



A Light in the Country

the Lord will be your everlasting light
-Isaiah 60:20

Advent – a time of waiting and of searching. Mary and Joseph searched for a place to welcome their baby. The shepherds searched for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. The magi searched for the young child born 'King of the Jews.' And each Christmas season we search for Jesus. We read again the passages in Matthew and Luke of his birth, we sing favorite holiday songs, we give gifts that we hope others will like, often we attend a candlelight service on Christmas Eve. But are we truly looking for Jesus?

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "there comes a moment when people who have been dabbling in religion ("man's search for God") suddenly draw back. Supposing we really found Him? We never meant it to come to that! Worse still, supposing He had found us?"

Imagine if we did find Jesus each Advent...would we be happy, excited, joyful? Or perhaps stunned, afraid, reluctant? It is much easier to simply be searching for God rather than actually discover God. Searching allows us to stand back and observe; finding and engaging requires action on our part. Discovering God elicits a response from us; we are moved to live in different ways. It may be hard and messy and take us out of our comfort zones but it can also be completely amazing. The shepherds left their responsibilities behind to find Jesus; once they did they told everyone about this wondrous event. The magi traveled a long, long way but "rejoiced with exceedingly great joy."

I sincerely hope that you find Jesus this Advent season. I pray that each of us is reawakened to the message of love that he brought: God loves you. As you prepare for Christmas and enjoy traditions, keep searching for Jesus. And allow that everlasting light to influence you to love God, love yourself, and love your neighbors. Rejoice!

Advent blessings,

Pastor Lauri

Pastor Lauri

MISSIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Mayfield is holding a condiment and spice drive to stock the shelves at the Salvation Army's food pantry!

According to Sgt. April at the DeKalb Salvation Army, they are serving double the number of families as compared to last year. When you are worried about feeding people, the emphasis is on protein, fruits, and vegetables. The condiment section is almost always completely bare; these items are extras.

The next time you are out shopping, grab a bottle of ketchup or jar of garlic powder. Or mustard, BBQ sauce, or salsa. Maybe salt, pepper, cinnamon, oregano or chili powder. Have fun picking out whatever condiments and spices you think a family would like to have! Donations may be brought to Mayfield until December 31.

INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY WEEK IN DECEMBER AT 9 A.M.

Looking for a modern take on Advent? We will be using selections from Quinn G. Caldwell's book *All I Really Want* for Sunday School throughout December. Caldwell points out that Christmas was "the day that made all of heaven sing in wonderment and joy!" He believes that Christmas is not a day for restraint - celebrate the God who didn't hold anything back, make it look like a party! So we are going to do just that! Sunday School starts at 9am. Come and explore Advent in new ways!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ebenezer Clarke, an early settler, planted a grove of evergreens, and gave one for Christmas each year as long as they lasted. Candles were used for decorations until one Christmas the tree caught fire, which came near being serious. No more candles.

- from the booklet *Mayfield United Church of Christ... 115 Years of Service for the Lord*



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.





Making stars with Barb!



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.

A special visitor!



**The Quilt Raffle Drawing
with quilter Rob Stoll**



DECEMBER CALENDAR

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Advent week 1 Communion in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Advent week 2 in person and FaceBook Live		Toys for Tots Set Up 4p - 8p at Salvation Army	Toys for Tots Wrapping 8:45a-4:45p Salvation Army Bible Study Zoom 7pm	Toys for Tots Wrapping 8:45a-4:45p Salvation Army	Toys for Tots Wrapping 8:45a-12:45p Salvation Army	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Advent week 3 in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a Advent week 4 in person and FaceBook Live Christmas Eve Service 5p						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study Zoom 7pm			

Reports from the Council meeting – November 2023

Diane Hance, Clerk

Pastor: Time report was submitted. Upcoming events and worship themes were presented and reviewed. Inter-generational SS will be held during Advent. Coming up - Council Appreciation, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Peace Vigil and Toys for Tots Gift Wrapping. Advent bulletins and liturgy for advent wreaths are being finalized. Participants needed to light advent wreaths and do weekly advent reading. There will be lots of beautiful music in advent our services.

Deacons: Zoom meeting held on Monday, Nov. 13th. Organizing and planning for decorating of the church for Christmas. There will be 2 service on Christmas Eve. - 10 am and 5 pm. The deacons will supply light refreshments after the 5 pm service. Dec. 31 – Breakfast Church provided by the Deacons.

Trustees: Various maintenance items around the church discussed and projects completed. Discussion took place regarding internet service to the church. Brighter lighting in the basement and a video doorbell to be installed at the parsonage.

Stewardship: Mayfield Preservation Fund given to date - \$14,000. At present, the Raffle has brought in \$2245, Spare Change - \$336, Pumpkin hats - \$95. Estimate on pies - \$492.

Treasurer: CD: \$104,220.67 - Checking: \$ \$6,935.05 – Original Savings: \$ 40,322.23 - Dedicated Savings Account - \$ 5,000.00

Moderator: Jan Wylde and Sue Goudy are on the nominating committee for 2024. Annual Church Meeting set for Jan 28, 2024. Council reports needed by Jan 15, 2024.

Clerk: Attendance averages for October 2023. In-person – 23; Sunday School – 1; Facebook Live – 6; Facebook views – 38. 1 member transferred.

Mission: Ideas discussed for 2024.

December Sermons and Scripture

December 3

Hey God, Where Are You?

Isaiah 64:109

December 10

Glitz & Glam vs. Pragmatic & Practical

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

December 17

Twist and Shout

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

December 24

Big Things in Small Packages

Selected verses Luke 1 and 2

December 24

Christmas Eve Service at 5pm God invited us to a party!



Dawn's nativity on a snowy day.



Contact Pastor Lauri

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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 provides UBER services.

