



A Light in the Country

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1

Greetings!

The sunrise this morning was a lovely, colorful mix of pinks and oranges. January often seems like an unending season of short gray days, so the sunrise gave a needed boost to my morale! Making plans and looking forward to future events also helps keep us from dwelling on darkness. Mayfield has some wonderful things coming up soon!

Have you ever heard of Shrove Tuesday? Get ready to eat well and laugh (not at the same time, please). The United Kingdom has a tradition of eating pancakes and holding pancake-flipping races on the day before Ash Wednesday. The Deacons are hosting a "Shrove Tuesday...on Sunday" event on February 19 in the Narthex following worship. Pancakes and waffles will be provided; you are invited to bring muffins, fruit, or toppings to share. Contestants for the pancake race will don aprons before flipping pancakes in a skillet while speed walking!

Ash Wednesday begins the six weeks of Lent. On Wednesday, February 22, there will be a service at 5:30 p.m. focused on how changing our behaviors can change the world; ashes will be available. The same night, our weekly Wednesday evening Lenten Study on Zoom begins at 7p.m. Discussions will be based on DeeDee Risher's book "The Soulmaking Room."

I encourage you to register for the Mayfield Women's Retreat "Sweet, Surprising Grace" taking place on Saturday, March 11. This promises to be a day filled with fun, friendship, and reminders of God's goodness.

And if those long winter days are feeling heavy, don't wait for these events – come to Sunday worship! Every week we find God's light and a respite from the cares of the world. There is music to soothe you, smiles to encourage you, and reminders that God walks with us always.

Blessings,

Pastor Lauri

SUNDAY, FEB. 19, AFTER WORSHIP SHROVE TUESDAY... ON SUNDAY!

Since the 1400s the United Kingdom has celebrated Shrove Tuesday (the Day prior to Ash Wednesday) by making pancakes to use up eggs and fats before the austerity of Lent begins. Join us after church in the Narthex to share some fellowship and fun. Feel free to bring muffins, fruit, or other simple snacks to share; pancakes and waffles will be provided. Get ready to cheer on the contestants in the pancake race!

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 3 TO 6 P.M. WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mayfield will open our doors for anyone who would like to stop by and pray. The World Day of Prayer theme this year is "I Have Heard About Your Faith" and is based on Ephesians 1:15-19.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 5:30 TO 6 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

An Ash Wednesday service will be offered at Mayfield Church. Our service will be based on Ezekiel 9:4 "Go throughout the city and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mayfield's Kidz Zone is now open! The small storage room at the bottom of the stairs has been cleaned out and re-purposed into a Sunday School space for our children. Stop by and check it out! Even better, sign up to lead Sunday School or be the additional adult for a week or two. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Pastor Lauri can answer any questions and she'll smile while doing it!



FEB. 22 - MARCH 29 WEDS, 7 TO 8 P.M. ZOOM LENTEN STUDY 2023

Lent is often a time of introspection, a time of examining our faith and our lives. This year, to help us on our Lenten journey, we will be discussing *The Soulmaking Room* by Dee Dee Risher (2016, Upper Room Books). Ms. Risher takes a deep look at the story of the Shunammite woman in 2 Kings 4:8-37. Combining the Shunammite woman's experiences along with events from her own life, she evaluates her faith and urges us to do the same. *The Soulmaking Room* by Dee Dee Risher (210 pages) is available in both e Book and paperback formats. It can be purchased from UpperRoomBooks.org or Amazon.com as well as other book sellers.



MEET THE MEMBER!



JoAnn English

JoAnn attended high school with Joyce and Roger Oltman. Nursing degree in hand, JoAnn and friends set off to California for jobs and adventure. She arrived in San Francisco just in time for China Town's New Year celebration! After retiring from nursing and teaching, she volunteered with DeKalb County Hospice.

JoAnn is a die-hard Cubs fan; she also enjoys cheering for the Bears and girls' softball. Her interests include reading and taking classes at the YMCA.

JoAnn has attended Mayfield since 1986. She is a regular at Bible Study. She comes to Mayfield because of the community feeling, friends, conservation efforts, sermons, and that it is an Open and Affirming congregation. JoAnn pretty much likes everything about Mayfield!

Work Days

Thank you, thank you to Marj Holliday, Sue Goudy, Diane Hance, and Sophia Varcados for cleaning out rooms in the basement in January. The old Sunday School room is now an organized storage space, and the small storage room is now the Kidz Zone Sunday School room. **Mayfield runs on volunteer power!**

Prayer Requests

Please continue to reach out to Jan Wylde or Pastor Lauri with prayer requests. Jan will send an email to our Mayfield family requesting them to lend prayer support. Should you prefer to maintain confidentiality, simply contact Pastor Lauri and ask her to pray without passing it on to Jan. Pastor Lauri can be reached at 815-757-5917 (cell) or PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

One Great Hour of Sharing

This UCC offering will be taken on February 5. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world and in our own communities. Your donations restore not only structures but hope.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Mayfield Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 8, 2023; a quorum was present. Packets containing reports and 2022 financials were provided. Motions were passed to consider By-Laws and changing the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting. A 2023 Budget was not presented for consideration. A follow up Congregational Meeting is expected to be held in March.

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 on-line 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/#/tithe.ly/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!

WHY SHOULD I GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY?

- Mayfield has a talented pianist
- Connect with lots of friendly people
- Learn about the Bible
- Be inspired
- Share a smile with a child
- Enjoy snacks after worship
- It's a great way to keep the commandment:
Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy

Facebook LIVE at Mayfield Church

Starting February 5, you can join us on Facebook Live for church services. Sermons from all Facebook Live streams will be available for viewing at your leisure through Facebook .

How to view

Facebook users:

1. Go on-line to the Mayfield Church Facebook page. There are two Mayfield Church pages - you will need to be on the page titled "Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL".
2. You will see the Facebook Live service in the posts - so easy! The feed will start at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Non-Facebook users:

1. If you want to watch Facebook Live but you do not have a Facebook account, go to <https://www.facebook.com/live>. You can search for our service using the keywords: Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL.
2. You will see the sermon being streamed, as well as past sermons.



Common questions:

What if I do not see the stream?

Check to make sure you are on the correct Facebook page for this event: Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL

Does Mayfield Church know I am watching?

During the Facebook Live video, Mayfield can see who's watching the Facebook Live, but not after it's ended.

I missed the sermon. Can I still view it?

Yes! Please go online to the Mayfield Church Facebook page (Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL). Go to the column header titled "more." ..and go to the category "Live." All the past Facebook Live sermon recordings are here.

You can also view sermons if you are not on Facebook by going to <https://www.facebook.com/live>. Search for our services using the keywords: Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL. You will see the sermon being streamed, as well as past sermons.

The service stopped before prayers and concerns!

Yes - This is to keep personal information private.

Thank you for your patience as we make this switch!



Jen Conley and Joe Gastiger having a chat.

February CALENDAR

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan/Feb	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person + ZOOM			Bible Study 7p ZOOM			
Feb	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live One Great Hour of Sharing	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation Bible Study 7p ZOOM	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation
Feb	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Pastor Vacation Rev. Kathy Lawes preaching Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study 7p ZOOM			
Feb	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Shrove Tues on Sun 11a			Ash Wednesday Lent Study 7p ZOOM			
Feb/Mar	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
.....	Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Lent Study 7p ZOOM		World Day of Prayer 3-6p in person	

Reports from Council meeting – January 2023

New 2023 Council met on 1/19/23 - 9 members present and 1 via zoom. 2 absent.

Pastor: Time and Reimbursement report submitted, Pastor will be on vacation 2/5 – 2/12 and Kathy Lawes will preach on 2/12. Discussion on UCC Annual Yearbook Report due Mar 1. Virtual National Gathering of UCC Rural/Small Town Churches will be held 2/7-2/11; looking for someone to attend. Events held in December were wonderful and upcoming events were presented. Coming soon – Lenten study, World Day of Prayer and Women’s Retreat. Watch newsletter for a year of wonderful events. Safe Church policy, Christian Education (we now have a Sunday School Classroom), bringing back Joys and Concerns, adding impact stories and going to Facebook Live were discussed.

Deacons: Will meet on Jan 20. A Google Survey will be sent out to members.

Trustees: Garage opener fixed. We have a rodent issue and Pest control/exterminator service will be hired. Cleaning has been taking place in the basement. Volunteers will be needed to help clean the kitchen.

Stewardship: Plan to set up a small advisory committee to look at possibilities and approach to fundraising.

Treasurers: No approved budget, this is being addressed. January has seen high expenses. \$2000 for propane and \$2397 for Quarterly Insurance. Accounts (as of 1/19/23): Savings: \$43,092.72, Checking: \$5785.82, CD: \$104,055.90. \$5,000 was moved from Savings to Checking.

Missions: 2023 Mission Calendar was approved. Missions opportunities will be highlighted in the Newsletter.

Moderator: Cleaning continues in lower area of the church. Women’s Retreat meeting to be held Jan 30.

If you are interested in seeing the full Council Minutes, please contact Diane Hance, Clerk.

February Sermons and Scripture

February 5: Spit It Out

Revelation 3:13-16 , Matthew 5:13-20

February 12: Guest Speaker Rev. Kathy Lawes

February 19: Hello, It's God Calling

Exodus 24:12-18

February 26: It Is Written

Matthew 4:1-11

Snowy tree at Mayfield

Donations Received: January 1 through December 19, 2022

	General	UCC 5 for 5	Memorial Donations	JAMS	Invmet Inc
YTD:	\$45,926	\$2,584	\$826	\$170	\$1,749

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



Wonseok playing hymns.