priscilla Hamilton, Glenn Schattschneider, Jay Snyder and Marion Grant.

Special Dates for May 2026

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2026*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2026*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2026*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2026*
- Victoria Day [Canada], *May 18, 2026*
- Day of Pentecost, *May 24, 2026*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2026*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2026*

Christian symbol



CEDAR TREE — A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.

FINANCIAL CORNER AS OF 4/22/26

OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$34,341.40
MORTGAGE ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$75,814.86
DESIGNATED ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$55,197.37

PROGRESS OF MORTGAGE PAYOFF PLAN

MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE	\$104,972.43
MORTGAGE ACCOUNT BALANCE	\$75,814.86
AMOUNT NEEDED TO PAY OFF LOAN	\$29,157.57

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this very encouraging progress!!



Calling all moms, grandmas, great- grandmas, aunts, grandmas, aunts, mentors and nurturers!

Mayflower will be honoring you on Sunday, May 10 during our refreshment time with a special brunch, made even more special with our men serving! Join us for our service at 9:30 and plan on staying for brunch.



PICNIC at Lowdermilk Beach North Pavilion!

Mayflower is planning a church picnic at Lowdermilk Beach on Saturday, May 16th at 5 PM.

Come early if you would like to swim! Plan on staying for sunset, if you have time!

We will have a potluck dinner, with bottled water being provided. Bring your own drinks if you prefer.

There will be help unloading your food and beach chairs if you drive up to the pavilion before you park.

An Unusual Answer to a Mother's Prayer

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, felt her "worry button" get pushed when her daughter, Esther, called from college with an unexpected plan. Esther explained she wanted to go camping alone in a park in southern Illinois. She needed quiet time to think and asked her mother for Bible verses to read as she prayed about her future.

Linda knew Esther felt strongly about going, even if it made her uneasy. After the call ended, Linda dropped to her knees and began what she later called "a dialogue with God." She closed her prayer with a simple surrender: "I guess you want me on my knees that weekend."

And that is exactly where she stayed. The morning after Esther's first night at camp, she called home. She was safe, she said, and no one had come near her tent. All night long, however, a skunk had wandered nearby, circling the campsite.

Later, Linda reflected on the moment with quiet confidence. "There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent," she wrote, "while the power of prayer, in the form of a black-and-white critter, was circling it."

Commencing a Lifetime of Learning



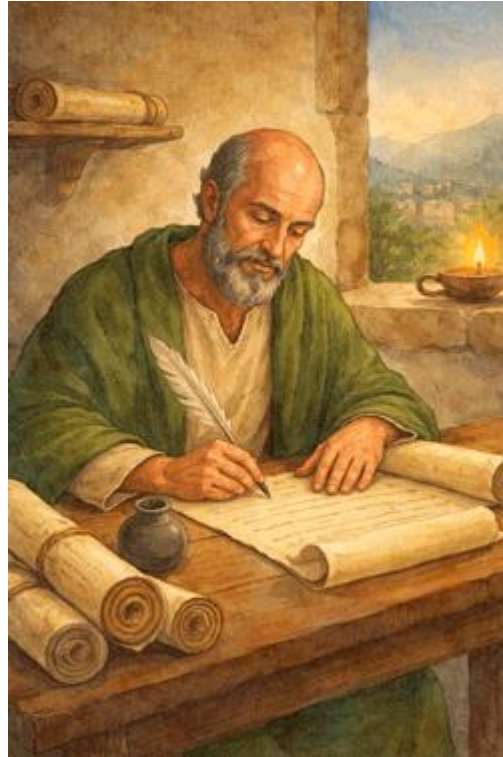
What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us From ignorance and superstition.

They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.

Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



Coming to Gulfshore Playhouse!

Join your Mayflower friends to a matinee performance at 3 PM on Saturday, May 24! Invite your friends to go with you! We can carpool if you would like to.

Tickets at \$94 and are limited. There will be a sign-up on Sunday May 3 after church. Or, you can call the office to sign up before then.

Grateful for Those Who Gave All



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave “the last full measure of devotion” for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



MISSION MESSAGE:

Our Mayflower Missions Team plans to highlight a “local mission” in the Masthead newsletter each month.

The month of May will spotlight “The Shelter for Abused Women & Children”

This will give us all an opportunity to learn more about these important services that help our community.

We can better understand the purpose and vision of each mission and learn how we can help provide support.

Please watch for our monthly “Mission Spotlight” and a display board in our Family Life Center with flyers and brochures describing each mission.



OUR MISSION SPOTLIGHT:

PREVENT, PROTECT and PREVAIL: Leading and collaborating with the community to Prevent, Protect and Prevail over domestic violence and human trafficking through advocacy, empowerment and social change.

- The Shelter offers: Homes For a Safer Community with locations in Naples & Immokalee
- Two 60-bed emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence & human trafficking and their pets.
- Child care and after school care are also provided. The Immokalee Shelter includes a special wing for survivors of human trafficking.

- 24-hour Crisis Hotline—239-775-1101 (call or text)-has trained advocates who provide counseling, safety planning and referrals 24/7, 365 days a year
- 9 transitional living cottages to empower survivors as they work toward self-sufficiency-includes 2 BR/2BA cottages which provide qualifying survivors and their dependents with safe and affordable transitional housing for up to two years.
- 36 programs and services including legal assistance, financial classes, school based prevention programs and community education-provide awareness training to businesses, professional groups and individuals to increase community awareness regarding domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Each year, The Shelter presents domestic violence and human trafficking prevention programs to thousands of children in our public schools. By helping the students recognize unhealthy relationships and learn how to keep themselves safe, these programs are creating social change that will serve our community for generations to come. The goal of these programs is to prevent abuse before it begins and include - Hands are for Helping; Healthy Friendships; Healthy Relationships and Expect Respect.

Yearly, domestic violence and human trafficking destroy thousands of lives, reaching far beyond the victims. The impact of these unthinkable crimes affects all of us, because violence at home does not stop at the door; it infects our workplaces, schools, social circles and places of worship. These societal issues cost us tens of millions of dollars in medical care, social services, lost wages and productivity. Every family has the basic right to be safe in their home, but the shocking reality is that too many Collier County families wake each day to uncertainty and go to bed each night in fear.

Last year there were **1,421** calls to 911 for domestic violence offenses in Collier County... thousands more incidents went unreported

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED: Our partnership with The Shelter is a personal investment in the safety of our families and in our community. with your help, The Shelter provides hope and healing not only to survivors but to the whole community.

There are many ways to help:

Volunteers are The Shelter's foundation, providing more than 20,000 hours of support annually in their offices and throughout Collier County.

GENTLE'MEN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Join over 350 men dedicated to standing as equal partners with women to end domestic violence & human trafficking

THE SHELTER GUILD: Join over 250 women to support The Shelter's programs, services & fundraising.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Join The Shelter's 250+ team of volunteers who provide invaluable service.

THE SHELTER OPTIONS SHOPPE: Donate, shop or volunteer at The Shelter's boutique resale shop, located at 968 2nd Avenue North in Naples.

DONATIONS & ESTATE PLANNING: The Shelter is a good steward of your support, 87 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to serving survivors of domestic violence & human trafficking.

Special Events and Holidays: Call to get involved
All services provided are FREE OF CHARGE
Learn more at naplesshelter.org Office 239-775-3862

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

For more information on volunteer opportunities, please email: Kim Butrico at kbutrico@naplesshelter.org or call 239.775.3862, ext. 215.

SPECIAL WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful generous support and helpful hands in preparing the 33 "Welcome Baskets" for The Shelter for Abused Women and Children.

These baskets provide the essential needs for helping the women & children to receive a warm welcome that lets them know we all care.

So often the women have to leave their homes without their own personal belongings and really appreciate the special "TLC" that these welcome baskets are filled with.

A Blessing of the Baskets at our Sunday service helps us wrap our loving prayers and spiritual support around all the families affected by domestic violence and abuse.

We pray for their continued safety and healing. 



Come join us in May 2026 at these

South Florida Events to show our appreciation for YOU!

Discounted tickets are available NOW.

MAY 22, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM ET

Annual Celebration of Membership at the Miami Marlins | Miami, FL LoanDepot Park, 501 Marlins Way, Miami, FL 33125

As a purpose-based financial services organization, we come together each year to celebrate the countless ways you—our members—inspire generosity and help improve people’s lives and communities. Join us for a special Annual Celebration of Membership at the Miami Marlins, where we will gather to reflect on the impact we have made together and look ahead with gratitude and purpose. Register today to join us as we celebrate the generosity and impact of Thrivent membership!

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/Marlins2026>

MAY 29, 2026 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM ET

Annual Celebration of Membership at the Planetarium | Bradenton, FL The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, 201 10th St. West, Bradenton FL, 34205

As a purpose-based financial services organization, we come together each year to celebrate the countless ways you—our members—inspire generosity and help improve people’s lives and communities. Join us for a special Annual Celebration of Membership at the Planetarium at The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, where we will gather to reflect on the impact we have made together and look ahead with gratitude and purpose. Register today to join us as we celebrate the generosity and impact of Thrivent membership!

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/Planetarium2026>

No products will be sold at our events. 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 Pam Rose - Birthday	2
3	4	5 Book Club 7pm	6 Potluck Supper 5pm	7 National Day of Prayer	8 Prayer Team Meeting 10am	9 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12 pm
10 Mother's Day Brunch	11	12	13	14 Ascension Day	15 Ginger Ribinski - Birthday	16 Picnic at Lowdermilk Beach 5pm
17	18 Jeff & Nancy Stephenson - Anniversary	19	20 Council Meeting 10am	21	22 Masthead Deadline	23 Jeff Stephenson - Birthday
24 Gulf Shore Playhouse 3pm The Carole King Musical	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29 Sharon Beham - Birthday	30

