



July 2026 Newsletter

Our mission is to offer Christ as an inclusive community of faith.

Dear Mayfield Church Family,

July is a month full of celebration. Summer is in full swing, families gather, schedules shift, and on this special 250th anniversary, our nation will pause and reflect on freedom, heritage, and identity. As Christians, this moment invites an important question: Who are we, first and foremost?

Our hope is that before anything else—before nationality, politics, preferences, or accomplishments—we belong to Christ.

The Apostle Paul writes, “There is no longer Jew or Greek... for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). In a world quick to divide and define, the Church is called to remember its truest identity: we are the body of Christ. Our first allegiance is to the kingdom of God, and from that identity flows how we love, serve, and live together.

Our identity in Christ was a part of what our youth reflected on during their week at Camp Aldersgate. They learned from Matthew, chapters 4-9, what it means to live as a follower of Jesus in our everyday life, and our youth were reminded that Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” That calling feels especially important in a season when the world around us can feel loud, divided, and uncertain.

Each of us can live our faith, finding ways to unite and connect right here at Mayfield Church: worship as one congregation on July 5th; invite a friend to join you for church; pray for the children, families, and leaders who will participate in VBS; be an ambassador for Christ at the community dinner, and sit and listen to someone else’s story you don’t know. May we live as Jesus’ disciples, practicing peacemaking in our lives.

As we claim our identity in Christ, I pray you will reflect on being shaped by God’s love and grace in the world, rather than letting the world shape you. Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:20, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” That doesn’t diminish where we come from—it deepens how we live here and now. May we continue to be rooted in Christ, formed by God’s grace, and known by the Holy Spirit’s love that we pour out.

**To add to the note from One Service on On July 5: we will gather for a meaningful worship together as one church family. In a season often centered on independence, it feels fitting that we begin the month remembering our dependence on God and our connection to one another.

In Christ's grace and service,

Rev. Beth Wilterdink
Lead Pastor



Church Events

From Sunday worship to special events - there's a place for everyone. Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you & experience Christ and all we have to offer!

Sun., July 5
One Service Sunday 10 am
250th America Celebration

Sun., July 12
Town Hall Meeting - Updates from
the Executive Committee (FH)
Between Services

Mon., July 13
New member Class 5-7 pm (FH)

Tue, July 21
MUMS Picnic (FH Hall) 6-7:30 pm

Sun., July 26
New Member Sunday
Celebration

July 27-31: VBS

Fri, July 31
Community Dinner 5-6:30 pm

Sun., Aug. 2
One Service Sun 10:00 am
All Church Picnic

Sun., Aug. 9: Holy Donut Day

Sun., Aug 16
Blessing of the Backpacks
Both Services

Sermon Series

Second Chances: Stories of restoration, repurposing, & reconciliation (COR 2016)

Human beings aren't perfect. We make mistakes, we mess up, and we hurt ourselves and others. We sometimes end up feeling unlovable, broken and worthless - like a piece of discarded furniture set out on the curb. But just like that ugly sofa, all we need is for someone to see our potential and give us a second chance. The message of the gospel is that no matter where we are or what we've done, God sees beyond our imperfections, loves us, forgives us and offers us a new life.

July 12 The Man Who Lived Among the Tombs

July 19 Jesus, Simon, & The "Sinful" Woman

July 26 Driven Men

August 2 Three Mothers in the Gospels

August 9 Jumping In Over Your Head



Women's Ministry Soulful Space

THE 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
9-10 AM | CHURCH GAZEBO (THRU AUG)

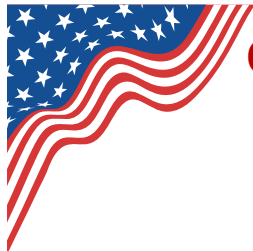
A gentle, welcoming circle to reconnect with yourself & each other. We'll light a candle, take a deep breath, and create space to simply be.

A beautiful opportunity to slow down, share, and be renewed in community with other women on this same journey of faith, balance, and restoration.



SCAN TO RSVP & RECEIVE UPDATES, OR CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE: 440.729.4006.





One Service Sunday Sunday July 5 @ 10 AM



America's 250th birthday, known as the Semiquincentennial, is July 4. Join us on Sunday, July 5 for one special service at 10 am to celebrate this holiday weekend.

Fun July Facts

July is named after Julius Caesar, who was born in this month.
The birthstone for July is the ruby, symbolizing love, courage, and devotion.

The flower for July is larkspur, representing positivity and strong bonds of love.

Did You Know?

The first Methodist societies in America were formed in the 1760s, decades before the United States became a nation. Methodists helped shape early American communities through preaching, education, and care for the poor.





Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, resident bishop of The Ohio Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church.



Flat Rock Homes Celebrates 160 Years:
An evening of Faith & Fellowship with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung.

Friday, July 31 at 5:30 PM

All are invited to celebrate the 160th anniversary of Flat Rock Homes with Bishop Hee-Soo Jung on 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 31. Flat Rock Homes is a long-time Conference Health & Well-Being partner (Fund 9174). Your ticket purchase includes a silent auction, heavy appetizers, and desserts. To purchase tables and tickets, call Kaylee at (419) 483-7330 ext. 1001.



Many hands are needed to make this a successful event. Please scan the QR code to sign up to help in one of the areas below! Friends and family are welcome to be a part of something great!!

Spiritual Depth Book Group | Friday, July 10
Meeting to discuss the book "Grateful by: Diana Butler Bass." Sandy Reddig will be leading the discussion.

S.A.M.I. | Wednesday, July 15 at 5:30 pm
Meeting at Back 40 BBQ in Middlefield.

**God's Caring Community
&
Eve Circle**

No meeting in July & August



Quarterly Town Hall Gathering, Sunday July 12
Between services, in Fellowship Hall
Join us for updates from the Executive Committee



Are you - or someone you know - curious about becoming a member of Mayfield UMC?

We invite you to join us for a New Members Class, where we'll explore what it means to follow Jesus and grow as His disciples. This is a relaxed and welcoming space to learn, ask questions, & connect.

This class will end with an invitation to join Mayfield Church. We hope you'll come and discover your place here!



Only 3 weeks away!! Vacation Bible School - Last week of July | Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, & colorful creatures. We'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, our creator, to find a safe place in life's storms.



YOUTH

6-12 Grades

Bags of Gold & Backyard Party
Sunday, July 12, 1-3 pm

Hiking, Snacks and Fun*
Sunday, July 19, 6-8 pm

Picnic*
Sunday, July 26, 6-8 pm

Canoe/Kayak Outing at Camp Hi*
Sunday, August 2, 1-5 pm

**off site*

Youth Bible Study | Every Wed. In July (starts 7/1) | 6-7 PM

Bible Study, in the Upper Youth Space, will be followed by ice cream or a meal out. Come get fed in body and soul. Groups will be divided into Jr. and Sr. High. Led by Mark Seyfried, Chelsea Whale, and Pastor Beth.

Mayfield Church kids

Sunday School

9:30 AM | Lower Level

Nursery: Infants - 2 year olds | Stepping Stones:
3 year olds-K

The Rock Worship:

Grades 1-5 (Closed the 1st Sun of the month.
Students, please join parents in worship)

11 AM | Lower Level : All ages

If you have a heart for children, enjoy teaching or holding little ones, we could use your help once a month in the nursery, Stepping Stones or The Rock!

For more info email Jess Martz at:
jessica@mayfieldchurch.org.



Mom's Bible Recap

Whether you've been able to join us during the school year or not for the Mom's Bible Recap Study, we invite you to join us this summer! We'll meet next on Sat., July 25 at 9 AM at the Coffee Post in Chesterland. Please see Jess if interested or for further details. We hope to see you there!

SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays at 11:00 am in The Lounge

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, SONGS, LEARNING & FUN!

Questions? Contact: Sandy Pavick
440-429-5029 | sandyinnewbury@aol.com



MUMS

Maple Leaf Community Residences

Annual Summer Indoor PICNIC

presented by
MUMS Special Needs Ministry & Maple Leaf Community Residences

JOIN US AS WE COME TOGETHER FOR AN INDOOR PICNIC:
FOOD, FUN AND LAUGHTER!
FREE!

TUESDAY 21 JULY

MAYFIELD CHURCH
6:00PM - 7:30PM
7747 MAYFIELD ROAD, CHESTERLAND

NPPOWER SERVICES with activities provided by Project Kindness

Senior High CYF - Christian Youth Fellowship

June 28 – July 3

For those entering Grade 9 thru age 20.

Malone University, Canton, OH

www.mycyf.com



ReachOut

July 12-18

For those entering Grade 8 thru high school grads.

Lakeside Chautauqua, Marblehead, OH

www.reachoutcamp.com

Lakeside Institute

July 19-25

For those entering Grade 9 thru those who will be 20 years old on the first day of camp.

Lakeside Chautauqua, Marblehead, OH

www.lakesideinstitute.wordpress.com



Communion - 2nd Sunday of the Month

July 12 | Aug 9 | Sept 13

Gluten-free wafers are available which are located on the stand beside the servers.

All are Welcome!

4th of July Prayer

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. —Joshua 1:7

For our country, O God, I am so thankful. For our immigrant ancestors who came here across an ocean that seemed so wide; for their years of struggle against obstacles that I have never faced; for the sacrifices of others who built our country and defended it against all the things that would go wrong; for opportunities in my own lifetime to do something that would really make a difference; for a place in which to raise a family, to seek to do well in my job, to worship You in freedom, and to cherish the hopes and dreams for the years ahead—I am, O God, deeply thankful.

NEW GROUP

Grief to Life Support Ministry

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK THIS JOURNEY ALONE.

6 PM | THURSDAYS
Starting July 2

This group will be a short term group meeting to begin the process of understanding our grief.

- If you have lost a loved one,
- had a relationship change,
- moved, changed jobs....
- all of these can cause grief.

You are welcome to join us each week as we support each other on this journey.

Join Us!

SCAN TO SIGN UP

SUPPORT
Find encouragement and compassion.

SHARE
Share your story in a safe and caring space.

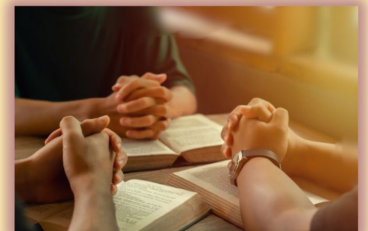
HEAL
Discover hope and healing together.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
PSALM 147:3

For questions, please see
Pastor Becky

Spiritual Depth Book Group

A welcoming community for anyone longing to grow deeper in faith, wisdom, and spiritual understanding through thoughtful reading and meaningful conversation.



Join us to explore books that inspire reflection, challenge our perspectives, and encourage a closer walk with God.



2026 UMC East Ohio Annual Conference Report

By Denny Nelson and Ted Diadiun

Each year, clergy and lay delegates from the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church gather for fellowship, inspiration, information and participation. We discuss, question, debate and vote on issues large and small. Some years the conference features weighty, significant issues; some years not. This year's conference, held June 10-13 on the pastoral grounds of the College of Wooster, was somewhere in the middle.

While there were no momentous decisions as has been the case at some recent conferences, this year's gathering set the stage for what will assuredly be a big one next year, scheduled for the week of June 7-13 at the same venue. That will be when the delegation will vote on whether to consolidate Ohio's two conferences – east and west – into one. Delegates to the West Ohio conference, which will be held the week before at Capital University in Bexley, will hold a similar vote, but the results will not be released until after East Ohio delegates cast their ballots.

Our state has long been divided into two conferences by a rough diagonal line through the state, running approximately from Port Clinton on Lake Erie, southeast through Marietta to the Ohio River. The number of UMC churches and members in the state in past years would have made trying to have one statewide conference unwieldy – but following the disaffiliation of many churches in 2023 and the accompanying reduction in membership, those numbers have been drastically reduced.

In 2018, for example, our annual conference hosted 1,455 attendees (691 clergy, 764 laity). This year's official attendance was 598 (288 clergy, 310 laity). The West Ohio conference has had similar drop in attendance, which has led to a two-year study on how to consolidate administration of the two conferences into one. This year's conference featured updates on the process, and the final proposal is expected to be presented next year for a vote.

Already, both conferences are led by the same bishop, who is in his second year in Ohio: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. Bishop Jung, a native of South Korea, has introduced an invigoratingly international flavor to the conferences. Lead preachers in the three-day gathering were Bishop Jung, Bishop Ruby-Nell M. Estrella, the first female bishop in the Philippines, and Rev. Kil-Sang Yoon, a retired elder who was also born in South Korea. Ray Buckley, a renowned Native American speaker and Spirituality Director, delivered afternoon messages of history and hope in all three afternoon sessions.

One familiar speaker was the beloved Bishop John L. Hopkins, who led the conference for 12 years before retiring in 2016. Bishop Hopkins delivered a stirring, inspirational message to the new clergy who were commissioned and ordained.

A signature portion of the conference each year is the proposal of resolutions, which are not legally binding but are expressions of conference values and recommendations. Resolutions require a two-thirds majority for passage. This year we voted on 10 resolutions, with the body supporting all but one.

Resolutions that passed proposed support for a "Green Church" movement; the creation of an Ohio area substance abuse task force, opposition to so-called Christian Nationalism; urging each congregation to submit annual accessibility reports for people with disabilities; urging people to do justice and love mercy in regard to ICE raids targeting immigrant populations; supporting Christian opposition to cruel treatment of immigrants by the U.S. government; urging churches to welcome the stranger and the immigrant; supporting gender inclusivity and the sacred worth of transgender and non-binary people; and including associate members and local pastors in equitable representation.

A resolution calling on the conference to endorse the Kairos Palestine II document accusing Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing received majority support, but did not reach the two-thirds level and failed to be approved.

You can find more detailed information on the resolutions and the conference as a whole at tinyurl.com/2026UMC. Delegates to this year's conference from Mayfield were Pastors Rev. Beth Wilterdink and Rev. Becky Stephens, and lay delegates Denny Nelson and Ted Diadiun.

Mustard Seed Update

Our Mustard Seed Ministry has been supporting many of the outreach opportunities made possible through our Summer of Service initiative and Helping Hand Fund. This year, your gifts have helped local food banks, UMCOR, Nehemiah Mission, St. Herman's House, and our own Little Food Pantry provide food, housing, and other vital assistance throughout our community. As these ministries continue to meet growing needs, our Mustard Seed Fund is feeling the strain. We invite you to consider including Mustard Seed in your regular giving. Even a small monthly gift can make a lasting impact, and one-time donations are also greatly needed to help sustain our mission efforts. Jesus reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed—small, but with the potential to grow into something extraordinary (Matthew 13:31–32).

Thank you for helping us plant, nurture, and grow God's work in our community.



SUMMER OF SERVICE

Serving Others in Jesus' Name



Our Summer Mission program is going strong as we head into July!

Putting our faith into action is at the very heart of our Christian calling. By volunteering to serve through programs supporting communities both near and far, every person in the church has the opportunity to serve and to live their calling more faithfully. We're excited to continue to build connections with the organizations listed below, along with many others, and see the joy of God's work in our midst. Join us to discover meaningful ways to serve both in our local community and around the world. There's a place for everyone to get involved!

Visit the Summer of Service table in Fellowship Hall following both Services.

Prepared Meal Train Volunteer Opportunities

GFRM is a non-profit, faith-based organization that relies on community support to continue its work. Their purpose is to serve and glorify God through Christ-centered outreach of love and compassion that strives to meet the physical, emotional, & spiritual needs of disadvantaged men, women, and children.

Wed., July 29 | Sun., Aug 9 | Wed., Aug 19

Sign up to provide a prepared item for 8 adults: Salad, Side Dish, Main Dish or Dessert.



Middlefield Food Pantry

Make a tangible difference in our community by helping unload the food delivery truck, verifying deliveries & more at the Middlefield Pantry! Volunteers play a vital role in ensuring food is distributed quickly & efficiently to those in need.

When:

The 3rd Monday of each month
Flexible 1-2 hour shifts between 2-4 PM.

Where: Middlefield Food Pantry at First UMC



The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland serves low income persons & neighborhoods by providing community enhancement, home maintenance & targeted programming. Consider graciously helping prepare or serving a meal to those in need.

Aug. 15: Help cook a meal

Aug. 18: Help serve a meal

See Jan Petrik to sign up and for more details.

Mentor Headlands Beach Clean Up!

July 15

Join us for our 2nd Annual Mayfield Church Mentor Beach Clean Up Day! 9601 Headlands Rd, Mentor, OH 44060

The hours for the cleanup are 9am - noon. You can come and go as you please. You do not have to stay the whole 3 hours. Volunteer individually or as a group!

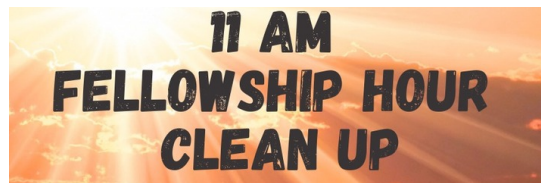


JULY COLLECTION ITEMS



Canned chili
Canned beef stew
Canned fish

DONATION BIN LOCATED AT THE MAIN
ENTRANCE BY THE COAT RACK



As we head into the summer months we've reversed our original plan to take a sabbath from fellowship hour food. We've had gracious volunteers who believe in the importance of this time for our church community to sit down & care for one another. If you are willing to serve please scan to view the schedule and pick your date, or sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Volunteer responsibilities include:

- Putting away or taking home the leftover food
- Wiping down all used surfaces in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall
 - Cleaning up any spills
- Rinsing out coffee pots and drink dispensers

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

Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Lead Pastor
beth@mayfieldchurch.org

Rev. Becky Stephens
Associate Pastor
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Jessica Martz
Children's Ministry Director
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Laurie Jackson
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Director
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Darlene Janke
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Sarah Dixon
Modern Worship Director
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Joel Logan
Choir and Bell Director
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Steve Vogel
Facility Manager
steve@mayfieldchurch.org

Patty Wenzel
Heartland Childcare Director
patty@mayfieldchurch.org

Jillian ToomeyWenzel
Heartland Childcare Interim
Director

2026 Leadership Recruitment

As our Nominations Committee begins to pray & discern about the leadership of the church for 2027, we invite members interested in serving a specific area to share your spiritual gifts & passions for the ministry of Jesus Christ at MUMC. For full overview & to review the various committees, visit: bit.ly/4eT6KNj

What Books Are On Your Nightstand?
The Promise of America: Reflections on our Enduring Ideals,
Presented by The National Constitution Center
- Lynn Woods



West Geauga Kiwanis Independence Day Parade

Starts at St. Anselm Church and continues south on 306 to the West G High School. Float & car judging begins at 9:30 am & the parade starts promptly at 11:00 am.



Since mid-April, our volunteers have planted & transplanted nearly 700 plants representing 16 different vegetables! June's dry weather meant lots of extra watering, and despite our fencing, the deer have still enjoyed a few snacks—but that's part of gardening. The garden is thriving, and we expect to begin harvesting soon. Fresh produce will help supply our monthly Community Meal and be shared with local food banks to support our neighbors. Interested in helping? We always welcome volunteers for watering and weeding—essential work that keeps the garden growing. Contact Pete Simmelink or Gabe Wright to get involved.

SUMMER OFFICE ADMIN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In our very busy summer season, we're looking for a few additional volunteers to assist with office administration and miscellaneous support tasks. Between summer programs, camps, and the increased activity around the church, our office and Heartland's office teams could use some extra hands. If you have a few hours available during the week & would like to help please contact Laurie at the Church Office: 440-729-4006

Volunteer opportunities may include:

Answering phones and greeting visitors - Data entry & admin support Events & program support - Various office projects

Church Office Summer Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm, Fridays by appointment.
The Office will be closed on July 6 & Heartland on July 3.

We Extend Our Deepest Sympathies to:

The friends & family of Gayla Schriefer, who passed away on Friday, June 5 and friends & family of and Deidra "Dee" Juday who passed away on June 8, 2026.

Your gifts, joined with the gifts of others, makes a significant impact in the lives of individuals & communities, both near & far. Thank you to those who have helped make an impact!

Ways to Give



Mail a Check to:
Mayfield Church
7747 Mayfield Rd
Chesterland, OH 44026



**Cash or Check
Service**
Collection Baskets



Electronic Fund Transfer
Contact: Darlene
440.729.4006 X106



Electronically*
Venmo or
mayfieldchurch.org/give
*Service fee may apply