



A Light in the Country

I have come as light into the world
John 12:4

I have a confession to make. I love Peeps. The soft marshmallow treat covered in grainy sugar. Especially the yellow ones, the bright yellow sunshine-colored Peeps. Ever since I was a little girl I have looked forward to Easter so that I could enjoy a few yellow chicks. Now of course you can buy them year-round, but (way) back then it was only at Easter. When the Peeps appeared on our family's Easter table (along with a coconut covered cake and chocolate ice cream), I knew that warmer, sunnier days were not far away. And, yes, I still eat yellow Peeps on Easter and they still make me smile in anticipation of what's ahead. Traditions matter.

Remembering Jesus' last days on earth also matter. From the noisy crowds welcoming him as he approached Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the bittersweet supper he shared with his friends on Maundy Thursday, to his arrest and crucifixion and death, and finally the joyful realization that death held no power. Each of these events teach us something important. The light that Jesus brought into the world is apparent in each one. Remembering the events and re-reading the Scriptures that describe them are traditions that matter. And just as Jesus shared each event with others, it also benefits us to come together in community to do the same. Sharing the story, year after year, with others beside us. Anticipating what's ahead on Easter morning. Celebrating the light that is Jesus.

We welcome you to join us anytime. April at Mayfield this year is filled with special worship celebrations (check out our calendar later in this newsletter). We are anticipating smiles, sunshine, and probably a few yellow Peeps at our traditional Easter potluck brunch!

Blessings,

Pastor Lauri

Pastor Lauri

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Frances the donkey will make a return visit as the Sunday School kids enact the disciples' search for a donkey and Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Service at 6 p.m., with communion. Celebrate as we remember the institution of this sacrament. Our Maundy Thursday service will include the events of Good Friday. (There will not be a service on Friday.)

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

EASTER

- 7:30 a.m. Outdoor Service
- 8:30 a.m. Potluck brunch inside
- 10 a.m. Indoor Worship Service
- 11 a.m. Egg Hunt for kids



Sign up to bring an item for potluck. Scrambled eggs, biscuits and sausage gravy will be provided.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Join us in congratulating our college and high school graduates!

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

Invite your friends and neighbors as we roll out the welcome mat and demonstrate what Mayfield is known for: hospitality!

SATURDAY, MAY 6

TRAINING FOR COMMUNION SERVERS

From 4 to 5 p.m. Are you interested in assisting with Communion? Stop by to get some tips from our Deacons. Contact Pastor Lauri if you would like to attend.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

TACOS AND TRIVIA

Save the date! The Bible Trivia Quiz Night is back. We'll start the evening off with tacos, then get down to the business of quizzing. Prepare to laugh and have loads of fun! 5-8 p.m.



SUNDAY, MAY 21

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Please be in worship to welcome our confirmands into membership. There will be cake to celebrate during the fellowship hour.

MEET *the* MEMBER!



Rhodora Collins

Rhodora is local through and through. She grew up on her great-grandparent's homestead south of Kings, married a local man, and settled in rural Sycamore. Rhodora shares her home with husband Mark, daughter Naya, three dogs, and a guinea pig. She enjoys reading, writing and being creative, but she is happiest when she is outdoors. She graduated from Illinois Wesleyan as an Elementary Education Major, and from Northern Illinois University with a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction. Rhodora is the Ag Literacy Coordinator for DeKalb County Farm Bureau, sharing information with both children and teachers. She recently won an award for the Farm Matching Game she created!

A member since 2008, Rhodora appreciates that Mayfield is welcoming, and she always leaves worship with a feeling of connection and conviction.

Easter Flowers

Easter Flowers can be ordered now until Palm Sunday. Remember a loved one and make our altar beautiful. Order slips are available in the Narthex.

Christian Ed News

Sunday School needs you!

We are relying on volunteers to provide a lesson, craft, song, game, or a surprise each week for our kids. Pastor Lauri can help with ideas, resources, supplies, and moral support! Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

We are again partnering with First Congregational UCC in DeKalb to provide a summer Bible school program; our theme will be WATER and the story of Jonah! Both adults and kids are invited to join the fun from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings June 21, June 28, July 12, and July 19. This program is open to members from both First Congregational and Mayfield, as well as the community. Contact Pastor Lauri for more details.

APRIL 23 SERVICE AND ONGOING Earth Day

To honor Earth Day and good stewardship of our planet, Mayfield will be a designated drop for Styrofoam recycling. Bring your Styrofoam packing peanuts (bagged), your packing Styrofoam and clean Styrofoam food containers and we will take them to Dart in Aurora. There is a flyer in the Narthex and a collection container.



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/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!

WANTED Pumpkin Gardener

Do you have space at your house to grow some pumpkins for the church? We'd like to have a pumpkin activity in October and are hoping to find someone who will grow the pumpkins for us. Contact Pastor Lauri for more information or to volunteer your green thumb!

Images provided by Laurie Allen



**Mayfield Church 2023
Women's Retreat**

*Sweet
surprising
Grace*



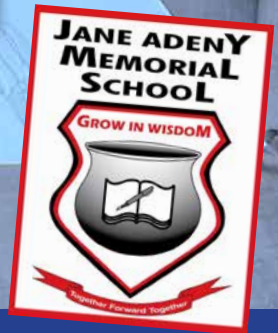
Theresa Wasonga

Diana Swanson

Andrew Otieno

A Visit from JAMS!

Drawings by Naya



KITCHEN CLEAN UP



April CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Lent Study 7pm ZOOM			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PALM SUNDAY Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Communion in person and FaceBook Live			~no Lent Study~	MAUNDAY THURSDAY Worship 6pm Communion in person and FaceBook Live	GOOD FRIDAY	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
EASTER SUNDAY Outdoor Worship 7:30a Brunch 8:30a *Worship 10a Egg Hunt 11a *in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6pm		Lent Study 7pm ZOOM			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11a in person			VBS Meeting 7p at 1st Con ~Bible Study on break~	Council 6:30pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live GRADUATION SUNDAY			~Bible Study on break~			Prairie Assoc Spring Meeting Pilgrim Park 9:30-3:30
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live HOSPITALITY SUNDAY			Bible Study 7pm ZOOM			Communion Server Training 4p-5p Tacos and Trivia 5p-8p

Reports from Council meeting – April 2023

Council met on 3/16/23 - Six members present, one on Zoom, five absent

Pastor: Time report submitted. Prairie/Western Association Joint Spring Meeting-Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Pilgrim Park Camp. We need 1-2 delegates to attend. Upcoming events include: April 22, Earth Day. Sophia is looking into a Mayfield Earth Day activity; April 23, Graduation Sunday; May 6, Tacos & Trivia from 5-8 pm; May 21, Confirmation Sunday. June 25 – SS children will design the Church Service after hearing about how the students at JAMS plan and lead all their services. VBS for children and adults will be held at 1st Congregational in DeKalb. - June 21, 28, June 12 & 19 from 6-7:30.

Deacons: Reviewed upcoming events - Cake and punch will be serviced for Graduation and Confirmation Sundays, Gifts were purchased for confirmation girls, Easter flowers, services, brunch and egg hunt for Easter Sunday.

Trustees: Phone company to come out Tuesday, March 21 to fix phone in elevator and office.

Treasurers: Andy Hargrave will be added to Resource Banking Account signature card. End of year 2022 asset accounts are up to date. A special congregational meeting will be held on April 16, 2023 after service to approve 2022 financial report and 2023 budget. As of 3/16/23: Checking \$4,587.80; Savings \$43,098.38; CD: \$104,089.38.

Moderators: Discussed ordering supplies, church/kitchen cleaning and connecting with members who do not receive emails. Women's retreat discussed, we are hoping the Women's Retreat will be an annual event.

Missions: Donations are now being taken for JAMS.

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

April Sermons and Scripture

April 2 PALM SUNDAY
Rejoice!
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

April 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Yet a Little While
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 9 EASTER
Tears, Fear and Joys
John 20:1-18 (7:30am outdoor service)
Matthew 28:1-10 (10am indoor service)

April 16
Peace Be With You
John 20:19-31

April 23
How Much Do You Need?
Acts 4:32-35

April 30
Hospitality
Acts 2:42-47

Watch our services on Facebook LIVE! Here's how:

Facebook users:

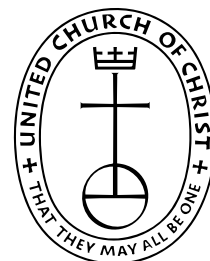
Go on-line to the Mayfield Church Facebook page. There are two Mayfield Church pages - you will need to be on the page titled "Mayfield Congregational Church - United Church of Christ".

You will see the Facebook Live service in the posts - so easy! The feed will start at 10 a.m. on Sunday.



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.



Contact Pastor Lauri

(815)757-5917 (cell)
PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

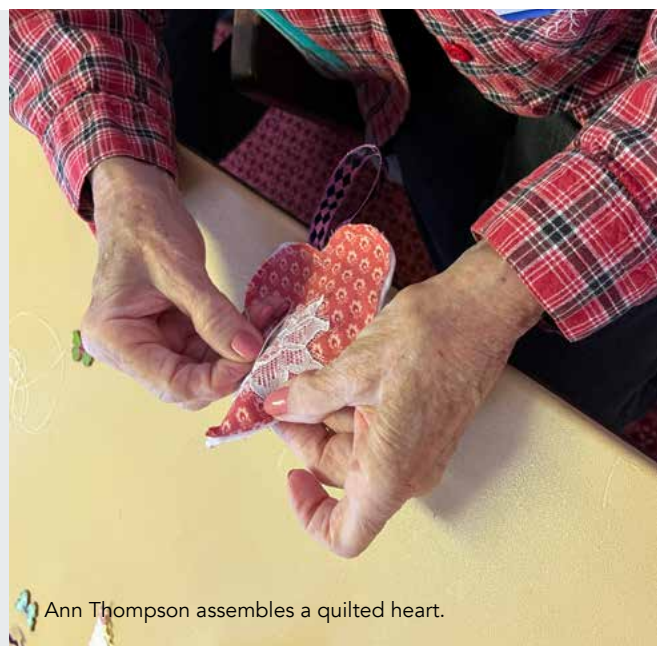
You can also find her at 10 a.m. worship at Mayfield or on Facebook Live.

Follow us on Facebook:

Mayfield Congregational Church - United Church of Christ

Visit Mayfield:

28405 Church Road, Sycamore, IL 60178



Ann Thompson assembles a quilted heart.