

Mayflower

Mayflower Congregational Church - December, 2009



Christmas at Mayflower

Sunday Mornings

November 29

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Sermon Series:
 The Senses of Christmas
 "The Ears of Christmas"

December 6

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
 "The Taste of Christmas"

December 13

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
 "The Touch of Christmas"
 The newly composed
Magnificat by Mark Hayes
 performed by the Chancel Choir
 and accompanied by members of
 the Grand Rapids Symphony
 at 10:30 a.m. service

December 20

9:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship
 "The Eyes of Christmas"
 Music by the Children
 and Adult Choirs

Midweek Advent Adult Study Series

**Wednesdays,
 December 2, 9, 16
 6:15-7:15 p.m.**

"Advent Conspiracy"

Exploring three concepts for
 a Christmas worth remembering

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service
 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Family Activities

**Sunday, December 6
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Advent Alive!
 Continental Breakfast and
 Christmas craft activities for all ages

**Sunday, December 20
 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Youth/Family Caroling
 to elderly friends and family
 of Mayflower Church
 (No Sunday Night Live!)

Advent Service of Comfort

**Sunday, December 20
 6:00 p.m.**

At Trinity Lutheran Church
 An annual service of quiet comfort
 for those who have experienced the
 loss of a loved one or face difficult
 times leading up to the holidays

Youth Gift Wrap Fundraiser

**Monday and Tuesday,
 December 21 and 22
 6:30-9:00 p.m.**

Last minute wrapping help from our
 youth to raise funds for mission trips.
 Please bring your packages
 to the Youth Rooms.
 (Your donations gladly accepted!)

Gift Wrap Fundraiser



Do you have any last minute packages that need to be wrapped? The youth have a solution—bring them to Mayflower!

The youth will beautifully wrap, decorate and label your gifts for you with your choice from our wide selection of beautiful papers and ribbons or bows. Just bring your gifts to the youth room and pick them up later. The proceeds raised from this fundraiser will go towards the youth mission trips this coming summer.

The date and times will be:

**Monday and Tuesday
 December 21 and 22
 6:30-9:00 p.m.**

Thank you so much for your support
 of our youth and their outreach efforts!

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Advent Alive



Come to prepare for the Christmas Season! Join us in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 6, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

We will enjoy fellowship over a brunch of egg and sausage souffle, croissants, french toast sticks, fresh fruit and yogurt, wassail, coffee and juice. Children, as well as adults, will have an opportunity to participate in making an Advent wreath, Christmas crafts and decorations, and decorating a gift bag for Dégagé.

Please bring \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family to help with the cost of materials and food.

Magnificat on December 13



The newly composed *Magnificat* by Mark Hayes will be performed during the 10:30 a.m. service on the third Sunday of Advent, December 13.

The composer wrote "I was struck with the unrestrained yet quiet joy that Mary expressed to God. I knew I wanted to compose a work that expressed that same joy.... I humbly offer my setting with the hope that it will inspire you and bring joy to your heart."

Don't miss this beautiful work as rendered by the Chancel Choir and members of the Grand Rapids Symphony!

Service of Comfort

A special reflective Christmas service is presented by Mayflower and Trinity Lutheran Churches each year. On Sunday evening, **December 20 at 6:00 p.m.**, Trinity Lutheran Church will host the service.

Rev. Eric Britcher will bring the message with special music provided by Trinity Church. The service is designed for folks who are experiencing any of the traumas of life that rob the Christmas season of joy. You can come for support yourself or to support others who face a struggle through the holiday season.

Dégagé Ministry

Mayflower members will serve at Dégagé Ministries on Monday, December 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Preparing and serving meals, meeting patrons and sharing good times together makes it a treasured event.

This month will be a Christmas party with cake and ice cream, playing bingo and prizes for everyone!

If interested in serving the homeless at Dégagé, please email Pastor Britcher at ebritcher@mayflowerchurch.org or call him at 459-6255, ext. 14.

Advent Devotions

Advent devotions for adults are available in the narthex for three Sundays beginning on November 22. We are asking for a donation to help us with the costs this year.

Devotions for families with children between the ages of 4 years-5th grade and for youth have been mailed. Please contact the church office, 459-6255, if you have not received one.

Advent Conspiracy

On Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9 and 16, an adult Bible study group will be meeting at 6:15 p.m. Following the Midweek @ Mayflower supper served from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., the group will meet in the Library.

The *Advent Conspiracy* is an exploration of three concepts to make your Christmas celebration worth remembering. Come join us, both for supper and the study.

Priscilla Circle Meeting and Hanging of the Greens

The Priscilla Circle will gather on Wednesday, December 2 at 10:45 a.m. to put up Christmas décor around the church followed by their regular meeting at noon. Bring a sack lunch.

Church Family News

Congratulations to:

- ♦ **Benjamin and Heather VanHouten**, whose sons, **Jackson Wyatt** and **Alexander Henry**, were baptized at Mayflower Church on November 22, 2009.
- ♦ **Lindsay (Taylor) and Keith Freeman**, whose daughter, **Taylor Marin**, was baptized at Mayflower Church on November 29, 2009. Taylor is the granddaughter of **Mick and Sue Taylor**.

We express our sympathy to:

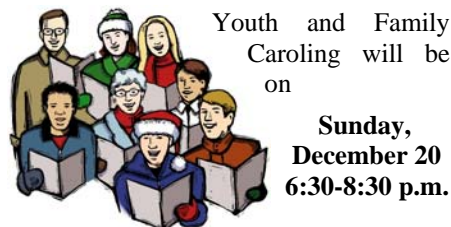
- ♦ **The Aardema family**, on the death of Jan's mother, **Gretchen Vandenberg**, on November 7, 2009.
- ♦ **Deb Landman and family**, on the recent death of her brother.
- ♦ **Cameo Johnson and family**, on the recent death of her brother, **Jacob Johnson**.

Have You Ever Wondered About Revelation?

Many of us hold the book of Revelation at an arms length, wondering what it's all about. Well, we may not answer all your questions, but on Wednesday evenings, January through March, Pastor Britcher will lead a study of Revelation at 6:15 p.m.

Study guides will be available and avid discussion will punctuate these twelve studies. Make it a commitment on your New Year's calendar!

Youth and Family Caroling



Youth and Family Caroling will be on

**Sunday,
December 20
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

We will meet at Mayflower and travel to homes of elderly and shut-in Mayflower friends and family.

We will gather at Cook Valley for a snack and our final carols together.

Please RSVP via email to Leah, youthcon@mayflowerchurch.org, by Thursday, December 17.

Will You Sponsor this Child?



Little **Tinashe Kudakwashe** was abandoned in a restroom at birth. Despite his tragic entrance into the world, he has recovered from health problems and the support of Eden Children's Village has given him a bright future. Tinashe needs a sponsor.

Perhaps during this Christmas season, a family will decide to be the gift of life to this bright little boy. If you are that family, call (949-6356) or email (larks@i2k.com) Linda.

Tatenda! Tatenda!

Kay and Peter Luce are new sponsors and have chosen **Ruth Hikawasha** for their Zimbabwe daughter. Ruth is a very special 13 year old who has a very traumatic and painful history. She can now look forward to a life of safety and opportunity at Eden Children's Village.

TATENDA, Peter and Kay!

Jessica Masango was featured a few months ago in the Mayflower Newsletter. She is now sponsored anonymously by a Mayflower family. TATENDA! (*Tatenda means thank you in the Shona language.*)



All children are invited to be a part of the 5:00 Christmas Eve Family Service.

Children between the ages of 4 years-2nd grade can be shepherds or angels.

They will sit with their families and come forward briefly during the service. Appropriate headpieces will be available in the Chapel before the service.

3rd and 4th graders are invited to submit artwork for the bulletin (due Wednesday, December 9) and to help with greeting and ushering. Sign up with Mrs. Gaylord.

5th graders will have an opportunity to be part of the nativity scene or to have a reading part.

A letter has been sent home with more details. Please check with the church office if you did not receive this mailing.

The offering at the 5:00 p.m. service will go to **Kids Food Basket**, a nonprofit Grand Rapids agency that feeds at-risk children by providing a sack supper as they leave school each day.

The following items are needed:

- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ 100% fruit juice boxes
- ◆ Granola bars
- ◆ Chip snack packs
- ◆ Mayo, mustard, ketchup packets
- ◆ Individual puddings and jellos
- ◆ Brown lunch bags
- ◆ Sandwich bags
- ◆ Plastic spoons
- ◆ Napkins

There will be a time in the service to bring offerings forward.

Ushers will also be present with the offering pouches for offerings of cash and checks.

Cookie Decorating

High School and College Cookie Decorating will be on **Saturday, December 19 from 7:30-10:00 p.m.** in the Mayflower Kitchen.

We will frost and decorate the 48 dozen cookies for fellowship time after morning worship on Sunday, December 20. This is a great service you give to our entire congregation as well as a ton of fun!

3,4,5
@
5:45

As a part of our theme of *Taking Care of What God Has Given Us*, 3rd-5th graders traded books as a way of recycling. We heard from Shirley VanderWilt about a group in our church called Friendly Visitors that help us take care of each other in our church family, and we made Christmas baskets for our senior friends. In December, we will be discussing Dickens' *Christmas Carol* and how it tells the "Good News."

Thanks to Chandelier Cleaners



We are so grateful to all the volunteers who helped with the chandelier cleaning on November 11. We had 36 workers, including some new volunteers. With all the wonderful help, we were able to complete the job in less than an hour and a good time was had by all!

Joyce VanArtsen, Coordinator

Sunday Morning Children's Programs



Bible Alive, 1st-4th grades, completed the story of Joseph with workshops of making colorful coats, putting elements of the story in order, planting seeds and talking about what they need to grow, and re-telling the story. They also decorated a large coat with strips of colored paper that told of good times when God was with them and bad times when God was with them.

Five year olds, Kindergartners, and 4 year olds acted out Joshua and the Battle of Jericho this past month and will be hearing the stories of Jesus' Birth throughout December.

Two and three year olds will be hearing stories of Jesus' Birth.



During the **Bridge 5th grade** discussion, fifth graders have been learning about the Bible and its different translations. They have started two lists — what we know and what we don't know.

Here are their lists so far:

What we know:

- ◆ Every Bible talks about the Christmas story
- ◆ All translations are based on the same stories
- ◆ Different Bibles are written for different readers
- ◆ Every Christian Bible has an Old Testament and a New Testament

What we don't know:

- ◆ Why Bibles all look different
- ◆ Who first reported the stories of Genesis

They will also be talking about the church year and the upcoming season of Advent and Christmas and Epiphany.

Order Your Poinsettias



Advent is a meaningful time to honor and remember loved ones. If you would like to purchase an honorary poinsettia plant to add to the celebratory decoration of Mayflower during December, fill out the form below and submit it to the church office **by MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**. A donation of \$10.00 is asked for each plant and should accompany this form. A portion of your donation will go to the Youth Outreach Fund which helps support our youth in their outreach efforts. The plants will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20. An insert in the bulletin on Christmas Eve will list the donors and the individuals they celebrate. You are invited to take a plant with you after the Christmas Eve Service.

Name of poinsettia donor _____ Phone # _____ No. of plants _____

In honor / memory / celebration (circle one) of _____

December 2009

BIRTHDAYS

Mayflower



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Nancy Doyal	<i>2</i> Betsey Spayde Janice Yates Aaron Sundman Max Barnes Jack Conway	<i>3</i> Bill Jarvi Kelley Stewart Matthew Wilson Emily West Lily Mundell Ian Scheper Abigail Huffman Amelia Huffman	<i>4</i> Kim Peterson	<i>5</i> Claire Zevalkink
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> James Cook Nikki Sanford Brian Huffman Jack Smith Colin Oderkirk	<i>8</i> Ardythe Wickman David Cornelius	<i>9</i> Robert Aardema Christopher Wirth Sara Lachman Claire Beaumont Bianchi	<i>10</i> Mark Stoddard Charlotte Doyal	<i>11</i> Carroll Elenbaas Randi Thompson Amanda Douglas	<i>12</i> Grace Ruppert Pierce Ruppert
<i>13</i> Mariel Poortenga Hayley Bamborough	<i>14</i> Carolyn Chudik Bob Rutgers David Cary	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> Bob Burton Stacey Pyper Andrew Johnson	<i>17</i> Roger Oetting John Schneider Susan Webb Ann Douglas Kathryn Tornga Samantha Mette Jack Mundell IV	<i>18</i> Jane Willit Pamela Meier Matthew Papp	<i>19</i> Betty Lawther Leah Bissell Hannah Stuursma Caroline Grin Sarah Laidler
<i>20</i> Nola Wetherbee Marlene Panish Benjamin VanHouten	<i>21</i> Mary Laham	<i>22</i> Rudean Fairman Suzanne Bowman Andrea Koster Sarah Elder	<i>23</i> Jeffrey Bird Ellen Mundell	<i>24</i> Christopher Yates Kati Schutt	<i>25</i> Lynn Matthews Caroline Older Jack Zieger David Lime	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Susanne Applegate Sydney Edlund Barbara Hohman Abigail Kyros Alexander Kyros Lauren Papp	<i>28</i> Diane Rutgers Patrick Druke	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> David Bird Cheryl Britcher Tom Kyros	<i>31</i> Jack Landman Catherine Brenneman		