



Mayfield Church

March 2025 Newsletter

Rev. Beth Wilterdink, Lead Pastor • Rev. Dr. Diane Bell, Interim Associate Pastor

Embracing Holy Week with Critical Thought

I recently was honored to learn one of our members just completed reading the New Interpreter’s Bible, which includes the NIV and NRSV translations of the Bible, as well as commentary and application. This journey has taken this individual 16 years, but it has allowed her to reach a personal goal and grow spiritually as she has studied the Bible.

As we continue our lifelong journey of faith, I encourage our community of faith to study the scripture and root ourselves in both devotional and critical reading of the scripture. And, especially, to know the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, as they allow us to know Christ. It is essential to immerse ourselves in the stories of Jesus, as they serve as both our guide and inspiration in following Him. The gospels offer a clear picture of Jesus' life, teachings, and the path He calls us to walk.

This year, as a congregation, we will focus on reading the Gospel of Mark, which many scholars believe was the oldest gospel written, and by doing so, we’ll complete our exploration of all four gospels.

Understanding the life and mission of Jesus through these texts helps us grow as His followers, shaping the way we live and love in His name.

At the beginning of Lent, we will provide a reading plan so that, together as a community of Christ, we can read the gospel as one, reflecting on its message and applying it to our lives. Engaging with these scriptures deepens our relationship with Christ and strengthens our commitment to live according to His example.

Then, in worship and our Growth Groups, we will move through Lent differently than usual. We will start with Palm Sunday and journey through each day of Holy Week; we invite you to reflect deeply on the story of Jesus' final days. This year, several Growth Groups will explore the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan—a thought-provoking examination of the events leading up to the crucifixion and a study of Mark’s gospel.

Borg and Crossan present a compelling narrative of the last week of Jesus' life, blending historical context with theological insight. They challenge and invite us to consider alternative perspectives on familiar stories, which help us reflect on the spiritual significance of these events and the backdrop of the religious and political leaders in Jesus' time.

As a community, we recognize that critical thinking is vital to our faith journey. We do not have to agree with every perspective we encounter. However, a different perspective may open the gospel for someone to receive Christ, who has rejected Christ or the gospel message in the past.

The Last Week offers a chance to engage with new ideas and ask deeper questions about the life and death of Jesus, which can help us see Jesus' impact in our lives. Let this season of Lent be a time for open dialogue and personal growth as we walk with Christ through the challenges of Holy Week and the sacred text of the gospel of Mark.

May this journey strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding.

Rev. Beth Wilterdink
Lead Pastor



Mayfield United Methodist Church

7747 Mayfield Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

440-729-4006
www.mayfieldchurch.org

Worship in-person and online on
Sundays

9:30 AM Modern Service
11 AM Traditional Service

Schedule For Drive Thru Ashes

MARCH 5, 2025

7-9 am - Rev. Beth Wilterdink

11-1 pm - Rev. Dr. Diane Bell

Ash Wednesday Traditional Service
7:00 pm



Lent Schedule:

Ash Wednesday

March 5:

7 PM: Evening Service

Palm Sunday

April 13:

9:30 AM: Modern Service

11 AM: Traditional Service*

Maundy Thursday

April 17:

7 PM: Evening Service

Good Friday

April 18:

Noon: Holy Communion

Noon - 7 PM Prayer Vigil

7 PM: Evening Service

Easter Sunday

April 20:

9:30 AM: Modern Service*

11 AM: Traditional Service*

* Service is livestreamed



1. What does the term 'Lent,' which comes from 'lencten,' mean?

- A. Sacrifice
- B. Time
- C. Spring
- D. March Madness

2. How were ashes imposed in the early church?

- A. The shape of a cross was drawn on the forehead.
- B. Ashes were smeared across closed eyelids.
- C. Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.

3. Why do people give things up for Lent?

- A. To follow the example of Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness
- A. To help us focus on prayer and devotions
- B. To give the acquired savings to the poor
- C. All of the above

Answers:

1. **Spring.** The root word means "long days" and probably refers to the increasing daylight at this time of year.
2. **Ashes were poured or sprinkled over the head.** In the early days of the church, pastors did not dip their thumbs into the ashes to draw the shape of a cross on your forehead. Instead, they poured or sprinkled ashes over your head.
3. **All of the above.** Many people give up something for Lent like chocolate, social media, shopping, etc. These are modern-day adaptations of the spiritual discipline of fasting or abstinence.

We Welcome Associate Pastor of Mayfield UMC



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that after consulting with District Superintendents Rev. Angela Lewis and Rev. Bruce Hitchcock, Bishop Hee-Soo Jung intends to appoint Reverend Rebecca Stephens as Associate Pastor of Mayfield United Methodist Church, **effective July 1, 2025.**

In the coming months, you'll learn more about Pastor Becky. For now, we'd like to share most of the last paragraph of a Theological Statement she wrote and shared with our committee:

Church is the place where we learn to live together. ... Church is the place where we prepare disciples to share their faith through their life experiences. Church is the place where we come when our hearts are heavy, and we find support in our weariness. Church is the place we can laugh together, cry together, be anxious together and love and support one another. Church is wherever the people of God gather.

We welcome Pastor Becky and her daughter Olivia. Please pray for them as Pastor Becky prepares to begin her ministry here and join our mission to “offer Christ.”



MAYFIELD CHURCH

Executive Committee Announcement

To our congregation: After many years of discussion, disagreements and votes, our denomination decided at last year’s General Conference of the United Methodist Church to amend our Book of Discipline by ending the ban on openly gay and lesbian clergy, and allowing celebrations of same sex marriages to be performed in our churches.

As Bishop Tracy S. Malone announced in June of 2024 at the East Ohio Annual Conference, that does not mean individual churches are required to celebrate and perform such marriages. Each church, and each pastor, can make those decisions for themselves. Like many of you, the individual members of our Executive Committee, upon whose shoulders these decisions fall, have disparate views of these changes. After much prayerful consideration over the intervening months, the Executive Committee in collaboration with Rev. Beth Wilterdink has decided that such requests will be received in the same spirit and with the same questions and interviews that have met traditional marriage requests over the last many years.

As we write this, there have been no requests for a same-sex marriage to be performed at Mayfield UMC. But we believe that we should make our position clear to the congregation before any individual requests are made.

We hope you will receive this decision with the same loving and caring spirit that we have all come to expect at Mayfield United Methodist Church. And as always, anyone who has questions or comments regarding this or anything else is encouraged to discuss them with Pastor Beth, or any member of the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee serving both 2024-2025: Phil David, Ted Diadiun, Bryan Javorek, Neil Johnson, Sally Matthews, Denny Nelson, Steve Saneda, Ben Sasse', Rachel Smith, Bart Steigerwald, Stephanie Wright.

From the Pastor's Desk

As I write this, I first want you to hear that something changed last year, but not everything changed. **Who we are did not change, whose we are did not change, and our call as Christ's body did not change.** Think about our mission to offer Christ, as an inclusive community of faith that worships God, cares for people, equips disciples, and works to transform the world. This is who we are, and this is what we are about. Which leaves me with a note, that as your pastor, and a pastor of Jesus Christ, I need to

share. Last year, the United Methodist Church removed language in the Book of Discipline around the LGBTQ+ community. This language caused pain to people's hearts and damage to their spirits, as they questioned who they were as a beloved child of God. As I write this, I know that we are not all of one mind on this decision of our larger denomination. However, I pray that our congregation is of one heart in our mission and vision which includes drawing people together toward Christ's radical love and God's grace.

I have lived in the world and the church long enough to hear many different viewpoints and many different arguments around the Biblical basis for what we believe on many different issues. I have heard hurtful and damaging arguments that one side or the other doesn't follow the scriptures closely enough. I'm tired of the fighting against one another, and pray that we will fight for one another. I pray we will join in Christ's work, as I shared in our vision for the future. **May we unite around the essentials of our Christian faith** and UMC doctrine, not allowing the non-essential doctrines or theology to divide us.

The world needs our witness of a loving, grace-filled community, that is for people to have healthy relationships with one another, even when we disagree. The world needs our witness that our families are different for many reasons, and yet, we can love one another in our differences.

I've tried to stay away from this conversation, not because I don't think it is important, but because it has divided us for too long. Let us come together, around one another, loving one another, supporting and standing with our LGBTQ+ brothers, sisters, children, friends, and family, letting them know that Christ invites them to the communion table with us. Christ invites them into small groups and work missions with us. Christ invites them into loving marriages with **God at the center of their lives. May we recognize each person is a beloved child of God, loved and cared for, able to serve the church however they have been gifted and called by God.** May we recognize that we are all children of God, loved and cared for, regardless of sexual orientation. May we recognize each of us is a child of God, and can be a part of a loving marriage in a loving and welcoming church community.

Our work as Jesus' followers is to invite, to work and live alongside people in order to better love them and grow in our likeness of Christ together. Our judgements can be left to God, **and God's love can flow out to each other as we encounter that we are all invited, called, and included in the full participation of the life of the church.**



March's Geauga County Food Bank collection is noodles/pasta, mac & cheese, pasta sauce. Pantry Guidelines

Please keep in mind, we must maintain strict food safety and health guidelines by not accepting the following:

Expired or short dated items | Rusty, leaking, bulging or dented cans.
Crushed or open boxes, bags, packages or bottles | Illegible content labels.

Happy Birthday!



Rev. Dr. Diane Bell!

2/17



Carol Neff

3/2



Join Pastor Beth and other members of the congregation for a monthly time of prayer for Mayfield UMC, our leadership, and the community around us.

Every first Tuesday of the month from 8:30 to 9 AM.

Next month, meet in **Fellowship Hall** on **Tues., March 3** and we will walk around the building.

I know that some of you work during this time, don't worry- we know you are praying with us.

Send me a quick note of your prayer.
Beth@mayfieldchurch.org



Sunday, March 9
Set clocks ahead 1 hour before bed!

Mayfield Church Scholarship Form 2025



To apply for these scholarships, someone should be actively participating in the ministries of Mayfield UMC. There are two sections, the first for the Don and Bonnie Cummings Scholarship and the second for the John Gerber Scholarship.

Scan to learn more!

[Applications need to be submitted by end of day Sunday, April 27, 2025](#)

We Extend Our Deepest Sympathies to

Lisa Gross, her family and friends on the passing of her father John F. Groeneweg on February 12, 2025.

John Wilson and family on the passing of his wife Marcia Schettler February 15, 2025. Service details to come.

Annamaria Wolfe, on the passing of her father, Michael Tradowsky, on January 8.

Mary Bronson, on the passing of her mother, Dorothea Fricke, on January 8.





SKY ZONE
TRAMPOLINE PARK

Tweens
Sky Zone in Highland Heights
Saturday March 8, 11 AM

Sunday School

9:30 AM on the Lower Level

Nursery (infants to 2 year olds)
Stepping Stones (3 year olds to K)
The Rock Worship (grades 1 to 5)
The Rock is closed the first Sunday of the month and students are welcome to join parents in worship.

9:30 in the Worship Center
Youth (grades 6 to 12)

Students meet in the last two rows on the left side of the Worship Center and worship together. Then head to the youth room before the sermon for the lesson.

11 AM on the Lower Level
Childcare for all ages.

YOUTH



Scan to learn more!

Lent in a Bag | Sunday, March 2, 6–8 PM
Monster's Hockey Game | Sat., March 8, 2–8:40 PM
 - RSVP to Adam Neff
Board Game Night | Sunday, March 16, 6–8pm
Camp Aldersgate | June 15-20—* registration opens in April
Middle School Mission Mashup | Fri. June 6 & Sat., June 7 Grades 4-8

Join us for an Open House



Tour the sites, talk to the staff, and see what is being offered for Summer Camps 2025.

Aldersgate	Sunday, May 4th - Open House and Summer Preview from 2 - 5 p.m.
Asbury	Sunday, April 13th - Open House and Summer Preview from 2 - 5 p.m.
Wanake	Saturday, April 26th - Resurrection Egg Hunt & Camp Preview Day - 2 - 6 p.m.



Join us on the above dates or contact the site directly.
Go to www.EOCSummercamps.org for more information

VBS

July 28—August 1 | 9 AM - Noon
For 4 year old preschoolers through those who graduated 5th grade.

Registration opens next month for kids & volunteers. Stay tuned for more details!

Easter Card Making Class

God's Caring Community

Thursday, March 13
10:30 AM Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$5.00
Includes 2 cards & lite lunch

RSVP by 3/10 |
440-729-4006, ext. 104

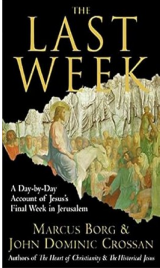
Only 25 spots available!



Lent Growth Groups

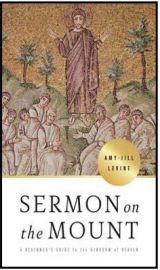


The church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. We are excited to offer Four Growth Groups to help draw us closer to Jesus during Lent. The groups are open to everyone. We will, also, be reading through the Gospel of Mark during Lent.



The Last Week By: Marcus J. Borg and John Crossan

Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. The Last Week depicts Jesus giving up his life to protest power without justice and to condemn the rich who lack concern for the poor. In this vein, at the end of the week Jesus marches up Calvary, offering himself as a model for others to do the same when they are confronted by similar issues.



Sermon on the Mount By: Amy-Jill Levine

The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, contains some of Jesus's most profound and most memorable teachings. What might these teachings have meant to his disciples and to the others who first heard them? How do they enhance our reading of the rest of the Gospel of Matthew, and how do they speak across the centuries to listeners today? How, if we pay careful attention to his words, does Jesus provide us a road map to living as God would have us live?

For more info or to register scan or visit: mayfieldchurch.org/lentgrowthgroups



GARDEN MINISTRY FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST
MARCH 30
 FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES




MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST
 EVERY 3RD SATURDAY
 8:30-9:30 AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



Enjoy eggs, breakfast potatoes, and of course, bacon! Men are invited to stay after for a prayer meeting. Contact Jon Wilterdink with questions at jwilterdink@gmail.com or 440-729-4006.

DANCE WITH ROCKABILITY



MUMS Formal Winter Ball
 SAT MARCH 8 2025 6-8 P.M.
 Food! Beverages! Fun!
 Mayfield Church
 7747 Mayfield Road
 Chesterland, Ohio
 Donations accepted
 NPowerServices.com

Join our special needs ministry for a fun filled evening of dancing, food, drinks and more! Dress up in your formal attire or come casual! **Contact Sandy Pavick with questions or to volunteer.**
 440-429-5029 sandyinnewbury@aol.com

Mayfield Staff

Rev. Beth Wilterdink
Lead Pastor
beth@mayfieldchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Diane Bell
Interim Associate Pastor

Laurie Jackson
Communications & Admin Director
laurie@mayfieldchurch.org

Darlene Janke
Financial Administrator
darlene@mayfieldchurch.org

Jessica Martz
Children's Ministry Director
jessica@mayfieldchurch.org

Carol Neff
Organist
carol@mayfieldchurch.org

Sarah Dixon
Modern Worship Director
sarah@mayfieldchurch.org

Joel Logan
Choir and Bell Director
joel@mayfieldchurch.org

Steve Vogel
Facilities Manager
steve@mayfieldchurch.org

Patty Wenzel
Heartland Childcare Director
patty@mayfieldchurch.org



Visit mayfieldchurch.org/asp
For important info, deadlines and more!



SCAN TO SEE OUR PARTNER SCHOOL
ROWLAND ELEMENTARY'S EVENTS AND
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.



FREE
COMMUNITY
DINNER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 5-6:30PM
JOIN US FOR CHILI & CORN BREAD!

MAYFIELD CHURCH

Bring your friends and family or come and make new friends!

Free Community Dinner, no need to RSVP.
Fellowship Hall

The flyer features a teal background with a white paper napkin in the bottom left corner. On the napkin are a silver knife and fork. The Mayfield Church logo is on the napkin. The text 'FREE COMMUNITY DINNER' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'COMMUNITY' in colorful block letters. Below it, the date and time are listed, followed by the event details. At the bottom, there is an invitation to bring friends and family, and information about the free dinner and location.

Your gifts, joined with the gifts of others, makes a significant impact in the lives of individuals and communities, both near and far.

IN-PERSON OR MAIL
Contributions may be placed in the baskets near the exits after the service.

Mayfield Church
7747 Mayfield Road
Chesterland, OH 44026



Electronic Fund Transfer
Please email [Darlene Janke](mailto:DarleneJanke) or call 440-729-4006 x106

Online
www.mayfieldchurch.org | Give