



A Light in the Country

We share in the kingdom of light
Colossians 1:12

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6. While this allows an extra hour of sleep that morning (something I look forward to!), it also heralds an earlier time of darkness in the afternoon. Followed by several months of increasing darkness each day. Sometimes those dark days of winter seem to go on and on. And on.

Similar to how this sentence runs on:

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of God's will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of God and please God in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to God, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of God's holy people in the kingdom of light. -Colossians 1:9b-12

Yes, that is just one sentence, one very long sentence. Part way through (sort of like us in late December and January) we start to wonder when it is going to wrap up and finish.

It is a nice piece of scripture, a letter reminding the Colossians that someone cares about them and is praying for them. It describes in some detail exactly what they are hoping and praying for, specific enough that you almost lose track of what the writer is saying. Suddenly the words "giving joyful thanks to God" grab your attention because the end may be near. And yes, in a surprising twist, we find at the sentence's conclusion that there is light! Actually, an entire kingdom of light, and we belong in it as God's holy people. Wow! That was worth waiting for.

As we begin these months of darkness, hold fast to these words from Colossians. Look over the (long) list of to-do's, be comforted by the promise that you belong in God's kingdom of light, and know that I am praying for you.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

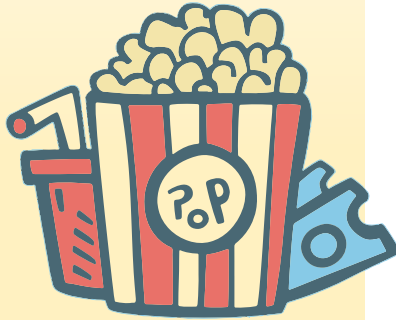
MONDAY, NOV. 21, 6:30 p.m.
**DECORATE THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS**

Stop by and help put out our Christmas finery for the season. The decorations are all stored at the church; we simply need your hands and willing spirit!

SUNDAY, NOV. 27, 11 a.m.
ADVENT LUNCHEON

Bring a dish to share and enjoy fellowship together after worship. Table service and drink will be provided.

**SATURDAY,
DEC. 3, 4 p.m.**
**POPCORN
AND
A MOVIE**



Gather around the Mayfield TV to watch a favorite Christmas movie. We will then discuss how the movie portrays religion, ethics, and spirituality. Bring your favorite beverage and snacks; popcorn will be provided.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 3 p.m.
**WORK DAY TO MAKE
GIFT BAGS FOR TOYS
FOR TOTS**

Meet at the church for some fancy folds. Directions and supplies are provided for this annual work day during which gift bags are crafted to be used for bulky items at the Salvation Army sponsored Toys for Tots.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 3 p.m.
**WILD BLUE UKULELE ORCHESTRA
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Last year's concert was so well received that the group has decided to grace us with their music again! Tell your friends and neighbors to join us for an all-ages lively concert.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 5 p.m.
**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

Our Christmas Eve service will conclude with singing Silent Night by candlelight. Don't miss this beautiful holiday tradition.

SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 10 a.m.
**CHRISTMAS DAY
SERVICE**

Happy birthday, Jesus! We will have an informal service, including lots of Christmas carols and birthday cupcakes.

World Communion Sunday, Jan Wilde



What if...



How would you finish that line for Mayfield? Who do you see attending, how many, what would we offer, how would people feel when they came or when they left, what events or groups would be here? This is only a start to get you thinking. Stretch your mind, open your heart, pray for direction. Then, write it down and get it to the pastor! There is a box in the Narthex for your ideas, or feel free to email or text Pastor Lauri.

Help Wanted

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ has a part-time opening for a Director of Music. The successful applicant will be available to play piano for worship on Sunday mornings as well as occasional special services. Friendly work environment with an open and affirming congregation.

Contact a Deacon or Pastor Lauri (cell 815-757-5917) for more information.



Making milkweed planting balls for religious education.



Images provided by Lauri Allen

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 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!

November CALENDAR

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October/Nov	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Sunday School 9a Confirmation 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM			Bible Study 7p ZOOM			
November	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Communion			Bible Study 7p ZOOM			
November	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Sunday School 9a Confirmation 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM New Members rcvd	Deacons 6pm		Bible Study 7p ZOOM	Council Meeting 6:30p		
November	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Council Recognition	Decorate the Church 6:30pm			Thanksgiving		
Nov/Dec	27	28	29	30	1	2	3
year A	Sunday School 9a Confirmation 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Advent 1 Luncheon at 11			Advent Study 7p ZOOM			Gift Wrap Work Day 3pm Popcorn and a Movie 4pm

Reports from Council meeting – October 2022

Guest: Diana Swanson presented a request that the Mayfield Monarch Waystation be included as a part of the DeKalb County 2023 Garden Walk; this was approved.

Guest: Sue Goudy provided an update on the Nominating Committee's work to date.

Trustees: Handyman painted living room in parsonage, garage, and small fence on south side of church; also repaired some rotting areas on front posts. Need to install a new garage door opener (designated funds have been received for this). The church roof has been repaired.

Treasurer: at Sept. 30, there is a year to date net shortfall of approximately \$7,800 (money is taken from savings when necessary). The cost of propane will be sharply higher this winter. Memorial funds status was discussed, as well as donations to be passed along to the UCC.

Moderator: a proposed Christmas wreath fundraiser was considered but postponed to 2023.

Pastor: time report submitted; 28 pastoral contacts. We expect to welcome four new members on 11/13. Pastor has been attending the virtual IL Conference Annual meeting (Oct 19-22). Popcorn and a Movie will be Sat 12/3 at 4pm; the movie will be It's a Wonderful Life. Wild Blue Ukulele Orchestra will be holding a concert at Mayfield on 12/11 at 3pm; free will offering will be taken for Mayfield property improvements. We will offer a simple service on Sun 12/25 with carols and a happy birthday Jesus theme; birthday party supplies will be collected and donated to a local charity. A new brochure was reviewed and approved.

Deacons: Steps are underway to have a dedicated email and Zoom account for the church; a tablet has been purchased.

Christian Ed: no report.

Mission: no report.

The Nominating Committee is at work!

Toma Heldt and Sue Goudy, our Nominating Committee, recently sent out a letter encouraging you to get involved. Please prayerfully consider how you can best serve Mayfield.

Positions that will be open in January 2023

Moderator – 2 year term (assist Pastor with administration of the church, cultivate healthy communication in the congregation). *Dawn Carlson will have faithfully completed two terms and is ineligible to continue.*

Deacon – 2 year term (support Pastor with member care and in worship). One position will be open. *Jan Wylde will have faithfully completed two terms and is ineligible to continue. Cary Hansen and Wilma Miranda are currently serving their terms.*

Trustee – 2 year term (oversee the care of church property). One position will be open. *John Carlson will have faithfully completed multiple terms and is ineligible to continue; Lars Carlson and Clifton Hansen are currently serving their terms.*

Positions that are currently open

Christian Education – 2 year term (coordinate religious education for all ages). Position is unfilled; Pastor and Moderator have been covering.

Clerk – 1 year term (record Council meetings and Church business). Position is unfilled; Pastor and Moderator have been covering.

Stewardship – 2 year term (encourage giving of gifts and talents to the Church). Position is unfilled; Pastor and Moderator have been covering.

Positions that are filled

Missions – 2 year term (encourage giving to UCC and local missions). *Karen Johnson is currently serving.*

Treasurer – 2 year term (process and report on income and expenses of the Church). *Billy Scott is currently serving.*

Historian – 1 year term (file church records in office and at NIU Archives). *Wilma Miranda is currently serving.*

58th Annual Celebration of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ October 19-22, 2022

Check out these videos on YouTube to see what you missed:

Opening Worship for the IL Conference 58th Annual Celebration

Closing Worship for the 58th IL Conference Annual Celebration

Looking south on Church Road in front of Mayfield. Sophia Varcados

November Sermons and Scripture

November 6: Traditions

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

November 13: Trees

Isaiah 65:17-25

November 20: A Very Present Help

Psalm 46

November 27: The Men of Christmas: Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17

Sunrise at Mayfield, Lauri Allen

Donations Received: January 1 through October 20, 2022

	General	UCC 5 for 5	Memorial Donations	JAMS	Invmet Inc
YTD:	\$37,713	\$2,074	\$826	\$170	\$737

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

UCC 5for5 includes support for five denominational offerings.

Memorial Donations are new, added to previous restricted funds.

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

Invmt Inc is interest and dividends.



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



Afton Prairie on October 22. Sophia Varcados