

A Light in the Country

God is light, and in God is no darkness at all –I John 1:5

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



The days are getting chillier and the daylight hours shorter. Fall is definitely here!

My cousin took the photograph of this wet road; she agreed to let me share it with you (thanks, Sharon!). It captures how so many people are feeling this year. Even though you can see brightness and green trees ahead, the dark, bare branches dominate. We may be continuing along the road, but we have moved off to the side and are not participating fully. For many, this is because we have lost loved ones during the past two years—a time when the pandemic has made observing public services difficult if not impossible. Grief is always a process, but the rituals of visitations, memorials, and funerals provide community to lean on. Not being able to share the experience with friends and family can leave us adrift, walking on the side of the road. Please know that you are not alone.



Photo credit: Sharon Cox

I would like to invite you to a **Service of Remembrance** for anyone you are missing. Jen Conley and I will be hosting a time in December for all of us to join together at Mayfield, to share together, grieve together, and rejoice together. We are still arranging a specific date and details; we will let you know soon.

In God there is no darkness at all. There is light ahead, and we walk the road together. Blessings, Pastor Lauri

Just as you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me. –Matt. 25:40

The United Church of Christ, collaboratively, has now relieved over \$71.2 million in medical debt in a little more than two years. Connie Larkman reported in UCC News on October 18, 2021. This is being done through a partnership with the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt which **buys medical debt from collection agencies** for pennies on the dollar. “Our Conferences and churches have been the catalyst for this movement toward medical debt relief for so many families in our regions,” said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, associate general minister. It’s mind-blowing, and a faithful reminder of what WE can accomplish when we work together.” What a gift to erase debt for people who are unlikely to ever be able to pay it off on their own!

Our Illinois Conference is currently conducting a campaign to raise \$100,000 in order to wipe out \$10 million of medical debt.

We can join in!

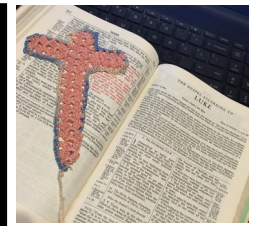
and make a difference for those struggling under the weight of collection calls due to health care costs. Simply write a check to Mayfield UCC, mark it for “medical debt relief” and drop it in the collection box (or mail it to 28405 Church Rd, Sycamore IL 61078). All checks must be received by Thanksgiving so that our Treasurer can pass the money on to the Illinois Conference before the campaign closes.



Installation and Anniversary Celebration
October 24, 2021



You are welcome and encouraged to join the Mayfield **Bible Study** group, which meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings are informal and discussion-based, and everyone can offer their questions and ideas. In November we are continuing to read and discuss the **Gospel of Luke**. Interested? Please email or call Mayfield Church to get on the church email list and then check your email early each week for the Bible passages and the Zoom link for that week. We hope to see you online!



COMING UP... *Change your clocks on Nov 7th!*

Sunday 11/7—Communion. Bring your own elements or feel free to take one of our individually packaged juice/wafer.

Thursday 11/18—Council meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday 11/16—Saturday 11/20—IL Conference Annual Meeting via Zoom

Sunday 11/21—Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Thursday 11/25—Thanksgiving Day

Sunday 11/28—First Sunday of Advent

Saturday 12/4—Popcorn and a Movie (time TBD)

Sunday 12/5—Communion. Bring your own bread and drink or feel free to take one of our individually packaged juice/wafer

Thursday 12/15—Council meeting 6:30pm

Sunday 12/19—Merry Ukulele Christmas at Mayfield at 4pm

Friday 12/24—Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 12/26—Cocoa and Carols!

Sunday 1/9—Mayfield Annual Meeting

Pastor Lauri is available to meet in person, via Zoom, or on the phone



Plan to be in church on **Sunday, November 21st** as we recognize our volunteers! This is Thanksgiving Sunday and a very appropriate time to express our gratitude to those who share their time and gifts to keep our church running.

TOYS FOR TOTS

We will be collecting toys and gift cards again this year, and are hoping to be able to wrap gifts, too. More info to come when available.

Nov/Dec Sermons & Scripture

- 7th Bread I Said (I Kings 17:8-16)
- 14th Because He Loved Her (I Samuel 1:4-20)
- 21st The One Who Is (Revelation 1:4-8)
- 28th Jeremiah Sings (Jeremiah 33:14-16)
- 5th Paul Sings (Philippians 1:3-11)
- 12th Isaiah Sings (Isaiah 12:2-6)
- 19th Mary Sings (Luke 1:39-55)
- 26th We All Sing (Psalm 148)



Reports from Council meeting 10/21

Trustee: awning was replaced, repairs inside parsonage almost done, cement replaced in driveway and sidewalk, water was tested, annual inspection of elevator underway.

Treasurer: reducing/eliminating expenses this year is helping, looking at PayPal option for giving. Budget info to Billy by Nov 18th.

Moderator: clean up day went well, looking for new renter for parsonage, preparing for Installation and Anniversary of church.

Pastor: time report for prior month submitted, changes coming for copyright laws, various ideas for Nov-Dec were discussed, use of Music Memorial money approved

Deacons: met with Pastor Lauri to plan Advent

Our **ADVENT** candles need **YOU!** Five families or groups of friends are needed to read the Advent liturgy and light candles. Contact Pastor Lauri to sign up!

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 entry doors. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins and hymns are provided on request.

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

- 11/07 Sue Goudy
- 11/14 Diana Swanson
- 11/21 ?
- 11/28 ?

10am Worship
Children's Sunday School will return in the spring

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

Questions? Contact the church or Pastor Lauri

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