

A Light in the Country

God has made my darkness turn to light -Psalm 18:28

Pastor Lauri can be reached at:

815.757.5917

PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

You can also find her
at the church on Sundays at 10am



If you haven't met me yet...hello! I'm Pastor Lauri and I am very happy to be serving alongside you. I have been intrigued by the line on Mayfield's website and on the sign at Glidden and Aldrich Roads — "A Light in the Country." I hope to hear the history behind this, but meanwhile it has brought to mind how often light is mentioned in the Bible. God created light, Jesus is the light of the world, God's word is a light to my path, let your light shine before others just to name a few. I recently came across "God has made my darkness turn to light." How appropriate to remember that when life seems uncertain, when we are weary from the pandemic, when we cannot imagine what the future holds—**in all circumstances, God brings light and energy and joy.** As we embark on this journey together at Mayfield, I know God's light will shine on us. And I have no doubt we will be astounded at the blessings we will find as we share God's love with each other, with the community, and with the world!

Please feel free to reach out to me via email, or phone, or text. I also work part-time as an accountant, so I may not be able to reply immediately but I will respond within two days. If it is an urgent need, please say so and I'll make sure to reach out quickly.

As we settle in together, I will have three questions for each of you. (1) What is something that Mayfield used to do that you wish we would do again? (2) What is something we are doing now that you like or do not like? (3) What is something new or different that you wish we would do? Dream big! I am interested to hear what you have to say!

Welcome Pastor Lauri

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ has called Pastor Lauri Allen to be their pastor and teacher effective September 1, 2021. She is not a stranger to Mayfield Church! She has been doing pulpit supply for us since March!

She previously served as pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Genoa, and has provided pulpit supply to many churches across northern Illinois.

Pastor Lauri graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary and Benedictine University. She currently serves on both the Stewardship Committee and the Fitness Review Response Team for the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

A long-time supporter of animal rescues, Lauri shares her home with cat Harlowe and dog Clancy, She has one adult daughter who is an artist in Spokane, WA. Lauri enjoys reading, traveling, and a good cup of coffee. She is always ready for an adventure with family and friends, no matter how big or how small!

Engage the earth in conversation;
it's happy to share what it knows.

Job 12:8a



Sunday School returns!

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Understanding and caring for God's world is important. Diana Swanson, along with teen assistant Hope, will explore a different aspect of creation with the kids each week. Don't miss out on this great chance to have fun, make crafts, and enjoy yummy treats! Beginning Sunday, September 12th at 9am in the Waystation or parsonage garage. Sunday School will be outside until the weather becomes too cold.



A monarch butterfly nectaring on an asclepius tuberosa (butterflyweed) bloom in the Mayfield Monarch Waystation. The Waystation, located next to the parsonage, is open to enjoy during daylight hours.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE ILLINOIS CONFERENCE?

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ serves the upper two-thirds of Illinois. There are five associations within the Conference; we are located in the Prairie Association. There is a Conference Minister (Molly Carlson), and three Associate Conference Ministers (Kathy Lawes serves Prairie). Contributions to OCWM (Our Churches Wider Mission) fund the IL Conference, including the staff salaries.



Join us on Wednesday evenings for **Bible Study!** Meetings are held via Zoom

Did you know? Three out of four people attend a church for the first time because they were

>> **INVITED.**

Yet less than half of church members say they have invited someone in the last year. (pre-pandemic statistic)

Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary

COMING UP...

Sunday 9/5—**Communion** will be celebrated. Bring your own elements or feel free to take one of our individually packaged juice/wafer.

Sunday 9/12—**RALLY DAY!** Outdoor worship and pot luck (table service, beverage, and main course provided). Sunday School kicks off with a theme of Creation Stewardship!

Saturday 10/2 - **Drive Through Blessing of the Animals** 10am to noon. Bring your pets or just a photo!

Sunday 10/3—**World Communion Sunday.** Bring your own elements or feel free to take one of our individually packaged juice/wafer.

Sunday 10/** - **Installation of Pastor Lauri**

Saturday 10/30—**Fall Meeting of Prairie Association** via Zoom on October 30th from 9:30 to 11:30



Confirmation Classes

- Are you between 7th and 12th grades?
- Do you have questions about God and religion?
- Are you interested in exploring how the Bible can be important today?
- Do you wonder how you can make a difference in the world?

So many questions! Let's talk about them and see what we can discover together. A confirmation class will be forming soon. Contact Pastor Lauri to sign up.

HERE'S AN **EXCITING** OPPORTUNITY!

Liturgists (readers) are invited to lead the Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication each Sunday. There is a sign up sheet next to the offering box. Both kids and adults are welcome in this role!

The Neighbors in Need offering will be taken on 10/3. This UCC fund benefits justice and compassionate ministries.

WELCOME! Mayfield Congregational Church UCC celebrates a rich history in DeKalb County, Illinois. Our congregation invites you and your family to join our community in worship and service to others. Mayfield Church is an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation, which means that LGBT persons are welcome to participate fully in the life of our church. Children are encouraged to share Sunday services with us in the pews.

Mayfield Church is handicapped accessible. A lift services both floors; use the entrance to the right of the double glass doors. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins and hymns are provided on request.

Worship services are at 10am.

Children's Sunday School is at 9am (beginning Sept. 19th)

For everyone's safety, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing for all activities.

Questions? Contact the church or Pastor Lauri. We'd be happy to help!

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ
28405 Church Road, Sycamore IL 60178
815.895.5548 info@MayfieldChurchUCC.org
www.MayfieldChurchUCC.org

Pastor Lauri Allen
PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org
815.757.5917