



A Light in the Country

...a light from heaven flashed around him.
Acts 9:3

Welcome to summer!

It certainly has felt like summer in northern Illinois lately – hot, humid, and sunny. Please be sensible about staying hydrated and finding cool spots to avoid heat stroke.

All manner of “heat” has been on my mind lately. The news is full of “hot heads” who have plenty to say about almost everything. Sometimes it seems that they are stuck in a loop of anger that keeps them focused on whatever or whomever it is that they disagree with, so divisively that they cannot entertain any other views. We are all passionate about something, but hopefully we can remember to keep an open mind and listen respectfully to those who feel differently.

Acts chapter nine tells the story of Saul encountering Jesus’ voice on the road to Damascus. The opening verses relate, “Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.” Talk about a hot head! Saul not only terrorized the early Christians with words, but he also used the legal system to stop them from telling others about their beliefs. He did not want any competition with his interpretation of religion. This sounds like it could have been taken from today’s headlines, doesn’t it?

Saul was so loud, so commanding, so sure of himself that others naturally fell in with him; he seemed unstoppable. Until, that is, Jesus shook him up and literally caused him to fall flat on the road. A light flashed and a voice boomed out “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Saul asked who was talking to him. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Someone was able to stop Saul and change his mind.

I have to admit that, just for a moment, it is kind of entertaining to imagine waiting for someone who strenuously disagrees with what we feel passionately about – microphone in hand, ready to shout from a hidden space – and scaring them so badly they fall to the ground. Truly that is not a good idea for us, but we can listen to those we disagree with, we can remain calm and not scream in retaliation, and we can vote to protect the values we hold as important for our nation.

I wish you a happy Independence Day in the spirit our forefathers intended: a country where we are all free to practice our own preferred religious beliefs.

Pastor Lauri

Blessings,
Pastor Lauri

MAYFIELD NEWS

CONVERSATIONS AROUND VALUES, VISIONS AND VITALITY

How much do you know about the United Church of Christ (UCC)? Four of our area UCC churches are hosting times to explore the similarities and differences within the UCC. The first of four 'Conversations Around Values, Vision, and Vitality' will be on Wednesday, July 10th at Federated Church in Sycamore.

Pastor Eric Ogi will share how interfaith relationships coexist in his personal life, in this shared UCC and Unitarian Universalist congregation, and how respecting other beliefs fit within the UCC's mission. Discussion will be encouraged. The sessions all run from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Each time we meet, we'll discover something interesting about that church, the pastor that leads it, and how the UCC is important to them. Future sessions are:

July 17 - First Congregational UCC in DeKalb with Pastor John Dorhauer

July 24 - Rollo Congregational UCC in Rollo (Earlville) with Pastor David Fraccaro

July 31 - Mayfield is hosting!!!
Contact Pastor Lauri for more information.

ATTIC TREASURES UPDATE!

Donations/Drop-offs for our "Attic Treasures" sale will continue to be accepted through July 6, 2024, from 11:15 a.m. to noon.

We will be pricing and staging the area on July 10, from 9 a.m. until noon, and on July 13, from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

If you are volunteering for the day of the event, we will need help in the kitchen, making sales and helping visitors. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Sophia at svarcados@gmail.com.

MEET *the* MEMBER!



Diane Hance

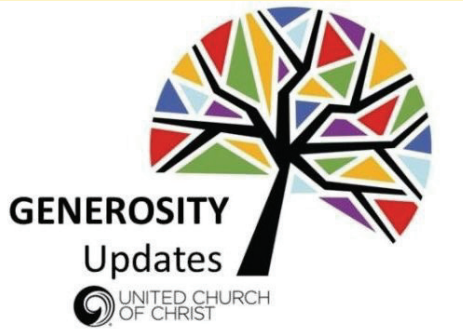
Diane Hance grew up in a small town in Wisconsin where her father (and grandfather) operated a funeral home. Diane met her husband Rick in high school and look forward to celebrating their 54th anniversary this month. They have one son Dan who, using his martial arts knowledge, is teaching his mom some new moves. She worked at Kaneville Community Childcare Center and DeKalb County Hospice before retiring. She now volunteers for Northern Illinois Hospice. Diane is a Green Bay Packers fan, plays the ukulele and keyboard, knits, sews, and bakes sourdough bread. Diane has always been an active and devoted member of her churches. She chose to become a member of Mayfield in 2022 because it is a "loving, accepting community of faith."



Attic Treasures!

MAYFIELD NEWS

GENEROSITY UPDATES FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



The National Ministries and the Pension Boards partnered to provide additional resources to make the promotion of planned giving more accessible in your congregation. We created a new website where people can create (or draft and take to their lawyer) a will. The site prompts people to consider a charitable gift in their estate, but it doesn't require it. You can learn more about this resource by visiting www.freewill.com/ucc.



Pride month at Mayfield.



We celebrated Ann Werhane's half-year birthday and friends from California came!

MAYFIELD NEWS

A LETTER FROM MOLLY

Dear Illinois Conference,
It has been my joy and my honor to serve as your Conference Minister for the last four years. You will recall that I moved here sight unseen in August of 2020 during the height of the pandemic. At that time, it was clear that the Conference was facing a financial crisis, staffing was unsteady and there was little shared identity.

Together, we have stabilized our finances including developing new policies and procedures that will provide good guardrails for maintaining good financial practices. We have sold eight properties which both rebuilt our reserves and stopped the ongoing expenses of basic upkeep. We have restructured and stabilized our staff and now have up-to-date personnel files for everyone. We have tackled big issues like updating our governance documents and addressing the role our camps will have in our Conference. We have done a LOT of good work together.

Our current governing documents allow for a four-year term before a Conference Minister needs to be reelected in order to stay in office. In consultation with the Conference Council, my term has been extended until November 2, 2024 or the conclusion of our Conference Annual Celebration. The assumption is that during this meeting, the gathered body would vote whether or not to extend my call for an additional four-year term.

However, I have discerned that it is time to leave without seeking a second term. This has not been an easy process for me. We have done great work together and I am optimistic about the future for the Illinois Conference. However, our work together has uncovered the next big bit of work as the Illinois Conference moves toward ever greater structural health and I do not feel called nor equipped to lead this next chapter. I have gained greater clarity that my call is to Interim Conference Ministry. Beginning on September 15th, 2024, I will begin my next chapter of ministry as the Interim Conference Minister for the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. I have given Rev. Jon Prain, Conference President, my letter of resignation and my ninety days notice. During this time I will continue to work with the Conference Council and with the staff to prepare for the changes ahead. I pray that God is already working in the heart of your next Conference Minister. I have great confidence that the Illinois Conference will continue to be Stronger Together.

Blessings, Rev. Molly Carlson
Illinois Conference Minister



Soy across the street

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.

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

July 24

Rev. David Fraccaro

Rollo Congregational UCC
2471 Weddell Street, Earlville IL
uccrollo.org

July 17

Rev. John Dorhauer

1st Congregational UCC
615 N. 1st Street, DeKalb IL
uccdekalb.org

July 31

Pastor Lauri Allen

Mayfield Congregational UCC
28405 Church Road, Sycamore IL
mayfieldchurchucc.org

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

all locations are accessible



Partnering *for* Pollinators 2024

**At the Mayfield Monarch Waystation,
28405 Church Rd, Sycamore**

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

Join Peggy Anesi, U of I Extension Natural Resource 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 – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to take photos and videos of plants and garden wildlife from professional filmmaker Randy Caspersen. Bring your cell phones and cameras for hands-on picture-taking and video-making garden activities!

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, no registration necessary

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. If you need a **reasonable accommodation** to participate, please contact DeKalb U of I office at 815-758-8194. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your needs.

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

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Pastor vacation				Independence Day		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Communion	Deacons 6p		Pricing for Attic Treasures			Pricing for Attic Treasures and Church rented for private event
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live				Council 6:30p		Mayfield's Summer Stop
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live						
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live						

Reports from the Council meeting – June 2024

Diane Hance, Clerk

Pastor - Pastor - Time report submitted. Joint gathering will be held Wednesday evenings in July between Federated, First Congregational-DeKalb, Elburn/Rollo and Mayfield. Each church will host and lead a study, Wednesday Evenings. Pastor is on Vacation 8/22-9/4. Pulpit Supply will be needed. Pastor Lauri is in process of "Alternate Path to Ordination through Prairie Association". Many steps to complete, in plans for Ordination before Christmas 2024. Rev. Kathy Lawes is on Sabbatical in July and August. Diana Swanson will lead a fall Wednesday night Bible Study, "Exploring the Life of Faith Through Art."

Deacons – No Report

Trustees – Elevator Inspection to be done. Mowing and yard work has begun with much help. Insulation to be checked in the attic. Pest Control to be maintained.

Stewardship - Pumpkin Fest participation was tabled for the future. Focus on "Summer Stop – Attic Treasures" at this time. Possible participation in the future with Sycamore Park District Non-Profit event. Getting information about Mayfield into the community.

Treasurer - Financial report submitted. Asset list to be updated. Andy will work with new bookkeeper,. Set her up to have access to Quickbooks on-line. Discussion on taking money out of CD. Sophia and Andy will work out a system for depositing Sunday donations after church.

Clerk - Attendance Average April – In-Person: 19; Facebook Live: 3.5; Sunday School: .33.

Moderator - Attic Treasures Sale/Open House July 20 - accepting donations at this time. Church clean-up held. Will submit press release soon. Ann Thompson, a wonderful resource on Attic Treasures, organization and pricing will meet with Sophia. Flyers to be distributed. Volunteers needed that day. Church clean-up took place on June 15 – thank you to the 10 workers that day, inside and outside

Missions – Father's Day donations to OCWM and in August there will be a donation drive for "Strengthening the Church".

July Sermons and Scripture

July 7
Baggage
Mark 6:1-13

July 14
A Party and a Platter
Mark 6:14-29

July 21
**Have Bed,
Will Travel**
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28
**A Different
Kind of Party**
John 6:1-21



Karen Carrier's
"Earth Bracelets" for
sale at Attic Treasures



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



Beautiful sunrise at Mayfield