



***“The Voice”* Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle Street SW; PO Box 413
Mapleton, MN 56065

August 2014

Address Service Requested



“The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.”

The United Church of Mapleton
PO Box 413
Mapleton, MN 56065

THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 a.m.



August 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	4	5 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education	6 1:00 p.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations	7	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. Worship with Riverblenders Chorus 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	11 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	12 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	13 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Deacons	14	15	16 RECYCLE!
17 9:00 a.m. Worship with The Well Youth Center Collection 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	18	19 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	20 1:00 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees	21 Voice Articles due	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	25	26 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast— Good Thunder	27 1:00 p.m. Quilters	28	29	30
31 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour						

The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

August 2014

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Date:	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Greeters:	Wally and Joyce Johnson	Mabelle Larson	Jeff and Jodie Gerdts	Warren and Cindy Allevan	Dave and Kathy Byram
Coffee Hour:	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	The Well Youth Center	Board of Christian Education	Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
Head Usher:					

Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

Sunday, August 3rd, 2014 we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

The United Church supports Loaves & Fishes in this way on the first Sunday of each month.

The Well Youth Center

Sunday, August 17th, 2014 our Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at The Well Youth Center.

The United Church supports The Well Youth Center in this way each month.

Communion Sundays

Communion will be served by intinction during the summer months.

Head Ushers Needed!

The United Church is in need of Head Ushers for the months August through October. Please consider signing up to help by calling the church office at 524-3141.

Church Financial Envelope

For privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope of:



c/o Financial Secretary. Thank you!

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call Karen Stanton at 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to pray for if applicable, and whether or not you would like your request included in the church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept privately within the prayer chain.

Pastor's Corner

August 2014

“What to Expect When Your Pastor's Expecting”

As I was happy to announce in worship on July 20th, and as many of you have seen on Facebook since then or heard from others, Jeff and I are blessed to be expecting our first child on January 18, 2015. Given that this is a first for both The United Church of Mapleton and for me, I thought it would be good to dedicate this column to trying to answer some questions you might have.

Q: What about maternity leave?

A: The Trustees and I included a maternity leave plan into my contract when we had our conversation about my contract last fall. This plan provides for 10 weeks of paid maternity leave. I will be sure to attend the Trustees' meeting on August 20th to talk more with them about this.

Q: Who will preach during maternity leave? And what about pastoral care?

A: I have two colleagues that I've talked to who may be interested in being our “family leave interim.” They are both seminary-educated women. One is approved for ordination pending a call, and the other will complete her ordination process when she finishes her seminary coursework this fall. One is living in Mankato, and the other lives in Minneapolis.

As far as pastoral care goes, since that's a greater commitment in both time and energy, I think it would only be fair to consider that separate from Sunday pulpit supply. If this is something the Deacons decide that we want and need, and our “family leave interim” is willing to do both, I would simply ask the Trustees to make their contract pay commensurate with the work. I will be sure to attend the Diaconate meeting on August 13th to talk more with them about this, as well as other options for “in-house” pastoral care-giving.

Q: Can I touch your belly?

A: No, please and thank you.

Q: Are you going to baptize the baby or have it dedicated?

A: Since Jeff and I are both Baptist by tradition, we plan to have it dedicated shortly after I return from maternity leave. We will ask a friend and colleague to officiate for that service so that I can embrace the “mom” role for the day.

Q: Will you be attending worship during maternity leave? Can I drop by the parsonage to see the baby?

A: We do not plan to attend worship at The United Church of Mapleton during maternity leave and would prefer not to receive visitors at home. These first ten weeks of our child's life are a unique opportunity for us to bond as a family and we look forward to having the church family join that relationship when we return. Since the baby is due in January, we're also concerned about exposing him or her to cold germs or flu viruses.

Q: Are you going to announce if it's a boy or a girl? Do you have a name picked out?

A: Yes, we will be finding out in late August if it's a boy or a girl, and we'll share that with the congregation, but we plan to keep our name options to ourselves. Don't worry; we're not going to name it Apple or Pilot Inspektor (real celebrity baby names!).

I hope that helps answer some of the basic questions I can think of. If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to the Trustees, Diaconate, Pastoral Relations Committee, or myself. Thank you for your grace, compassion, prayers, and best wishes for Jeff and me as we enter this new chapter of our life and relationship. Your joy and heartfelt congratulations on July 20th are something I will treasure forever!

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley

Continue

In Our Prayers

Our church prayer list includes:

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Bill Brice, Colleen Lindemann, Stan Solie, Alberta Samuelson
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Hutch Cramer, who recently fell and had surgery for a broken hip, is now recovering at the Mapleton Community Home
- Louis Fritz, who was recently diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Radiation treatment has ended and chemotherapy will begin in late July, after a period of rest for Louie.
- Benjamin Brockmann of Lake Crystal, age 6, a family friend of the Allevens, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia
- Isaac Kolstad, who suffered a severe head injury early on May 11th in Mankato, was recently transferred to a rehab facility. The Kolstads are friends of Joe and Sheila Samuelson. You can find updates about Issac at www.caringbridge.org/visit/isaackolstad
- Tucker Shuck, Sharon Shuck's grandson, who has begun thirteen weeks of US Marine Corps Boot Camp in San Diego, and for his family during this time of limited communication with him
- Hugo John, who had heart valve replacement surgery on June 25th in Rochester
- Linda Whitney, who had surgery for uterine/endocervical cancer on July 3rd in Rochester. Linda received very good news after the surgery, that the cancer was caught early and that it has not spread to her lymph nodes or other areas.
- Dawn Dietz, who recently learned that her lymphoma has recurred. Dawn is waiting to hear from her doctors about a treatment plan.
- Donna Jean Sharp, who fell and broke her hip on July 14th, and who had surgery on July 16th. She is now recovering at Pathstone Nursing Home in Mankato.
- Norma Baack, who fell and broke her hip on July 14th, and who had surgery on that day. She is now recovering at the Masonic Home of Bloomington, MN.
- The victims of and the families affected by Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 17, which was shot down over Ukraine on Thursday, July 17th.
- The victims of and the families affected by the ongoing and escalated violence between Israel and Palestine.

The prayer requests and praises shared with the congregation during **July's** worship services include:

- Prayers...
 - Of healing for depression and mental health issues; bring comfort with faith in our Lord Jesus
 - For Nick Kruger, who is in Basic Training in Atlanta
 - For Mary Jacobs, who will have surgery
 - To continue for Rachel of Lake Crystal, age sixteen, who recently had her colon removed and who had to have another surgery because of an infection. She is recovering at Children's Hospital.
 - Of thanksgiving for all our military servicemen and servicewomen for protecting our freedoms
 - Of thanksgiving to see Louie and Mary Beth Fritz, as well as all those who recently had health events, in worship together. Thanks be to God!
- Thanksgiving...
 - That my husband is okay after a recent fall; continued prayers for his safety
 - To God for his healing power
 - For a letter from a great-grandson who is in San Diego

How to Contact Pastor Ashley

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to noon. In the afternoon, I may be in the office, or I may be out in the community for pastoral care or outreach. If you'd like to stop by to visit another time, just email or call. Monday and Saturday are my days off.

My email address is: pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org. If I'm not in the office, my phone number is (507) 381-8199.

Pastoral Care Connections

If you or a family member is ill, in the hospital, is homebound, would like a pastoral care visit for any reason, or would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, **please let the church know!** Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the church office to let us know so that we may serve you.

Pastor Ashley's phone number is: (507) 381-8199 and the church phone number is: (507) 524-3141. Thank you!

Sunday Morning Wheelchair Assistance

If you are in need of wheelchair assistance on Sunday mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at (507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements **or** you may have an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the church.

There is a ramp located on the east side of the church which can be utilized by parking in the east parking lot. If it is too difficult for you to push a wheelchair up the ramp, please feel free to contact an Usher or Deacon for assistance.

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations committee (PRC) exists to foster healthy and clear communication between pastor and congregation. PRC meetings are a regular and confidential means of support and accountability for the pastor.

PRC members keep their ear to the ground in the congregation to help keep the pastor in-the-know about possible issues or concerns, and they can bring constructive and addressable concerns to the pastor from the congregation.

Our current PRC members are Jeff Gerdts (Chair), Stanley Whitney, Laura Fritz, and Warren Allevan.

Thank You!

Thank you to the following who donated items for the Town and Country Days Silent Auction: The Quilting ladies, Jodie and Jeff Gerdts, David Byram, Karen Stanton, Mabelle Larson, Louise Belle Shuck and Dawn Dietz.

We received a check in the amount of \$369.00, and of that, \$40.00 was to be donated to The Well Youth Center. Thank you very much!

Joyce Johnson—Coordinator

Women's Retreat

Women's Retreat of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ "Stir up the gift of God, which is in you" will be held September 19th —21st, 2014 at Pilgrim Point Camp.

You may view the poster on the bulletin board for more information.

LOCAL MISSIONS

The Well Youth Center

Please stop by and support your local youth center at any of these fundraising events:



Friday, August 1st and Saturday, August 2nd, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. at Dietz Brat Wagon

Food Items: Taco in a Bag, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, water and pop, cookie.

Saturday morning August 23rd, 9:00 a.m.—noon at the Community Closet

Loaves & Fishes

Open Tuesdays from 3:00—6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon. Volunteers are welcome!



Community Closet

Open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.—Noon.

If you have a non-profit group that would like to take advantage of profits from the Closet, please call Gay Rice at (507) 524-4040 for more information.



Senior Dining and Meals on Wheels of Mapleton

You are invited to dine at the Town & Country Leisure Center! Nutritious and delicious **Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.** The cost of a meal is \$4.00, as a suggested donation for those 60+. Low-salt and diabetic meals are available. Stay afterwards to play cards or games and to enjoy the company of others.

Meals on Wheels is also available for those who wish to eat at home.

Call Darlene at (507)524-4868 for more information or to reserve your meal.



Youth Blast '14

Everyone of all ages is invited to attend **Youth Blast '14 on Friday, August 8th at Half Moon Park in Wells, MN.** The highlight will be a free concert by internationally known Christian rock band, **Lightswitch at 8:00 p.m.** Afternoon attractions begin at **3:00 p.m.** and include a dodge ball tournament, free food, face painting, balloon creations, bean bag toss and other attractions.



Youth Blast is sponsored by FUSION, an ecumenical youth group from all around the Wells area. You may see poster on bulletin board for more information.

Mapleton VFW Auxiliary

The Mapleton VFW Auxiliary will sponsor the Annual Pillow Cleaning Service Friday, August 1st from 7:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at the VFW building on Main Street Mapleton. Feather and polyester pillows can be cleaned with new ticking. Same day service while you wait!



SMILES ADA Disability Awareness

On Tuesday, August 19th, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. SMILES CIL, a center for independent living is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to providing a wide array of service that assist individuals with disabilities to live independently, pursue meaningful goals, and enjoy the same opportunities and choices as all persons, will host a “Community-Wide Block Party” at the Bethlehem Lutheran Parking Lot, 720 S. 2nd St., Mankato, MN.

You may view the SMILES poster on the bulletin board.

Report of Deacons Meeting

July 9th, 2014

The Deacons meeting was held on July 9th and began at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Ruth Cumming, Dawn Dietz, Pat Carter, and Jodie Gerdt. Jodie started the meeting off with devotions.

Old Business: The “Called to Care” training sessions have now been completed. We had about 15 people go through the training. If you are interested in taking part in this program, please let Pastor Ashley or a Deacon know. Ushers are still needed for August, September, and October. Even if you cannot commit to a full month, please consider stepping forward for a Sunday or two. Just let a Deacon know—it would be greatly appreciated by all!

New Business: We discussed additional dates that Pastor Ashley will be “out of the office” for vacation this summer and when pulpit supply will be needed.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 13th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerdt

Women’s Fellowship

July 14th, 2014

President Louise Webb opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. There were ten members present at this meeting. Devotions from Psalms 13:7-8 were given by Mary Beth Fritz. The secretary’s report was given and accepted as read. Cheer chairperson, Mabelle Larson, gave her report. Mabelle stated that she was in need of more postage stamps. A motion was made to purchase more postage stamps. The motion was seconded and passed.

Joyce reported on the Silent Auction during Town and Country Days. A portion of the money will go to The Well Youth Center and the rest will be donated to the Church pew cushions. The Women’s Fellowship will also donate another sum of money to this project.

We discussed the upcoming shower for Tricia Gunsolus and picked out the quilt we are giving to the couple. Circle 3 will be in charge of the Coffee Hour on August 11th. Mission Kits for school supplies, hygiene, and babies will be coming by our next meeting. item lists will be available soon. Linda Whitney will be in charge of the lunch next month.

Meeting adjourned and Louise Webb served us a delightful dessert.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

Mission Committee

Once again we are collecting items for School Kits, Baby Kits, and Hygiene Kits. At this time, there is a special need for the School Kits. Please read the article on School Kits in this newsletter written by Hugo John.

The Well Youth Center is closed for the summer months, but there is always a need for volunteers and they are always in need of monetary donations to purchase snacks and project items. The Well Youth Center will open again in September.

Our next big mission offering, The World Mission Offering, will start in October. Please support our Loaves & Fishes food shelf by giving grocery items or cash donations. Loaves & Fishes is always in need of these items as well as volunteers to help during their open hours.

A big thank you to all of you who help in any way for any of these worthy missions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roberta Ward, Mission Chairman

Continue

School Kits for Church World Service

Every fall the United Church has been involved with drives to assemble and ship Baby, Hygiene, and School Kits to Church World Service (CWS). CWS is an organization of over 35 Christian denominations from around the world which responds to human needs resulting from natural and human disasters giving immediate help and continuing support for the long haul. Due to the large number of recent natural disasters and continuing war conflicts, CWS has sent out an urgent request to replenish their stocks of School Kits.

The Minnesota Conference and National Office of the UCC Disaster Ministries has responded to this request by allocating \$50,000 of their Disaster funds to encourage congregations to respond to the CWS request. They are offering 200 grants of \$250 each, on a first come, first served basis. To apply, we must match the \$250. The Board of Trustees guaranteed our match and as of Sunday (7/20/2014) we have raised \$120. Our Grant request was submitted last Wednesday and we expect it to be granted.

We have assembled from 30 to 50 School Kits each of the last 4 – 5 years. This year we have pledged 100 School Kits to be assembled, packed and shipped by the last week of August. The list of items to be included in a School Kit are:

- One pair of blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- Three 70-count wide ruled spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200 -210 pages. (No loose-leaf or filler paper.)
- One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- One 12" x 14" to 14" x 17" finished size cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles. (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Presently many of the stores are having sales on school supplies which will help in reaching our goal of 100. If you are unable to go shopping for the above items we will accept cash donations to help offset the cost of shipping, paying off the Trustees advance or the purchase of Kit items.

We will need assistance in cutting and sewing bags for each Kit. Search your fabric cache for material that could be used for constructing bags.

Questions or additional information, contact Pat John; 507-524-4041.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hugo John

A Baby Care Kit includes:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (Can be hand knitted or crocheted)

Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket) Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

A Hygiene Kit includes:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Continue

Board of Trustees Meeting

July 17, 2014

Present: Dick Dietz, Bob Howieson, Patrick Pfeffer, Ron Conrad, Chad Kunkel, Gary Fritz, Keith McCutchen, Lisa Shubert

Meeting called to order by Dick Dietz at 7:00 pm.

Secretary’s minutes from June meeting read.

Minutes were approved with correction to the spelling of Bob Howieson’s last name.

Treasurer’s report reviewed. We are 14% over budget. Most of the overages have been caused by snow removal costs and the unexpected increase in natural gas prices.

Bills to be paid were presented.

Motion to approve bills was made by Chad Kunkel and seconded by Gary Fritz. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Roof Repair – after our June meeting, we discovered there was damage to our shingles (mainly on the south side of the sanctuary) from the last storm that produced high winds and broke one of the Maple trees on the south side.

Dick Dietz contacted our insurance company and an adjuster came out to view the damage. We received a settlement check for \$5,281.29 for the damage.

Replacement Value	\$36,172.84
Depreciation	<u>\$-28,391.55</u>
Total	\$ 7,781.29
Deductible	<u>\$ -2,500.00</u>
Check	\$ 5,281.29

Motion to deposit the insurance check into the Capital Improvement fund was made by Dick Dietz and seconded by Patrick Pfeffer. Motion passed.

Discussion continued on what to do about the roof. The shingles are in really bad shape. No one could recall when the sanctuary was last shingled. Based on the Insurance Claim, we know the number of square would be roughly 97 SQ.

Continue

Patrick Pfeffer will work on obtaining quotes for replacing the roof by four different companies.

The companies we agreed to look at are:

Schwickerts (Mankato)

Kato Roofing (Mankato)

Heyn Brothers (Mankato)

Jaeger & Associates (from Iowa – they did St. Teresa’s Catholic Church)

We will be looking for pricing on asphalt shingles, steel shingles, and steel snap-together.

While requesting pricing, we might want to consider getting gutter guards since cleaning them is difficult due to the height of the gutters.

More than likely, we will need to launch a capital campaign, however, Dick Dietz will contact the Foundation to see if we could work with them for financing such a project. Further discussion on a capital campaign was tabled until next month’s meeting.

2. Pew Cushion Fund – last month, a motion passed to purchase pew cushions for the entire sanctuary (less the choir loft and pastor’s pews. The plan was to incorporate the Beatrice Rue fund (undesignated dollars) with the Pew Cushion fund to get us closer to what the final cost would be.

Due to the unexpected news with the roof issues, Chad Kunkel and Gary Fritz withdrew their motion from the June meeting of using the Beatrice Rue fund in order to boost the Pew Cushion fund.

A new motion was made by Patrick Pfeffer to purchase what we can with the existing Pew Cushion fund money \$4,160 (which is estimated to purchase cushions for half the sanctuary.) Bob Howieson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Dick Dietz will contact Waggoners, Inc. to purchase what we can with the existing Pew Cushion fund before 8/1/2014 when the price quote will expire. The product will be the Inspirations cushion with the optional HR foam adds in the color of Hopsack.

Continue

New Business

1. Custodial work – Wally Johnson and Bob Howieson have been volunteering to keep the church presentable as far as custodial duties. Sheila Samuelson has also been helping out as time allowed. This is no longer working for Bob and Wally and they are submitting notice that they would no longer be doing this. They will continue to do what they can until we hire a person to resume the duties.
The Board of Trustees will pursue looking for a part time janitor. Before we can do this however, a job description needs to be created. Bob Howieson and Lisa Shubert will work on putting one together before the August meeting.
2. School Kits Mission – Hugo John received notification that the UCC Disaster Ministries are offering a \$250 matching grant to the first few churches who request the grant.
Motion was made by Chad Kunkel to have the Trustees cut a check for the \$250 needed to secure the matching funds with the understanding that the Mission committee will continue to try to raise the funds to replace the \$250 from the Trustees. This motion was seconded by Gary Fritz. Motion passed.
3. Leading Through It – this is a UCC leadership conference in Buffalo, MN on Sept. 25-26, 2014. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Dick Dietz.
4. Money Counters – we are running into more issues of having someone commit to counting the offering and coffee hour money each week. This is due to a procedure we implemented prior to reducing the number of committee members. The procedure was to only allow Trustee members who cannot sign checks to count the weekly offering and coffee hour money.

Other measures are in place that would allow us to have check signers to count the money by requiring both counters' signatures on the reports that are submitted to the Treasurer each week.

A motion was made by Lisa Shubert to allow all Board of Trustee members to work with the financial secretary weekly to count the offering and coffee hour donations. Ron Conrad seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Gary Fritz will be the counter for the rest of July. Chad Kunkel will be the counter for August.

Dick Dietz will be the counter for September.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned – motion made by Ron Conrad.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shubert, Secretary