



# A Light in the Country

The light of the righteous shines brightly.  
Proverbs 13:9

As we move into summer, I cannot help but admire the beautiful space our church occupies. The sunrises and sunsets are astounding shades of pink and orange. The birds sing in harmonious yet distinct calls. The winds can be strong, but even then there is grace in the dancing leaves. Although we are only 15 minutes away from town, it feels remote here. A place where your cares melt away and the Spirit of God seems close.

It is lovely, the church is historical, we are justice-minded – and yet Mayfield continues to face the same challenges that most small churches do. Fewer people are attending services than before the pandemic (exponentially fewer than 50 or 75 years ago). Our volunteers are aging, finances are a struggle. What missions are we supporting in the community? How can we keep this church operating? Would anyone notice if this congregation were not here?

In a book I read recently\*, Bonnie Ives Marden wrote, “rediscovering a new missional purpose in your community is hard work; however, God’s plan has certainly not been fulfilled and your next vision may be knocking on your door. Rather than asking if anyone would notice if you were gone, consider the possibility that God has already planted a new vision and purpose; the challenge is simply to see it. Every expenditure of resources is an act of trust in the unknown future, an investment in the communities that support us, even if they never step on our property. Shifting from our mind-set to see expenditures as an investment in missions and in our communities will take work, but it will change everything about managing expenses. Rather than an obligation, we become investors and co-creators with God, even if we are not sure what is being planted.”

Those are some interesting phrases to hang onto and ponder: God’s plan has certainly not been fulfilled... our challenge is to simply see what vision God has already planted...we become co-creators with God. Stand (or sit) outside and take a few deep breaths, watch the squirrels scamper, allow the sun to warm your face, and then ask how can we shine brightly for God? What is the plan, the vision, that God has for us? How will we need to see or do things differently? Keep an open mind and remember that while the church has been changing for thousands of years, God’s love does not change.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go stand in the sunshine and have a chat with God.

*Pastor Lauri*

Blessings,  
Pastor Lauri

# MAYFIELD NEWS

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 5 FOR 5 MISSION OFFERINGS

This year the Father's Day Offering honors those who have mentored and nurtured us.

This offering has been designated to be one of Mayfield's "Our Church's Wider Mission" donation for the Five for Five offerings to the UCC. This offering supports not only the ministry of our national church, working with respect for Christ, to make a more peaceful, just, and loving world, but also supports and benefits the Illinois Conference and the Prairie Association.

## CALL FOR DONATIONS TO MAYFIELD CHURCH'S ATTIC TREASURES SALE

Donations/Drop-offs for our "Attic Treasures" sale will be accepted on Sundays, from May 11 through July 6, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Items should be brought downstairs at Mayfield for pricing and sorting. We will accept the following items: Books, Toys, Holiday Decor, Crafts & Scrapbooking, Coloring or Puzzle Books, Art & Decor, Picture Frames, Vinyl, CDs and DVDs, Power tools, Gardening Tools, Exercise Equipment, Purses and Handbags, Sports Equipment, Tools, Home Renovation supplies or cast-offs, Camping Gear, Collectables, Kitchen Items, and Lamps.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophia at [svarcados@gmail.com](mailto:svarcados@gmail.com).

## FELLOWSHIP SNACKS

Check out the sign up sheet in the Narthex for a time to provide snacks for fellowship on Sundays. It can be as simple as store bought cookies and grapes, cheese and crackers, carrot sticks and hummus, or something more elaborate. Totally up to you! What we like most is the opportunity to sit together after worship and catch up with each other.

## MEET *the* MEMBER!



### Dennis Johnson

Dennis grew up in Staunton IL. He served in the Air Force for 8 years, 3 months, 6 days, and 10 hours, including a tour in Viet Nam. Dennis then felt a call to ministry and enrolled at Eden Seminary where he studied under Walter Brueggemann. As an ordained United Church of Christ minister, he served churches in California, Oregon, and Illinois (Dennis' wife Amy is also an ordained minister, with the Disciples of Christ). Now retired, Dennis continues as a chaplain with Veterans for Peace. He is a fan of Dr. Who and Star Trek, enjoys reading mysteries, delving into US history, and visiting his children. Dennis chose to become a member of Mayfield in 2023 because of the history of the church, its progressive stance, and how truly welcoming the members are.



A Quiet Moment

# MAYFIELD NEWS

## WHAT IF...? BOX

What do you wish Mayfield offered for its members? What could we do better? How could we serve the needs of the community in meaningful ways? What activities were so much fun you want them repeated? What traditions should we continue? What traditions have run their course and need to be replaced? What skills do you have that you would like to share? What if, what if, what if! Write down your ideas, dreams, and wishes and drop them in the What If...? Box in the Narthex. Join God in a fresh vision for this ministry!

## CLEAN UP DAY AT MAYFIELD!

Bring your family and friends to spruce up the church on June 15th. Contact Sophia for details. Many hands make light work, music will get you in the groove, and chatting with laughter is guaranteed. Who does the work around the church in between these clean up days? We all do! There is no paid janitor so we all pitch in and do the weekly vacuuming, washing up, sweeping, dusting, taking out the garbage, cleaning the toilets. Thanks to Andy, Billy, and Duane for recently moving and cutting up the large tree limb that fell onto the driveway and road. It takes a village!



## 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.





## Partnering *for* Pollinators 2024

**At the Mayfield Monarch Waystation,  
28450 Church Rd, Sycamore**

### **June 29 Butterflies & Native Plant Gardening, 10 – 11 a.m.**

Join Peggy Doty, U of I Extension Nature Educator, and Diana Swanson, Lead Gardener for the Mayfield Monarch Waystation, to learn how to identify butterflies and garden for pollinators.

### **July 20 Open Garden, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Explore the Monarch Waystation at your own pace during Mayfield Church's Summer Stop. Waystation gardeners will be available to answer your questions as you enjoy the flowers, butterflies, bees, and birds. Plus, enjoy the Mayfield open house, featuring Attic Treasures, food and more!

### **Aug. 10 Garden Photography & Videography, 10 – 11 a.m.**

Learn how to improve your photos and videos of plants and garden wildlife from professional filmmaker Randy Caspersen. Bring your cell phones or cameras for hands-on picture-taking garden activity!. Title and description to be replaced.

### **Sept. 7 Foraging for Crafters & Preparing the Fall Garden, 10 – 11 a.m.**

Join artist Sue Goudy to learn about foraging for natural materials to use in craft projects while learning about preparing your pollinator garden for the winter from gardener Diana Swanson.

---

## **Free of charge, enrollment limited**

### **REGISTRATION HERE:**

Illinois Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists from Boone, DeKalb, and Ogle counties who attend can count the time as CE hours. Other counties should check with their coordinator.

University of Illinois, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Local Extension Councils Cooperating.  
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Mayfield**  
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
Congregational Church

# MAYFIELD NEWS

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SUMMER  
STOP**  
*at Mayfield Church*

*Come out to the Country  
for Mayfield Church's Open House*  
**July 20, 2024**  
**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Tour the **butterfly waystation** and learn about the native species that call it home.

Do a little shopping at our  
**Attic Treasures** sale.



Grab a bite from our **beloved** church kitchen!

Take a moment to enjoy our **beautiful country church**, including our stained glass in the worship area and the amazing view from the Narthex.

Learn about our role as a stop on the **Underground Railroad**.

For more information, email [info@mayfieldchurchucc.org](mailto:info@mayfieldchurchucc.org)  
Find out more about Mayfield Church online at [mayfieldchurchucc.org](http://mayfieldchurchucc.org)

# MAYFIELD NEWS



## Conversations around Values, Vision, and Vitality

Hear four perspectives of what the United Church of Christ offers for today and the future, and then engage one another in further conversation. Members, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend any or all of the discussions.

5:30 - 6:30 p.m., dates and locations listed below

### July 10

Rev. Eric Ogi

Federated Church of Sycamore  
612 West State St, Sycamore IL  
[fedsycamore.org](http://fedsycamore.org)

### July 24

Rev. David Fraccaro

Rollo Congregational UCC  
2471 Weddell Street, Earlville IL  
[uccrollo.org](http://uccrollo.org)

### July 17

Rev. John Dorhauer

1st Congregational UCC  
615 N. 1st Street, DeKalb IL  
[uccdekalb.org](http://uccdekalb.org)

### July 31

Pastor Lauri Allen

Mayfield Congregational UCC  
28405 Church Road, Sycamore IL  
[mayfieldchurchucc.org](http://mayfieldchurchucc.org)

---

Questions? Contact Rev. John Dorhauer  
602-402-6171

all locations are accessible

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Kids Sunday School 9a <u>Worship 10a</u> in person and FaceBook Live MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY			Bible Study 7p Zoom			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live Communion			Bible Study 7p Zoom			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10a in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6p		Bible Study 7p Zoom			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live UCC OCWM offering FATHER'S DAY			Bible Study 7p Zoom	Council 6:30p		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	Waystation Class 10a <i>Pastor vacation</i>
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Worship 10am</i> in person and FaceBook Live  <i>Pastor vacation</i>						

## Reports from the Council meeting – April 2024

### Diane Hance, Clerk

**Pastor** - Time report submitted. Pastor Lauri meets monthly with the local UCC churches. July Bible Study – Joint Bible Study between Federated, 1st Congregational, Elburn/Rollo and Mayfield. Each church will host and lead a study, Wednesday Evenings. Retrying “What if Box”. Diana Swanson leading a Wednesday night Bible Study. Children’s SS is done for this semester.

**Deacons** - Pastoral supply needed for June 30th. The theme for June is “M” words, so we could do an “M for Music Service” on that day. Next Deacons meeting is June 10.

**Trustees** – Elevator Inspection to be done. Mowing and yarn work has begun with much help. Large items to be removed from the basement and attic insulation to be checked out.

**Stewardship** - We are on Culver’s Fundraiser list. When a date is selected, those going to Culver’s need to say they are supporting Mayfield. Council is looking into participating in Pumpkin Fest - Rita sent out an email to the council regarding the procedure/application for having a table at Pumpkin Fest, October 27, 2024. What would our table look like if we choose to participate??? Deadline is Sept 1. Rita requests that a church credit card for church expenses be obtained.

**Treasurer** - Financial report submitted and approved. Quickbooks is up and running. In general, we take in approx \$3,200 income with \$4,100 expenses every month. Will pay for Roof - \$22,598. There will be a discount on our property insurance with the new roof. Andy will get together with our new bookkeeper. Set her up to have access to Quickbooks on-line. Discussion on taking money out of CD. Andy feels we need a 3 month lead time to liquidate some of the money. Will look at this the end of summer. Sophia and Andy will work out a system for depositing Sunday donations after church.

**Clerk** - Attendance Average April - In-Person: 20.5 ; Facebook Live: 4.5; Sunday School: 1.

**Moderator** - Attic Treasures Sale/Open House July 20 - accepting donations at this time. Church clean-up. Sophia has a list started with tasks to complete, best dates to choose from are June 1 or June 15. Sign up on bulletin board. Central e-mail list document has been put together.

**Missions** - Looking to link a collection drive to something special. Checking with agencies such as Salvation Army, Family Service Agency, Hope Haven for needs within the agencies.

# June Sermons and Scripture

June 2  
**The “M” Word - #1**  
Mark 2:23-3:6

June 23  
**The “M” Word - #4**  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13

June 9  
**The “M” Word - #2**  
Psalm 130

June 30  
**(Pastor Lauri on  
vacation)**

June 16  
**The “M” Word - #3**  
Mark 4:26-34

Summer is here!



## 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

