

A Light in the Country

...and the glory of the Lord shone round about them –Luke 2:9

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You can also find her
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“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were absolutely terrified.”

Those poor shepherds! Something unexpected happened, something scary, something none of them had ever experienced before. Did you notice that this verse (three times!) tells us that the shepherds did not face this strange event alone. Appeared to *them*. Shone around *them*. *They* were terrified. These shepherds were a group, a community, that shared the experience and were able to lean on each other.

How wonderful to remember that we, too, do not have to face the world alone. No matter what unexpected things happen, or how scary it may seem, or if we are unsure how to deal with a completely new experience—we have a community at Mayfield Church. We stand together, we share the hard times and celebrate the good ones. We are a family.

Even though our poor shepherds had just experienced a terrifying event, they were drawn to see this child. They hurried to Bethlehem, and once they found Mary and Joseph along with the babe lying in a manger, they were no longer terrified. They were excited, and they told everyone what they had seen and heard. I invite you to share this Christmas season and all of the days following with your family at Mayfield. May you be as excited by the discovery of Christ in our midst as the shepherds were.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

Mayfield Church has so much to offer in December

Join us for any or all. You are welcome here!

(a complete calendar is listed on page 2)

How is religion depicted (or not) in movies? Is attending church part of the Christmas experience in movies? Does faith play a role? Together, we'll watch "**A Christmas Carol**" and then discuss these questions. Freshly popped popcorn will be provided. Bring a beverage and any other snacks you wish. Saturday, Dec. 4th at 4pm

Many people are mourning the loss of family or friends and lamenting the inability to grieve in community. We are offering a **Service of Remembrance** where together we will celebrate their lives and claim the hope that Christ provides. Sunday, Dec. 12th at 1pm.

You won't want to miss our **Very Merry Ukulele Christmas at Mayfield!** The concert and sing along with the Wild Blue Ukulele Orchestra is sure to be a favorite. There is no charge to attend, but you will have the opportunity to donate to Sycamore's Oaken Acres Wildlife Refuge. Sunday, Dec 19th 4pm

Our **Christmas Eve Service** will include the familiar verses from the Gospel of Luke, favorite carols, and will conclude with the traditional singing of Silent Night by candle light. Come and remember why we celebrate Christmas! Friday, Dec 24th 5pm

It's a *relaxed* worship service! Wear your pj's if you would like for **Carols & Cocoa**. Sunday, Dec. 26th 10am



Our trees are decorated— inside and out!

Diana Swanson added solar powered lights to the tree facing Church Road; be sure to drive by at night and check it out.

Inside, our Jesse Tree will be adorned each week with samples of the ornaments that our kids are making with their at home Advent Kits. Naya carefully chose the exact spots for our sheep on week one of Advent.





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

COMING UP...

Saturday 12/4—Popcorn and Movie (A Christmas Carol) 4pm

Sunday 12/5—Advent wreath: Diana and Carolyn

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

Sunday 12/12—Advent wreath: Jan and granddaughters

Sunday 12/12—Service of Remembrance 1:00pm

Thursday 12/15—Council meeting 6:30pm

Sunday 12/19—Advent wreath:

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

Friday 12/24—Christmas Eve Service at 5pm

Friday 12/14—Advent wreath: Carlson family

Sunday 12/26—Cocoa and Carols at 10am

Sunday 1/2—Communion. Bring your own bread and drink or feel free to take one of our individually packaged juice/wafer

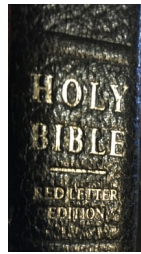
Sunday 1/9—Mayfield Annual Meeting

Sunday 1/9—Kindness Challenge begins

CHRISTMAS FUND (formerly Veterans of the Cross)

Offerings for this UCC fund benefitting active and retired ministers as well as church employees will be accepted in December; information and special envelopes will be in your Dec. 5th worship bulletin. Contact Pastor Lauri with any questions. Make checks payable to Mayfield, but note that your gift is for the UCC Christmas Fund.

Merry Christmas!



Zoom on in [on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm](#) and join the Mayfield **BIBLE STUDY!** Grab your beverage of choice and get ready for an informal, discussion-based consideration of the **Gospel of Luke**. Email or call Mayfield Church to get on the list, then check your email early each week for the Zoom link.

Thank You!

On Sunday, November 21st we expressed our gratitude to those who share their time and gifts to keep our church running. The Sunday School kids created thank you cards for each volunteer. The cards were beautiful, unique, and very much appreciated by our **volunteers**.

Dec. Sermons & Scripture

- 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)



The Christmon tree is up, Nativity out, and halls decked thanks to Ann Thompson, Jan Wylde, John & Dawn Carlson, and Pastor Lauri. Come see how festive the church looks!



Reports from Council meeting 11/18 (held via Zoom)

Trustee: one of the toilets downstairs at the church needs to be replaced.

Treasurer: directed giving to the UCC has been forwarded, reviewed year-to-date giving and expenses, draft of 2022 budget will be presented to Council on Dec 16.

Moderator: annual reports due to Dawn before Dec 31, reviewed Council positions to fill in Jan 2022.

Pastor: time report for prior month submitted, reviewed Nov/Dec activities planned, confirmed Mayfield Church's Mission Statement.

Deacons: making progress on church directory project

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!

12/05	Sue Goudy
12/12	Jan Wylde
12/19	?
12/26	?

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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