



# A Light in the Country

The human spirit is the lamp of the Lord that sheds  
light on one's inmost being.  
Prov 20:27

I have always enjoyed working with kids because of their honesty and directness. They ask questions without fear that they will sound uneducated; they ask because they are curious. They let you know if they are enjoying an activity. They are their own authentic selves.

Wednesday evenings in July Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ in Sycamore joined with First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb to bring a summer Bible program for kids. Basing our activities on an animal theme, we learned what the Bible has to say about diversity, getting along with others, and working together for the common good. We enjoyed skits, songs, games, snacks, and crafts. Each week a special guest shared knowledge of animals. Hoo Haven brought a red-tailed hawk, two corn snakes, and a rat. Diana Swanson taught us about birds and provided binoculars for sighting. Lars Carlson explained about bees (did you know it takes 12 bees working their entire lives to produce just one teaspoon of honey?!). And Hayden Aves brought a two-month-old calf to visit – a much anticipated finale to our program.

Traditionally at Bible School programs the ratio of adults to kids is low. Not so for our Wednesdays in the Waystation. Parents stayed, both church's pastors attended, two adults from each church assisted, teen volunteers helped. Everyone was relaxed, interested, and having a great time. The adults left the "real world" behind and allowed their authentic selves to run free. Their lights were shining brightly on their inmost selves (to borrow the words from Proverbs) and it was a joy to see.

I am looking forward to our 2023 summer Bible program, one that we plan to intentionally design as intergenerational. Apparently, we all need a chance to reconnect with our inner child and most authentic selves. Until next summer rolls around, I hope you will join us at Sunday worship, Wednesday night Bible Study, and our events each month.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

Echinacea growing in the waystation.



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*DeKalb (Sondra King Memorial)*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 2, 2022

DEKALB, ILLINOIS

## TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED IN AUGUST

The Sondra King Memorial CROP Walk of N. 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 2nd in the afternoon (location to be determined). Are you interested in organizing or joining a Mayfield Team? Contact Pastor Lauri or Dawn.

## Mayfield Church at the Kirkland Fall Festival – September 17

Come join the fun and take a turn staffing our booth at the annual Kirkland Fall Festival. Requirement? Just your stunning personality and smiling face! Contact Pastor Lauri 815.757.5917 for info or to sign up.

## Nominating Committee Members needed....

It's that time of year! This is a short-term job. Work within this committee to find qualified members to fill open council positions, then present the slate to the current council. The Annual Meeting is in January.



## LABOR DAY SUNDAY WORSHIP

You won't want to miss this service! On September 4, Ron Holm will be at Mayfield to present music and stories related to "The Sanctity of Labor." Come early for best choice of pews and get ready for the atmosphere of a 1930's sign-out in a labor hall.

## Three outdoor services remaining this year!

Worship will be outdoors (weather permitting) on August 14, August 28, and September 11. Bring a chair or use one of ours and enjoy the birds singing as background music while we worship. The services are less formal than our indoor services. Join us!



Stepping stone in garden.



# WOMEN'S RETREAT FALL 2022

## The Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat was so much fun in June that we are hoping to host another one this fall. Contact Dawn to help with planning and preparing.

## CONFIRMATION 2022-2023

Teens around eighth grade that have not yet gone through confirmation are welcome. Explore our faith, other religions, and discover what God means to you. Adult mentors are also needed. See Pastor Lauri to join the journey beginning September 18.

## 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!

## Donating to Mayfield.

Do you lie awake at 2 a.m. and wonder how many ways there are to donate to Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ?

Let us help you count them!

1. Drop a donation in the white lattice box in the narthex.
2. Mail a check to:  
**Mayfield Congregational Church**  
**28405 Church Road, Sycamore IL 60178**
3. Use your bank's online banking option.
4. Make an electronic contribution through **Tithe.ly**. (while there are many on-line options available, several council members have tested this one).



Go to: [tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give) and log in or set up an account. Search for "Mayfield Congregational" and choose our church. You will be taken to a transaction screen. Fill in the amount you would like to donate. Just to the right is a drop down list so that you may tell us what kind of contribution you are making (general, OCWM, etc.); there is a notes section at the bottom where you can be more specific if necessary. Should you wish to set up a recurring donation, check that box. Scroll down and enter your credit card or bank account information (please consider covering the processing fees). Complete your transaction and the money is electronically deposited into Mayfield's bank account. By returning to Tithe.ly's home page, you can view previous donation activity.

**Thanks for your generous giving!**

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, October 1**

**2nd Annual  
Drive-Through  
Blessing of the Animals**

If you are interested in helping,  
please contact Pastor Lauri



John Carlson and his dog.



Mayfield Church 2022

# CORN AND ITALIAN SAUSAGE DRIVE-THRU DINNER





# Vacation Bible School 2022

## Wednesdays in the Waystation





# AUGUST CALENDAR

July/Aug	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Sausage/Corn Drive Thru 1-3			Bible Study 7p ZOOM			
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Communion		Deacons 6pm ZOOM	Bible Study 7p ZOOM			Waystation Event 10-11a
<b>August</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
	Worship 10a <b>Outdoors</b> in person + ZOOM			Bible Study 7p ZOOM	Council Meeting in person		
<b>August</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
	Worship 10a in person + ZOOM			Bible Study 7p ZOOM	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Waystation Event 10-11a Pastor Vacation
<b>Aug/Sep</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Worship <b>Outdoors</b> Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Bible Study Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation

## Mid-Year Pastor's Report January 2, 2022 – June 18, 2022

It has been a busy six months despite a snowy January and lingering pandemic concerns. We have adapted worship as needed to keep everyone safe, including moving outdoors for some summer Sundays. While the building was closed at the beginning of the year, we added a virtual Saturday breakfast with the Pastor and an interactive calendar to keep everyone connected. I made 210 pastoral contacts (remember, I'm available in person as well as by phone, text, email, or zoom). We have offered some great events: February-guest speaker Rev. Jennifer Sanders from Birmingham AL, March-World Day of Prayer, March/April-Van Gogh Lenten Study, April-Tree Dedication, May-Bible Trivia Night, June-Women's Retreat. I'm glad God brought us together!

### Time Spent on:

- 46% Worship Planning/Service
- 11% Events/Planning
- 10% Continuing Ed/Study (including week long Festival of Homiletics)
- 6% Pastoral (210 contacts)
- 5% Program Planning (children, UCC giving)
- 5% Communication/Promotion (newsletter, social media)
- 5% Meetings-Mayfield (Council, Deacons, Fellowship, Music)
- 5% Administrative/Misc
- 3% Meetings-UCC  
(Conf, Assoc, clergy)
- 3% Holidays (Jan 1, Memorial Day)
- Vacation Mar 20-26

### Reports from Council meeting – July 2022

Your Council took a summer break from meeting in July. Never fear, however, they valiantly continued on in their assigned duties. We'll have a report next month from their August meeting.



A home for bees  
at the waystation.

# August Sermons and Scripture

August 7:

## Charades

(Isaiah 1:10-20) In the Sanctuary  
Music by Courtney Hanna-McNamara  
on our Clavinova

August 14:

## Sour Grapes

(Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19) Outdoors  
Music by Tom Spielman on guitar

August 21:

## Putting Words in My Mouth

(Jeremiah 1:4-10) In the Sanctuary

August 28:

## Pastor Lauri on vacation

Outdoors  
Music by Jen Conley on baritone guitar



Birdwatching at the waystation

## Donations Received: To be updated next month

	General	OCWM	OGHS	JAMS	Invmet Inc
YTD:	\$21,222	\$721	\$271	\$170	\$511

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.



a just world  
for all  
ucc.org



## 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

