



# A Light in the Country

let your light shine down upon us  
-Psalm 4:6

Happy New Year! It's the start of another year. Fresh beginnings, anticipation of what might be ahead, a clean slate to start again, twelve months to try new things as well as enjoy traditions. Each month we provide you with a newsletter filled with Mayfield information, photographs, and a few thoughts from me. For many years this church has used the tagline "A Light in the Country," and so I have chosen a Bible verse each month about light.

Do you know how many times light is mentioned in the Bible? A lot! This month I was drawn to Psalm 4. The world (again?, still?) is filled with violence, natural disasters, sickness, and uncertainty. What will this next year hold? The Psalmist cries out, "hear me when I call, O God," followed by "God hears when I call." What reassurance! We are not in this alone. God hears our prayers, our cries, our questions; rest easy.

Mayfield's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024. The Council will provide a review of 2023's activities and finances, as well as present a budget for 2024 (please plan to attend). We are a small church (in both members and dollars) situated in a location that is a destination, not a drive by. And yet such wonderful things happen here! This is a church overflowing with vitality.

My prayer for 2024 is from Psalm 4: O God, let your light shine down upon us. We put our trust in you, and you have put gladness in our hearts!

Bring on 2024! I'm confident that it will be filled with light and love and exciting new things.

Blessings,

*Pastor Lauri*

Pastor Lauri



# MAYFIELD ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

## UNDECORATE THE CHURCH!

Undecorate the church! Help us take down and put away the Christmas decorations after worship.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

## CELEBRATE MLK

Join us for a Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration. This is an ecumenical event with ten area churches collaborating, including Mayfield and Pastor Lauri. 6 p.m. at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 1201 Twombly Road, DeKalb.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

## ANNUAL MAYFIELD CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

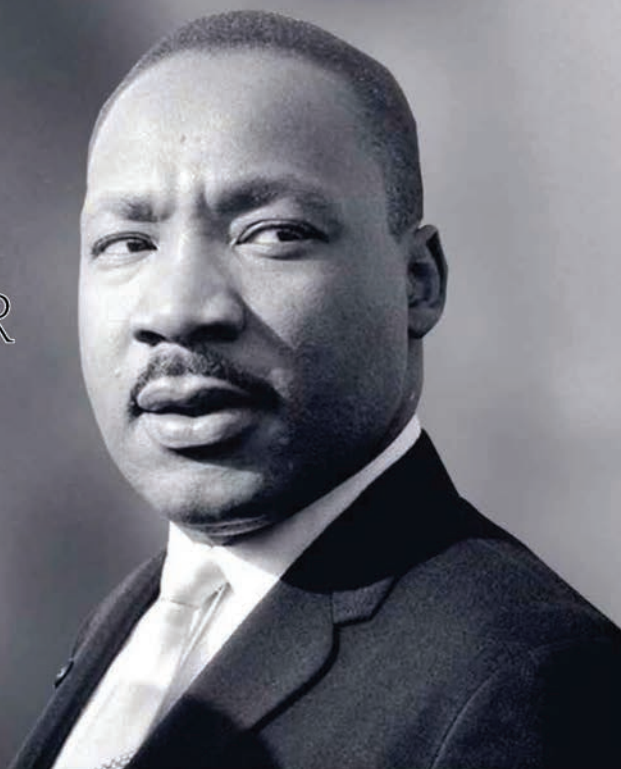
Annual Mayfield Church Congregational meeting following worship. If you are a member of Mayfield, you are needed at this important meeting. The year 2023 will be reviewed, a new slate of officers will be recommended, and a 2024 budget presented for approval. A quorum of membership must be at the meeting in order to complete the voting process.



## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR CELEBRATION

January 15, 2024 | 6:00 PM  
1201 Twombly Road, DeKalb

YOU CAN ALSO WATCH ON FACEBOOK LIVE  
@NEWHOPEMBC



### IN COLLABORATION WITH

Westminster Presbyterian Church | Rollo United Church of Christ | First Congregational Church  
The United Methodist Church of Sycamore | Mayfield Congregational Church  
First Lutheran Church | Unitarian Universalist Congregation of DeKalb  
Salem Lutheran Church | 1st United Methodist Church | The Federated Church

# MAYFIELD NEWS

## MISSIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

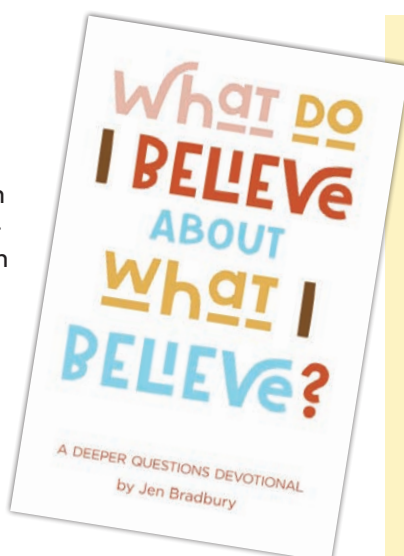
Our condiment and spice drive to stock the shelves at the Salvation Army's food pantry was a success! Thank you to everyone who donated. According to Sgt. April at the DeKalb Salvation Army, they are serving double the number of families as compared to last year. Condiments and spices are "extras" and so rarely on the shelves. Our donations will be delivered soon so that they may be enjoyed.

Gift wrapping at Toys for Tots was so much fun again this year. Over 2,000 children received toys, books, plush, and stocking stuffers – and we wrapped much of it! Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who folded, taped, and provided smiles for grateful parents and grandparents.

## LENT 2024

Our theme for Lent this year is Believe. Join us in worship each Sunday morning in Lent (beginning February 18th, Easter is on March 31st) to delve into scriptures that talk about believing.

Our annual Lent Study will kick off on Zoom on Wednesday, February 14th. This year, in keeping with our Believe theme, we will reflect on what we believe and why. Those participating will need a copy of the book *What Do I Believe About What I Believe?* by Jen Bradbury, copyright 2022, published by The Youth Cartel. If you are unable to find this book or cost is an issue for you, please contact Pastor Lauri.



## BEING A MAYFIELD CHURCH MEMBER

What do members of Mayfield do? According to our Constitution, members pledge to:

- Attend worship services
- Celebrate the Lord's Supper
- Live a Christian life
- Participate in the life and work of the church
- Support the church financially
- Take care of each other spiritually

If you are interested in becoming a member of Mayfield UCC, please contact Pastor Lauri. We'd love to welcome you officially!

## 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!**  
[mayfieldchurchucc.org](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmayfieldchurchucc.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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!







# MAYFIELD COMMUNITY!







# MAYFIELD COMMUNITY!





# JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Communion Undecorate the Church 11a	Deacons Meeting 6p					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kids Sunday School 9a Adult Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live	MLK Celebration 6p New Hope Missionary Baptist Church			Council Meeting 6:30p		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Kids Sunday School 9a Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live ANNUAL MEETING 11:30a						

## Reports from the Council meeting – December 2023

### Diane Hance, Clerk

**Pastor:** Time report was submitted. Upcoming events and worship themes were presented and reviewed. Pastor Lauri will be on vacation Mon Feb 5 through Sun Feb 11. December Toys for Tots Gift Wrapping took place with 2,000 children served. Asking Mayfield members to watch for sales after Christmas of bow and wrapping paper for next year KIDS Sunday School begins Jan 7 and we are in need to volunteer teachers and helpers. Second Sundays Adult Sunday School resumes Jan 14. Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday Evenings continues with Diana Swanson.

**Deacons** reported that Christmas preparations are truly in the works. Dawn thanked the hard, dedicated work of Deacons Wilma and Cary – their 2 year term ends in the new year. A brunch will be held after the New Year's Eve morning service.

**Trustees:** Various maintenance items around the church discussed and projects completed. Video doorbell was installed at the parsonage. Battery sump pump backup will be installed at the church and parsonage.

**Stewardship:** Rita expressed thankfulness for a true team effort which raised \$14,413 since May 29 – the kick off of the preservation fund. At present, Donations - \$11,020; Spare Change - \$367; Raffle - \$2505; Pumpkin hats - \$95 and Pies - \$426.

**Treasurer:** CD: \$104,237.49 - Checking: \$11,814.70 – Original Savings: \$ 40,338.03 - Restricted Savings Account - \$ 5,842.75. Insurance will go up 10%. Water sensors will be placed Dec. 21. We do not need internet service to comply with insurance needs for the water sensor. A cell signal is good enough. Council tabled getting "internet Service for the church" at this time. It was voted proceed with establishing Quickbook on-line and migration.

**Moderator** Jan Wylde and Sue Goudy are on the nominating committee for 2024. Annual Church Meeting set for Jan 28, 2024. Council reports will be needed and notification of this meeting will be presented in church, newsletter, email and snail mail.

**Clerk:** Attendance averages for November 2023. In-person – 25.5; Sunday School – 1; Facebook Live – 6.5. Total membership 80.

# January Sermons and Scripture

January 7

## Epiphany from the Sidelines

Isaiah 60:1-6, 11

January 14

## Informal Teaching

Proverbs 4:1-13

Mark 2:13-28

January 21

## Healing God's Children

2 Kings 5:1-4, 9-14

Mark 3:1-12

January 28

## Provision, Protection, Promises

Mark 3:13-35

The Sanctuary at night.



## 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



a just  
world  
for all  
ucc.org



New Years Fellowship Meal