



# A Light in the Country

the life was the light of men  
John 1:4

Here we are in Advent already and looking ahead expectantly to Christmas!  
The Gospel of John, however, takes us backwards before we move forwards.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness overcame it not.” (John 1:1-5)

We often focus on the Gospel of Luke’s familiar story of Mary and Joseph making their way to Bethlehem and a bright star breaking through the dark night sky to celebrate the birth of Jesus. John reminds us that God’s love did not suddenly materialize in a baby born in a humble location; God’s love, including what the world knew as the person of Jesus, has always been with us – from the beginning!

Whether we refer to this aspect of God as Jesus, the Word, logos, or Wisdom, it makes no difference in acknowledging that our God is mysterious and loving, filled with life and light, and walks beside us always. For some, the December holidays can feel dark; some struggle with depression or loneliness. In the midst of this very personal darkness, rest assured that from the very beginning there was life and light. Bright, comforting light. And it shines radiantly on you, covering you with love.

Mayfield Church will read Luke’s story of the bright star shining in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve at 5pm. Please come and sit with us as we hear those familiar words *“and it came to pass, in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”* Light a candle with us as we sing “Silent Night, Holy Night.” God’s light beckons and our circle of loving welcome awaits.

Merry Christmas blessings, Pastor Lauri



**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.

**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.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 8 AT 11 a.m.  
FELLOWSHIP  
CHRISTMAS  
LUNCHEON**

Come join the fun at our treasured Christmas gathering; bring a dish to pass.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 3 p.m.  
A MERRY UKULELE  
CHRISTMAS  
AT MAYFIELD  
WILD BLUE  
UKULELE ORCHESTRA**

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. A free-will offering will be accepted for repairs to the church properties.

**TUESDAY, DEC 13 THROUGH  
FRIDAY, DEC 16**

**9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**TOYS FOR TOTS  
GIFT WRAPPING**

Get your smiles ready and flex your fingers – it's time to gift wrap toys for the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots in DeKalb.

**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. Light snacks will follow; feel free to bring cookies or finger food to share if you'd like.

**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.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 10 a.m.  
NEW YEARS DAY  
SERVICE**

Start the new year with faith, possibilities, and communion!

**SUNDAY, JAN. 8,  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

In accordance with Section IX, Subsection 2. Congregational Business Meetings, the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church will be held on the second Sunday of January. All members are encouraged to attend. An in-person quorum of 15% is required for voting. The proposed slate of new officers will be presented and voted on. Attendance is a responsibility of being a member of Mayfield. We look forward to seeing you there!

# November Work Days

## November 3

Huge thank you to Sophia Varcados, Diane Hance, Sue Goudy, and Pastor Lauri for cleaning and organizing the supply closet downstairs. Sophia went above and beyond! Please note: do not purchase any lightbulbs for the church. A multi-year supply was discovered!

## November 21

The halls were decked – as well as the Narthex and Sanctuary – in preparation of the Christmas season. Be sure to thank those who sang along as they worked: Jan Wylde, Cary Hansen, Sophia Varcados, Clifton Hansen, and Pastor Lauri.

## November 25

Vacuuming, dusting, furniture repairs, and tidying up kudos to Rita Yerkes, Jen Conley, Sophia Varcados, and Pastor Lauri.

# Please Join Us! MAYFIELD CHURCH UCC FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Somerset Farms Activity Center, Somerset Lane  
Sycamore, IL 60178

RSVP: By December 4, 2022 by signing up at the church.

Let us know what dish to pass you are bringing.

Also, let us know if you need a ride.

Hosts: Rita Yerkes and Ann Thompson

rita@mayfieldchurchucc.org

# 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!**

## The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of The Cross and the Emergency Fund

This is one of the five national United Church of Christ offerings we ask you to contribute to each year. Make your contributions payable to Mayfield Church UCC and note that it is for The Christmas Fund; all donations are then passed along to national. More information will be posted in the Narthex. The collection will be presented during announcements on **Sunday, December 4**. Please direct any questions to Missions Coordinator Karen Johnson or Pastor Lauri.

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. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

## New Officers

It's not too late! Contact Toma Heldt or Sue Goudy (Nominating Committee) to discuss taking on a position with the Church Council. Mayfield needs you! The slate of officers will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 8.

## What are you doing at 9 a.m. Sunday morning?

Come to Sunday School! We have an all-ages Advent program happening now through December 18. Each week we will learn about one of Jesus' ancestors and then make an ornament for our Jesse Tree that reminds us of the story. The Jesse Tree, a descriptive poster, and our meeting place are all located in the Narthex.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

December 25 is on a Sunday this year, so we are going to celebrate Jesus' birthday in several ways.

### Birthday cakes in a bag

Start collecting boxed cake mixes, tubs of frosting, packages of birthday candles, festive party paper plates and napkins, and a gift bag large enough to hold one each of these items. Donate either a complete set of items in a gift bag, or individual items and we'll put them together into sets. Bring your items on Sunday, December 18 or Saturday, December 24 (until then we need space around the tree to stand and hang ornaments each week). The completed bags will be given to the DeKalb County Community Gardens for distribution to local families.

### Birthday party

On Christmas morning, join us at 10 a.m. for a relaxed worship service featuring birthday cupcakes! Someone believes that Jesus' favorite flavor is yellow cake with chocolate frosting, but that may or may not be true.



## Toys for Tots Gift Wrap at the Salvation Army

Tuesday, December 13 through Friday, December 16 between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Give of your time to help families in need during the holiday season. After they have shopped from the donated gifts, the parents/guardians bring the items to a central gift wrap station. You will be amazed at how much you receive by participating in this annual Christmas-time activity. Contact Dawn for more information.



Fellowship downstairs after service.



## We need new buckets!

Mayfield is looking for new buckets for the ball-toss game. Come see the old set up downstairs to get an idea of size.





# Mayfield Welcomes New Members

Duane Slayton, Toma Heldt, Jen Conley and Sophia Varcados.

# Exploring Dia De Los Muertos with Sugar Skulls



# December CALENDAR

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
December	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person + ZOOM Communion Advent 2 UCC Vet of Cross			Advent Study 7p ZOOM	Fellowship Luncheon 11a-1p Somerset Farms		
December	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Sunday School 9a Confirmation 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Advent 3 Ukulele Concert 3pm	Toys Gift Wrap 9:30a-3:30p  Deacons 6pm	Toys Gift Wrap 9:30a-3:30p	Toys Gift Wrap 9:30a-3:30p  Advent Study 7p ZOOM	Toys Gift Wrap 9:30a-3:30p  Council Meeting 6:30p	Toys Gift Wrap 9:30a-3:30p	
December	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM Advent 4			Advent Study 7p ZOOM			CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm
December	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Worship 10a CHRISTMAS DAY						

## Reports from Council meeting – November 2022

**Trustees:** Garage door opener still needs to be replaced. Kitchen faucet in the parsonage also needs to be replaced.

**Treasurer:** at Nov 15, there is a year to date net shortfall of approximately \$10,500 (money is taken from savings when necessary). This includes several unbudgeted repair bills.

**Moderator:** Reminded Council members that 2022 reports are due to Dawn before Dec 31, and that budgets are due to Billy ASAP. Both need to be reviewed and printed for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Jan 8th.

**Pastor:** Time report submitted; 50 pastoral contacts. Four new members were received on 11/13.

**Deacons:** We have leads for several more fill in musicians and will be contacting them; nothing new on a permanent Musical Director.

**Christian Ed:** Sunday School is going well. An all-ages Sunday School program will be offered during Advent.

**Mission:** The next UCC 5 for 5 offering will be The Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) on 12/4. Sue Goudy has volunteered to help when Karen cannot be in church.

## December Sermons and Scripture

November 27

**The Men of Christmas: Jesus**

Matthew 1:1-17, Advent Wreath: JoAnn English, Carolyn Wallis

December 4

**The Men of Christmas: John**

Luke 1:5-19, Advent Wreath: Diane Hance, Sue Goudy

December 11

**The Men of Christmas: Joseph**

Matthew 1:18-25, Advent Wreath: Wilma Miranda, Rite Yerkes

December 18

**The Men of Christmas: Magi**

Matthew 2:1-11, Advent Wreath: Diana Swanson, Carolyn Law

December 24

**Silent Night, Holy Night**

Isaiah 9:2, 6, Advent Wreath: Hope and Jordan

December 25

**Happy Birthday!**

Psalm 98

Looking south, after service. Sophia Varcados

## Donations Received: January 1 through November 15, 2022

	General	UCC 5 for 5	Memorial Donations	JAMS	Invmet Inc
YTD:	\$40,189	\$1,623	\$826	\$170	\$1568

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.



### 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



Advent ornament by Connor. Lauri Allen.