



MAYFIELD CHURCH

February 2024 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.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

By Rev. Beth Wilterdink

One of the most frequent questions people have asked me in this season is “what can I do for you?” Every time I hear it, I know it comes from a place of compassion and care, for which I am always grateful. I will admit, however, I am not always sure how to answer. I have been reflecting on this question in my devotional time and how we as the church live out this offer to care for someone and the phrase the Holy Spirit has prompted me with is simply this, “Show up.” Show up in daily prayer and petitioning God on behalf of another, show up in worship that proclaims good news, show up in commitments to support the work of the church, and show up to serve another. I ask you, how will you show up for the ones you love inside and outside the church?

On February 14, as many celebrate (or begrudge) Valentine’s Day, Christians across the world will mark the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. As followers of Jesus, do we ask “What can I do for you?” in our relationship with Jesus? When you’ve jumped into the waters of baptism- do you rise up with a deep love to ask, “Lord, what can I do for you?” When we love someone, we respond to what they are saying to us. We respond to their needs. When we love someone, we respond and are present with them. This is what the season of Lent is really about, being fully present and showing up for Jesus. So, what does it look like when we “show up” for Jesus?

Let me be clear about what Lent is and is not. The season of Lent is not a season of guilt where we beat ourselves up about what we have done or left undone. Lent is not a Christian version of New Year’s resolutions where we try out a healthy habit. Lent is a season of responding to Christ’s grace that forgives our sins. Lent is a season of drawing closer to God by either fasting from something or embracing something new. Lent is a season to show up and experience the work of the Holy Spirit.

That’s what our Lenten practice will be about.

Over the past few years, I’ve discovered how important it is that we, as Jesus’ followers, spend time in the gospels- to keep connected with Christ in our lives, and in our hearts. So, each Lent, we go back to the gospels. We will spend this season in the gospel of Matthew- and specifically in the opening chapters of Matthew- as we focus on Jesus’ first sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, or the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). The book “The Kingdom Experiment” for small groups (aka Life-Groups), will invite us into “showing up” for Jesus in our lives- so that we can know what it feels like to live in God’s kingdom.

(Continued on page 2)

MINISTRY EVENTS

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

- **SUN., FEB. 4 @ 10 AM - 12 PM**
ONE SERVICE SUNDAY AND ALL-CHURCH MEETING
WORSHIP CENTER
- **THURS., FEB. 8 @ 10:30 AM - 1 PM**
GOD’S CARING COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **WED., FEB. 14 @ 7 - 9 AM AND 11 AM - 1 PM**
DRIVE THRU ASHES & COFFEE
PORTICO
- **WED., FEB. 14 @ 7 PM**
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WORSHIP CENTER
- **SAT., FEB. 17 @ 8:30 - 9:30 AM**
MEN’S MINISTRY BREAKFAST
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **MON., FEB. 19**
PRESIDENT’S DAY
OFFICE AND HEARTLAND CLOSED
- **FRI., FEB. 23 @ 5 - 6:30 PM**
FREE COMMUNITY DINNER
FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **FRI., FEB. 23 @ 6:30 PM**
CHURCH FAMILY GAME NIGHT
FELLOWSHIP HALL & GYM



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In the life of our church, it also means continuing to show up for others. It means showing up to participate in small groups, worship, and to pray for one another. It means coming early to offer hospitality and welcome to someone new. It means showing up to give of our time, our talent, and our treasures. It means showing up to offer love and support for those in the community of faith whom we know, and be prepared to offer love and support for those we don't know yet.



Let's show up for Jesus this Lent, because we love our Lord.



Our Lenten Series:
The Kingdom Experiment
Lessons on the Beatitudes from the book of Matthew.

Ash Wednesday - February 14:
7 PM: Evening Service

Palm Sunday - March 24:
9:30 AM: Modern Service
11 AM: Traditional Service*

Maundy Thursday - March 28:
7 PM: Evening Service

Good Friday - March 29:
Noon: Time of Reflection and Holy Communion
7 PM: Evening Service

Easter Sunday - March 31:
7:30 AM: Traditional Service
9:30 AM: Modern Service*
11 AM: Traditional Service*

* Service is livestreamed

Small Groups

Do you want to be part of a small group during Lent? Here are two groups open to have faith conversations and experiences. If these days and times do not work for you, please reach out to Pastor Jill to find one that does!

Fridays, Feb. 16 - March 22

6:30 - 8 PM

Leader: Rev. Beth & Jon Wilterdink

Every other Friday: 2/16, 3/1, 3/15, & 3/29

6:30 - 8 PM

Leader: Jessica and Bryan Javorek

Wednesdays, Feb. 21 - March 27

6:30 - 8 PM

Leader: Pastor Jill & David Scott



New Small Group Starting Sunday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 PM during Lent, Pastor Jill will be leading a small group on the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Please email or call Pastor Jill to sign up.

BULLETIN BLURBS

The Collection for the Gauga County Food Bank this month is napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, foil, and baggies.

God's Caring Community, a ministry for our seniors, monthly meeting is on Thurs., Feb. 8, at 10:30 AM. This month, the group will be making and writing cards to our homebound church members. A light lunch will be served (\$6/pp).



The Bookstore has a new name! After some time of reviewing all of the thoughtful and creative suggestions for a new name, it is now called "The Lounge". If your small group would like to meet in this space, contact Rebecca Sulzer, at rebecca@mayfieldchurch.org, to reserved it.

MONTHLY MISSION FOCUS: EMSIZINI SCHOOL IN ZIMBABWE



Mayfield Church has been in partnership with Bethel Church, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, since 2014 in supporting the Emsizini secondary school, located in Kensington Zimbabwe. In this partnership, Mayfield Church has supported many capital improvements including upgraded bathrooms, a science classroom building, a home for the school caretaker and his family, and the conversion of the teacher's

cottage into a student boarding house. School programming has been supported with the purchase of administrator's computers, student desks and chairs, sewing machines, science classroom equipment, whiteboards, sports equipment, choir robes, and various teaching supplies. We have also supported the school with our presence, with five adults and nine college students visiting the school on six separate trips.

In 2023, Mayfield Church supported the school with perimeter funding, a poultry project that is now providing income to the school, a photocopier, and support to teachers and staff for continuing education. Other funds given in 2023 helped to provide for student examination materials and fees, school vehicle maintenance, firewood and food staples for the boarding students.

Some of the items we are focusing on in 2024 are a new classroom block, classroom furniture, a greenhouse project, security bars, laptops, sports equipment and fees, and some facility repairs and upgrades. Another opportunity to give is toward the Emsizini Teacher Partner Program. This program, which began four years ago, has been a way to show appreciation and love to the teachers and staff at Emsizini. Funds from this program help cover fuel for teacher commuting costs, continuing education opportunities, and a modest year-end bonus to the teachers and staff for a job well done.






A trip to Emsizini is beginning to be planned for late spring or early summer 2024. If you have an interest in traveling to visit Emsizini, would like to learn more about the school, or are interested in helping in other ways with this mission, please contact John Parker at 330-289-4117 or parkerja89@gmail.com



SHOUT OUT

Did you know that our own Jessica Martz, our Children's Ministry Director, was part of podcast episode called "Influence, Connection & Impact: Building Connections in Guatemala and East Ohio"? Check it out at ecumcnews.com:

Storyboard
Episode 25
EAST OHIO NEWS

<p>Jessica Martz Director of Children's Ministries, Mayfield UMC</p> 	<p>Rev. Kimberly Arbaugh Canonized First UMC</p> 	<p>Rev. Tammy Kuntz Coordinator, ACD UMCYM</p> 	<p>Rev. Kathy Dickriede Connecticut Ministries Office Missions & Community Engagement Director</p> 	<p>EPISODE 25 Influence, Connection & Impact: Building Connections in Guatemala and East Ohio</p> 
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SUNDAYS AT MAYFIELD
9:30 AM Modern
11 AM Traditional

SERIES:



We may never notice guardrails, but they are important barriers between us and certain danger. Join us to find out how to implement guardrails in our everyday lives.

February 4
10 AM ONLY:
"MONEY MATTERS"

February 11
9:30 & 11 AM:
"THE HEART OF THE MATTER"

Lent Series:
The Kingdom Experiment
Lessons on the Beatitudes from the book of Matthew.

February 18
9:30 & 11 AM:
"PURE HEARTS"

February 25
9:30 & 11 AM:
"POOR SPIRIT"

JOIN US FOR
Heartland Sunday
FEBRUARY 11



We are excited to invite our Heartland Preschool families and staff to church on Feb. 11. You will get a chance to meet Patty Wenzel, Heartland Director, after the 9:30 and 11 AM services (and wish her a Happy Birthday!)



PRAYING FOR OUR MISSION

Our Executive Team began our year by praying for our staff, each of them by name, full-time and part-time. It is a way for us to acknowledge the burden of leadership that we ask our staff to be a part of, and their role in empowering our congregation for our mission.

I also prayed daily for our lay leadership and our church. Our mission is not our staff's mission alone, but it is a shared mission that includes the leadership of our lay members and each one of you participating in places where you are passionate. My continual prayer is that we would be united to offer Christ to each person we encounter. And, that each of us would follow in Jesus' footsteps of servant leadership- looking at our own life and seeing how we can serve one another for the sake of Christ. Thank you for each being a part of our mission!

- Rev. Beth Wilterdink

OUR PARTNER SCHOOL: ROWLAND

Last month, we showed our partner school teachers and staff at Rowland how much they are appreciated by writing some encouraging cards and signing a poster. Thank you for all of those who visited the table outside of the Worship Center for 70 teacher and staff! Also, we had an overwhelming amount of winter clothing donations for students and adults last month. Thank you for your contributions and those members who organized, bagged, and laundered the clothing (pictured right).

Update for Spring Break bags:

Rev. Beth spoke with Sylvia Marshall, Assistant Principal of Rowland, and Michelle Turner, PTA President, and they love the idea of doing a hot meal and family night at the school during Spring Break instead of packing "Spring Break Bags." They have just put in a new playground, so it would be a perfect opportunity to bring the community together and celebrate.

It is an exciting opportunity for Mayfield UMC to be on-site at Rowland and build relationships. If you would like to volunteer at this dinner, please email Maureen Wenger at maureendaly@gmail.com. Thanks for being such a great team and working together for this endeavor to change the world!



Rowland Spring Break Dinner
Friday, March 22
5:30 - 7:30 PM
4300 Bayard Rd, South Euclid



COMMUNITY DINNER

FREE
Community Dinner

The last Friday of every month from
5 to 6:30 PM

February 23: Chili and Cornbread
March 29: Beef Stroganoff
April 26: Tacos



Did You Know?

Heinen's donates their "day old" baked goods to us every week! When there is an abundance of items, we will have a table set up for Community Dinner guests to take home.



Three carts of bakery items picked up one day last month!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Tweens: Grades 4 & 5

Thanks to all who have participated in the Percy Jackson watch parties! The tweens had such a fun time growing in their friendships with one another.



East Ohio Camps want every kid to have summer story full of fun, faith formation, adventure, and growth! Their hope is that when your child tells the story of what he or she did this last summer, they include a week of camp where, "I connected with great friends and great counselors, had fun adventures, learned new things, experienced God in nature and now my faith is soaring!" And that is what they are planning for summer 2024. Camp is open to those going into first grade this fall to high school. **Check out the various sessions:** www.EOCsummercamps.org.

Church Family Game Night

Following the Community Dinner on Friday, Feb. 23, join us for a church family game night at 6:30 PM! High energy games will be in the gym and low energy games in Fellowship Hall will be offered. Parents of children must be present for game night. Whether you're 2 or 102 there will be a game for you. We hope to see you there!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, Feb. 11
6 - 8 PM
Church; Room TBD




Amazing Race

Sunday, Feb. 18
6 - 8 PM
Church, Room TBD

Bible "Baseball" Trivia Night

Sunday, Feb. 25
6 - 8 PM
Church, Room TBD

MUMC YOUTH



SKI TRIP

Peek' n Peak Ski Day
Saturday, March 2
RSVP by Feb. 18 to Adam Neff

MEET OUR NEWEST GREETER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

Rainey is a 4-year-old Chocolate Lab, with some premature graying. She was originally trained in Atlanta by *Paws for Life* and given to a family as a seizure alert dog for their child. Unfortunately, this did not work out for the family and she went back to the person who trained her at Paws for Life. Because seizure alert training is very specific to a particular person, it was determined that she could not be retrained or given to another family. After much heartbreak, her trainer and family felt they could not give Rainey the time and attention she deserved, as they trained Rainey during COVID when they were home and knew that they would not be keeping her. So, Rainey has been "re-homed" with Beth and Tim Stickley and has transitioned from a Service Dog to a Therapy Dog. She wears a red vest and her "job" is to meet, greet and bring smiles to people's faces. Unlike a "working/service" dog, Rainey is allowed to be petted and hugged. If you see Rainey and Beth, feel free to strike up a conversation and give Rainey some love. If you're not a dog person... just say hello to Beth!



REVERSE DINNER



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

Creating an Inclusive Community of Faith



2024
M.U.M.S. EVENTS
SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY
MONTHLY MEETINGS - EVERY THIRD TUESDAY
6 - 7:30 PM @ MAYFIELD CHURCH

JAN 16 BINGO!

FEB 20 PAINT'N'SIP A LLAMA 

MAR 19 EASTER EGG HUNT 

APR 16 SPRING WREATH CRAFT 

MAY 21 MINUTE TO WIN IT 

JUN 18 BINGO! 

 MAYFIELD CHURCH 7747 MAYFIELD RD. CHESTERLAND

Pick up a flyer on our display board in the main hallway

M.U.M.S. ANNUAL
Winter Ball
SATURDAY, MARCH 9
6-8 PM
MAYFIELD CHURCH

Join the Mayfield United Methodist Stars, our special needs ministry, for a fun filled evening of dancing, food, drinks and more! Dress up in your formal attire (or however you feel comfortable).

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Sandy Pavick at 440-429-5029.

Special Needs Sunday School
Every Sunday @ 11 AM
The Lounge

EVE CIRCLE

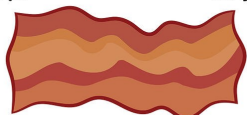
Eve Circle is a group of ladies, many retired, who gather together for spiritual, service, social & fundraising activities for the church. This month's meeting is on Friday, Feb. 2, at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Laurie Dye at lauriedye@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Do you have a passion for encouraging and supporting women as they grow in their Christian walk of faith? If you are interested in being a part of a team of women who help coordinate quarterly events, please email Pastor Jill Scott.



DID SOMEONE SAY



BACON?

MEN'S MINISTRY

Join the Men's Breakfast on Sat., Feb. 17, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM, for some eggs, breakfast potatoes, and of course, bacon! If you have never joined but would like to try it out, reach out to Jon Wilterdink or call the church office for more info.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH INFO

On Jan. 1, the East Ohio Conference transitioned from 10 to four districts. Clergy and laity were invited to participate in the first gathering in each new district for a time of worshipping, connecting, and celebrating together with Bishop Tracy S. Malone, the superintendent teams and leadership in each district, and Conference staff. We were grateful to host our new district, Northern Waters, on Sat., Jan. 27, with our new District Superintendents, Rev. Angela Lewis and Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, along with our Bishop Tracy S. Malone. Thank you to those who have stepped up and said "yes" to welcoming and greeting our fellow Christians during this celebration and time of transition.



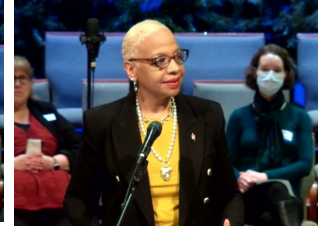
Rev. Beth welcoming over 200 attendees



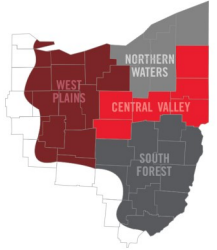
DS Lewis praying over the new districts



DS Hitchcock sharing the vision



Bishop Malone giving the message



GRIEF RESOURCES

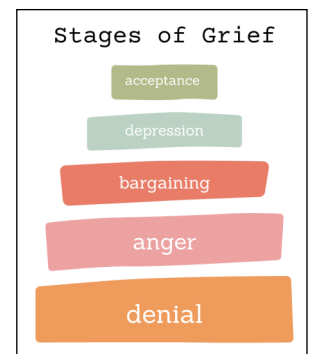
For those who work often with grief, there is a concept called Circles of Grief. It recognizes that whenever there is a loss, people with various relationships with the deceased will grieve the loss. However, some people are closer to the deceased than others. A general rule of thumb is that those closest to the loss are entitled to seek support from and complain about the loss to anyone. However, people from the middle and outer circles of grief ought not to seek support from those who are closer to the loss. Of course, all grief is to be honored, but we do not want to create extra burden on those closest to the loss.

Given that no one could be closer to the loss than Rev. Beth and Jon Wilterdink, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and your district superintendents have put together a grief support team to help all those who knew and loved Cora to find appropriate venues to express and explore their grief. Rev. Jared Gadowski Littleton, Rev. Jen Olin Hitt, and Rev. Seth Auman have made themselves available for this work. All three are United Methodist Clergy and have extensive training as either chaplains or pastoral counselors in walking with people in difficult times.

As a first stage, they are inviting all those who want to acknowledge the grief they are feeling to gather here at the church on Mon., Feb. 19, at 6:30 PM. The evening will start with a group meditation and worship experience. Then those gathered will break into smaller groups for open sharing about their grief.

In addition to this offering, all three pastors are making themselves available for individual one-on-one conversations. You may reach them in the following ways:

Rev. Jared Gadowski Littleton jaredlittleton@gmail.com
Rev. Jennifer Olin Hitt jolinhitt@gmail.com
Rev. Seth Auman sethauman@gmail.com



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REV. BETH

Counseling Centers

- Cornerstone of Hope
- Hospice of the Western Reserve- Grief Services and Support Groups
- Ravenwood Health- Geauga County
- Anchor Counseling- Mentor/Eastlake area
- North Coast Family Foundation- Middleburg Heights
- Dayspring Counseling- Stow
- Diana Yost- New Source Counseling (Telehealth)

Books for Adults:

Understanding Grief by Dr. Alan Wolfelt
Grieving With Hope: Finding Comfort as You Journey Through Loss
Healing After Loss by Martha Hickman
Tear Soup by Pat Schwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen
A Grace Disguised by Jerry Sittser
A Grief Observed by C.S.Lewis
Send My Roots Rain: A Companion on the Grief Journey by Kim Langley
The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessing for Imperfect Days by Kate Bowler

Books for Children

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst
Tear Soup by Pat Schwiebert and Chuck DeKlyen
Sad Isn't Bad: A Good-Grief Guidebook for Kids Dealing with Loss

IMPORTANT DATES

Eve Circle	Fri., Feb. 2 @ 10 AM
Care Team Zoom Mtg.	Tues., Feb. 6 @ 7 PM
God's Caring Community	Thurs., Feb. 8 @ 10:30 AM
Stephen Leaders Zoom Mtg.	Mon., Feb. 12 @ 10 AM
Mission Outreach Council Mtg.	Tues., Feb. 13 @ 6 PM
Finance Committee Mtg.	Tues., Feb. 13 @ 7 PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Fri., Feb. 16 @ 1 PM
M.U.M.S., Special Needs	Tues., Feb. 20 @ 6 - 7:30 PM
Trustees Mtg.	Tues., Feb. 20 @ 7 PM
Free Community Dinner	Fri., Feb. 23 @ 5 - 6:30 PM
House of Worship Safety Mtg.	Sat., Feb. 24 @ 9 AM (at Hope Ridge)
Executive Committee Mtg.	Tues., Feb. 27 @ 7 PM

CHILDREN/YOUTH

Karate	Thursdays @ 6:15 PM
Karate Demonstration Class	Thurs., Feb. 29 @ 6:15 PM
Tweens	See page 5
Young Servants	Not meeting this month
Youth Bible Study	Sundays @ 11 AM
Youth Group (Middle/High)	See page 5; for up to date schedule, go the church center app

MUSIC

9:30 Band Rehearsal	Wednesdays @ 7 PM
Hand Bell Rehearsal	Some Thursdays @ 6:15 PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM

MAYFIELD STAFF

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WE HAVE AN APP!

Our new church system has an app, called church center, for your smart phone, where you can update your personal info, find out what's happening at church, and request rooms for your groups.



Mayfield UM Church
7747 Mayfield Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-4006
mayfieldchurch.org

ASH WEDNESDAY



DRIVE-THRU ASHES

7 - 9 AM
11 AM - 1 PM

EVENING SERVICE
7 PM



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM
9:30 AM
11 AM

We are hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on

Wednesday, Feb. 21

1 - 6 PM: By Appointment Only

To sign up for an appointment:

1. Scan the QR code or go to redcrossblood.org
2. Enter Zip Code 44026
3. Scroll down to find Mayfield Church on Feb. 21.
4. Select the time you would like to donate.



American Red Cross



WAYS TO GIVE

IN-PERSON OR MAIL

Contributions may be placed in the baskets near the exits after the service.

MOBILE



ONLINE OR EFT

mayfieldchurch.org →

Give