



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

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

# **AUGUST 2015**

*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, 201 Troendle St SW  
Mapleton, MN 56065



# THE UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

[www.unitedchurchmapleton.org](http://www.unitedchurchmapleton.org)

[secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org)

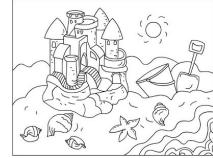
9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Nursery Care

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship



## AUGUST 2015



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1
2 9:00 a.m. Worship with <b>Communion and Loaves &amp; Fishes Collection</b> 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	3	4 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	5	6	7	8 8:30—10:30 a.m. Community Breakfast at St. John Lutheran
9 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	10 7:00 p.m. Women's Fellowship	11 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	12 <b>7:00 p.m. Deacons</b>	13	14	15 <b>RECYCLE!</b> 
16 9:00 a.m. Worship with <b>Youth Center Collection</b> 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	17	18 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder	19 <b>7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. Board of Christian Education</b>	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	24	25 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in Good Thunder <b>8:00 a.m. Newsletter articles/reports are due into the church office</b>	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour	31					

# The Voice

The Newsletter of The United Church of Mapleton



Phone: (507) 524-3141

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Date:	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
<b>Greeters:</b>	Mabelle Larson	Randy and Linda Cumming	Ron and Judy Olson	Hugo and Pat John	Mabelle Larson
<b>Coffee Hour:</b>	Diaconate	Women's Fellowship	Youth Center	Bd. of Christian Education	Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
<b>Head Usher:</b>	David and Roberta Ward	Bob and Geri Howieson	Don and Pam Foster		

## Church Financial Envelope

For privacy and ease, please make a notation on the front of your envelope:  
**c/o Financial Secretary.** Thank you!



## Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call **Karen Stanton at (507) 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.

## Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf

**Sunday, August 2nd, 2015** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider giving monetary gifts and/or non-perishable items to this meaningful mission.

**Sunday, August 30th,** Coffee Hour will be held for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf.

## The Maple River Youth Center

**Sunday, August 16th, 2015** the Coffee Hour and Collection jar will go towards helping support our local youth at the youth center.

## How to Contact Pastor Ashley

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org). Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00 -11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group. *Wednesday* 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Windmill Restaurant (Location for Community Office Hours will change occasionally and be announced here). *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-noon church office. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

## Sign-Up for Lay Readers and Ushers

Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service.

If you would like more information, please contact Marian Mallory or any member of the Diaconate.

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

*Matthew 5:1-10 (NRSV)*

This summer, as many preachers do this time of year, I've set aside the Revised Common Lectionary (the ecumenical three-year cycle of texts) in favor of a sermon series. Thinking I'd give myself a running head start, I chose to base my series on the Beatitudes, having just studied them with the Thursday afternoon Bible Study group this spring. However, I've discovered the seemingly obvious: the Beatitudes are "superabundant" Scriptures, with more meaning packed into each verse than any Bible Study or sermon series could ever hope to exhaust!

And so, every week, I find myself diving deep into the Scriptures and uncovering new and fresh insights for both our United Church community of faith and also for my own faith journey. As we look at the Beatitudes, it's important to remember what blessedness means.

The word *beatitude* comes from the Latin noun *beatitudo*, meaning happiness, but of course, those who mourn, hunger for righteousness, and are persecuted aren't "happy" as we usually understand it. Instead, the blessed are happy because God recognizes their condition in a special way. They are blessed by description, not prescription.

Frederick Buechner, one of my favorite contemporary theologians, writes in *Whistling in the Dark* about the blessed ones that Jesus described in this way:

"If we didn't already know but were asked to guess the kind of people Jesus would pick out for special commendation, we might be tempted to guess one sort or another of spiritual hero— men and women of impeccable credentials morally, spiritually, humanly, and every which way. If so, we would be wrong. Maybe those aren't the ones he picked out because he felt they didn't need the shot in the arm his commendation would give them. Maybe they're not the ones he picked out because he didn't happen to know any. Be that as it may, it's worth noting the ones he did pick out.

...Jesus saved for last the ones who side with heaven even when any fool can see it's the losing side and all you get for your pains is pain. Looking into the faces of his listeners, he speaks to them directly for the first time. "Blessed are you," he says.

You can see them looking back at him. They're not what you'd call a high-class crowd—peasants and fisherfolk for the most part, on the shabby side, not all that bright. It doesn't look as if there's a hero among them. They have their jaws set. Their brows are furrowed with concentration.

They are blessed when they are worked over and cursed out on his account he tells them. It is not his hard times to come but theirs he is concerned with, speaking out of his own meekness and mercy, the purity of his own heart."

Whenever we hear Jesus speaking words of blessing in our lives and in the world around us, may we have ears to hear and hearts ready to respond. Amen.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ashley

## In Our Prayers

### **Our church prayer list includes:**

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, David Keller, Dawn Dietz, Stan Solie, Marge Walters, Lloyd Mitchell, Jack Madsen, Jaine Firstbrook, Aubrielle Howley
- Family members and loved ones who are ill
- Traveling mercies for our members, family, and friends
- All those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression
- Kathy Cramer, who recently fell and broke her hip, and will be having surgery this week at St. Mary's Hospital of Rochester
- Con Birr, who recently had hip surgery, experienced blood clots in the lung, and is now recovering in the ICU in Rochester

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



### **Prayers:**

- For the family of Don Fezler
- Of happiness and for growing faith and love for my grandson, Tucker, at this marriage to Ashley on July 4th (Tucker and Ashley Clacy-Shuck)
- For our church family to grow in membership; that God may give us the tools and faith to invite all to join our fellowship in faith
- For the Tuesday Morning Men's Breakfast Fellowship as they serve in the Dietz Brat Stand to continue to support Lloyd Mitchell

### **Thanksgiving:**

- To God for my friend's successful cancer surgery
- That on Tuesday, I get to celebrate 25 years of marriage to the love of my life
- To God for a joyful celebration with many family and friends for my father's 90th birthday
- To God for the love and support of many family and friends

### **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 PRC members are Laura Fritz,  
Warren Alleven, Joyce Johnson and  
Joe Samuelson.**

### **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.

## Community Closet

The Closet is 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.



## Free Community Breakfast

On the second Saturday of each month, everyone in the community is invited to a free breakfast held at St. John Lutheran Church from **8:30—10:30 a.m.** Hope to see you Saturday morning **August 8th!**



## Maple River Youth Center

A mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month for this local mission.

## Quilters Group

The Quilters Group will not be meeting in the month of August. Please watch for our schedule starting in **September**.

Anyone is welcome to join the Quilting Group. We meet on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., ending each work day with coffee and fellowship.

If you wish not to sew, no problem, we also need people to tie quilts. If you would like to learn how to sew quilts, we will help you learn this creative craft.

## Loaves & Fishes



Loaves & Fishes open hours are from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:00-noon on Saturdays. We are always in need of volunteers to work a few shifts at the food shelf. Contact your food shelf board member for details. They will be so glad to hear from you!

## 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.

Meals are being furnished by Maple River School, Mapleton. You may also look for us on Facebook.

## Upcoming Important Date to Remember!

**Sunday, September 13th**  
Special Congregational Meeting  
and Sunday School Fall Fling

## Garden of Eatin' Update

So far this year, the United Churches Garden of Eatin' has produced just under 50 lbs of fresh raw vegetables for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Thank you to all who are helping make this much needed local mission such a success!

If you are able to help with this mission, you may harvest vegetables Mondays or Tuesdays and deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 3:00 p.m. that Tuesday. You may also harvest on Fridays or early Saturday morning to deliver to Loaves & Fishes by 9:00 a.m. that Saturday. Thank you!

### **Women's Fellowship**

The Women's Fellowship meeting was called to order by President Louise Webb on July 13th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**Devotions:** Mary Beth Fritz gave devotions on Exodus 2:4; Psalm 138.

**Secretary's Report:** Was given and accepted.

**Cheer Committee:** Mabelle reported that she sent out 8 birthday cards, 2 thinking of you cards, and 1 sympathy card. Mabelle also brought a card for us to sign for Louisabelle.

#### **Business:**

Joyce Johnson reported on the Town and Country Days Silent Auction. We made \$431.20 on Quilts and miscellaneous items donated.

July 19th is the scheduled date for the bridal shower of Amber Wilde and Kyle Fritz.

Discussion was held on a bridal shower for Katie Gerdts.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, August 10th. At our next meeting, discussion will be held on and to plan for the mission program of baby, school and hygiene kits.

Meeting was adjourned.

Mary Beth brought a delicious dessert for lunch. Louise will be bringing lunch for the August 10th meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Darlene Fezler, Secretary

### **Deacon Report**

The Deacons meeting was held on July 8th, 2015 and began at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the overflow room at the church. Those present for the meeting were: Marian Mallory, Chad Kunkel, Pat Carter, Pastor Ashley & Jodie Gerdts. Marian opened the meeting with devotions.

Pulpit supply will be needed August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>. We discussed who may be able to serve those two Sundays.

We discussed the need for people to help serve the church community. There has been a week to week sign-up sheet for both Lay Readers and

*Continue*

Ushers. Most of the "slots" have been filled using this week to week basis. Sometimes that just works better for people to sign up that way. It is easier to commit one or two weeks instead of a whole month at a time. We are nearing August and the need for more people to sign up.

For the summer months, we will serve Communion by intinction. This started on June 7<sup>th</sup> and continues through October.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 12th, 2015 at 7 o'clock.

Respectfully Submitted by Jodie Gerdts

### **The Board of Christian Education**

The Board of Christian Education met on Wednesday, July 22nd at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Louise Webb, Linda Whitney, Marissa Pfeffer, Ashley Whitaker, and Liz Bair. Ashley provided an update on vacation bible school which will be held July 26th through 30th from 6:15—8:15 p.m. for students who completed K-5th grade this past year.

Our next topic of discussion was Sunday School for the upcoming year. Ashley suggested that we consider moving classes to Wednesday night for all ages (PreK-Adult). Wednesday night will consist of a meal followed by class led by Pastor Ashley. Youth parents will be contacted to determine the best time for the class. To kick off the start of another Sunday School year, we will be having another Fall Fling. This will be held on Sunday, September 13th following worship. It will consist of taco-in-a-bag and bingo.

Our final topic of discussion was the Nursery. It has been brought up that some improvements are needed. These consist of having the air conditioner fixed, new carpet, new paint, new changing table, fix cupboard, possibly new rocker and new toys. Ashley will talk to the Trustees to determine if there is a budget for this and who's budget it come out of.

Our next meeting will be held August 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Bair, Chair