



# A Light in the Country

reflect the light forward  
Exodus 25:37

Spring is determined to arrive despite the chilly regressions we keep experiencing. I see flowers pushing up from the earth and buds on the trees. In northern Illinois, the Redbud and Dogwood trees with bright blossoms are welcome and direct our thoughts forward to the wonder of renewal and possibilities of summer. In Israel, the Almond tree is often the first to flower bringing the same sense of wonder and potential.

The Almond tree is mentioned several times in the Bible, including when Moses is on the mountain having that long chat with God and receiving the famous stone tablets. A good deal of the discussion then is God giving directions to Moses about building a place of worship, what to have inside it, and the designs that should adorn each piece. The lampstand is to feature almond blossoms. A flower of beauty, one that arrives after a time of rest, a season of dormancy, when life has been more difficult. God is quite firm with Moses on this point ("See that you make them according to the pattern shown to you").

I find it fascinating that God is demanding beautiful flowers to adorn things where worship is to take place! A reminder in the Almond blossom that God promises renewal, that even in the hard times we can look forward to new possibilities. The instructions that Moses is given for constructing these lampstands also directs that the flowers are to be formed so that when filled with oil and the wicks lit, the light will shine forward to illuminate the way for others.

As you drink in the spring sunshine and admire the flowering trees (in between those dreary cold, rainy days that have been hanging around), I hope you will be reminded of God's love, be filled with the hope of endless possibilities, and then shine that light forward to encourage others.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lauri*

Pastor Lauri

SUNDAY, MAY 21

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

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

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HELP

Second adults are needed for Sunday School. All you have to do is show up at 9a.m., smile, and help the kids with whatever the main leader has planned for that day. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

## SPRING MEETING

The Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ held their Spring meeting on Saturday, April 29th at Pilgrim Park Camp. Pastor Lauri reconnected with friends, made new connections, and came away with some fresh ideas. Rev. Molly Carlson, our Conference Minister, gave a brief financial update for the Conference. The OCWM offerings in 2022 fell short of the budgeted amount of \$1.1 million, coming in at \$900,000 (80% of OCWM funds stay at the Conference to fund operating costs, including salaries). So far this year, several unexpected inflows of cash have been received from the sale of property and legacy gifts. These have helped to recover from previous years' deficits.

Pastor Lauri and Kathy Lawes



## UCC SUMMER CAMPS

Registration is now open! Summer camp programs are held at our UCC camps Pilgrim Park (Princeton IL) and Tower Hill (Sawyer MI). Check out what is offered for both kids and adults at 2023 Camps & Retreats | Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ ([ilucc.org](http://ilucc.org)).



## BIBLE STUDY

We will have Bible study on Wednesday evenings via Zoom at usual time of 7 p.m. from May 10 through June 14. We will read and discuss the passages from the Book of Proverbs that Pastor Lauri will preach on the following Sunday. After June 14, we will break until August.



## MEET *the* MEMBER!



### Lauri Allen

The smile you see on Sunday mornings is nothing new; Lauri has shared many of them over the years as you can see in this photograph. She grew up in Freeport IL with three younger brothers and a variety of pets, and yes, is a card-carrying Freeport Pretzel for those who are wondering. Lauri worked as an accountant prior to training for a second career in ministry; she graduated from Benedictine University and Chicago Theological Seminary. She enjoys reading mysteries, traveling, cooking, and visiting family and friends. Lauri's daughter Kristin lives in Spokane, WA with her partner Greg; Lauri has one step-grandson, Ethan.

Country churches hold a special place in Lauri's heart, and she has found Mayfield to be warm and welcoming.

## Mother's Day Offering

This year the mother's day offering honoring those who have "mothered" us will continue. The offering will go to what is known as "Our Church's Wider Mission" which is part of the Five for Five offerings to the UCC. This supports the ministry of our national church, as well as the Illinois Conference and Prairie Association. Please email Dawn - the email is in the bulletin - or complete the available form by May 8 with the names of those you would like to honor.

## Proverb Selection

Browse through your Bible and let Pastor Lauri know what you think is good advice! From Mother's Day through Father's Day this year the worship services will be based on a proverb from the Bible that the congregation suggests. A drop box will be in the Narthex.

### Palm Sunday at Mayfield



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 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](https://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!**

# Mayfield Easter 2023



# Waystation Updates!

Diane Hance, Sue Goudy, and Diana Swanson planted five shrubs in the Waystation today. These native shrubs were chosen because they provide leaves for butterfly caterpillars and flowers for adult butterflies. They were placed to help provide more of a windbreak for the Waystation as they get bigger. They are prairie willow (*Salix humilis humilis*), gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*).

The prairie smoke flowers are blooming now. In a few weeks or a month the flowers will become "smoky" seed heads.



## Graduation Sunday



## Wonseok's Recital





## MAYFIELD CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

*Keep the Light on the Hill Burning*



Mayfield Church Members and Friends,

The last four years have been very difficult with not being able to meet during the Pandemic and the continuing financial challenges that it has presented. Mayfield celebrates its 163rd birthday this year. A 163-year-old church will continue to have unexpected big-ticket items that present themselves that are not in our operating budget. These include roofing, building siding, kitchen appliance replacement, bathroom updates, storm damage and tree care and removal.

It is time for us to replenish funding for those one-time big-ticket items not in our operating budget so that we are prepared when needed. In response, the Mayfield Church Council has established a Mayfield Church Preservation Fund. This is like the one established when we renovated the sanctuary and lower level. Our goal is \$40,000.

To date donors have already given \$6160.00 to the fund. Please consider a designated donation to the Mayfield Church Preservation Fund. Your donation enables us to continue our 163-year tradition of affirming others, social justice, and giving back to our community.

### Ways to Donate:

1. Donate on PayPal and select Mayfield Church Preservation Fund. Please consider paying the processing fee. Your donation will be sent directly to the Mayfield Church account. The direct URL for a PayPal donation is: <https://tinyurl.com/47nbn8b6>  
This option is available through the “Donate” button on our website, [mayfieldchurchucc.org](http://mayfieldchurchucc.org)
2. Drop a donation in the white lattice box in the Mayfield Church Narthex, with a note designating the funds for the Mayfield Church Preservation Fund.
3. Make a check out the *Mayfield Church UCC*, and indicate Mayfield Church Preservation Fund in the memo line.  
Please mail your check to Mayfield UCC, 28405 Church Rd., Sycamore, IL 60178.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to share this request with other friends of Mayfield Church in the community that have a love for our church.

Blessings,

Rita Yerkes, Stewardship Coordinator

# MAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live HOSPITALITY SUNDAY						Communion Server Training 4p-5p Tacos and Trivia 5p-8p
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Communion in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6pm		VBS Meeting 6:30p at Mayfield  Bible Study 7pm ZOOM			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Confirmation 9a Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live MOTHER'S DAY			Bible Study 7pm ZOOM	Council 6:30pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live CONFIRMATION SUNDAY			Bible Study 7pm ZOOM			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live PENTECOST			Bible Study 7pm ZOOM			

## Reports from Council meeting – April 2023

Guest: Diana Swanson gave update on events, Garden Walk, and planting plans for Mayfield.

Pastor: Time report was submitted. Vacation time approved for Monday, July 3 through Sunday, July 9 and Sunday, August 20 through Saturday, September 2. Music copyright was discussed. Upcoming events were reviewed. Christian Ed status given for summer Bible school, adult Bible study, kid designed worship for June 25th. Safe Church implementation was discussed.

Deacons: communion scheduling is set; training for new servers will be May 6.

Trustees: Various maintenance items around the church were discussed. Elevator inspection is completed; paperwork will be submitted to the state. Fox Valley is scheduled to recharge fire extinguishers. The need to remove trees will be further evaluated by the trustees.

Stewardship: a plan for raising Operating funds as well as developing a Mayfield Preservation Fund was reviewed. A donate button has been added to our website and should be working by tomorrow using PayPal.

Treasurer: no report

Clerk: no report

Moderator: clean up plans were discussed. Andy will be asked to obtain a Mayfield credit card. There will be no Council meeting in June; the July meeting will be on Zoom.

Mission: OCWM will be collected on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

# May Sermons and Scripture

May 7

## Checklist

I Thess. 5:14-28

May 14

## MOTHER'S DAY

### 24 Hour Woman

Proverbs 31:10-31

May 21

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

### Wisdom

Proverbs 4:6-7

May 28

## PENTECOST

### Stirred to Action

Proverbs 16:3

Acts 2:1-21

## Styrofoam Recycling

A huge thanks to all who brought styrofoam in for recycling! Sophia filled the back of her minivan and is headed to Aurora. Please continue to bring it, and we will start saving for another car load.



## 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

Hospitality Sunday

