



A Light in the Country

Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.
-Ecclesiastes 11:7

Pastor Lauri has been enjoying a Sabbath, a sacred time of rest and renewal, in the sweet sunshine of North Carolina. Until she returns in early September, please enjoy this recent devotional written by Donna Schaper.

Visit <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> to view others.

The Daily Devotional is a spiritually deep well, to which thousands of readers are drawn each day. The overall voice of the Daily Devotional is tended by the Stillspeaking Writers' Group and supported by the staff of The Pilgrim Press. Local Churches, Conferences, Associations, and other ministry settings of the United Church of Christ may use these reflections for any not-for-profit use by any medium, so long as credit is given to the reflection's author and its content is not altered in any way.

Sabbath

by Donna Schaper | published on Aug 21, 2024

Then [Jesus] said to them, *"The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath."* – Mark 2:27 (NRSV)

Vacations don't work. Many come back just as tired from vacation as when they left. The reason is the way we work. Many Americans, across the political spectrum, agree that their purpose in life is meaningful work. That's why so many of us volunteer in our "spare" time for Habitat or the local food bank; we like work that "matters."

So we try to get all our breathing done in a few weeks of vacation or on the weekends—cramped in between the "meaningful work" we pursue.

But breath is cyclical. You need to do it regularly, not episodically.

Sabbath is the best of time. It is time that doesn't feel like "it's too late." Or rushed, which has the sound of that car behind you honking at you for not going faster. It is sacred time, not debased time. We won't sabbath well if we don't change the world of work, the dailiness of our days. When we vacation with the intent of living as "someone simpler" for a couple of days or weeks, we are likely mourning lost indigeneity. Lost folk ways. Lost artisanal ways. Nostalgia is often defined as mourning for the time that never was. Ok. But what about the time that was promised from the beginning?

The sabbath was not made for humanity but humanity for the sabbath.

Prayer

Grain-picking God, help us dethrone speed and put the sacred back on its throne, both at work and at play. Amen.

About the Author

Donna Schaper is Interim Minister at the United Congregational Church of Little Compton. Her latest book is *Remove the Pews*

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

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 28 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.

Marc Chagall
The Madonna of the Village
1938 - 1942

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are ready and waiting! Are you interested in Sunday School? Either a class for adults or for kids at 9am before church? Is there a teen who would like to explore religion through a confirmation process? We are happy to provide these groups but need to have a commitment of attendance. Please reach out to Pastor Lauri or Diane Hance to be a part of the cool crowd!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study returns with a twist! Join the Zoom group on Wednesday evenings this fall for Exploring the Life of Faith Through Art. The group will read short stories, consider some related artwork, and discuss how faith impacts our actions and reactions. The first session will be at 7p.m. on September 11. Contact Diana Swanson or Pastor Lauri with any questions.



Fellowship

MAYFIELD CHURCH SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

All church members will be receiving this via email.

Dear Mayfield Church Member,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ will hold a Special Congregational Meeting on September 22, 2024. The meeting will begin at approximately 11 a.m.

The council has called this meeting to keep the congregation informed of our current financial and organizational needs. We are looking to the future and what that means for us, for our church members, and our community. The church is at the time of the year when we will seek Council Members for 2025. This past year we have made great things happen with the congregation's support but a very small, limited council. Council positions will need to be filled. Unfilled positions may require organizational and legal changes for Mayfield Church to remain operative. Our proactive efforts will aid us in the future – together we can keep our doors open!

Please come with an open mind and spirit. How might a redefined council be structured? How can someone not on the council provide an ongoing function of the church? Creatively, we can keep Mayfield a thriving church, a support for members and friends, and a warm, welcoming “Light in the Country”.

All members are encouraged to attend, as an in-person quorum of 15% is required for voting. Attendance is a responsibility of being a member of Mayfield, and we truly count on you.

We look forward to seeing you at our September 22 meeting. If you have any questions, please contact our moderator, Sophia Varcados, at svarcados@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Diane Hance, Clerk
Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ

Mayfield
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Congregational Church

Sunday School, 9 a.m., Sunday Service, 10 a.m.
28405 Church Rd., Sycamore, IL 60178
Pastor Lauri Allen, 815-895-5548
info@mayfieldchurchucc.org, www.mayfieldchurchucc.org
Facebook: Mayfield UCC, Sycamore, IL



MAYFIELD NEWS

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



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 Stroll. 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.
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Mayfield
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
Congregational Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live *no communion Rev. Nancy Fraley Pastor vacation	Pastor vacation	Pastor vacation	Pastor vacation			Waystation Class 10a
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Communion	Deacons 6p		Bible Study 7p Zoom			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study 7p Zoom	Council 6:30p		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG 11am			no Bible Study			Prairie Assoc meeting in Peru IL
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			no Bible Study			

Report from the Council meeting – August 2024

Diane Hance – Clerk

Pastor - Time report submitted. Pastor Nancy Fraley will serve as Pulpit Supply August 25 and Sept 1. Joe Gastiger will cover emergency pastoral needs. Communion will be served Sept 8. Updated status of her "Alternate Path to Ordination". July's 4 UCC Church Event went well, with 25-30 attending each week. Delegates are needed to Prairie Association fall meeting on Sat. Sept 28 in Peru and the IL Conference Annual Meeting, Nov 1-2 in Western Springs.

Deacons – No report

Trustees – AC in Narthex has been repair, as has the lawn mower tire. Renewal application for elevator was sent in. Will seek bids for repaving parking lot. Trimming or removal of tree on North-East corner of the church is on agenda. '

Stewardship – Spare Change fundraiser continues and discussion of other fundraising ideas. Plan to have members talk in church about what Mayfield means to them/with a follow up by Rita in October.

Treasurer - Financial report submitted. Asset list updated.

Clerk - Attendance Average - July In-Person: 18.5; Facebook Live: 3.

Moderator - Summer Stop/Attic Treasures, an event that keeps on giving. Thank you to all the volunteers. Discussion took place on the future of the church. Who will fill the council slots? How can we get more people involved. Special Church Meeting will be held Sept. 22, 2024 after worship.

Missions – August donation drive for "Strengthening the Church". Future Mission outreach. January – Super Souper Bowl - collection of Soup. May/June over Mother's Day and Father's Day a collection drive of personal care items.

September Sermons and Scripture

September 1:

Guest Pastor: Rev. Nancy Fraley
Clean and Unclean Things

Mark 7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23

September 8:

What does James say about faith and works

James 2:1-10 and 14-17

September 15:

What does James say about talking nice?

James 3:1-12

September 22:

What does James say about acting in peace?

James 3:13-18 and 4:1-2, 7-8a

September 29:

What does James say about helping others?

Part One: Psalm 124

Part Two: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 and 9:20-22

Part Three: James 5:13-20

Purple flowers bloom at 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.

Toothpick Holders from the Summer Stop found a new home...



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

