

A Light in the Country

...a light for those who are in the dark
-Romans 2:19

And just like that we are in August! A few last weeks before school starts, routines begin, the streets are busier in the mornings, and we will need to watch for school buses. What are your plans for the end of summer? I'm going to spend some time relaxing at a beach house. Listening to the waves helps me to unwind, to empty my mind - as well as to think deep thoughts.

I came across these verses recently: "if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?" -Romans 2:19-21. Whew! This is fodder for deep thoughts and some serious introspection. We know the 10 Commandments; do we use them to instruct others or do we live them personally as well? We repeat Jesus' words "whatever you did to the least of these you did to me" but are we modeling care for the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned? Do we stand on the Bible and act sanctimonious or are we humble and search for ways to make ourselves and the world better? We preach 'love your neighbor' but do we actually reach out to those we disagree with?

I'm going to put some more thought into this and try to be honest about how I measure up. But first I'm going to sit in the sun and relax. I hope that you do something relaxing, too.

Pastor Lauri

Blessings,
Pastor Lauri



A monarch and a common buckeye at the way station

MAYFIELD NEWS

WE NEED YOU!

There are many opportunities coming up where you can make a real difference and serve Mayfield Church! Let Sophia or Pastor Lauri know if you are interested or have any questions.

- **Nominating Committee** – 2-3 members are needed to serve. This is a short-term obligation and involves asking others to be on the slate of new Council Officers for our January annual meeting.
- **Council** – there will be multiple positions open. The church and its ability to function depends on having a full Council. All non-profits, including churches, must have a Board in place to maintain their legal status.
- **Delegates** – Mayfield needs to elect and send two delegates to both the Prairie Association fall meeting (Saturday, September 28th in Peru) and the IL Conference annual meeting (Friday/Saturday, November 1-2 in Western Springs). Pastor Lauri will be attending both meetings but she cannot be a delegate for Mayfield; pastors represent themselves and vote accordingly. Each church sends delegates that represent the congregation and they vote on behalf of the congregation.

VALUES, VISION, VITALITY

Four area UCC Churches gathered and discussed what the UCC encompasses, what we have in common, and how we handle differences. Mayfield, The Federated Church in Sycamore, 1st Congregational in DeKalb, and Rollo Congregational each hosted a Wednesday evening where members listened to the pastors speak on a topic, and then shared experiences and ideas in small groups. It was a wonderful chance to explore ways that the four churches can be stronger together and share projects in the future. Pastor Lauri focused on the words in the traditional UCC logo: That they may all be one (from John 17:21).



MEET *the* MEMBER!



Sue Goudy

Sue, along with her brother and sister, grew up in a military family. Her interest in art drew her (pun intended) to a degree in Fine Arts and a Master's in Fiber Arts from NIU. After graduating, she celebrated at DeKalb's Corn Fest where she found not only fun but her future husband. Sue worked for Oak Crest, 4-C Child Care, and Hospice before retiring. She stays busy volunteering for DeKalb County Community Gardens and our Monarch Waystation. Sue enjoys Pilates and her dog Ms. Patches keeps Sue walking. She likes sampling new foods, mastering crossword puzzles, and writing thank you notes to politicians! A member since 2018, Sue appreciates the genuine welcome here and the diversity of people. Being an Open and Affirming church played a large role in her decision to call Mayfield home.



Ann and Sue made gazpacho

ELECTION WEEK PRAYER ASSISTANCE

The Wisconsin Council of Churches has offered prayers and scriptures to guide us through these election weeks. Seven Prayers With Seven Scriptures, written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell of the American Baptist Church, are meant to guide you as you navigate these difficult times.

SEVEN PRAYERS WITH SEVEN SCRIPTURES

YOU CAN PRAY ONE EACH DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN YOU READ THE MORNING NEWS OR SOCIAL MEDIA, AT YOUR LUNCH BREAK, OR AT THE END OF A TROUBLING DAY. OR, YOU CAN PRAY THE PRAYER YOU NEED IN THAT MOMENT.

On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations

When our anger leads us to roads of rage;

Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.” – Psalm 34:14

When the news is disturbing

When hopelessness troubles us;

Gentle God, may we know Your presence is with us.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” – John 14:27

When social media posts or politics threaten friendships

When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us;

Prince of Peace, reign in us.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” – Colossians 3:15

As political signs are posted

When we see our neighborhoods covered with blue and red signs; Creator God, remind us You created every one of us, all our neighbors, in Your image.

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” – Romans 12:18

When we feel defeated, or don't want to engage with others

When our despair causes us to withdraw;

O Lord, remind us that we belong together.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” – Matthew 5:9

When your mental health is affected

When our anxiety keeps us up at night;

God Who Watches Over Us, grant us restful sleep.

“I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.” – Psalm 4:8

When fear of what might happen overwhelms us

When hope seems but a glimmer;

Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.

“And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.” – James 3:18

loving your neighbor
IN ELECTION SEASON

MORE RESOURCES AT WICHURCHES.ORG/ELECTIONS



SUMMER STOP

at Mayfield Church



We all did a little shopping...



Diane greeted everyone!



Jewelry sales were excellent!



The gardens looked perfect.



Caroline flagged down traffic!

MAYFIELD NEWS

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

One of our 5 for 5 missions is Strengthen the Church. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Know that your generosity will help to plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Mayfield will be collecting donations for Strengthen the Church on Sunday, August 18th.

MANY HANDS MADE LIGHT WORK!

A dedicated crew met on a Friday night at Mayfield to make the New York Times Chez Panisse blueberry cobbler. We mixed the butter gently in to the flour, and prepped organic blueberries, and baked up eight trays of cobbler, which visitors and others enjoyed at our Summer Stop event. Thanks to all who joined us!

Friday night and the baking is on!



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,
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.

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Mayfield
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Congregational Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			4 UCC Churches Values, Vision, Vitality 5:30p - 6:30p			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Communion						Waystation Class 10a
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6p			Council 6:30p		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live UCC Strengthen the Church offering				<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Rev. Nancy Fraley <i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>	<i>Pastor vacation</i>

Reports from the Council meeting – July 2024

Diane Hance, Clerk

Pastor - Time report submitted. Pastor is on vacation 8/22 – 9/4. Pastoral care will be needed while she is gone. Pastor Lauri shared the process/steps/timeline she is going through regarding “Alternate Path to Ordination” through Prairie Association.

CHRISTIAN ED

Joint gatherings continue on Wednesday evenings in July. Diana Swanson will lead a fall Wednesday night Bible Study, “Exploring the Life of Faith Through Art.”

Deacons – In process of confirming Pulpit supply for August 25 and we will have another hymn sing on Sept 1. Communion will be moved to Sept. 8, upon Pastor Lauri return.

Trustees – Discussed possible parking lot surfacing. Elevator Inspection took place, Leaking air conditioner over the elevator will be repaired by Billy. Lawn Mower needs repair or be replaced.

Stewardship – No report

Treasurer - Financial report submitted. Asset list updated. Mayfield debit card obtained through Resource Bank.

Clerk - Attendance Average June - In-Person: 17.8; Facebook Live: 4.8. Letter sent to Kathy Lawes, confirming Pastor Lauri’s membership at Mayfield as a part of her Path to Ordination process.

Moderator - Update on Summer Stop/Attic Treasures – pumped and thankful for everyone’s contribution to this event. Deposits are going well after Sunday Worship. Church was rented on Sat. July 13 for a Bridal shower. Met with Katherine from the DeKalb Visitors Bureau, exploring Mayfield’s connection with the Underground RR.

Missions – August donation drive for “Strengthening the Church”.

August Sermons and Scripture

July 7: **Baggage**
Mark 6:1-13

Aug. 4: **This is the Bread**
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Aug. 11: **Oh, the Journey!**
I Kings 19:4-8

Aug. 18: **Hallelujah!**
Psalm 111

Aug. 25,
Guest Pastor: Rev. Nancy Fraley
(Pastor Lauri will be on vacation)

Echinacea in full bloom at the way station.

Inset:

A red admiral butterfly



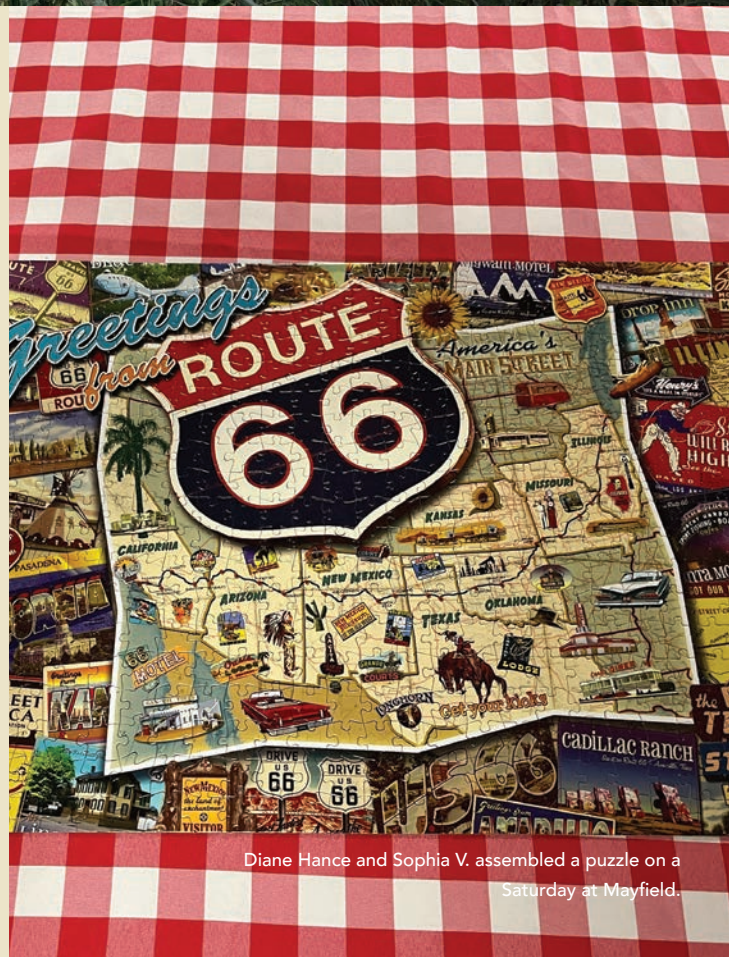
Contact Pastor Lauri

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You can also find her at 10 a.m.
worship at Mayfield or on Facebook Live.

Follow us on Facebook:
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Visit Mayfield:
28405 Church Road, Sycamore, IL 60178



Diane Hance and Sophia V. assembled a puzzle on a Saturday at Mayfield.