



A Light in the Country

and the glory of the Lord shone around them
- Luke 2:9

So easily our minds are preoccupied with world events, overwhelmed with political machinations of the day, obsessed with making the holiday perfect for our families, or exhausted by difficulties in our personal lives. We need something startling to shake us up, to get our attention, to redirect our thoughts to God.

“Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

These familiar words bring such peace and hope to my soul. It begins with an event so startling that it cannot help but get our attention: the glory of God shone around them, a sight so unexpected that the shepherds were terrified. Followed by tender words to calm us: do not be afraid. Now that we have stopped what we are doing and calmed ourselves, we are in a headspace to hear the message: good news is here, one of great joy for all people.

So, please, this Christmas season, don't be afraid or worried. There is good news, joyful news, and it is for ALL people. If you need a reminder, make your way to church this month. Our Christmas Eve service in particular will be moving, uplifting, and filled with music.

Blessings of peace, love, and joy,

Pastor Lauri

Blessings, Pastor Lauri

MAYFIELD NEWS

ADVENT STUDY

Advent Study this year takes a deep dive into "Life of the Beloved" by Henri Nouwen. We will consider Nouwen comparing the Eucharist to our relationship with God. Wednesdays on Zoom at 7pm: Nov 27 (Taken), Dec 4 (Blessed), Dec 11 (Broken), Dec 18 (Given). Contact Pastor Lauri for the Zoom link or with any questions.

ALL-AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

Does a unicorn belong at Baby Jesus' manger? We'll find out at the all-ages Sunday School during Advent when we read from "The Unicorn at the Manger: Animal Stories of the Holy Night" by Roger Robbennolt. Our manger has a unicorn, a turkey, and a few surprises! 9am on Sundays in the Narthex: Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15, and Dec 22. Stop by for laughs and discussions about belonging, welcoming, bullying, and finding a place in God's world.

2024 THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR VETERANS OF THE CROSS AND EMERGENCY FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years. This fund provides emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Make checks payable to Mayfield Church and note "Christmas Fund" in the memo section, or donate on our website (select "Christmas Fund" on the dropdown list). Please make any donations by December 15 so that we have time to transmit payment to the Illinois Conference before year end. Thank you!

NEW MEMBERS

Plan on attending church on Dec 29 to welcome new members!

ELVES NEEDED!

Our annual gift wrapping at the Salvation Army is just around the corner. Sign up for a shift on either Tuesday, Dec 17 or Wednesday, Dec 18. The thankful, smiling faces of the parents are a true gift back to us. Last year over 1200 children received gifts! Bring your friends and make it a party! Contact Diane Hance or Pastor Lauri.



MAYFIELD NEWS



ALL DECEMBER! HAT, SCARF AND MITTEN TREE

Mayfield is sharing Christmas love with those who need warmth!

Jesus told us that caring for others is the same as caring for him, so during December we are asking you to help us fill our Christmas Tree in the Narthex with mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves! The collected items will be donated to a local charity in early January.

Be the body of God,
caring for the body of God.



DECEMBER 15 WONSEOK LEE'S GOING AWAY RECEPTION

Join us on December 15 to say goodbye to our pianist, Wonseok. We have been so lucky to have his talents and company every Sunday and want to wish him well!

DECEMBER 22 CRAZY COOKIE EXCHANGE

What's a crazy cookie exchange?

Just sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, and bring your homemade holiday cookies on Dec. 22, and we will swap with each other. We can divide the cookies depending on how many folks participate. Easy! We will do this downstairs in the community room after service and fellowship. Please bring a container!

DECEMBER 15 AND 22 CHOIR PRACTICE

The Christmas Choir will be meeting to rehearse at 11:30 a.m., following the reception for Wonseok. They will meet again on the 22.

INQUIRE NOW! COUNCIL POSITIONS OPEN

We have many opportunities to become a active council member of Mayfield Church. You can help manage the building as a trustee, or assist with services as a Deacon. Contact Sophia if you would like to talk about what you might be interested in! We need your help!

ANNUAL MAYFIELD CHURCH MEETING

Please join us for the annual Mayfield Church Congregational meeting following worship. If you are a member of Mayfield, you are needed at this important meeting.

The year 2024 will be reviewed, a new slate of officers will be recommended, and a 2025 budget presented for approval. A quorum of membership must be at the meeting in order to complete the voting process.

We will announce the date soon!

PUMPKIN BINGO





PUMPKIN BINGO



Visiting at Church

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live Communion			Advent Study 7p Zoom			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live	Deacons Mtg 6p		Advent Study 7p Zoom			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live 11a Wonseok farewell reception 11:30a Choir Rehearsal		Gift Wrap at Salvation Army 9a-4p	Gift Wrap at Salvation Army 9a-4p Advent Study 7p Zoom	Council Mtg 6:30p		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
All Ages Sunday School 9a Worship 10am in person and FaceBook Live 11a Cookie Exchange 11:30a Choir Rehearsal		Christmas Eve Service 7pm in person and FaceBook Live	Christmas Day			

December Sermons and Scripture

December 1:
The Body of God
Jeremiah 33:14-16
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

December 8:
The Body of God
Luke 3:1-6
Philippians 1:3-11

December 15:
The Body of God
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7

December 22:
The Body of God
Isaiah 12:2-6
Hebrews 10:5-10

December 24:
The Body of God
Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20

December 29:
People Close to God's Heart
Psalm 148



Our decorated altar



Contact Pastor Lauri

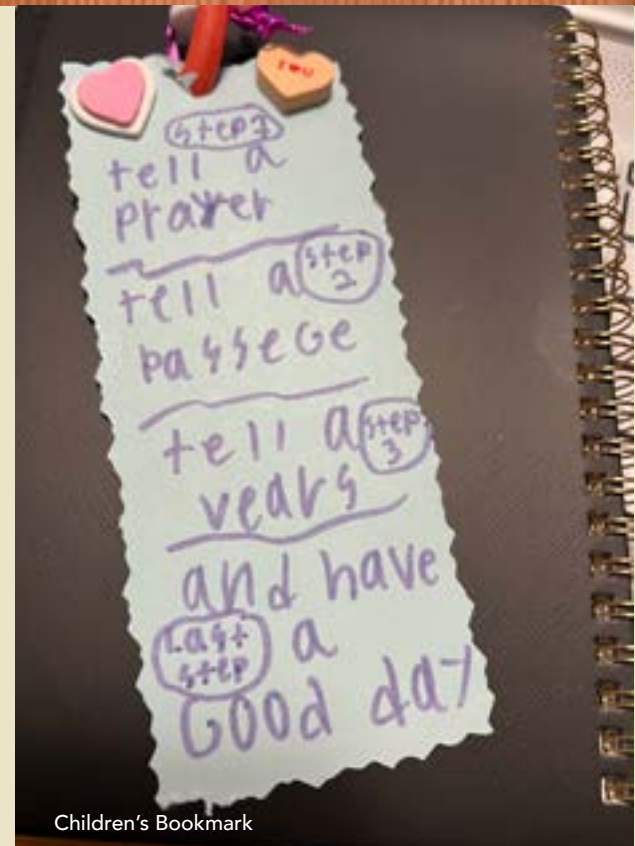
(815) 757- 5917 (cell)
PastorLauri@MayfieldChurchUCC.org

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



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Children's Bookmark