

A Light in the Country

“I am the light of the world.” John 8:12

Pastor Lauri can be reached at:

815.757.5917 (cell)

PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org



You can also find her at 10am Worship
at the church or on Zoom

Lent is a time of self-reflection, of coming a little closer to figuring out who we are and who we *want* to be.

Jesus was crystal clear on who he was. John wrote of Jesus talking to the Pharisees in the temple: Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” The Pharisees therefore said to Him, “You bear witness of Yourself. Your testimony is not true.” Jesus answered them, “Though I bear witness of Myself, My testimony is true. For I know where I came from and where I am going. I am the light of the world.”

As we make our way through Lent, I encourage you to think about the experiences that have formed you so far (where you come from). How can this wisdom, knowledge, and empathy impact your actions?

I recently discovered Steve Garnaas-Holmes’ website unfoldinglight.net. A portion of his 2/28/22 post reads: “When injustice strides so easily, when evil reigns and you feel there’s little you can do, remember we are all one. You are part of the Great Oneness —some call it the Body of Christ— and what you do affects the whole. You can choose goodness. When you change your life you change the world.”

It can be easy to become overwhelmed with confusing and violent events around the world (as well as closer to home), but we have a leader who was crystal clear on where he came from and where he was going. All we have to do is follow him and allow the Light to shine into the world through us.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

LENT / EASTER

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd
on Zoom

Please let Pastor Lauri or Dawn know if you would like ashes to use at home during the Zoom service.

Palm Sunday, April 10th
in person and on Zoom

Maunder Thursday, April 14th
in person and on Zoom

Easter Sunday, April 17th
7:30am outside around the fire pit
in person only

10am inside worship
in person and on Zoom



Lenten Studies

Wednesdays at 7pm
March 2nd through April 13th
on Zoom

This year we will be exploring **light** with a series from the SALT Project.

Incorporating Vincent Van Gogh’s paintings and writings, we will consider the scriptures with discussion, meditations, prayer, and suggested weekly practices. Join in all or any of the Wednesday evenings for an interesting, faith-filled discovery.

Zoom invites will be emailed.
Feel free to invite your friends to join us!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4, 2022

3:00pm—6:00pm



Drop in at Mayfield Congregational UCC anytime between 3pm and 6pm on Friday, March 4th to share in the annual World Day of Prayer. The **church will be open** for a time of prayer. Every 30 minutes we will share communal prayers followed by quiet time for silent prayer.

In addition, we will have flags available for you to write a word of blessing. These will be hung outside to show our neighbors that we care for them and have been praying for the world.

Reports from Council meeting 2/17 (held via Zoom)



Trustee: still trying to find a roofer to repair the area where shingles blew off

Treasurer: 2022 YTD financials were presented and discussed. 2022 income will be reported each month in the newsletter.

Moderator: discussed need for fundraising and presented several ideas; reviewed open Council positions; reminded of Annual Meeting needs; accepted resignations of Diana Swanson as Coordinator of Christian Ed (eff 2/14) and Jen Conley as Director of Music (eff 4/17)

Pastor: time report for prior month submitted, 40 pastoral contacts; reviewed plans for March; update on IL Conference changes; presented several new national UCC programs

Deacons: Pastor Joe Gastiger will lead worship on 3/20 and Wilma Miranda will lead the Lenten study on 3/23 while Pastor Lauri is on vacation. Will begin search for Director of Music

Christian Ed: position is open. Dawn and Pastor Lauri will cover programming temporarily

SPECIAL OFFERINGS



Mayfield sent \$800 to **Friends of JAMS** as sponsorship of the first year of high school for a student at Jane Adeny Memorial School for Girls in Kenya. The members of Mayfield Church have partnered with JAMS since its first year (2011).

In Kenya, even public high schools charge significant fees as well as room and board, making a high school diploma out of reach for many young people. Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday, March 27th—the annual offering for the **UCC One Great Hour of Sharing** will be accepted. Please see page four of this newsletter for more information.

Recommended Reading

Go Back to Where You Came From and Other Helpful Recommendations on How to Become American by Wajahat Ali. A funny, convicting, and hopeful look at how we treat each other in America. Also, watch the 2/16/22 YouTube recording of CTS' Wednesday Gatherings: Go Back to Where You Came From with the author.

March Sermons & Scripture

6th What We Carry (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

13th And It Was Dark (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18)

20th *Guest Speaker: Pastor Joe Gastiger*

27th He Aint Heavy, He's My Brother (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32)

Preach

Thanks for having Zoom **Saturday breakfast** with me while Mayfield observed an adaptive pause. I had so much fun talking with you. I found out who had career aspirations to be a teacher, a fire fighter, and a french fry girl. We pondered questions that we would like to ask Jesus. I discovered who had traveled to Norway, Russia, and China. We lamented the current state of politics and agreed being President was a very difficult job. We had an animated discussion about beloved childhood books. We cheered for our favorite sports teams. And we shared stories about pets who have enriched our lives.

Want to continue the conversation? Call me, text me, request a Zoom, or make an appointment for an in person meet. - Pastor Lauri (contact info is below)

BIBLE STUDY will return on Apr 20th
Diana is taking a well-deserved break during Lent.
Our Lenten Series will replace Bible Study
from March 2 through April 13

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 LGBTQ 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.

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

Children's Sunday School will return in the spring
10am Worship
Zoom links are emailed each week along with the bulletin

MAYFIELD CALENDAR 2022

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Feb/Mar	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM			Lent Study Ash Wed 7p ZOOM		World Day of Prayer 3-6p In person	
March	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Worship 10a Communion in person + ZOOM		Deacons 6p ZOOM	Lent Study 7p ZOOM			
March	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Annual Meeting			Lent Study 7p ZOOM	Council 6:30p		
March	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Worship 10a Guest: Pastor Joe Pastor Vac.	Pastor Vac.	Pastor Vac.	Lent Study 7p ZOOM Wilma leading Pastor Vac.	Pastor Vac.	Pastor Vac.	Pastor Vac.
March/ Apr	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Install Officers UCC 1 Great Hour			Lent Study 7p ZOOM			Blessing of the Planting (tentative)
April	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Worship 10a Communion in person + ZOOM			Lent Study 7p ZOOM			
April	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Worship 10a PALM SUNDAY in person + ZOOM		Deacons 6pm ZOOM	Lent Study 7p ZOOM	Maundy Thursday in person + ZOOM	Good Friday no service	
April	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Worship EASTER 7:30a Outside in person only 10am Inside in person + ZOOM			Bible Study 7p ZOOM	Council Meeting 6:30p		

What does being a “5 for 5” church mean?

As a church belonging to the United Church of Christ denomination, we are in a covenantal relationship with both our Illinois Conference and the national organization. Mayfield Congregational UCC supports all of the following UCC offerings and is therefore a “5 for 5” church.



OCWM—Our Church’s Wider Mission (throughout the year)

Basic Support *The United Church of Christ is the church the world needs today.*

The world needs a church that proclaims, “No matter who you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” The world needs a church bold enough to say, *God is still speaking.* We believe the UCC is such a church. In Christ we are invited to be transformed and to work with God to make a more peaceful, just, and loving world. Our Still-Speaking God invites us to be bold, to think creatively, and to be innovative in our ministries. Our covenant with one another in the United Church of Christ means learning to be United even when we disagree, Church together even when we worship in different ways, and to see Christ revealed in beloved community. As over 5,000 local congregations across the country, together with the wider movement of UCC agencies and international partners, we strive to be a faith-forming, multi-racial and multicultural, open and affirming, globally minded movement to transform ourselves and our world. In isolation, no single UCC congregation can be the church the world needs today. To be that world-changing church, we work together through Our Church’s Wider Mission to support and inspire each other.

One Great Hour of Sharing (March 27, 2022)

The special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC **works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.** One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for **disaster preparedness and response.** On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents for interpretation materials.



Strengthen the Church (June 5, 2022 - Pentecost Sunday)

This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

Neighbors in Need (October 2, 2022)

A special mission offering of the United Church of Christ, it supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Christmas Fund, previously known as Veteran’s of the Cross (December 2022)

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.