



# A Light in the Country

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.  
-Matthew 5:14

Shalom!

During a recent sermon, I read a poem titled "I Pray Shalom for You" by Isobel de Gruchy of South Africa. This truly lovely piece struck a chord with many who heard it and so we have reprinted it in this newsletter.

One of the stanzas is:

*I pray shalom for you –  
That you have a soul-friend to walk life's journey with you  
That you are surrounded by a community of support  
That you are a builder of community  
That you are able to transform difficult or destructive relationships through love  
That you may live in a society of justice, peace, and harmony, but if not, that you may be able to absorb whatever suffering comes your way, and transform it, for yourself and for society.*

The phrases "surrounded by" and "a builder of" community seem especially poignant this month as Mayfield Church prepares to celebrate the 20th anniversary of voting to be a publicly welcoming congregation for all people, including LGBTQ+. Mayfield has built a community where all people all welcome and supported, a safe space where everyone is free to just be themselves.

I invite you to join us on Sunday, April 28, 2024 as we remember the discernment that led to the vote, the challenges that still remain, and our hopes and dreams for the future.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lauri

*Pastor Lauri*

# MAYFIELD ACTIVITIES

## EARTH FEST

Diana Swanson will be hosting a table at Earth Fest that talks about the Waystation and pollinators. Earth Fest is held at the Egyptian Theatre on April 18, 2024, starting at 4:30 p.m. Diana plans to create a display that helps to inform and educate visitors, and hopes to give out information such as plant lists and dates for the Partnering for Pollinator series.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Diana know!

## SUMMER STOP AT MAYFIELD, FEATURING ATTIC TREASURES AND MORE!

**Put it on the calendar! July 20 will be a Mayfield Church open house.** We plan to offer visits to the way station, our chapel and information about the role we had in the underground railroad. We will also host "Attic Treasures" and offer the opportunity to try some good church cooking!

How would you like to help? Let Sophia know - email her at [svarcados@gmail.com](mailto:svarcados@gmail.com).



## MEET *the* MEMBER!



Craig Clark

Craig is a man of many interests, talents, and experiences! He has lived in eight states, traveled through all states except the far northeast, and he has provided security, managed hotels and a bowling alley, and driven semi. Craig's long list of hobbies include crafts, gardening, camping, and bowling. He is on the Consumer Advisory Board for Crusader Community Health in Rockford. Craig shares his home with his adorable rescue pups Chase and Bentley.

Craig has been a member since 2006, joining just after Mayfield voted to become Open and Affirming. He was unsure of the welcome he would receive because of anti-gay stances he had encountered at other churches. From the minute he walked in, however, he just knew he was home.



Fellowship

# “I Pray Shalom for You”

by Isobel de Gruchy of South Africa

I pray shalom for you –

That you wake each day eager to meet whatever comes  
That you look in the mirror and are pleased with what you see  
That you accept with courage any limitations on your abilities  
That you accept with humility, but develop creatively, your special talents  
That you know which things take priority  
That you are not stressed by having to set some things aside  
That what you do illuminates who you are,  
And that you find joy in all you do  
I pray shalom for you –

That your face is turned towards God  
That you are secure in the forgiveness of Christ  
That your life is infused with the presence of the Holy Spirit  
That your whole being is daily transformed and integrated into oneness with Christ,  
and hence wholeness and wellness  
That in having died to self you are alive to your true self  
That love is your prime motivation  
I pray shalom for you –

That you have a soul-friend to walk life's journey with you  
That you are surrounded by a community of support  
That you are a builder of community  
That you are able to transform difficult or destructive relationships through love  
That you may live in a society of justice, peace, and harmony, but if not, that you may be able  
to absorb whatever suffering comes your way, and transform it, for yourself and for society.  
I pray shalom for you –

That the beauty of God's creation enralls you  
That your love and way of life enhance that beauty and do not deplete  
the resources of the earth  
That the rhythm of your life may be in harmony with the rhythm of other's lives and  
of all creation, to be part of God's plan of restoration and renewal  
I pray shalom for you –

That your faith may grow  
That you be filled with love  
And that hope never dies.  
Amen.

Pastor Lauri read this poem during service in March.

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Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy, editors.

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# MAYFIELD COMMUNITY

Meeting a friend from JAMS!



Ann serves snacks at fellowship.

Fellowship



Busy egg sorting and fellowship!



# EASTER SUNDAY



EASTER  
233

*Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57*

## Christ the Lord Is Risen

1 Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al - le - le -  
2 Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al - le - le -  
3 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - le -  
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - le -

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - le -  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - le -  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - le -  
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - le -

# MAYFIELD NEWS

## PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING

**Saturday, April 20**

Contact Pastor Lauri if you would like to attend as Mayfield's delegate; you may also attend as a guest. Registration is due by April 7.



### **Stronger Together: Thriving Congregations in Small Towns and Rural Communities**

Come join in fellowship and discover how our United Church of Christ congregations thrive and serve in small towns and rural settings across the Prairie and Western Associations.

Feel the springtime welcome at Pilgrim Park as we come together to discern God's call in the communities that we serve.

**Location:**

DuPree Center, Pilgrim Park Camp & Conference Center  
26449 1340 N Ave, Princeton, IL 61356

**Agenda:**

8:30 a.m. - Registration & Refreshments  
9 a.m. - Opening Worship & Keynote  
noon - Lunch  
3 p.m. - Adjournment

Registration is \$35 per person. This amount provides stewardship for the hospitality and lunch offered at Pilgrim Park.

## POST FROM THE DEKALB COUNTY HISTORY

### **As seen on Facebook in March**

How wonderful to see a Mayfield Church memory on Facebook! The DeKalb County History Center posted this newspaper clipping from September 2000. Do you remember this?

"Happy #FoodieFriday! In September 2000, Gurler House and Mayfield Church were gearing up to host dinners. Gurler Heritage Association's Seventh Annual Prairie Supper featured a traditional menu of baked beans, cole slaw and gingerbread for just \$1 per plate. Members of Mayfield Congregational Church served their traditional chicken supper, and included their recipe for Mayfield Church Cole Slaw, which calls for:

- 1 head of cabbage grated
  - 1 carrot graded
  - 1 small onion chopped finely or grated
- Sprinkle 1 teaspoon salt over grated cabbage. Let stand for about 1 hour, then drain.

**Dressing:**

- 2 cups of sugar
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed

Boil dressing ingredients for 1 minute. Let stand until cool. Pour dressing over vegetables, stir and refrigerate. May be served immediately."

### **See the next page for the article as it appeared!**

## Local cooks:

We need your recipes to make this section better. Mail, fax, e-mail or drop them off to the editor.

# Daily Chronicle Food & Farm Focus

Cindy DiDonna, Lifestyles Editor

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# Home cookin' is on the menu

## Gurler House, Mayfield Church host dinners Saturday

BY DALE BURDICK  
Contributing Writer

**DeKALB** — Looking for someone to cook you a traditional, old-timey farm-style dinner this coming weekend? The kind hearty DeKalb County farm families often enjoyed?

Well, look no further. Two local nonprofit groups are gearing up to give young and old a taste of homemade meals on Saturday.

For option No. 1, members of the Gurler Heritage Association will serve their Seventh Annual Prairie Supper.

The traditional menu consists of baked beans, cornbread, cole slaw and gingerbread — all homemade and all for \$1 per plate. Yes, one dollar.

It's the association's way of reviving memories of DeKalb's earliest days, when food was simple, tasty, nutritious — and really cheap — and often eaten outdoors at harvesttime, with lots of friends and neighbors gathered around.

The association serves about 100 people each year.

Supper is served on the lawn — people bring their own blanket or chairs.

They will start serving at 4:30 p.m. and go until 7 p.m.

Entertainment is provided — free of course — this year by Mark Monroe and the Collar County Cata. This group features fiddlers for bluegrass, backed by guitar, bass and percussions. They also play swing, jazz and old standards, according to association member Francis Stroup, who's in charge of the musical fare.

The music will start about the same time as the meal.

The George Gurler Home at 205 Pine St., DeKalb, two blocks north of downtown, was built in 1857. Through private donations by hundreds of community members, it was saved from the wrecking ball in the late 1970s.

Ever since then, it's been a community center available for small groups to use for a nominal fee.

Great homemade meal option No. 2, also on Saturday. Members of rural Sycamore's Mayfield Congregational

Church will serve a traditional chicken supper from 3:30-7 p.m. It's the church's main fund-raiser of the year.

Every year for the past 100 years, church members have slaved over hot stoves to produce enough oven-baked chicken and all the trimmings to feed all comers — more than 500 people last year.

The church itself is 140 years old and was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The chicken supper for the public grew out of potluck suppers for church and community members, said long-time member Eve Simonson.

This year, \$8 will get an adult all-they-can-eat chicken, cole slaw, real mashed potatoes, fresh raw veggies, homemade pie and assorted other desserts.

The cost is \$4 for children younger than 12, with children younger than 4 eating free. Tickets will be available at the door.

Carry-outs will be available beginning at 3:30 p.m. Orders will be taken at (815) 895-5548.

An event like this wouldn't be complete without baked

goods, canned goods, hand-crafted rugs and other homemade items for sale. Church members will oblige with a Country Store.

Door prizes also will be given away.

The church is at Aldrich and Church roads.

To get there, take North First Street past Route 64 and turn left on Aldrich Road (three miles past Route 64.) Turn left again on Church Road; watch for signs. Seating will be indoors.

More information is available by calling Cliff Simonson at (815) 758-8558.

### Mayfield Church Cole Slaw

The original recipe:  
60 pounds of grated cabbage

6-8 pounds of carrots  
5 finely chopped onions  
Sprinkle grated cabbage with ½ cup salt; let stand 45 minutes to an hour, then drain and dispose of liquid

Dressing:  
1 gallon of cider vinegar  
1 gallon of water  
7 pounds of sugar  
1 package of celery seed  
1 package of mustard seed  
Combine dressing ingredients, boil for one minute then cool. Pour over vegetables. Mix well. Store in refrigerator.

For a family size recipe:  
1 head of cabbage grated  
1 carrot grated  
1 small onion chopped finely or grated  
Sprinkle 1 teaspoon salt over grated cabbage. Let stand for about 1 hour, then drain.

Dressing:  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup cider vinegar  
1 teaspoon celery seed  
1 teaspoon mustard seed  
Boil dressing ingredients for 1 minute. Let stand until cool. Pour dressing over vegetables, stir and refrigerate. May be served immediately.

The Mayfield Church Chicken Supper has been an annual event for more than 100 years. Church members think it began as a potluck Thanksgiving dinner for members of the church. The church was established in 1860.



Submitted photo

Area residents load up the plates for \$1 each at a past Gurler Heritage Association Prairie Supper. The dinner usually serves about 100 people.

### Two Week Slaw

1 large or 2 small heads of cabbage, shredded  
1 chopped onion  
1 chopped green pepper  
1 teaspoon celery seed  
1 tablespoon caraway seed

Bring to a boil:  
½ cup vinegar  
½ cup oil  
1 cup sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
Pour boiling mixture over cabbage. Let stand uncovered. Don't stir.

This recipe was submitted by Marjorie Stroup, who said it originally came from Ruth Haddock, who was dean for women students for many years at Northern Illinois University and gave it to Helen Merritt.

Helen Merritt makes big pans of baked beans for the Prairie Suppers at Gurler House.

"I grew up in the Depression. We lived on

beans and homemade rolls," she said.

### "Beans Like My Mother Made"

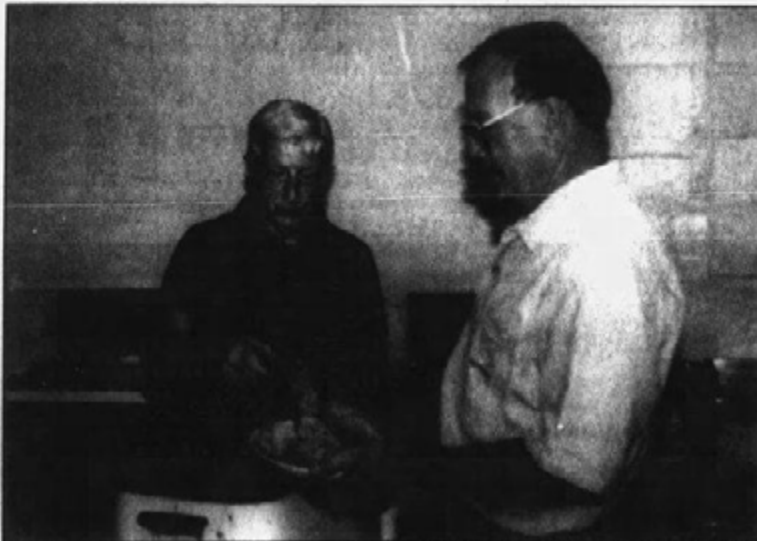
5 pounds of dry Great Northern beans  
Wash and soak overnight. Simmer in water to cover. Skim off foam. They have cooked enough when beans are no longer hard.

When done, set aside in liquid for 30 to 45 minutes.

Mix the following together:  
5 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoon pepper  
2 cups thinly sliced onions  
½ cup molasses  
½ cup ketchup  
½ cup brown sugar  
½ cup vinegar

Add mix to beans and liquid. Pour into large baking containers. Cook, covered, at 250 degrees Fahrenheit for about eight hours; adding water if beans become dry.

Add bacon or salt pork if desired.



Submitted photo

Ray Foellmer and Larry Theobal dish up chicken at the annual Mayfield Congregational Church chicken dinner. The annual fund-raiser is set from 3:30-7 p.m. Saturday and costs \$8 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4 to 11 and is free for children ages 3 and younger. Church members began the event more than 100 years ago.

# MAYFIELD NEWS

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

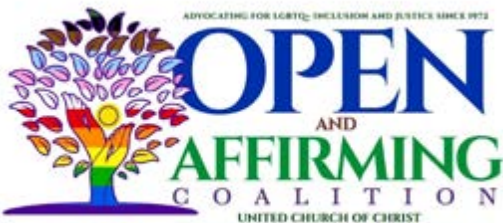
Mayfield's choice to become an official Open and Affirming (ONA) church was made on April 27, 2004. We will celebrate the anniversary of this historic vote on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Invite your friends and share why we feel welcoming everyone is simply what God has asked us to do.

"Open and Affirming" (ONA) is a movement of more than 1,800 churches and other ministries in the United Church of Christ that welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) members. More than 350,000 members of the UCC belong to ONA churches—and our movement is growing rapidly.

After a time of study, dialogue and prayer, churches adopt an Open and Affirming "covenant" committing their members to welcome LGBTQ+ seekers, support their relationships, and advocate for their basic rights.

All sacraments and rites of an ONA congregation are available to LGBTQ+ people, including baptism, confirmation, communion, and marriage.

ONA churches take seriously the Bible's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)



## 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://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.



Practicing for choir



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
EASTER <u>Worship 8a</u> in person Fellowship 8:45-9:45 Kids Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live 11a Kids Egg Hunt			Bible Study 7p Zoom			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Kids Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live Communion	Deacons 6p		Bible Study 7p Zoom			Belonging Workshop 9-11:30a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kids Sunday School 9a Adult Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study 7p Zoom	Earth Fest 4:30p Egyptian Theater Council 6:30p		Prairie Assoc Meeting Pilgrim Park
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Kids Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live EARTH DAY			Bible Study 7p Zoom			
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Kids Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live 20th ANNIVERSARY OF ONA	Clergy Meeting 12:30-2:30		Bible Study 7p Zoom			

## Reports from the Council meeting – March 2024

### Sue Goudy, Missions, standing in for Diane Hance

**Pastor** - Time report submitted. Palm Sunday and Easter services discussed, Sycamore Ecumenical Good Friday Service brought up, as well as the DeKalb County Interfaith Network, our Earth Day service, the ONA 20th Anniversary, the "What If..." box and next year's 165 anniversary. Attendance issues with religious education discussed - VBS and adult Sunday school are on hold.

**Deacons** - Palms have been ordered, congregants asked to bring clothing for altar, CDs to be used for Maundy Thursday, Dawn has lighting figured out, pulpit supply needed for a Sunday in June, as well as the open house.

**Trustees** - Waiting for estimates from Benjamin Brothers roofing. Responsive and Thiesen have weighed in. Elevator scheduled for inspection. Billy gone until April 1, exit door sign needs repair.

**Stewardship** - Options for 2024 reviewed, to include the spare change, Culver's, Attic Treasures, Belonging workshop, Pumpkin Fest will be looked in to, help for the treasurer was discussed.

**Treasurer** - No report.

**Clerk** – Attendance Average February - In-Person: 22.25; Facebook Live: 4.5; Sunday School: 1

**Moderator** - Attic Treasures and Summer Stop planned, t-shirt for ONA discussed, butterfly shirt ready, mic for Facebook Live researched. Gone last week of April, first week of May.

**Missions Report** – Dates for putting info into newsletter discussed, and email recommended.

# April Sermons and Scripture

April 7

**Jesus, Again and Again**

John 20:19-31

April 14

**Am I Still Welcome?**

Acts 3:12-19

April 21

**Being a Good Shepherd**

John 10:11-18

April 28

**Easter People**

Acts 8:26-40

Lil' Mayfield



## 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



Easter flowers