

# A Light in the Country

In your light we see light. —Psalm 36:9

Pastor Lauri can be reached at:

815.757.5917 (cell)

PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org



You can also find her on Zoom

**Sundays in January at 10am for Worship**

Saturdays in January at 8am for breakfast

Happy New Year! I can hardly wait until January 9th when Mayfield's KINDNESS CHALLENGE takes off! How many people can we impact by being nice? In tiny inconspicuous ways and ones that make a big splash. Things that affect one, or a few, or a bunch! The plan is to intentionally share God's love and inspire others to be happy over three weeks. I will talk more about the Challenge during worship on Jan. 9th.

This is not the **KINDNESS CHALLENGE** I envisioned when I put it on the calendar. I had thought we would be doing several projects together, standing side by side, making a difference together. Instead, we are keeping our distance from each other out of love (which is itself a kindness). Although separate, we certainly can still take on the KINDNESS CHALLENGE. We have an opportunity to be even more creative in finding ways to be kind and helpful to others. The January Weekly Calendars will have some ideas, but what else can you dream up? Reach out, have some fun, and build relationships. Zoom in at 9:30 on Sunday mornings before worship to share what you've been doing!

"There's more fun in the many. Essentially, that's what life is about: building relationships."-Aseelah "You just have to show up because you genuinely love your neighbor."-Martin These are quotes from people offering insights in "Good Practices for Building Community Across Difference", a short video produced by the Interreligious Institute in Chicago. We say we love our neighbors. We say Mayfield is friendly. The KINDNESS CHALLENGE offers us a specific time to prove it, to remind everyone, and all of us at the same time. Reach out and bring some sunshine to others. In God's light we see light; let's share that light!

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

## An Act of Love and Responsibility

The Mayfield Church Council has voted to **worship virtually in January** using the Zoom platform. The Council will continue to assess the COVID-related statistics.

This was not an easy decision for the Mayfield Council. There have been meetings and much praying to make the right decision for the current situation. The Council has been concerned not only about the physical safety of our members, but also the spiritual needs of our congregation. After deliberating and brainstorming, we have a plan for staying connected and worshipping when we are apart.

- ◇ Sunday Service will be via Zoom. Our online time will also involve a fellowship time following the Zoom service.
- ◇ A weekly email will provide opportunities to reach out and interact, including the Wednesday evening Bible Study and an informal breakfast with Pastor on Saturdays.
- ◇ Worship materials and the weekly calendar can also be provided in paper copy upon request.

We know that this is a difficult message to receive. As we are called to do in the Gospel of Mark, **Love God**, and "**Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.**" We ask you to love your neighbor during this time and reach out to your friends and family at Mayfield to help everyone stay connected.

*God be with you 'til we meet (in person) again!*

Contact a Council member or Pastor Lauri with any questions or concerns

## Peace Light comes to 'A Light in the Country'

The international Peace Light arrived at Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ on Christmas Eve. The flame began its journey from the [Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem](#). It is shared, volunteer by volunteer, across the world from late November through December each year.

The [peacelight.org](#) website says "the light is shared with houses of worship, and anyone who appreciates the significance of the gift." The Peace Light represents hope in difficult times, and people working together for peace and justice. The Peace Light was used to light the Advent Candles and the individual candles for the candlelight singing of "Silent Night." Thank you Clifton Hansen for bringing it to us!

The 2021 Mayfield **Directory of Members** and Friends has been completed and emailed out. Please contact Rita, Dawn, or Pastor Lauri with any corrections.

Use the Directory to stay in touch with our Mayfield family!





Please let Pastor Lauri or Dawn know of any prayer requests or pastoral needs

## COMING UP...

Sunday 1/2—Communion. Gather your bread and drink  
Thursday 1/6—Epiphany  
Saturday 1/8—Zoom breakfast with Pastor Lauri 8am  
Sunday 1/9—~~POSTPONED~~-Mayfield Annual Meeting  
Sunday 1/9—**Kindness Challenge begins**  
Saturday 1/15—Zoom breakfast with Pastor Lauri 8am  
Thursday 1/20—**Council Meeting**  
Saturday 1/22—Zoom breakfast with Pastor Lauri 8am  
Saturday 1/29—Zoom breakfast with Pastor Lauri 8am  
Sunday 2/6—Communion. Gather your bread and drink

*Check your Mayfield weekly calendar for more things to do!*

### Reports from Council meeting 12/16 (held via Zoom)

Trustee:

Treasurer: draft of 2022 budget was presented, the projected deficit was discussed.

Moderator: discussed going to virtual worship in January, postponing annual meeting to March, ways to keep congregation connected if building is closed.

Pastor: time report for prior month submitted, 44 pastoral contacts, reviewed Dec/Jan activities planned.

Deacons: church directory project has been completed.

### Reports from Council meeting 12/20 (held via Zoom)

Voted to go to virtual worship only for the month of January.

Voted to move annual meeting to March 13, 2022.

Pastor Lauri to consider additional ways to pastorally support the congregation during January.

Do you have ideas for Mayfield activities? Share them with Dawn and Pastor Lauri. We have some great momentum building at Mayfield and we want to keep it going!



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 **Lectionary Scriptures**. Email or call Mayfield Church to get on the list, then check your email early each week for the Zoom link.

### Mayfield had a wonderful December!

Popcorn and a Movie  
 Service of Remembrance  
 Toys for Tots Gift Wrap  
 Ukulele Christmas Concert  
 Christmas Eve  
 Cocoa and Carols



We look forward to resuming events in person once COVID numbers calm down again.



Thanks to Dawn for making the take home cocoa bombs! Yum!

### January Sermons & Scripture

2<sup>nd</sup> Light (John 1:1-18)  
 9<sup>th</sup> Wearing Love (Colossians 3:1-17)  
 16<sup>th</sup> Oh, Mom! (John 2:1-11)  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Eat, Drink, & Be Merry (Neh. 8:1-10)  
 30<sup>th</sup> Love is Kind (I Cor. 13:1-13)

**Wild Blue Ukulele Orchestra** entertained with a range of Christmas songs on December 19th. Performers included Mayfield members Sophia, Carolyn, and Jen (pictured below) The Orchestra played to a packed, socially-distanced, audience at Mayfield; \$400 was raised for Oaken Acres Wildlife Refuge.



**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.

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

For everyone's safety,

we are **meeting virtually in January**

Zoom links are emailed each week along with the bulletin

### Questions? Contact the church or Pastor Lauri

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

**Liturgists** (readers) are invited to lead the Call to Worship and Invocation each Sunday. Contact Pastor Lauri to sign up. Both kids and adults are welcome in this role!