



A Light in the Country

See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness
Luke 11:35.

Hello, November! So quickly the bright, beautiful red and yellow leaves have succumbed to the rain, winds, and cooler temperatures of late fall. The mostly bare branches are silhouetted against the skies. Soon we'll be gathering indoors more frequently. Are you looking forward to Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas? I am! And yet as much as we enjoy being together at church and with family, all of that togetherness can sometimes bring out the worst in us. Jesus is speaking here of potential problems when parts of ourselves are not working together in the best ways:

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you. (Luke 11:34-36)

Let's take Jesus' words as a Public Service Announcement as we head into the holidays. Be mindful of what you say and the tone of voice you use. Hold back the criticism. Consider carefully the assumptions you make of others. Be gracious with your facial expressions (this includes not rolling your eyes either in front of or behind other people's backs!). Ultimately, these actions are unhealthy to you, and you allow darkness to fill your life.

Can you imagine your whole body full of light as Jesus describes? Whoa! What a feeling that must be! Think how others would feel when they are with you – happy, less stressed, hopeful, encouraged – the same way you would feel. Now that sounds like a perfect holiday gift to share with each other!

Wishing you a kind, patient, loving, light-filled holiday,

Pastor Lauri

Pastor Lauri

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

ALL SAINT'S DAY

We will be remembering loved ones who have passed away during the last year as a part of our worship service. Please contact Pastor Lauri if you have a name that you would like read.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Westminster Presbyterian Church is hosting the annual Community Trans Day of Remembrance Service. Plan on attending this poignant service at 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 19.

WANTED: FAMILIES OR GROUPS TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

Let Pastor Lauri know if you would like to participate. Individuals can be grouped together (either submit a group of your choice or ask Pastor to match you up with someone). Advent begins Sunday, December 3 and readers will be needed each Sunday plus Christmas Eve.

MISSIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Newspapers were collected during September and October; these were then donated to Tails. Thank you for the many boxes and bags of newspapers, and a shout out to Sue Goudy for delivering them for us!

114 large print puzzle books found their way into the plastic bin in the Narthex over the past several months. Thank you for your generosity! Jen Conley will pass them along to TRIAD Senior Services. They will added to care packages for low-income seniors.

Styrofoam collection for recycling has been an amazingly popular service. Bring clean items in bags on Sundays; a collection area is in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. We cannot accept packing peanuts, and food styrofoam must be kept in a different bag.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 November 12 and bring your coffee or tea! For Advent, there will be an intergenerational Sunday School every week in December.

TOYS FOR TOTS

It's that time again...Toys for Tots Gift Wrapping! Looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Spread some joy at the Salvation Army by wrapping gifts for the adults who shop for their kids. We have such a wonderful time each year!

Set up is Tuesday, December 12 from 4 - 8 p.m.; gift wrapping is on Wednesday and Thursday, December 13 and 14 from 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (there may also be some opportunities to wrap on Friday). The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. We could also use donations of bows and wrapping paper with dark skinned people and Santas. Contact Pastor Lauri for more information.



MEET *the* MEMBER!



Dawn Carlson

Dawn is a part of Mayfield in every way. She and her husband John live nearby in an older farmhouse, and her three children grew up in the arms of the land and the church. During her 17 years at Mayfield, Dawn has held council positions, taught Sunday school and hosted meals, often working alongside her church-lady mentor Phyllis Roush.

Dawn is a FFA leader, a 4H leader, the Mayfield township clerk and her family hosts a stop in the cycling event, "Tour De Farms", which raises money for the Illinois Multiple Sclerosis society.

Dawn has had a dream that as people come to church service on Christmas, they are handed a costume for the nativity re-enactment. Everyone would play a special part in telling the story of Jesus' birth!

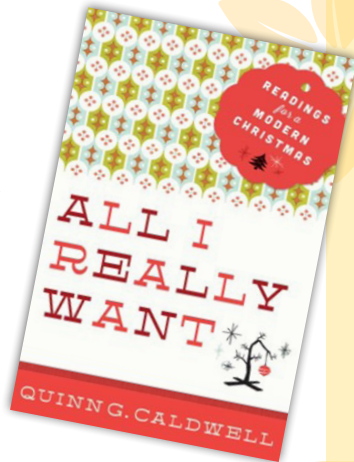
ADVENT INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Advent, there will be an intergenerational Sunday School every week in December at 9 a.m.

Come join us for a modern take on Advent. We will be using selections from the book *All I Really Want* by Quinn G. Caldwell. For a deeper dive into Advent, get yourself a copy of his book and follow the morning and evening devotions at home all through Advent (the book is not necessary in order to participate in Sunday School).

RECYCLED ITEMS WANTED FOR ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CRAFTS

- Scraps of tinsel or garland
- Empty, small food boxes (mac n cheese size)
- Curling ribbon
- Wrapping paper leftovers (8x8" or larger)
- Toilet paper tubes
- Small scraps of cloth to swaddle a baby Jesus (2x2")
- Metal jar lids (approx 1.5-2" in diameter)



THE FALL(EN) MEETING OF THE PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION

Dennis Johnson attended the Prairie Association meeting as Mayfield's Delegate (thank you, Dennis!). The following is his report.

Grace and peace to each of you! The Fall Meeting of our Prairie Association was held at Spring Creek Church in Rockford on October 14th. Roll call was taken, and unfortunately, there were not enough clergy/church delegates to make a quorum. Fifty were needed, but only twenty-four attended. We could not, then, pass any continuing resolutions for our association. Instead, we decided it would be an information gathering meeting on what both our conference and association have been doing in their ministry to our churches.

Conference Minister Rev. Molly Carlson was present and gave an overview of both the positive and negative issues facing our conference, as well as how conference staffing is conducting ministries to our church. We then were informed of our conference's financial status, which is in the black! Hooray! A great deal of conversation centered around how the conference and associations might be able to make more of a contact, a difference for our local

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

PayPal is coming soon!
Stay tuned

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.

churches, especially those of us not directly connected to the Chicago area. I see, as a positive step, that our new Conference Minister lives in Dekalb, giving her, in my opinion, almost next door contact with the wide varieties of scattered UCC churches. We heard from a member of a ministry that is seeking to clearly define ways our conference needs to be reorganized for maximum effectiveness. After lunch, more information on upcoming events from our Conference and Association leaders.

I want to thank you for your trust in allowing me to be your delegate to the meeting. I know that I am new to our caring and compassionate church. I was privileged to represent you.



Mayfield is 163 years old!
We celebrate the church and NEW members Dennis and Amy Johnson





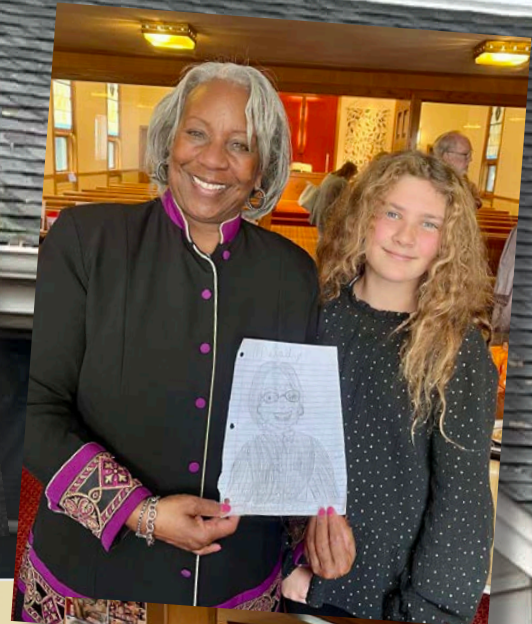
PUMPKINS EVERYWHERE!





Mayfield Church
Fall Pie Sale
Homemade with love and in time for the Holidays!





**Newspapers for TAILS!
A Visit from the Rev. Melody Seaton.
Fun at Sunday School.
Billy takes the tree down.**



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Month	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
Nov	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a All Saints Day Communion in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			Pie Making Day morning at Mayfield
Nov	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Kids Sunday School 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6pm		Bible Study Zoom 7pm	Council 6:30p		
Nov	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Quilt Drawing 11a Pie Pick Up noon-5p			Bible Study Zoom 7pm	<i>Thanksgiving</i>		
Nov	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
	Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Decorate the Church 11a			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			

Reports from Council meeting – October 2023

Sophia Varcados, Moderator

Pastor: Pastor has a new position outside Mayfield and a new work schedule. The IL Conference annual relicensing passed at the annual conference. Four people participated in the blessing of the animals. Ten pumpkins were painted. November events were discussed. Pastor continues to lead religious ed.

Deacons: Discussion over how many services to hold on Christmas. Lack of quorum led to no vote.

Trustees: The new dehumidifier is in, the boiler service is done. Billy replaced the thermostat batteries and the trees around the church still need to get removed.

Treasurer (absent): Discussion on state of church finances with two months left in fiscal year. Sophia agreed to contact Andy for an update. Need for a church credit card and PayPal was also discussed.

Stewardship: There was a discussion for expediency on the new bank account for earmarked funds. There was a request for accurate budget numbers.

Moderator: Sophia mentioned plans for a Mayfield fundraising concert. She encouraged council members to create Facebook events to promote fundraising efforts. The end of the year report was discussed. Sophia reported that the request for Sue and Jan to serve as the nominating committee went out. Sophia asked about the membership directory.

Clerk: Attendance for September is as follows: In-person total 137, average 34.25. (51 in attendance on Sept 17 for Roger and Joyce Oltman's anniversary.) Facebook live total 33, average 8.25. Facebook views as of 10/10 total 147 views, average 36.75

Missions Reports: The next mission will be the "Christmas Fund".

Old Business: It was discussed that Andy will need a co-signer to open an account for designated donation funds.

November Sermons and Scripture

November 5
All Saints Day

Oh, What Love
I John 3:1-3

November 12

Oh, What Help
Psalm 70

November 19

Oh, What Leadership
Judges 4:1-7

November 26

Oh, What Glory
Matthew 25:31-46

Apples for pies from Cheryl.



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



Ana and Smudge
were two of our
animal friends that
received a blessing.

