

# After the Storm

In May I attended (virtually) the weeklong Festival of Homiletics; the theme this year was “**After the Storm: Preaching and Trauma.**” Thousands of pastors from around the world representing many Christian denominations attended, each of us looking for new ways to give hope during times of pandemic, political and racial discord, climate change, war, and violence. While there were lighthearted moments and thoughtful ways to support each other as well as our congregations, it was also very obvious that there’s no going back to life before the storm. This was emphasized by a mass killing just two days before we began the conference, apparently racially motivated.

The FBI defines an active shooting attack as one or more people killing or trying to kill people in a populated area. There were 61 active shooter attacks in 2021, occurring, on average, about every six days in the United States; there were 30 such shootings in both 2018 and 2019<sup>1</sup>. I cry with Rachel: “*A voice is heard in Ramah, with mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.*” -Jer. 31:15.

As I write this, we reel from yet another mass shooting. After first targeting his grandmother, an 18-year-old entered an elementary school in Texas and killed 19 children and 2 teachers. From emerging details, it appears this young man had a difficult life. His mother was a drug addict. Police responded to domestic disturbance calls at his home numerous times. As a young child, his hair was cut so short that he acquired the nickname ‘pelon’ or baldy. He was bullied throughout school because he both stuttered and lisped. He once posted a selfie wearing eyeliner and was bombarded with gay-bashing comments. He made small cuts all over his face, claiming a cat scratched him before admitting they were self-inflicted. He dropped out of high school. This was clearly a troubled young man who seemed to have little in the way of a support system.

Again, I cry with Rachel. Both for the innocent victims and for this troubled child. I pray for them and for their families, friends, and co-workers. But “thoughts and prayers” are not stopping or slowing this trend of anger, violence, and disregard for life. Paul Hodson, a father

of kids the same age as those killed and the United Church of Christ Conference Minister of the South Central Conference (which includes the town where this mass killing took place), wrote in response to the Texas shooting, “I sure wish our leaders would lead. In Texas. Nationally. We don’t need their thoughts and prayers -- we, the church, will take care of that on their behalf. We need them to lead. We need to hold them responsible to common sense legislation that will protect our children. We need to hold them accountable to getting it done -- that’s what elections are for.” I agree with him and encourage you to reach out to your elected officials to voice your opinions and research those you vote for.

I do believe there are other things we can do as a church. We can provide a safe, loving, supportive church family for children. Sunday School can be an opportunity to bond with kids beyond their school. Programs like our Wednesdays in the Waystation can help kids view church as a fun welcoming place to be. Involving kids in worship makes them feel respected. Our church is Open and Affirming which allows kids to explore or question without fear of criticism or reprisals. (And all of these things are terrific for adults as well.)

On June 5, we will be presenting Bibles to five of our children – children who are about the same age as those killed in Texas recently. Hold our children close in your prayers, get to know them, let them know they are valued and valuable. Continue it every Sunday, every day, as they grow up.

Our kids will find many wonderful things inside their Bibles. In the book of Daniel, four young men were taken away by a conquering king to be trained as royal servants. It was a scary time for them, but Daniel prays, “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever. God knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with God.” These times of unrest and trauma that we are living in may seem unending, but there are things that we can do and promises we can hold fast. God’s light covers you, beloved one.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-in-the-us-2021-052422.pdf/view>



# A Light in the Country

"...the light dwells within God." Daniel 2:22



June 2022 | Mayfield Congregational Church Newsletter

Corn on May 29, 2022, growing in field across from Mayfield Church.



### **The Sondra King Memorial CROP Walk of North DeKalb County returns!**

Mayfield UCC has been active with this in the past, and Dawn Carlson notes that Mayfield was one of the founding churches for the ORIGINAL Crop walk in this area.

This year's chair provided this information: "Crop Project began in 1947 when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and York, Pennsylvania (1970). Since then, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty. The DeKalb community has been participating in the CROP walk for over 50 years raising over \$470,000 to help alleviate hunger in our community and around the world. In 2021 we raised over \$20,000 putting us in the top 100 CROP walks for amount fundraised. And 25% of money fundraised each year stays in our community to help local projects and non-profits stay funded."

The CROP walk will be held on October 2 in the afternoon (location to be determined).

**Are you interested in organizing or joining a Mayfield Team? Contact Pastor Lauri or Dawn.**

## **New for the Summer!**

Outdoor worship on the second and fourth Sundays, now through September 11 of this year.

Bring a chair or use one of ours and enjoy the birds singing as background music while we worship. The services will be less formal than our indoor services. We hope to see you there!

## Time and Talents Survey

Please fill yours out and return it to Dawn. Indicating that you have skills or interests in a certain area does not obligate you. It simply means that when a need arises in the church, you may get a call asking if you can help. Almost everything in our church is done by volunteers, and many hands make light work!

## Joining Mayfield

Curious about becoming a member of Mayfield? Not sure what is required or what the United Church of Christ is all about? Pastor Lauri would be happy to talk with you. New members are always welcome!

## Prairie Association Spring Meeting

The Prairie Association Spring Meeting, which was to be held on Saturday May 7th was canceled due to technology difficulties. The event will not be rescheduled; all business matters will be held until the Fall Meeting.



## Wanted: Musicians

Do you know anyone who plays piano and would be interested in a paid position on Sunday mornings? The Deacons have been searching but have not had any success. We purchased the New Century Hymnal CD's with pipe organ music and those have been helpful, but it's just not the same. Please refer anyone who may be interested to Jan Wylde.

Drone shot of the butterfly waystation spiral at Mayfield  
Congregational Church, 28405 East Church Road  
(Courtesy of Randy Caspersen)

## Wednesdays in the Waystation.

### Plans are underway for Wednesdays in the Waystation!

Each Wednesday evening in July we will provide activities, crafts, games, and time outside in our Monarch Butterfly Waystation. Mayfield is partnering with First Congregational UCC in DeKalb to bring this summer program to our kids. Registration forms will be available soon. Join us as an extra adult helper! Contact Pastor Lauri.



Children's artwork from religious studies. The art reflects what they are learning about the Ten Commandments.

## Help Needed at the Waystation.

Events will be happening in the Mayfield Monarch Waystation all this summer; we are looking forward to welcoming new friends and old to a beautiful outdoor space.

**Would you be interested in helping keep the Mayfield Monarch Waystation tended and beautiful?** Could you weed or edge or mow? Whether you could come once or several times, whether you could spend a half hour or two hours, whether you have ever gardened before or not, we want you! Contact Pastor Lauri or Diana Swanson.



Saturday, June 18

## Register Now!

Last date to register is June 10!

Mayfield's Women's Retreat REFRESH will be on Saturday, June 18. Coffee and registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

The day will include worship, music, games, painting, devotions, Bible study, and a chance to talk with other attendees.

\$12 registration fee includes all materials and lunch.

# Bible Quiz Night 2022



Oh, what fun we had! We started out with delicious handmade pizzas prepared by John and Dawn. Then the cow bells clanged as contestants answered the trivia questions. Congrats to Phyl from South Dakota who took home the trophy, while many other prizes were awarded for various categories of participation. The laughs continued all night as we stretched our minds and Bible knowledge. Questions ranged from easy to hard, and included who was Jesus' mother, who was Eve's third son, what animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem as the people shouted Hosanna, and how old was Noah when God sent the flood. Be sure to join us next year!

Images: Wilma, Dawn and Phil, Ann Thompson brings her knowledge, Phil wins the night, Carrie wins for funniest answer, Wilma got an award for being smart, Dawn knows her stuff, Pastor Lauri tallies the score and Lori helps run the event. John and Dawn make pizzas.

# JUNE CALENDAR

| Month    | Sunday  | Monday          | Tuesday          | Wednesday                                 | Thursday                 | Friday          | Saturday                   |
|----------|---|-----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| May/June | 29  | 30              | 31               | 1   | 2                        | 3               | 4                          |
|          | 9a in person<br>Worship 10a<br>in person + ZOOM   | Memorial Day    |                  | Bible Study<br>7p ZOOM                    |                          |                 |                            |
| June     | 5   | 6               | 7                | 8   | 9                        | 10              | 11                         |
|          | Kids Sunday School<br>9a in person<br>Worship 10a<br>in person + ZOOM<br>Communion<br>PENTECOST<br>Bible Presentation |                 |                  | Bible Study<br>7p ZOOM                    |                          |                 | Waystation Event<br>10-11a |
| June     | 12  | 13              | 14               | 15  | 16                       | 17              | 18                         |
|          | Worship 10a Outdoors<br>in person + ZOOM  |                 | Deacons 6pm ZOOM | Bible Study<br>7p ZOOM                    | Council Meeting<br>6:30p |                 | Women's Retreat<br>9-2     |
| June     | 19  | 20              | 21               | 22  | 23                       | 24              | 25                         |
|          | Worship<br>Father's Day<br>UCC OCWM Offering<br>Pastor Vacation   | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation  | Bible Study<br>7p ZOOM<br>Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation          | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation            |
| June     | 26  | 27              | 28               | 29  | 30                       | 1               | 2                          |
|          | Worship 10a Outdoors<br>in person + ZOOM  |                 |                  | Bible Study<br>7p ZOOM                    |                          |                 |                            |

## Reports from Council Meeting. May 19, 2022

**Trustees:** John and Lars will borrow a lift from a neighbor so they can reach our roof and will fix the damaged shingles. They are arranging for black dirt to be delivered to even out the new cement in the back with the yard. Gave update on mowing.

**Treasurer:** unable to attend; no financials.

**Moderator:** Flower Power fundraiser continues until May 22. T-shirts will be sold in June to coincide with Pride Month. Another fundraiser, a sausage and corn lunch, will be held on Sunday, July 31. Two Time and Talents surveys have been turned in so far.

**Pastor:** Time report for prior month was submitted: 30 pastoral contacts; worked average of 33 hours per week, should be 20-25. Dawn stressed the need to pull back. Discussed event plans for the next couple of months. We are working with First Congregational in DeKalb for the kid's Wednesdays in the Waystation.

**Deacons:** Search is on-going for a new Music Director. Two applications were received, but neither plays piano. Will try to arrange for fill-in musicians through the summer.

**Christian Ed:** Bible Basics will be the theme through June 5, at which time the Bibles will be presented to five of our children around 3rd grade age. An all-ages Bible Trivia evening will be hosted at the church on Saturday May 21.

**Missions:** The Father's Day special offering will go to the UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission. Strengthen the Church offering is traditionally received on Pentecost; it was decided to delay the collection due to the OCWM offerings being taken just before and after.



Children's artwork from religious studies. The art reflects what they are learning about baptism. This illustration depicts Jesus' baptism.

# June Sermons and Scripture

**June 5:**

**Red.**

(Acts 2:1-21)

**June 12:**

**Blue.**

(Numbers 4:5-13,18-19 and John 16:12-15)

**June 19:**

**Guest Pastor: Joe Gastiger**

(Luke 24:1-12)

**June 26:**

**Yellow.**

(Revelation 21)

The flowering stems of compass plants. Photo by Fred Delcomyn (from "A Backyard Prairie")

## Donations Received: January 1 through May 23, 2022.

|      |           |       |       |       |            |
|------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
|      | General   | OCWM  | OGHS  | JAMS  | Invmet Inc |
| YTD: | \$17, 560 | \$572 | \$271 | \$170 | \$384      |

General donations are used for paid staff, building expenses, supplies, etc.

OCWM is the UCC offering 'Our Church's Wider Mission.'

OGHS is the UCC offering 'One Great Hour of Sharing.'

JAMS is the Jane Adeny Memorial School for Girls in Kenya.

Invmt Inc is interest and dividends, primarily on restricted donations.



### Contact Pastor Lauri

(815)757-5917 (cell)

PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

You can also find her at 10 a.m. worship at Mayfield or on Zoom.

### Follow us on Facebook:

Mayfield Congregational Church - United Church of Christ

### Visit Mayfield:

28405 Church Road, Sycamore, IL 60178



Children's art from religious education, exploring the Ten Commandments.