



The Masthead

The Newsletter of Mayflower United Church of Christ

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

June 2026



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**Mayflower will be starting its
Sunday worship
service at 10:00 AM beginning
June 7, 2026.
We will all arrive more relaxed!**

Special Dates for June 2026

- Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
- First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*

Bible Quiz



King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)

1984 by George Orwell

Mayflower's Book Club has added a book for summer reading and we would like you to join us on Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center.

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate in the discussion of George Orwell's terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everyone and everything is slave to a tyrannical regime. Published in 1949, this novel is generally considered George Orwell's masterpiece. Many of us read this classic in high school, and our book group decided it was time to revisit the world of Oceania.

Winston Smith works for the Ministry of truth in London, chief city of Airstrip One. Big Brother stares out from every poster, the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. When Winston finds love with Julia, he discovers that life does not have to be dull and deadening, and awakens to new possibilities. Despite the police helicopters that hover and circle overhead, Winston and Julia begin to question the Party; they are drawn towards conspiracy. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent—even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101...

The discussion of this dystopian novel will be led by Betty Ford. You may participate

Note from Bev Greenia

I want to sincerely thank everyone who reached out to me and my family at this very difficult time. The death of my son, Michael Greenia, and then 10 days later the death of my brother-in-law, Larry Coleman, the gifts, calls, messages and prayers meant so much to me and my family. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family. May God bless you all
Bev Greenia

as much or little as you like – either way, this is bound to be an interesting evening!

Called Friends by Christ



According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15–16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13–14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

Christian Symbol



SAND DOLLAR — These delicate shells, found in shades of white, tan and soft purple, come from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. Their unique markings have long been associated with the story of Christ's birth and death. The faint images resemble a poinsettia and a lily, symbols often connected to Christmas and Easter. Five small openings are said to represent the four nails and the spear used at the crucifixion. Inside the shell are tiny shapes that look like doves, a reminder of the Holy Spirit.

FINANCIAL CORNER AS OF 5/27/26

OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE
\$24,048.01

MORTGAGE ACCOUNT BALANCE
\$75,829.86

DESIGNATED ACCOUNT BALANCE
\$50,804.55

MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE
\$95,564.68

NEEDED TO PAYOFF MORTGAGE
\$19,734.82

Reflecting the Father's Name



Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.

Father's Day Brunch



Join the Mayflower ladies as we celebrate the men who have fathered, adopted, fostered, mentored and loved children. After worship service on Sunday, **June 21st** the ladies will be serving a yummy brunch! Plan on joining us!

From Gratitude to Faithful Praise



Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude. Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain

moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work. As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again. Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

The Quiet Power of Faithfulness

The greatest forces in the universe are rarely spectacular. Gentle summer showers often do more lasting good than hurricanes, though they draw little attention. The world depends on the faithfulness, loyalty and dedication of countless people whose names are never known. Every life, no matter how humble, has a role in shaping a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow. It is easy to overvalue what seems impressive and underestimate what appears ordinary. Yet lasting change is most often built through quiet commitment, patient service and faithful hearts doing what matters most, day after day.



MISSION MESSAGE:

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

The month of June will spotlight “Grace Place for Children and Families”

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.



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Our Mission: Grace Place puts Faith into Action, providing pathways out of poverty by educating children and families.

Education Changes Everything!

Grace Place Programs:

1. BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

It's more than a preschool, it's an Early Learners (Birth - 5 yo) innovative Family Literacy Program designed to prepare children for kindergarten through a blend of early childhood education for preschool students and literacy, parenting, and workforce development classes for their parents.

2. ACADEMY OF LEADERS - AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The mission of Academy of Leaders (K-8) is to improve student achievement in core academic subjects, develop leadership habits and provide opportunities for students to learn the skills needed to be college and career ready. Grace Place is able to provide educational services during the after school and summer hours to Golden Gate Elementary Schools, Middle School, and High School students at no cost to these children or their families. The grant allows Grace Place to expand its academic programming during the school year and in the summer months in reading and S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects with heightened evidence-based curriculum including robotics, biology, computer science and chemistry. Additional enrichment activities include music, arts, wellness and Stephen Covey's *Leader in Me* program. At the middle and high school levels, students participate in career awareness and exploration to include learning styles, strengths, passions, interests, and then targeted college/career exploration based on individual goals.

Family literacy components for parents provide opportunities to enroll in our existing literacy and educational programs, including Family Literacy Days and the Adult Education program. Solidifying the impact of family involvement, the funds also support the launch of special sessions of Parent Academy to foster positive parenting and ensure a high level of adult family member participation and integration into their child's education.

3. LEAD PROGRAM

COLLEGE AND CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM

The mission of the LEAD (Leaders Empowered to Achieve Dreams) is **to provide** high school students with targeted academic assistance, life and leadership skills,

college and career readiness, and volunteer/work-based learning opportunities, so that students have the necessary tools for success beyond high school.

4. ADULT EDUCATION

The guiding mission of Adult Education programming is to equip students with the needed language and life skills to strengthen their ability to participate in the workforce, improve their quality of life, and enhance their self-sufficiency and engagement within the community.

The Adult Education program includes English language, financial literacy, citizenship and computer literacy classes. English language classes provide one-on-one and small group English language and literacy lessons guided by the Side-by-Side curriculum. English classes are led by trained volunteer instructors who are often retired teachers themselves. Small groups are arranged both by English knowledge and education level. Our Rosetta Stone language lab offers supplemental support to both current and incoming students. These concentrated classes enable adult learners to improve their language, literacy and life skills unlocking new opportunities for superior job placement with higher compensation and improved community involvement.

5. FAMILY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Grace Place hosts a family food distribution twice each month for families enrolled in its programs. Fresh produce and non-perishable food items are provided to help ease financial pressure at home. By addressing food insecurity alongside education, we ensure that students can walk into the class room read to concentrate, participate, and grow.

Volunteer Opportunities: Are you looking to make a difference in our community? Grace Place has immediate volunteer opportunities for you! No prior experience necessary to volunteer.

To learn more, please contact Melisa Mast, Volunteer Manager

Email: melisa.mast@graceplacenaples.org Direct Line: 239-255-7275



A Heartfelt Message of Thanks From the Leaders of Grace Place: Lara Fisher, CEO and Debbie Mathews Finch, Chair

At Grace Place, real change begins with listening to the students, parents, and our community, and then responding with Purpose.

Thanks to your generosity, that listening has created lasting transformation across the Golden Gate community, one of Collier County's most diverse yet under-resourced neighborhoods.

In Golden Gate, families represent more than 25 countries and speak 8 different languages or dialects. Thirty-five percent of the students in K-5 are in English Language Learning (ELL) classes, requiring significant support to compete at grade level study. Many parents work long hours in service and hospitality roles, balancing multiple jobs to support their children.

Because of you, families who once faced limited opportunity now have access to education, stability, and hope. Your support helps Grace Place to meet families where they are, helping them turn determination into opportunity. Every program from Bright Beginnings to Choice Academies, was created in direct response to the needs of this resilient neighborhood, and your partnership brings them to life.

Our youngest learners now step confidently into Kindergarten equipped with language skills, curiosity and a love for learning. Behind their success are parents who, while their children prepare for school, are mastering English and gaining job skills, as well as high quality early childhood education in order to better help their children succeed.

Our Middle School students are now discovering new passions and possibilities with your support. Together we built the Choice Academies, blending literacy, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM), with career exploration and hands on learning.

In High School, your gifts continue to open doors. Students choose from four learning cohorts: Freshman Success; Career and Technical Pathways; College Readiness; and English Language Learners (ELL) Support. Each path helps them uncover their strengths and dreams with mentors at their sides. These Golden Gate students are stepping beyond their neighborhood to college campuses, career fields, and the wider world.

Thank you for believing in the potential of every child and family. Together, we are helping students soar by creating ripples of strength and opportunity that reach throughout Collier County.

We need everyone's help with our current **BACK PACK PROJECT** for the students of Grace Place community.

Our missions team is ready to shop for you if you would like to donate monies towards filling as many back packs as we can for the upcoming 26/27 school year.

The flyers attached describe the project and what materials are needed for elementary, middle school and high school students. You can **create your own back pack** and bring it to church **before July 10** so we can deliver to Grace Place in time for their distribution **or donate monies or check** to Mayflower Church with back pack written on memo line or on envelope.



The flyer is designed to look like a piece of lined paper with various school supplies scattered around the text. At the top center is the logo for Grace Place, which features a red house icon above the text 'GRACE PLACE' and 'For Children & Families'. Below the logo, the words 'BACKPACK DRIVE' are written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, 'FULL BACKPACKS NEEDED!' is written in a smaller, bold font. A paragraph of text explains the need for backpacks and how to help. A blue banner with yellow text says 'CHECKLIST ON BACK!'. To the left of this banner is a QR code and to the right is a dollar sign icon. Below the QR code is a blue box with the heading 'BENEFITS' and a list of four bullet points. To the right of the QR code is a yellow box with the heading 'Back To School Bash' and a list of three bullet points. At the bottom right of the flyer is a photograph of a young boy wearing a baseball cap and a backpack. The background of the flyer is white with light blue horizontal lines. Various school supplies like paper clips, a ruler, a protractor, and crayons are illustrated around the text.

GRACE PLACE
For Children & Families

BACKPACK DRIVE

FULL BACKPACKS NEEDED!

The need is greater than ever for kids going back to school. You can help by donating full backpacks for students Kindergarten through 12th grade!

CHECKLIST ON BACK!

You can also visit our website to make a cash donation!



BENEFITS

- Staff and team development through volunteering
- A fun competition between departments
- Helping children get back to school ready
- Show our students that the community is supportive

Back To School Bash
Saturday, July 18
9am - 12pm

- Backpacks will be distributed
- Fun activities are available for families
- Contact Melisa to participate!

WWW.GRACEPLACENAPLES.ORG/BACKPACKDRIVE

graceplacenaples.org | 239.255.7275 | Tax ID#65-1229558

Suggestion – Join with friend/friends to fill backpack

PRIMARY GRADE (K-2)

- 2 Composition notebooks, primary ruled
- Plastic pencil box
- 3-prong folders (in 3 different colors)
- Blunt scissors
- 24 pack of Crayola crayons
- 8 pack of Crayola markers
- 2 Highlighters
- 2 Glue sticks
- 2 Pink erasers
- 12 pack of Pencils
- 4 pack of Dry erase markers
- 1 pack of Index cards
- 1 pair of Headphones

INTERMEDIATE GRADE (3-5)

- 3-ring binder - 1.5 inches
- 2 Composition notebooks, wide ruled
- 2 Spiral notebooks (in different colors)
- 5 Pocket folders (in different colors)
- Pointy scissors
- 24 pack of Crayola crayons
- 8 pack of Crayola markers
- 2 Highlighters
- 2 Glue sticks
- 2 Pink erasers
- 12 pack of Pencils
- 12 pack of Colored pencils
- 4 pack of Dry erase markers
- 1 pack of Index cards
- 1 pair of Headphones/Earbuds

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

- 3-ring binder - 2 inches
- 1 Composition notebook, wide ruled
- 4 Spiral notebooks (in different colors)
- 3-prong folders (in 4 different colors)
- 1 pack of college ruled paper
- 8 pack of Pens
- 2 Highlighters
- 2 Glue sticks
- 2 Pink erasers
- 12 pack of Pencils
- 12 pack of Colored pencils
- 4 pack of Dry erase markers
- 1 pack of Index cards
- 1 pair of Headphones/Earbuds



Drop-Off Campus Location:

Grace Place Campus
4300 21st Ave SW,
Naples, FL 34116

**Complete 50 backpacks
and we'll pick them up!**

Backpacks can
be dropped off
**between June 29
and July 10, 2026**

Any questions,
please contact Melisa Mast, at
melisa.mast@graceplacenaples.org



Happy June 2026!

**Among other observances this month, June is also
Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and Men's Health Month**

If you're thinking "it won't happen to me" when it comes to needing help as you age, you aren't alone. But the need for care often comes anyway. That's why it's important to put a plan in place to help safeguard your finances from the cost of potential care needs. Long-term care insurance can be an important part of that plan.

If you're considering long-term care insurance or simply want to learn more, we recommend setting up a complimentary meeting with your local Thrivent representative to discuss this important topic.

ALL MONTH| VIDEO ON DEMAND

In case you missed it, review the recent Market and Economic Update from April and watch out for the next one to see how the market is progressing.

Markets are moving, economic signals are evolving, and energy is back in focus. Follow the link below for Thrivent's Market & Economic Update—a recording of our recent 60-minute 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.

Click or follow: <https://bit.ly/AprilMarket2026>

No products will be sold at our events. 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
	1	2	3 Potluck 5 pm	4 Isabelle Krichel - Birthday	5	6 Shirley Morgan - Birthday Gale Whitney - Birthday
7 New Service Start Time 10 am	8	9	10	11	12 Prayer Team Meeting 10 am	13 Ladies Lunch at Lely Palms 12 pm
14 Birthdays - Betty Ford and Kay Stanek Special Cong meeting 11 am to elect 2 new council members	15	16	17 Council Meeting 10 am	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 FATHERS DAY 	22	23 Masthead Deadline 11am Book Club 7 pm - 1984 George Orwell	24	25 Val Jr. & Marilyn Gow - Anniversary	26 Prayer Team Meeting 10 am	27 Shirley Smith - Birthday Doug & Delilah Archibald - Anniversary
28	29 Bob & Sharon Beham - Anniversary	30				

