



# MAYFIELD CHURCH

*a United Methodist Congregation*

## July 2023 Newsletter

Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Lead Pastor • Pastor Jill Scott, Associate Pastor • Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Sulzer

Our mission is to offer Christ through an *inclusive community of faith* that worships God, cares for people, equips disciples, and works to transform the world.

### PEACE IN THE MIDST OF ANXIETY

By Rev. Beth Wilterdink

Many of you have heard of Saint Francis of Assisi's famous prayer:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, the truth;  
Where there is doubt, the faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Francis was a part of a youth movement in Assisi that was reading the Gospels, and this community wanted their lives to reflect every aspect of the Gospel of Jesus. In his book, "Red Letter Revolution," Shane Claiborne wrote of the saints in this community, "Part of what was exciting about that movement was that they didn't hate the church. They actually loved the church, and they loved it enough to try to change the things that were wrong."

This resonated with me because in the last month, I have watched the church and the denomination that I love, Mayfield and the United Methodist Church, go through difficult changes, that have produced both grief and hope for the future. At Mayfield Church we have had Rev. Jan Fillmore retire, and at the same time we move to welcome Pastor Jill Scott. And, the United Methodist Church has seen churches disaffiliate and leave the connection. YET, this prayer from Saint Francis reminded me what I want to be about, what I believe Mayfield Church's mission is about, AND most importantly, what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about.

*Continued on page 2*

### CHURCH EVENTS

See where you can invite a friend or neighbor to join in our community of faith!

- **SUN., JULY 2 @ 10 AM**  
ONE SERVICE SUNDAY
- **MON & TUES., JULY 3 & 4**  
OFFICE & HEARTLAND CLOSED
- **WED., JULY 12 @ 9:30 AM**  
BEACH CLEAN-UP (*RESCHEDULED*)  
MENTOR HEADLANDS
- **THURS., JULY 13 @ 10:30 AM**  
GCC (SENIOR MINISTRY)  
CHAIR YOGA & MEET PASTOR JILL  
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **SAT., JULY 15 @ 8:30 AM**  
MEN'S BREAKFAST  
FELLOWSHIP HALL  
  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRUCK  
*SEE PAGE 4*
- **SUN., JULY 16, AFTER SERVICES**  
"HANDS THAT SERVE" BREAKFAST  
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **TUES., JULY 18 @ 6 PM**  
M.U.M.S. BINGO  
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **FRI., JULY 28 @ 5 - 6:30 PM**  
FREE COMMUNITY DINNER  
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **MON., JULY 31 @ 9 AM - 12 PM**  
FIRST DAY OF VBS!  
*SEE PAGE 5*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rev. Beth.....	1&2
M.U.M.S.....	2
Rev. Jan's Celebration.....	2
Upcoming Sunday Messages.....	3
Welcome, Pastor Jill.....	3
"Hands That Serve".....	4
Small Group.....	4
Habitat Truck.....	4
Children's Ministry.....	5
Youth Ministry.....	5
East Ohio Annual Conference.....	6&7
In Sympathy.....	8
Important Dates.....	8
Ways to Give.....	8
Stephen Ministry.....	8
Staff Directory.....	8

I know that there are many changes in the church at the moment, but the church is more than a building. The church is more than the pastors. The church is the people, with the Holy Spirit filling them, so God can use them for the mission of love! The church is each one of you claiming Jesus' love in your heart, and that hope of new life in Christ empowering your lives to share God's powerful and healing love in the world.

I know that there has been frustration, confusion, and even, may I say, some outright anger. But my prayer is that instead of running or turning away, we would each love the church so much that we will commit to staying and being the church that focuses more on the hearts of those who do not yet know the love of Christ.

As Mayfield Church studied Max Lucado's book, "Anxious for Nothing," in the past, some of you will remember the acronym, C-A-L-M:

*First, we Celebrate God. Then we Ask God for help. We*

*Leave the problem with God. Then we Meditate on good things.*

May we live the mission to offer Christ in every way possible, and stay calm in the midst of our transitions.

**Celebrate**  
God's goodness

"Rejoice in the Lord  
always"  
(v. 4)

**Ask**  
God for help

"Let your request be  
made known to God"  
(v. 6)

**Leave**  
your concerns  
with Him

"With thanksgiving..."  
(v. 6)

**Meditate**  
on good things

"Whatever is true...  
honorable...just...pure...  
lovely...commendable"  
(v. 8)

**Max Lucado in *Anxious for Nothing***



## M.U.M.S., SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

St. Helen's Unicycle Team performance was exciting to watch last month! Congratulations to Mayfield UMC member, Emilie Wright (pictured in the middle of the right photo below), who performed as well.



## REV. JAN'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

On Sunday, June 25, we had a wonderful celebration of Pastor Jan's retirement. A special thank you to Don and Nancy Surbey for all of their behind-the-scenes work and organization to make the luncheon successful!



# INTRODUCING OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR

By Pastor Jill Scott

I am blessed to be a daughter, a wife, a mother, and a pastor among many other things. I am the oldest of six children of Jack and Helen Raymond. My parents still live in Findlay, Ohio, where I graduated from High School. I have four sisters and one brother who live in Cincinnati, OH; Orlando, FL; Murrell's Inlet, SC; Findlay, OH; and Pittsburgh, PA. I have three daughters. Anneliese Spangler, the oldest, is a medical coder who lives in Akron. Helenayn is 20 and just graduated from West Geauga High School. Dakota is 17 and will be a senior at West G next fall. My lovely husband of 21 years, David, is a retired police officer who now busies himself as a fantastically talented househusband and handyman. We have two Yorkie mixes named Muffin and Mocha and two cats named Moses and Ollie. Our family has lived in Chesterland for over 20 years.



I attended Bowling Green State University as an undergraduate and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance Studies. I also earned a Master of Education degree in elementary education at The Ohio State University. Last May, I graduated from United Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. How does one go from music performance studies to elementary education to theological studies? Perhaps that tale is too long for this venue. But let it suffice to say that the road has been long and winding. One might even say that God has a funny way of leading us where he wants us to go whether we are aware of it or not.

Growing up, my parents did not encourage us toward Christianity, although I can honestly say I was always a believer. I remember Jesus, whom I called "the man in the white nightgown," would come to play with me when I was very small. My parents called him my "imaginary friend," but I knew he was real. When I was fifteen, friends from school invited me to the midnight Christmas Eve Service at St. Andrew's UMC. My parents let me go. So, I walked the mile up to the church in the freezing cold. I got there just before the service was supposed to start. One of my friends met me at the door and instead of letting me go find a seat in the sanctuary, he dragged me down to the choir room to "meet his choir director." When I walked through the door, I was ambushed. Someone took my coat, someone put a choir robe on me, and someone placed a choir folder in my hand. Before I knew what was happening, I was on my way up to the choir loft. For the first time, that night, I sang sacred music in a worship service. It was the most moving thing I had ever done, and I was hooked. From then on, I joined every musical group the church had to offer and rarely missed a Sunday for the rest of high school. At nineteen years old, I was baptized and joined the church.

Flash forward about twenty-five years. I started attending Mayfield Church when it moved out to Chesterland. David joined me soon after, and our two youngest daughters were baptized here. Of course, it was the music that grabbed me and kept me coming back. But something happened during my time at Mayfield. God began speaking to me not only through the music but through everything I was doing in every aspect of my life. Eventually, God's call on my life became so strong that I could no longer deny it. In 2013, I entered seminary and the following year I became a licensed local pastor.

I have served three churches prior to coming to Mayfield. I was an associate pastor of Middlefield UMC, pastor of Shoregate UMC in Willowick, and pastor of Portage Faith UMC in Mantua. All of these appointments have formed me, taught me, loved me, and brought me ever closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ. I hope to interview this fall for commissioning as a Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church. I cannot wait to continue my journey together with you!

## UPCOMING SUNDAY MESSAGES

9:30 AM Modern  
11 AM Traditional  
In-person & Livestream

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**Series –  
Adult-ing:  
The Tough Stuff in Life**

**July 2**  
Independence Day Weekend  
*One Service Sunday @ 10 AM*  
*Service Livestreamed*

**July 9**  
Three Services:  
8, 9:30, 11 AM  
*Holy Communion*  
*Welcome New Members!*  
*11 AM Service Livestreamed*

**July 16**  
*"Hands That Serve" Breakfast*  
*Pastor Jill Scott Preaching*  
*9:30 AM Service Livestreamed*

**New Series –  
Living Life on Purpose**

**July 23**  
Guatemala Mission Witness  
*11 AM Service Livestreamed*

**July 30**  
*9:30 AM Service Livestreamed*



On Sunday, July 2 at 10 AM, we will welcome Pastor Jill Scott and her family to Mayfield Church! Following worship, we will have a Popsicle Party on the side lawn of the church, so everyone will have an opportunity to greet Pastor Jill. Over the next few months, Pastor Jill will attend various ministry gatherings to get to know the congregation in smaller groups. Watch for the dates in the bulletin.



# "HANDS THAT SERVE" TRIALS FOR HOPE



Trials For Hope is a community outreach program located in Lakewood, OH and serves the greater Cleveland area. It provides food, personal care items and clothing to the homeless, seniors, shut-ins, youth, veterans and families in crisis. It provides at least 175 bags of food, 800 personal care bags and over 1,000 pounds of vegetables and meat per month. Trials for Hope was started in 2010 when the founder, Jon, was asked to dispose of some travel size toiletries for an organization where he volunteered had to close its doors. He took those toiletries to a local community meal to pass out and discovered the need for these items and how appreciative people were to receive them. Now, Trials for Hope helps over 2,100 people per year and with a hope to continue to grow and offer more assistance in our community.

There is a continuing need for donations. A list is below of items in need for this program. You may donate and leave the items in the gray bins by the entrance of the church.

## Needed Items:

- Canned Tuna/Chicken/Spam (in water; pull tabs if possible)
- Can Openers
- Baby Wipes
- Men's Clothing (sizes L-4XL; new or lightly used)
- Men's Underwear (sizes L-4XL; new)
- Travel Size Shampoo
- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths/Small Hand Towels

For more information on ways to get involved, email Chelsea Stickley at [cstickley8866@gmail.com](mailto:cstickley8866@gmail.com).

Two great ways to support Trials for Hope:

**"Hands That Serve" Breakfast**  
**Sunday, July 16**  
**After the 9:30 and 11 AM services**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Pantry Organization**  
**Saturday, July 29 @ 9:30 AM**  
**4321 Bridge Ave. Cleveland**

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

The Spiritual Depth Book Group will meet on Friday, July 14, from 1- 2:30 PM in the Gilson Room at the West Geauga Public Library. Sally Matthews will be leading the discussion on "Saving God from Religion: A minister's search for faith in a skeptical age" by Robin R. Meyers. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Sally Matthews at [sylsal703@gmail.com](mailto:sylsal703@gmail.com).



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S "RESTORE" TRUCK TAKING DONATIONS SAT., JULY 15 @ 9 AM - 2 PM MAYFIELD CHURCH PARKING LOT

The ReStore accepts new, used, discontinued or surplus building materials, appliances and home furnishings from companies, contractors, retailers and individuals. All donated items must be in good, clean, and working condition.

### Items We Accept:

- Appliances (Large & Small)
- 10 yrs. old or newer
- Brick, Block and Hardscaping
- Cabinets
- Doors
- Door Knobs and Lock Sets
- Electronics
- Flooring
- Furniture and Home Accents
- Handicap Bath Tubs
- Hardware
- Home Furnishings & Decor
- Lighting/Ceiling Fans
- Lumber

- Metal bed Frames
- Patio Furniture
- Plumbing
- Roofing (packaged), Siding, Gutters
- Sheet Goods (in half sheets or larger)
- Tools (indoor/outdoor)

### Items We DO NOT Accept:

- Area Rugs with stains or pet odors
- Baby Gear
- Broken items
- Cast Iron Tubs (Claw Foot Accepted)
- Children's Toys
- China cabinets, Hutches, Breakfronts
- Clothing and Bedding

- Clothing and Bedding
- Commercial or Industrial Doors
- Curtains, Blinds / Shades, Drapes
- Damaged Building Materials
- Doors with scratches or holes
- Furniture with rips, stains, or odors
- Glass shower doors
- Hazardous Chemicals
- Large Entertainment Center / Wall Units
- Large desks (over 5')
- Lumber (old or less than 4')
- Mattresses and Box Springs
- Molding or Trim (less than 4')
- Paint/Stain/Thinner/Turpentine
- Propane Tanks

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## STEPPING STONES SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre-School to Kindergarten

## THE ROCK WORSHIP SERVICE

Grades 1 - 5

**SUNDAYS @  
9:30 AM**



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 31 - AUGUST 4 9 AM-NOON

Register today for students 4 years old through those entering grade 6 on our website!

### CHRISTIAN OUTDOOR HOMESCHOOL GROUP LAUNCHING THIS FALL!

We are thrilled to announce that our homeschool group, called Nurture & Nature Family Community, will start this fall on our church property behind the soccer fields. The ministry will be geared toward families with children who are between the ages of 3 to 8 but is open to families with children of all ages. Each week families will come together for a couple of hours to allow children to play together, parents to fellowship with one another and to come together for a Christian based lesson.

The nature area will be set up with different stations to experience, such as an art table, sensory table, water play, mud kitchen and manipulative play (trucks, animals, dinosaurs), etc. There will also be a meeting/prayer/reading area under our beautiful willow tree to close out our time together each week.

Families are invited to experience as much or as little as they like. If your family is interested in learning more about this new ministry, please reach out to Jess Martz at [jessica@mayfieldchurch.org](mailto:jessica@mayfieldchurch.org). If you have a heart to teach young children about the Bible or have a background in education, especially outdoor education, we would also love to have you involved on this team!



Nurture and Nature Family Community



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Camp Aldersgate: Last month, 23 of our youth and 12 adults leaders had another wonderful week at camp! If you attended our service Sunday, June 25, you heard the joy from several youths about their experiences. If you missed it, head over to our YouTube Channel (Mayfield Church) and watch the service!



## Youth COOKOUT

**Sunday,  
July 9  
6:30 PM**

**Adam Neff's  
backyard  
RSVP to Denny**



# EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE DISAFFILIATE REPORTS

As many of you heard during our East Ohio Annual Conference report from our delegates, 237 churches chose to disaffiliate from our conference over the past year. Although there was no vote required from any church at this time, many of these churches took action to vote earlier this year to leave the denomination, and the approval vote at Annual Conference was the final step in the process.

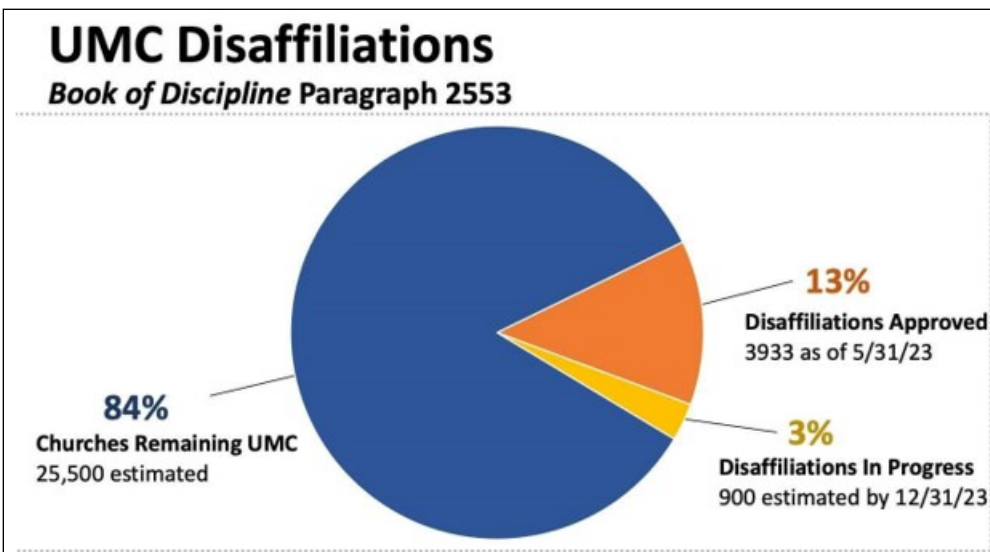
Earlier this week, I read an article from my friend and colleague in ministry at Church of the Savior in Cleveland Heights, Rev. Andy Call, who is also a delegate for General Conference. His article read:

*The churches that left did so over questions of human sexuality. Though the United Methodist Church still has restrictions in place over same-sex marriage and ordination of people who identify as LGBTQ+, momentum is building to change those restrictions, at least within the United States and Europe.*

*The disaffiliation process was designed by conservative leaders as part of what was named 'The Traditional Plan' adopted at the 2019 General Conference, envisioned to create a path for Progressive churches to leave the denomination. A significant momentum shift following that conference and waning support for a closed-door negotiated separation agreement led a conservative splinter group to form a new denomination (Global Methodist Church) and to urge conservative-leaning congregations to use that provision to exit the United Methodist Church. That provision, ¶2553, outlined a process of a straw vote, informational meetings, a 2/3 vote of the church conference, and payment of two years of apportionments (fair share of conference budget based on percentage of local church spending).*

*Prior to disaffiliation, there were 651 churches in the East Ohio Conference. 237 of those churches chose to leave the denomination, 36.4% of the churches in the conference. 144 of those churches reported fewer than 25 in average worship attendance. Most (not all) were in rural, less population-dense areas. Their giving represents 26% of the conference budget. ... (13 of the disaffiliating churches were in the Western Reserve District, with the closest 36 minutes away in Thompson from Mayfield Church.) ....*

*Across the denomination, the impact is less pronounced than in our own conference. The graphic below reflects data current as of May 31. The total number of disaffiliations is now approximately 5,300, but the graphic still represents a fairly accurate picture of the impact on the denomination worldwide.*



*The departures from the UMC will not have a measurable, direct impact on [the local church]. We remain part of the United Methodist Church and will maintain our connections to the denomination and our mission partners around the world. The greatest impacts will be at the conference and general conference levels. Agencies and budgets are being adjusted to meet the change. While those will be difficult decisions, they are not expected to create a disruption in vital mission and ministry.*

As the conversation of disaffiliation was brought to Mayfield Church's leadership multiple times last year, we researched, discussed, and decided that this conversation has continued to be divisive, and while it was important, staying unified in our mission was more important.

Continued on page 7

Our mission is to offer Christ to every person who walks through our doors and to share the pathway to Christ with them. Even when there are matters on which we disagree, at Mayfield Church we have always been committed to being a community of faith that uses both our hearts and our heads. We have been an inclusive community, radical in the center, and even where we find ourselves on different sides of opinions and arguments, we can still have difficult conversations and stay committed to the mission of offering Christ, worshipping God, caring for people, equipping disciples of Jesus Christ, and working to transform the world.

It was with deep sadness that we lost our connection with these congregations. We pray for them and pray for God to heal the pain and harm that has been caused by this division within the body of Christ. Jesus' prayer was, "I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me." (John 17:21-23 NLT)

May we move forward with hearts of love for Christ and love for one another.

Rev. Beth Wilterdink  
Lead Pastor

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

In the June 18 worship services, our delegates to the East Ohio Annual Conference presented their reports to the congregation. Ted Diadiun and Denny Nelson were our church delegates. Phil David, Cindy Myers, and Linnea Bubnow went as at-large district delegates. And, Sarah Dixon attended as a part of our Annual Conference's delegation to the worldwide General Conference. If you happened to miss the service, or if you would like to see them in print, here is a recap:

**Pastor Beth Wilterdink:** I pray that you will talk to them or myself if you have any questions about the report or what work we did. The annual Conference began on Wed., June 7 with all of the clergy gathering for a session devoted to clergy matters -- both bringing on new clergy and releasing clergy who are no longer serving. We also spent the afternoon doing training around healthy boundaries and clergy ethics in the life of the church.

**Ted Diadiun:** We all know that the United Methodist Church has not been so united lately, and the East Ohio Conference has not been immune to the disaffiliation conversations that have been taking place both here and across the country. Here are the numbers:

The president of the Conference Board of Trustees announced on Thurs., June 8, that over the past year, 237 churches in the East Ohio Conference have voted to disaffiliate from our denomination. That's in addition to the 11 churches that had disaffiliated last year, and the nine churches in the conference that have closed in the past year. Twenty-two additional churches had begun the disaffiliation process but members voted to stay in our denomination.

Most of the churches that departed are small. Only 12 of the disaffiliations were from the larger churches, meaning those with an average worship attendance of 100 or more – leaving *the other* 37 of our larger churches intact.

I have been a delegate to a lot of Annual Conferences, and this was the only year I would call depressing. It's always hard to see friends and fellow worshipers decide to leave our side. But the good news is that 414 churches remain in the conference. We know that all 414 want to stay, so we are once again "United" Methodists.

The conference also is establishing a system of Lighthouse churches and Oasis groups that will welcome people who want to remain United Methodist but whose churches have disaffiliated.

**Denny Nelson:** *This year the conference voted to reduce the size of the 2024 Conference budget of \$9,428,531, which is a reduction of 3.5% over 2023.* This is due in part to cost-saving measures such as reducing the number of districts to four. We won't need as many offices and parsonages for district superintendents as a result. This reduction is added to the 5% reductions year over year, the past few years, to help bring down the cost of Annual Conference apportionments.

**Cindy Myers:** A recommendation from a Redistricting Task Force was approved, which reduced the number of districts in the East Ohio Conference from ten to four. The last time a re-districting was accomplished was in 2005, which reduced the number of districts from 12 to 10. It will be up to the Bishop and Cabinet to determine the boundary lines for the four new districts, as well as to come up with different models of the superintendency.

This committee was tasked with reducing the number of districts to meet missional needs and opportunities in order that new church co-operative parishes may be formed. This will put the East Ohio Conference in a better position for greater mission and greater purpose, as well as flexibility to structure things in new ways to enable the church to better focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Sarah Dixon:** Resolutions are matters for consideration by the annual conference which are not motions for action or proper amendments to reports by conference agencies, but which call for expression of opinion by the annual conference on issues of concern to the membership of the church and the general public. Resolutions may be submitted by any member of a United Methodist Church or an annual conference organization of the East Ohio conference.

This year we had four resolutions to consider and we voted to approve three of those four. The three we approved were: "Advocating for the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation," "Supporting the Christmas Covenant," and "East Ohio United Methodists Against Hate Crimes."

\*The full resolutions are available on the [East Ohio Annual Conference website](#).



# IMPORTANT DATES

## COMMITTEES/MINISTRIES

Men's Prayer Group	Saturdays @ 9:30 AM; B31
NextGEN	Sun., July 2 @ 8:30 AM; St. Herman's
Youth (Middle/High School)	Sundays, July 2 @ 10 AM; Youth Room
Care Team Ministry	Mon., July 3 @ 7 PM; Zoom
Guatemala Missions Mtg.	Thurs., July 6 @ 6 PM; FH
Mission Outreach Council Mtg.	Mon., July 10 @ 7 PM; Zoom & CR
Stephen Leaders Zoom Mtg.	Mon., July 10 @ 10 AM; Zoom
Finance Mtg.	Tues., July 11 @ 7 PM; B30
GCC: Chair Yoga & Lunch	Thurs., July 13 @ 10:30 AM; FH
Men's Breakfast	Sat., July 15 @ 8:30 AM; FH
Youth Leaders Mtg.	Sun., July 16 @ 10:30 AM; B26
Stephen Ministry	Mon., July 17 @ 7 PM; Offsite
M.U.M.S. Bingo	Tues., July 18 @ 6 PM; FH
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thurs., July 20 @ 1 PM; CR
Executive Mtg.	Tues., June 25 @ 7 PM; B30
S.A.M.I.	Wed., July 26 @ 6 PM; Back 40 BBQ

## MUSIC

9:30 Band Rehearsal                      Wednesdays @ 7 PM  
 FH - Fellowship Hall / WC - Worship Center / CR - Conference Room

*\*Check our calendar at [mayfieldchurch.org](http://mayfieldchurch.org) for updates*

# MAYFIELD STAFF

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**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday - Friday: 9 AM—1 PM**  
**Closed on July 3 & 4**

*Ways to Give*

**ONLINE OR EFT**

[mayfieldchurch.org](http://mayfieldchurch.org) →  
 Give

**IN-PERSON OR MAIL**

**MOBILE**



# WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

...to Darrell Osborn and family, on the passing of Darrell's mother, Lona Belle Osborn, who passed away on Wed., May 31.

...to Marsha McCormick and family, on the passing of Marsha's mother, Ruth Brugler, who passed away on Mon., June 5.

...to Dave Saletrik and family, on the passing of Dave's wife, Donna Saletrik, who passed away on Mon., June 19.



**Mayfield UMC**  
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 Chesterland, OH 44026  
 440-729-4006  
[mayfieldchurch.org](http://mayfieldchurch.org)

# STEPHEN MINISTRY



© liz climo thelittleworldofliz.com

*If you or someone you know would like more information about receiving the services of a Stephen Minister, contact Mardi Atkins or Pastor Beth at [beth@mayfieldchurch.org](mailto:beth@mayfieldchurch.org).*