



A Light in the Country

Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket?
Mark 4:21

"We find fresh hope when we understand that God always starts in the wilderness with marginalized people on the edge...and if the work of God typically begins in the wilderness, rural places are poised to channel the renewal of the church."¹ There are so many small, rural churches that feel like they are "on the edge," worrying about survival, existing in the wilderness, and feeling marginalized when ideas or suggestions seem more realistic for a larger congregation in a more urban setting. Mayfield is one of the many small, rural churches who struggle with these issues. Our membership numbers are small, our finances are worrying, our congregation leans more toward elderly, we have few children attending. But read that again: *God always starts in the wilderness with marginalized people on the edge.*

I recently reviewed what we at Mayfield have accomplished during the past two years. Some of them were: hosted the Garden Walk, offered classes in the Waystation, partnered with other churches and organizations, instituted a Safe Church Policy, added online donation options, cleaned the entire church, added streaming and recording of our services, began providing a newsletter, invited the community to events, supported area non-profits, gave Bibles to three young girls, completed a Confirmation Class with two teens, and welcomed 11 new members. *Keep in mind: God always starts in the wilderness with marginalized people on the edge.*

People search many places, looking at all kinds of things, just to find "something" that will resonate with them. When our mission, our sharing of God's love, is done authentically and genuinely, with caring, it becomes contagious. People will be drawn to us because almost everyone wants to feel welcome and part of a community where the world is improved. Do you know what Mayfield's constitution says that our purpose is? "To worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the Sacraments, to realize Christian fellowship and unity with the Church and the Church universal, to render loving service toward humanity, and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace." *If the work of God typically begins in the wilderness, rural places are poised to channel the renewal of the church.*

Mayfield has such a vibrant history. We have rendered loving service and striven for justice to escaping slaves, we offer acceptance to all persons including LGBTQ+, and we maintain a habitat for Monarch butterflies and pollinators. We provide fellowship and food to all who come to us for worship. And as we relax in the garden or gaze across the fields of corn, there is a peace that descends and calms us. In Mark 4:21-22, Jesus asked, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket or under the bed and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light." We let our light shine with God's radiance when we act authentically, genuinely, and with love for all people. *We find fresh hope when we understand that God always starts in the wilderness with marginalized people on the edge... and if the work of God typically begins in the wilderness, rural places are poised to channel the renewal of the church.*

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" (Psalm 122:1). I have faith that God is already doing great things in and through Mayfield, and I am so very excited to see what else we will be called to do.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauri

¹ Beck, Michael Adam and Tyler Kleeberger. *Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church*, Abington Press, 2022.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Do you have a memento from another country that you would like to share with the congregation? Please bring it to church with you on October 1. We will display them on the windowsills and around the church to remind us of our connections to other places. There will be so many stories to share!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

MAYFIELD'S 163RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

10 a.m. worship

We are celebrating Mayfield's anniversary on Sunday, October 8! Plan on attending church to reminisce, review our rich history, acknowledge membership milestones, and welcome new members. A pot luck luncheon will follow worship (tableware will be provided).

Mayfield Church was organized in October 1860 – 163 years ago! What was the United States like back then?

- Abraham Lincoln won the Presidential election in November.
- The nation was on the verge of the Civil War (1861-1865).
- The Pony Express began between St. Joseph, MO and Sacramento, CA.
- There were 31 million residents in the United States
- Chicago was the 9th largest urban area with 112,172 people.
- Most of the population lived in rural areas.
- The 1860 census reported DeKalb County with 9,570 horses, 9,299 milch cows, 585 working oxen, 14,060 cother cattle, and 3,902 sheep. Production included 829,716 bushels of wheat and 496,448 bushels of Indian corn. (<https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu>)

RECOGNITION OF 2023 MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES

20 years - Susan Cosmos
 25 years – Dawn Jones
 25 years – Phyl Naffziger
 45 years – Paula Alicia Johnson
 50 years – Karen Johnson
 55 years – Jan Wylde
 65 years – Phyllis Roush

SPECIAL MENTIONS
 63 years – Michael Lanan
 71 years – Vernon Carey
 72 years – Joyce Oltman
 72 years – Roger Oltman

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

PIE MAKING DAY

Pie making? Yes! Join us at Mayfield to prepare pies for our Fall Pie Sale! Times and details will be announced soon, please contact Dawn Carlson for more information!

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. Rev. Melody Seaton is the founding and Senior Pastor at Grace United Church of Christ in Sauk Village, IL. Attending Mayfield's worship service to hear her message, learn about Grace UCC, and discover the many ways they reach out to the community.

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* MEMBERS!



Joyce and Roger Oltman

Joyce says she first noticed Roger as a cute curly-haired boy of 10. They attended the same high school and began dating when they were seniors. They felt a connection but Joyce laughingly says she married Roger for his horse. Roger worked as a carpenter, including on the construction of Fermilab in Batavia; he also worked on the church addition. Being involved in the church has been important to them both (Joyce was the first female trustee). Joyce and Roger had seven children, and they enjoy their grandchildren and great grandchildren very much. Both Joyce and Roger were confirmed at Mayfield and have been members for 72 years.

They enjoy attending because they feel like they are a part of the history of the church.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

A KIND GIFT

Paraments (altar cloths) in red, green, blue, purple, and white have been graciously gifted to our church by Ebenezer United Church of Christ in Stratford, Wisconsin. The congregation was formed on September 30, 1883, but after 140 years, the congregation made the difficult decision to close this year. Pastor Lauri connected with their last supply pastor and gratefully accepted their paraments for use in Mayfield United Church of Christ. We will be remembering the congregation of Ebenezer UCC during World Communion Sunday, and praying for them as they find new paths and places to worship.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Each second Sunday at 9 a.m. adults are invited to gather in the North Room (Library) for a discussion of a Bible story and its application to our lives. Join us on October 8 and bring your coffee or tea!

UCC MEETINGS

Prairie Association Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Spring Creek UCC in Rockford.

Cost to attend is \$35 and includes lunch; registration deadline is October 7. Each congregation is allowed one voting delegate and one youth delegate. If you are interested in representing Mayfield or attending as a visitor, please contact Pastor Lauri.

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ Annual Celebration

Friday, November 3, 11a.m. through Saturday, November 4, at 3:15 p.m. at Yorkville Congregational Church.

Cost to attend is \$95 (Friday only \$60 with supper or Saturday only \$35 with breakfast/lunch). Saturday has a virtual option. Each congregation is allowed one voting delegate and one youth delegate. If you are interested in representing Mayfield or attending as a visitor, please contact Pastor Lauri.

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.

Coming Soon!

Donate through Paypal.
The "donate" button is on our website.
You can find us at 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.

Fellowship Friends!





**CELEBRATING
Joyce & Roger
Oltman**



QUILT RAFFLE

benefitting the

MAYFIELD CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND

Enter
Now
to Win!

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ, known as the "Light in the Country", is a rural church celebrating 163 years of serving the Northern Illinois community. We are a recognized site for the Underground Railroad and a waystation for monarch butterflies, and we enjoy a peaceful location among farmlands. By purchasing raffle tickets for the "one of a kind" quilt by noted quilt artist, Robert Stoll, you become a part of ensuring our history for future generations!

Tickets are \$5 each, or 5 for \$20.

Tickets go on sale Sept. 17.

Draw date: Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.

To purchase tickets,
email Rita@mayfieldchurchucc.org.

Mayfield

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Congregational Church



Dashing Stars, 49"x50"



ABOUT THE ARTIST:



Rob Stoll is a part time quilt artist living in Northern Illinois. He has been quilting for over 5 years, and active in several regional and national quilters guilds.

He is known for his original patterns, pattern interpretations, bright fabric choices and fluid stitch lines, which blend aspects of both traditional and modern quilts.

Mayfield Church

Fall Pie Sale

*Homemade with
love and in time for
the Holidays!*



Mayfield Church is making homemade pies with love,
just in time for the holidays.

Let us do the baking for you, and order your pies today!

Take and Bake Pies will be frozen and detailed instructions are
included with each pie for the most wholesome results.

There are three types of pies available:

Apple, Dutch Apple and Pumpkin.

Pick up and payment for the pies will be at Mayfield Church,
28405 Church Rd, Rural Sycamore, IL on Sunday, November 19.
The hours of pick up will be noon to 5 p.m.



*To order pies, use this QR Code
or contact Dawn Carlson at
decarlson767@gmail.com*

Mayfield
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Congregational Church

All proceeds from pie sales will go to the Mayfield Church Preservation Fund



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Worship 10a World Communion Sunday in person and FaceBook Live Neighbors in Need offering			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
Oct	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Kids Sunday School 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live 163rd Celebration Pot Luck after worship	Deacons 6pm		Bible Study Zoom 7pm			Pie Making Day at the Church Prairie Assoc Fall Mtg Spring Creek UCC
Oct	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Rev. Melody Seaton in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm	Council 6:30p		
Oct	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
Oct/Nov	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm		IL Conf Annl Mtg Yorkville Congregational	IL Conf Annl Mtg Yorkville Congregational

Report from the Council meeting – September 2023

Diane Hance, Clerk

Pastor: Time report was submitted. Upcoming events and worship themes were presented and reviewed. Adult Bible Study and Children’s Sunday School has resumed. Direction from council for next two years discussed – Where should our focus be? Consensus: 1. Foster Relationship. Build on people who are coming to Mayfield. 2. Build Connections – Community 3. Encourage Fellowship – members are hungry to be together. 4. Make Mayfield a destination. Church in Stratford, WI closed their doors and we are to be the recipient of their altar paraments.

10/8 Mayfield 16rd Anniversary Celebration – Celebrating long standing members, welcoming new members and celebrating our heritage. A Potluck will be held after church

10/15 Pulpit Exchange w/Grace UCC, Sauk Village (grucc.org)

Deacons: Excited about paraments. Setting Deacon duty schedule.

Trustees: Various maintenance items around the church discussed and projects completed.

Stewardship: Mayfield Preservation Fund given to date - \$11,041.00. Quilt raffle tickets on sale, culminating November 19 th , along with a homemade pie sale. Watch for opportunities to help. Fundraising ideas discussed.

Treasurer: CD: \$104,187.59 - Checking: \$ 10,399.78 - Savings: \$ 43,126.25. Earmarked funds are within these amounts, voted that a new bank account be established for “Restricted Funds”.

Moderator: Appointing Nominating Committee for 2024 Council. Cleaning of the church. Most items removed from the basement.

Clerk: In person attendance average for August 25.5. Facebook Live averages 7.5 viewers at time of service and average 54.75 views in the weeks to follow.

Mission: October 1 – Neighbors in Need

Rita sells tickets!



October Sermons and Scripture

October 1
World Communion Sunday

Connections

I Corinthians 12:4-27

October 8
163rd Mayfield Anniversary

What more is there to do?

October 15
Pulpit Exchange

Rev. Melody Seaton preaching

October 22

Encouragement

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

October 29
Reformation Sunday

I Have Something to Say

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

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.



Fall at the waystation.



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



Sandwich Fair
Agriculture

