



A Light in the Country

God gives light.
Ezra 9:8

As we move inexorably through the days of autumn, the daylight hours are growing a little less each day. Actually, though, light in any form seems to be in short supply lately. The American political drama is relentless, climate change has resulted in numerous tragic weather events, wars and violence continue around the world. How do we deal with all of this? Where is there any light that will give us hope?

8 "But now, for a brief moment, the Lord our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage. 9 Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem. -Ezra 9:8-9

These words from the prophet Ezra resonate today as much as they did for the Israelites. Mayfield may be a small church (a remnant), but we have strong bonds as well as a sanctuary in which to gather. A sanctuary where we share a community of caring and come away refreshed. God gives us light, hope, relief. God is with us! God grants us new life, the energy and determination to believe that things can be better. God gives light.

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

Pastor Lauri



MAYFIELD NEWS

HURRICANE HELENE APPEAL

As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal.

Your gifts matter.



HURRICANE HELENE MESSAGE FROM THE UCC

The impact of Hurricane Helene is widespread and devastating, as more than 100 people have been confirmed dead, over 2 million people are without power, and damages are estimated to be over \$140 billion. We know of two UCC congregations on Florida's Gulf Coast whose church buildings suffered significant flood damage, and another building that experienced structural damage from high winds. We continue to be in touch with our Southern, Southeast, and Florida Conferences as they work to contact local congregations and become aware of their needs.

The United Church of Christ has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster well after their plight fades from the headlines. As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal. Your gifts matter. This is something you can do to help alleviate suffering, rebuild homes, and restore communities. Your gifts will make a difference to those who are struggling during these difficult times and enable needed assistance as we stand with impacted communities in the years ahead.

Thank you for your generosity.

Rev. Kent Siladi
Interim Director of Philanthropy,
United Church of Christ

for more information and to give on-line, go to:
support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief

or search:
Hurricane Helene relief - United Church of Christ (ucc.org)

FAITH AND DEMOCRACY UNDER THREAT

Mayfield Congregational UCC, Federated Church, and 1st Congregational UCC are offering a two-part series exploring the threat of Christian Nationalism, democracy, and how people of faith can work for the common good. Join us at Federated (612 W. State St, Sycamore) on Tuesday, October 8 as Senior Research Analyst for Political Research Associates Fred Clarkson presents on Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy, and on Tuesday, October 15 as we discuss Faith in Action for the Common Good; both sessions run from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

The 2024 documentary GOD & COUNTRY, according to the promo on Amazon.com, "looks at the implications of Christian Nationalism and how it distorts not only our constitutional republic, but Christianity itself. Featuring prominent Christian thought leaders, GOD & COUNTRY asks this question: What happens when a faith built on love, sacrifice, and forgiveness grows political tentacles, conflating power, money, and belief into hyper-nationalism?"

This movie is available on Amazon Prime Video for free and the information it contains will be helpful to those attending the Faith and Democracy Under Threat meetings at Federated Church. If you do not have an Amazon Prime account, contact Pastor Lauri and we will try to arrange small house gatherings where members can watch together.

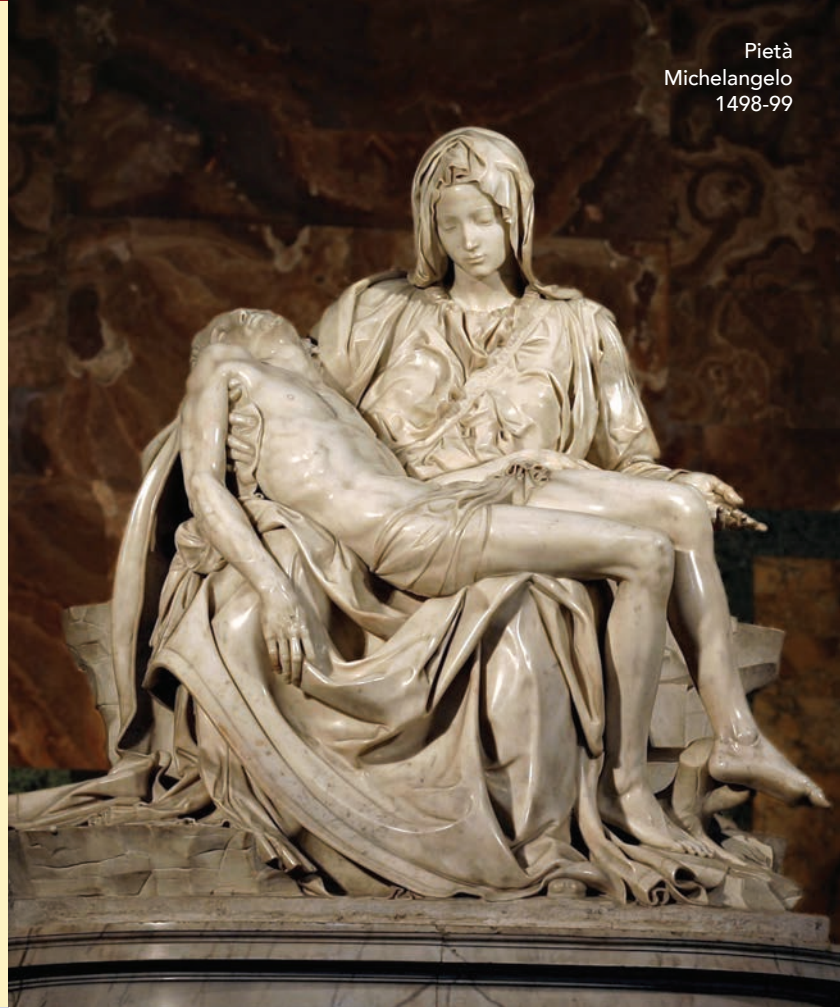


MAYFIELD NEWS

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.



Pietà
Michelangelo
1498-99



Scotch Pine at Mayfield

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues with a twist! Join the Zoom group on Wednesday evenings this fall for Exploring the Life of Faith Through Art. The group is reading short stories, considering some related artwork, and discussing how faith impacts our actions and reactions. Discussions will resume on October 16th. Contact Diana Swanson or Pastor Lauri with any questions.

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!

MAYFIELD NEWS

MAYFIELD CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS 164 YEARS OLD THIS MONTH!

We were organized as a Methodist Church in 1860, changed to a Congregational Church, then joined the United Church of Christ denomination.

Mayfield Membership Milestones in 2024

Lars Carlson 5 years
Ann Werhane 20 years
Marguerette Pevonka 25 years
Rex LeaTrea 30 years
Sharon LeaTrea 30 years
Cheryl Aska 50 years

Mayfield Membership "Lights"

Karen Johnson 51 years
Jan Wylde 56 years
Michael Lanan 64 years
Phyllis Roush 66 years
Vernon Carey 72 years
Roger Oltman 73 years
Joyce Oltman 73 years



164 years of worship and fellowship!



Long time members Roger and Joyce Oltman recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary

MAYFIELD NEWS

Mayfield Congregational United Church of Christ – Special Congregational Meeting. September 22, 2024.

Sophia Varcados, moderator called the meeting to order. Welcoming and thanking everyone for attending. Clerk, Diane Hance reported that 17 members were in attendance and this meets the 15% requirement for a quorum. (We currently have 80 members)

Andy Hargrave, Treasurer, thanked everyone for their participation, donations and support of Mayfield. Andy presented our current financial situation, and explained that our checking and savings account are running low on funds and he asked that the church membership vote, allowing the treasurer to move funds from investments or CD's into checking/savings account.

Jen Conley moved to allow the church treasurer to move funds from investments or CD into checking to meet bills as needed. Sue Goudy seconded this motion. A verbal vote was taken by members in attendance and all voted in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Although money concerns are often at the forefront, Sophia explained that we are to focus on what is needed in terms of participation by members that will allow us to continue to keep Mayfield Church operational. Last year the Nominating Committee had a difficult time finding people who would agree to take on Council positions. Some positions were not filled, and we have been covering them as best we can. This year most of the Council positions need to be filled; we wanted to bring this to your attention now instead of waiting until the end of the year. We want to break down walls and think creatively. Be forward thinkers.

Sophia began with a review of council positions, who holds them, and whose term ends at the end of this church year. More information will come out on these positions.

What happens if we cannot fill council positions? What does Mayfield and the council need?

We need and want

- to be here for each other and to keep our doors open.
- coverage of church operations.
- help that does not require a tremendous amount of oversight or management.
- the kind of help that comes forward and offers specific services repeatedly.
- to know what people are willing to offer, and what makes them reticent to do so.
- creative management of our resources.
- to protect the energy and efforts of those who do offer services so that the dependency on viability is not resting on only a few shoulders.

What can you do?

- give our situation some thought.
- challenge yourself to come up with solutions based on resources and people that we have now, and that do not require staffing, resources, or abilities that are not identifiable.
- Less of an idea, more of a plan.
- Try not to "add" tasks but focus on fine-tuning what is already in motion.
- Share your ideas via email or arrange to present them to the council.

We are rich in history and people. We are the light in the country.

Diane Hance, Clerk

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			no Bible Study			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live World Communion Sunday UCC Neighbors in Need Offering		Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy @ Federated Church 6:30p to 8p	no Bible Study			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons 6:00p	Faith in Action for the Common Good @ Federated Church 6:30p to 8p	<i>Panera fundraiser</i> Bible Study 7p Zoom			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study 7p Zoom	Council 6:30p		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live			Bible Study 7p Zoom		IL Conf Annl Mtg Westchester	IL Conf Annl Mtg Westchester

Report from the Council meeting – September 2024

Diane Hance – Clerk

Pastor: Time report submitted. Updates on her paths to “Alternate Path to Ordination” - getting closer to completion. Mayfield, 1st Congregational and Federated will host 2 weeks of presentations and open dialogue on the subject of Christian Nationalism. To Be held at Federated Church on Tues., Oct 8 and Oct 15th from 6:30 – 8pm. Discussed 165th Anniversary coming 2025. Possible Summer Stop featuring the garden and history of Underground RR. Old fashioned Potluck picnic in the fall. Committees needed.

Christian Education: Sunday School has begun. Diane Hance will lead and Advent will include an Inter-generational SS lead by Pastor. Wednesday Evening Bible Study is on Faith and Art. with Diana Swanson leading

Deacons: No report

Trustees: Council discussed the condition of the parking lot – need to have weeds removed and looking at repaving the surface.

Stewardship: Spare Change fundraiser continues. Panera Fundraiser set for Oct. 16. Possible pie sale in November. Zoom license and Quickbooks on-line license will be renewed.

Treasurer - Financial report submitted. Asset list updated.

Clerk: Attendance Average - August In-Person: 18.5; Facebook Live: 4.25. Members were informed of Sept 22 Congregational meeting per church bi-laws.

Moderator: Discussion on frequency of Council meetings. Planning a Bingo fun night this fall. Discussion regarding the Sept 22 meeting. Keeping members aware of financial picture and looking to the future. Diane Hance will attend Prairie Association fall meeting on Sat. Sept 28 as Mayfield UCC delegate.

Missions: October 6 donations to Neighbor in Need – Mental Health Justice for All. Upcoming mission drives - Christmas Tree becomes a “Hat, Scarf, Gloves & Mitten Tree”. January – collection of soup for “Super Souper Bowl”.

Next meeting moved from Oct. 17 to Oct. 24, 2024



Sunny Fall afternoon at Mayfield.

October Sermons and Scripture

October 6:
21st Century Theology:
Grace Ji-Sun Kim
I Corinthians 12:1-27

October 13:
20th Century Theology:
Abraham Joshua Heschel
Psalm 90:12-17

October 20:
19th Century Theology:
Friederich Schleiermacher
Job 38:1-7

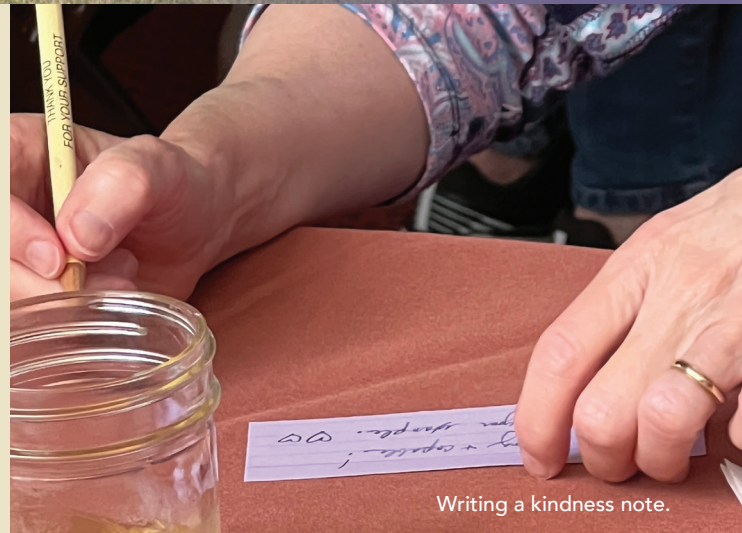
October 27:
16th Century Theology:
Martin Luther
Job 42:1-6, 10-17



Contact Pastor Lauri

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PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

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



Writing a kindness note.

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