



# A Light in the Country

let your light shine before others  
Nehemiah 9:12

What is the first thing you notice when you meet someone? Their smile, their eyes, what they say, their tone of voice, body language, what they are wearing? The staff at Psychology Today note that "first impressions are influenced by a number of factors, such as facial shape, vocal inflection, attractiveness, and general emotional state. People tend to get attached to their initial impressions of others and find it very difficult to change their opinion, even when presented with lots of evidence to the contrary."<sup>1</sup>

In the Gospel of Matthew, you will find Jesus teaching in chapters five, six, and seven. One of the things he says is, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). I think we can paraphrase this as: act nice so you make a good first impression. Do you carry yourself in a way that radiates care for others, happiness, or interest in those you meet? Does an angry or grumpy attitude shine through? I think I'll be a little more careful with any first impressions I give now that I know people are unlikely to ever change their opinions of me! Every day we have many chances to make a first impression. How wonderful would it be if we were able to consistently "let our light shine" to those we meet, so much so that they asked us how we can be so happy? (or positive? or calm? or forgiving?) and we could reply my religious beliefs help. And then invite them to come to church with you to meet more friendly people.

*Go shine, my friends. Go shine!*

Blessings,  
Pastor Lauri

*Pastor Lauri*

<sup>1</sup> Psychologytoday.com, First Impressions. Accessed 081723.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

10 -11a.m.

Mayfield's third annual drive - through event to celebrate the animals in our lives.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

## CROP WALK

CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith events that build community while raising funds to end hunger in our own community AND around the world. Please let Pastor Lauri know if you are interested in coordinating a Mayfield team or if you'd like more information.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

DeKalb (Sondra King Memorial)  
CROP HUNGER WALK

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

10 a.m. worship

Join us for a Communion Observance with an international flair.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

## MAYFIELD'S 163<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

10 a.m. worship

Remembering the past, embracing the future, recognizing our members.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

## GUEST SPEAKER: REV. MELODY SEATON

10 a.m. worship

It's a pulpit exchange! Pastor Lauri is going to be with Grace UCC in Sauk Village, and their pastor (Melody Seaton) is coming to Mayfield.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

## PAINTING PUMPKINS

(following fellowship)

Stay after church for fellowship and painting pumpkins. These are certified Mayfield pumpkins, grown by the Collins family just for us!



## MEET *the* MEMBER!



### Duane Slayton

Duane grew up in a rural area (now Oak Brook IL). He was athletic in school, setting several pole vault records, and was encouraged to try out for the Chicago Bears! Duane graduated from Wheaton College and Kent College of Law before opening a law practice in Winnetka. He taught at DeVry and Harper College, and created the first paralegal program in the United States. Duane was instrumental in establishing a self-sufficient economic plan for the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe tribe in Wisconsin. Duane enjoys reading, playing harmonica, watching the Packers, and eating Mr. Goodbars. Duane is the proud father of four children (one deceased). He likes walking his dog Danny, and is devoted to Toma, the love of his life. After attending Mayfield for a number of years, he and Toma became members in 2022. Duane likes the family feeling here and enjoys the fellowship hours.



# CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Looking for something fun to do at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings? Lead or be the second adult for our children's Sunday School time! We currently do not have a Christian Education Director, so we are dependent on you to sign up for one or more Sundays to help out. Not sure what you would need to do? Ask Pastor Lauri for details. It's easy and fun! The sign up sheet is posted in the Narthex.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS BACK!

Sunday School for the kids resumes at 9am on September 10th! All kids are welcome to join us in the amazing Kidz Zone Sunday School room at the bottom of the stairs. Our leaders will provide a lesson and surprises each week. Will there be a song? Craft? Activity? Story? Come and find out!

Adult Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, September 6th. We took a couple months off for the summer, but we are ready to go! We gather each Wednesday evening at 7pm on Zoom. Pastor Lauri will be leading the zoom sessions in September, then Diana will take over for the rest of this year. Please let Pastor Lauri or Diana know if you would like the zoom link emailed to you. Join us for an informative, discussion-based Bible Study!

**NEW**

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each second Sunday at 9am adults are invited to gather in the North Room (Library) for a discussion of a Bible story and its application to our lives. We will kick this off on Sunday, September 10th. Bring your coffee or tea!

# Donating to Mayfield.

Mayfield Church is an important and special place. We worship, make good friends, learn about and care for the natural world and remember those who have come before us, building our church or seeking shelter along a journey.

Be a part of sustaining our church.  
**Donate today using one of these methods:**

1

Drop a donation in the white lattice box in the Mayfield Church Narthex.

2

Donate through Paypal.  
The "donate" button is on our website.  
You can find us at [mayfieldchurchucc.org](http://mayfieldchurchucc.org)

3

Use an online **bill pay** through your bank.

4

Make a check out to  
**Mayfield Church UCC**  
and mail it to us at  
**28405 Church Road, Sycamore, IL 60178**

If your donation is for our "Preservation Fund", please indicate so.



John Carlson brought his **1931 Ford Model A** on Sunday, August 27.

**What a treat!**





# STEWARDSHIP NEWS

## Good news!!

Since May 1, 2023, we have raised \$10,700 for the Mayfield Church Preservation Fund toward our goal of \$20,000. Thank you for your donations to move us forward!!

Our Spare Change Collection each month has been successful. We collected \$63 in June and \$84 in July. Keep checking your pockets, purses, couches, cars, etc. We will collect the August spare change on September 2.

Our major event this Fall is our Quilt Raffle, featuring a quilt graciously donated by Rob Stoll. The quilt, titled "Dashing Stars" (size 49" x 50"), is a work of art!!

Tickets will be \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. The raffle will run from Sept. 20 - Nov. 19 at 11:15 a.m. The drawing will be on Sunday, November 19 at 11:30 a.m. during fellowship. You do not need to be present to win.

We need everyone to consider buying and/or selling tickets. Our goal is to sell 1000. There will be other tasks for the raffle event as well, so please sign up in the Narthex. More details to follow in September. If you have questions, contact Rita.

Thanks to everyone who has donated their talent, time, and treasure to preserve Mayfield Church!! It takes a village and we are well on our way!!

Rob Stoll's beautiful quilt!



# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug/Sep	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2	Pastor Vacation Aug 20-Sep 2
Sep	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Worship 10a Communion in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
Sep	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Kids Sunday School 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6pm		Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
Sep	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm	Council 6:30p		
Sep	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			Drive-Thru Pet Blessing 10a-11a

## Reports from Council meeting – July 2023

Sophia Varcados, Moderator and Cary Hansen, Deacon

**Pastor (absent) - moderator reported:** Time report was submitted. Upcoming events and worship themes were presented and reviewed. Christian Ed resumes for children on Sept 10, adult Bible study resumes Sept. 6. Second Sundays adult bible school is being added.

**Deacons:** Request for new paraments for the altar and discussion about COVID levels.

**Trustees:** Various maintenance items around the church discussed and projects completed. Septic tank was drained and repairs were made to the parsonage. Tree management is being discussed.

**Stewardship:** Mayfield Preservation Fund report was given. Quilt raffle plans are in the works, Sept. 20 - Nov. 19. Request for volunteers.

**Treasurer:** Up-to-date budget was presented, accounts were discussed.

**Moderator:** Event planning and staffing were discussed.

**Clerk:** For the month of July, an estimate of 6.5 people watched remotely, with another 30.5 views. We averaged 19.8 people a week attending service. Discussion of upcoming honors for years of church membership.

**Mission:** "UCC Strengthen the church" offering has gone out.



# September Sermons and Scripture

September 3  
Labor Day Sunday

## I'm Tired

Matthew 11:28-30  
Jeremiah 15:15-21

September 10  
Faith Formation Sunday

## Who Will Teach Me?

Psalms 119:33-40

September 17

## Mumbling, Grumbling and Stumbling

Exodus 16:2-15

September 24

American Indian Ministry Sunday

## Hínháñni

Philemon 1:21-25

Wildflowers in our windows from Dawn Carlson.

Rev. Melody Seaton is the founding and Senior Pastor at Grace United Church of Christ in Sauk Village, IL.

Plan on attending Mayfield's worship service on October 15th to hear her message, learn about Grace UCC, and discover the many ways they reach out to the community.



## 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



Jan Wyld  
brought in a  
Mayfield Church  
historical quilt.

